

EVENTS

June 8-13, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)
Josh Ackerman presented updates from his mercury in wetlands research at the **Goldschmidt 2014 Conference**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=189>

June 11, 2014 (Barstow, CA)
Matt Brooks hosted the **Mojave Desert Fire Science and Management Workshop** with CA Fire Science Consortium. Scientists and managers discussed research directions, including those by **Rob Klinger, Lesley DeFalco, Ken Nussear**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=188>

June 16-19, 2014 (Elko, NV)
Pete Coates, Mike Casazza, and Mark Ricca presented grouse research updates at the **WAFWA Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=186>

July 7, 2014 (Pescadero, CA)
 Field tech **Richard Kim** from the **Halstead Lab** gave a talk on San Francisco garter-snakes at a training for volunteers hosted by the **Peninsula Open Space Trust**.

August 10-15, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)
 WERC scientists will join other USGS colleagues at the **Ecological Society of America's 2014 Annual Meeting**, delivering talks on wildfires, droughts, urban wildlife, and other research topics.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=191>

IN THE NEWS

Rethinking the Wild (New York Times)
 Writer **Christopher Solomon** quotes **Nate Stephenson** in an editorial pondering the history and future of the Wilderness Act in America on its 50th anniversary.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/opinion/sunday/the-wilderness-act-is-facing-a-midlife-crisis.html>

This Biweekly Update is produced as a service to USGS/WERC staff, colleagues, partners and the interested public. To add your email address to the mailing list or to report errors/suggestions, please contact blandis@usgs.gov. Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.

Keith Miles Takes Helm as WERC Center Director

After an executive search process, the U.S. Geological Survey has announced that **Keith Miles** will shed the "Acting" title and serve as the next Center Director for the Western Ecological Research Center.

A longtime WERC principal investigator, Miles is a specialist on contaminants impact to wildlife, with focus on marine species and aquatic environments. He has served as WERC Deputy Center Director since 2012 and previously led research from the Davis Field Station—spanning its days as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Miles holds a Ph.D. and M.S. from Oregon State University and a B.S. from Howard University. A native of the District of Columbia and a strong advocate of science outreach to youth and underserved communities, Miles has 43 years of public service beginning as an assistant in Presidents Johnson and Nixon's White House. We thank Keith for his dedication to the Nation and congratulate him on this honor.

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

De La Cruz, SEW, JM Eadie, AK Miles, J Yee, KA Spragens, EC Palm, JY Takekawa. 2014. **Resource selection and space use by sea ducks during the non-breeding season: Implications for habitat conservation planning in urbanized estuaries.** *Biological Conservation* 169: 68-78. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2013.10.021
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5036>

Eagles-Smith, CA, JT Ackerman. 2014. **Mercury bioaccumulation in estuarine wetland fishes: Evaluating habitats and risk to coastal wildlife.** *Environmental Pollution* 193: 147-155. doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2014.06.015
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5043>

Jacobson, ER, MB Brown, LD Wendland, DR Brown, PA Klein, MM Christopher, KH Berry. 2014. **Mycoplasmosis and upper respiratory tract disease of tortoises: A review and update.** *The Veterinary Journal*. doi: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2014.05.039
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5042>



Tyson Riniger/Monterey Bay Aquarium

New Study Shows Sea Otter Mothers Expend Deadly Energy Costs When Nursing Pups

For female sea otters, raising a pup to maturity is like surviving multiple, grueling rounds of a sports tournament. And as in sports, not everyone makes it to the end. This fine line between life and death for mother sea otters is the focus of a paper in *The Journal of Experimental Biology* by **Tim Tinker**, with Nicole Thometz and other colleagues at UC Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Aquarium. The team found that the daily energy demand of nursing sea otters can increase by 96 percent at one point—a load that severely exhausts these animals. The analysis sheds light on the increase in malnourished female sea otters observed along California’s central coast.

- <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5028>
- <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=214>
- <http://news.ucsc.edu/2014/06/sea-otter-moms.html>
- <http://www.ksbw.com/news/26480102>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/quirks/2014/06/14/2014-06-14-2/>
- <http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/06/raising-young-can-be-lethal-sea-otters>
- <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/11/sea-otters-animals-science-oceans-mothers-babies-young/>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Oyler-McCance, SJ, **ML Casazza**, JA Fike, **PS Coates**. 2014. **Hierarchical spatial genetic structure in a distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.** *Conservation Genetics*. doi: 10.1007/s10592-014-0618-8
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5039>

Weckerly, FW, **MA Ricca**. 2014. **Aggression and coexistence in female caribou.** *Arctic* 67(2): 189-195. doi: 10.14430/arctic4380
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5040>

NEW DATA SUMMARIES

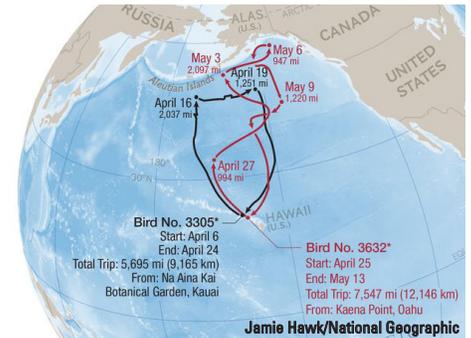
Rochester, CJ, RN Fisher. 2014. **Fire and wildlife strategic plan workshop-San Diego County-California: meeting summary and recommendations.** U.S. Geological Survey-Data Summary prepared for San Diego Association of Governments. 33 pp.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5041>

NEW WERC PUBLICATION BRIEFS

Abrupt Fire Regime Changes Unrelated to Climate: Climatic changes are considered to be major drivers for future changes in fire regimes. However, climatic changes alone cannot explain many abrupt fire regime changes observed in environmental records. **Jon Keeley** reviews the major factors independent of climate that can drive fire regime shifts.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5027>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Albatross Internet Darling Takes First Flight (*National Geographic Daily News*) Reporter Katie Langin quotes **Josh Adams** and features a map of WERC satellite telemetry data tracking the 7,000-plus mile journeys of Laysan albatross parents.
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/06/140628-laysan-albatross-nest-video-seabird-plastic-ocean-science/>



Jamie Hawk/National Geographic

A Day with the Giant Garter Snake (*USFWS Field Notes*)

USFWS biologist Lily Douglas posted photos from a USFWS and WERC work day capturing giant gartersnakes in the Natomas Basin near Sacramento.
<http://www.fws.gov/fieldnotes/regmap.cfm?arskey=35022>



USFWS

Avocets Adopt Duckling (San Francisco Bay NWR Complex on Facebook)

While surveying American avocet nests in SF Bay salt ponds, WERC tech Jarred Barr discovered a duckling among avocet chicks. It is not known how the duckling was separated from its family, but it seemed to have imprinted on the avocets.
<http://on.fb.me/1oulEZe>



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