



## WERC Research Profile: Greater Sage-Grouse and the Sagebrush Ecosystem

An obligate of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of the Great Basin, the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is at the center of public land-use planning, rangeland use, and mineral and energy development issues. The USGS Western Ecological Research Center has a suite of ongoing research projects to inform federal and state management options for sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat. Download this handout for an overview of WERC research providing science support for the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management — including the creation of a comprehensive map of greater sage-grouse habitat throughout the State of Nevada.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5015>  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sagegrouse>

### NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Blomberg, EJ, D Gibson, JS Sedinger, **ML Casazza**, **PS Coates**. 2013. **Intraseasonal variation in survival and probable causes of mortality in greater sage-grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus***. *Wildlife Biology* 19(4): 347-357. doi: 10.2981/13-001  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5012>

**Brand, LA, JY Takekawa, J Shinn, T Graham, K Buffington, KB Gustafson, LM Smith, SE Spring, AK Miles**. 2014. **Effects of wetland management on carrying capacity of diving ducks and shorebirds in a coastal estuary**. *Waterbirds* 37(1): 52-67.  
 doi: 10.1675/063.037.0108  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4985>

**Richmond, JQ, AR Backlin, PJ Tatarian, BG Solvesky, RN Fisher**. 2014. **Population declines lead to replicate patterns of internal range structure at the tips of the distribution of the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)**. *Biological Conservation* 172: 128-137 doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2014.02.026  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5014>

### EVENTS

**April 15-17, 2014 (Orleans, CA)**  
**Phil van Mantgem** spoke at the **2014 Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium** about the role of fire and climate change in western coniferous forests.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=179>

**April 17, 2014 (San Diego, CA)**  
**Kris Preston** spoke about coastal cactus wren research as part of the **TWS and CDFW Conservation Lecture Series** for wildlife professionals and the public.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=181>

**April 22, 2014 (Camp Pendleton, CA)**  
**Liz Gallegos** and colleagues will speak about wildlife science to families attending the Earth Day celebrations at **Camp Pendleton**. WERC conducts a variety of wildlife projects at the Marine Corps site.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=183>

**April 23, 2014 (Arcata, CA)**  
**Phil van Mantgem** will help lead a **Fire Science Field Day** at Redwood National Park, a free public event hosted by the California Fire Science Consortium.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=180>

**May 8, 2014 (Las Palmas, Gran Canaria)**  
**Robert Fisher** will speak on kingsnake ecology at the **Seminario Internacional Sobre Gestión de Reptiles Exóticos Invasores** held at the Canary Islands, where the California kingsnake is now an invasive nuisance species.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=184>

**June 9, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)**  
**Rob Klinger** will speak about endangered Amargosa voles as part of the **TWS and CDFW Conservation Lecture Series** for wildlife professionals and the public.  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=182>

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## California Camera Captures Curious Bobcat Behavior

Cats can find curious ways to navigate the human environment. Recently, WERC ecologist [Erin Boydston](#) started a camera-trap project for Chino Hills State Park, in the same area as her past CA-71 project for Caltrans, to figure out how bobcats were crossing the roadway. “We had GPS data suggesting that bobcats were likely using a ‘capped’ culvert — one that makes a right angle underground and emerges like a stovepipe, coming straight up.” These are not types of culverts bobcats were known to use, but the new camera traps delivered photographic confirmation of their use for crossing. Download an animated GIF of the capped culvert bobcat online at WERC: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=202>

## NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

[Ackerman, JT](#), [MP Herzog](#), [GS Yarris](#), [ML Casazza](#), [E Burns](#), [JM Eadie](#). 2014. **Chapter 5: Waterfowl ecology and management.** Pages 103-132 and maps 10 and 11 in [Moyle, PB](#), [A Manfree](#), and [PL Fiedler](#) (editors): *Suisun Marsh: Ecological History and Possible Futures*. University of California Press: Berkeley, California. 239 pages. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5013>

## IN THE NEWS

### Humboldt-Del Norte News and Information (UC Cooperative Extension)

The UCCE Humboldt-Del Norte email newsletter mentioned [Phil van Mantgem](#)’s participation at the Fire Science Field Day at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. <http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ec84b345fa9c9d123c30fa9dd&id=eb2105ffb1&e=198ea0e414>

### Household Rat Poison Linked to Death and Disease in Wildlife (*L.A. Times*)

Reporter [Martha Groves](#) writes about NPS SAMO test results that confirm P-22 has been exposed to anti-coagulant rodenticide and is suffering from mange. P-22, the “Hollywood” mountain lion, was initially discovered by [Erin Boydston](#) and partners. <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-rat-poison-20140418,0,7729549.story>

### Sage Grouse Losing Habitat to Fire as Endangered Species Decision Looms (*ESA EcoTone blog*)

Writer [Liza Lester](#) profiles the new study coauthored by [Matt Brooks](#) with USGS FRESO and U.S. Forest Service partners assessing the efficacy of emergency post-fire seeding to restore sagebrush landscapes of the Great Basin. <http://www.esa.org/esablog/research/sage-grouse-losing-habitat-to-fire-as-endangered-species-decision-looms/>



### An Environmental Use for Drones (*East Bay Express*)

Reporter [Julian Mark](#) interviews [John Takekawa](#) about the applications of remote control aircraft for ecological research, as demonstrated at the April 7th Nerds for Nature event at the WERC San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station, profiled in this news article. <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/an-environmental-use-for-drones/Content?oid=3892695>