



National Park Service

EVENTS

September 3-6, 2014 (Vallejo, CA)
 Scientists from the WERC San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station hosted a public science outreach booth at the **Visions of the Wild Festival** hosted by the U.S. Forest Service, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Wilderness Act.
<http://www.visionsofthewild.org>

September 9, 2014 (Thousand Oaks, CA)
Erin Boydston will speak to the public about her carnivore research at this year's **Science Day** hosted by the **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=195>

September 30, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)
Liz Bowen will give a public lecture on the science behind using RNA to assess sea otter and coastal waters health, as part of the **Sacramento State University** geology-ecology colloquium series.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=196>

October 23-24, 2014 (Washington, DC)
Karen Thorne is scheduled to present her research at the **2014 National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=192>

October 25-30, 2014 (Pittsburgh, PA)
 WERC scientists are scheduled to present at **The Wildlife Society** annual meeting.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=194>

IN THE NEWS

Blitzed by Drought (Nature News)
 Reporter Alexandra Witze reviews the widespread impact of the ongoing drought on different ecosystems in California, interviewing **Phil van Mantgem** about the long-lasting effect on forest health.
<http://www.nature.com/news/native-ecosystems-blitzed-by-drought-1.15707>

May We Badger You for Badger Data?

Their European cousins have graced children's stories and their African cousins rule YouTube videos, but the American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) has a claim to fame as well. This burrowing carnivore with a lowrider body can serve as an indicator species of good habitat connectivity, and a USGS WERC project led by **Cheryl Brehme** and **Robert Fisher** is asking the public to report their badger sightings for science. The project targets San Diego County, but reports are welcome from Orange, Riverside, and other neighboring areas. The data will help state and local agencies map out the hidden connections of wildlife habitats among SoCal's maze of urban and wilderness spaces. Read about the value of badgers in this *OC Register* article, and visit the USGS project homepage to download a "Wanted" poster and help spread the word:
<http://www.oregister.com/articles/badgers-631968-badger-county.html>
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/SDBadgers>

NEW OPEN-FILE REPORTS

Coates, PS, ML Casazza, BE Brussee, MA Ricca, KB Gustafson, CT Overton, E Sanchez-Chopitea, T Kroger, K Mauch, L Niell, K Howe, S Gardner, S Espinosa, DJ Delehanty. 2014. **Spatially explicit modeling of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) habitat in Nevada and northeastern California—A decision-support tool for management:** U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2014-1163, 84p. doi: 10.3133/ofr20141163
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5060>

Coates, PS, BJ Halstead, EJ Blomberg, B Brussee, KB Howe, L Wiechman, J Tebbenkamp, KP Reese, SC Gardner, ML Casazza. 2014. **A hierarchical integrated population model for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) in the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment, California and Nevada:** U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2014-1165, 34p. doi: 10.3133/ofr20141165
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5061>

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NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

van Mantgem, P, A Das. 2014. **An individual-based growth and competition model for coastal redwood forest restoration.** *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 44(9): 1051-1057. doi: 10.1139/cjfr-2014-0143
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5063>

Scoles-Sciulla, SJ, LA DeFalco, TC Esque. 2014. **Contrasting long-term survival of two outplanted Mojave Desert perennials for post-fire revegetation.** *Arid Land Research and Management*. doi: 10.1080/15324982.2014.901994
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5064>

Richmond, JQ, DA Wood, JW Stanford, RN Fisher. 2014. **Testing for multiple invasion routes and source populations for the invasive brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) on Guam: implications for pest management.** *Biological Invasions*
doi: 10.1007/s10530-014-0733-y
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5059>

Ricca, MA, DH Van Vuren, FW Weckerly, JC Williams, AK Miles. 2014. **Irruptive dynamics of introduced caribou on Adak Island, Alaska: an evaluation of Riney-Caughley model predictions.** *Ecosphere* 5:art94 doi: 10.1890/ES13-00338.1
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5058>

Curtis, JA, LE Flint, AL Flint, JD Lundquist, B Hudgens, EE Boydston, JK Young. 2014. **Incorporating cold-air pooling into downscaled climate models increases potential refugia for snow-dependent species within the Sierra Nevada Ecoregion, CA.** *PLoS ONE* 9(9): e106984. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0106984
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5065>

Coates, PS, KB Howe, ML Casazza, DJ Delehanty. 2014. **Landscape alterations influence differential habitat use of nesting buteos and ravens within sagebrush ecosystem: Implications for transmission line development.** *The Condor* 116(3): 341-356. doi: 10.1650/CONDOR-13-126.1
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5062>

NEW WERC PUBLICATION BRIEFS

An Integrated Population Model for Assessing Greater Sage-Grouse Trends in the Bi-State DPS: Genetic research has indicated isolation and potential conservation risk for this DPS, as well as different patterns of habitat selection and vital rates relative to the range-wide population. To shed light on the conservation needs of the Bi-State DPS, advanced Bayesian modeling is being explored to calculate trends in population change. The initial findings of this approach are presented by **Pete Coates** and colleagues in USGS Open-File Report 2014-1165.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5044>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Scientists Study How Drought Affects Trees (Capital Public Radio)
Reporter Amy Quinton met up with **Phil van Mantgem** at the Ecological Society of America 2014 Annual Meeting to learn about the increase in background mortality in Sierra Nevada forests.
<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2014/08/11/scientists-study-how-drought-effects-trees/>

Tall, Ancient and Under Pressure (New York Times)
Reporter Jim Robbins spoke with **Nate Stephenson** about the future fate of California's giant sequoia forests under drought and climate change scenarios.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/12/science/tall-ancient-and-under-pressure.html>

Ravens Rule Idaho's Artificial Roosts (Wildlife Conservation Society)
Writer Scott Smith covers the recent study by **Pete Coates** and **Kristy Howe** exploring how human structures in Idaho's sagebrush landscape favor nesting by common ravens over resident hawk species.
<http://www.wcs.org/press/press-releases/ravens-in-idaho.aspx>

OUTREACH NEWS



On August 16, scientists from the WERC San Diego Field Station helped host a family science outreach event at the **San Diego National Wildlife Refuge**, showcasing live specimens of some of Southern California's native reptile species.
<http://on.fb.me/1vLcooV>