



Nathan Stephenson/USGS

Letting Go of Leopold: Making the Transition to the Third Era of National Parks Management

Why should we conserve our natural landscapes? What is “natural” anyways in today’s age of climate and land use changes, and how do we reconcile scientific reasoning with our cultural values in setting objectives for ecosystem management plans? These questions have long been debated by natural resource managers, and in an invited essay for the latest issue of *The George Wright Forum*, **Nathan Stephenson** offers his reflections on the evolution of conservation philosophy in the United States. The thought-provoking piece will be of interest to any ecologist, resource manager, policymaker, educator, or writer who has ever contemplated the ethics and philosophy of natural resource conservation and research.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5143>

<http://www.georgewright.org/forumcurrent>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Berry, KH, AA Coble, JL Yee, JS Mack, WM Perry, KM Anderson, MB Brown. 2015. **Distance to human populations influences epidemiology of respiratory disease in desert tortoises.** *The Journal of Wildlife Management*. doi: 10.1002/jwmg.816
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5147>

Buden, DW, C Cianchini, D Taborosi, RN Fisher, AM Bauer, I Ineich. 2014. **Photographic evidence of interspecies mating in geckos of the *Lepidodactylus lugubris* unisexual-bisexual complex (Squamata: Gekkonidae).** *Phyllomedusa* 13(2):133–136. doi: 10.11606/issn.2316-9079.v13i2p133-136
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5148>

Overton, CT, JY Takekawa, ML Casazza, TD Bui, M Holyoak, DR Strong. 2015. **Sea-level rise and refuge habitats for tidal marsh species: Can artificial islands save the California Ridgway’s rail?** *Ecological Engineering* 74:337-344. doi: 10.1016/j.ecoleng.2014.10.016
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5149>

EVENTS

January 8-10, 2015 (Malibu, CA)
Research by **Robert Fisher, Cheryl Brehme, Amy Vandergast, Gary Fellers, Patrick Kleeman, Katherine Baumberger, Jonathan Richmond, Adam Backlin, Liz Gallegos** are on deck at the **California/Nevada Amphibian Populations Task Force 2015 Meeting** to be held at Pepperdine University. Fisher and Brehme are meeting committee members.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=205>

January 15-17, 2015 (San Jose, CA)
Kathryn McEachern, Jon Keeley, and Barbara Kus will have research presented at the **California Native Plant Society 2015 Conservation Conference**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=204>

January 23, 2015 (Los Angeles)
Erin Boydston and **Robert Fisher** have been invited to attend the **Greater Los Angeles Biodiversity Workshop** by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and The Nature Conservancy.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=202>

January 26-30, 2015 (Santa Rosa, CA)
Wetland restoration design studies by **Lacy Smith** and acoustic monitoring of California amphibians by **Patrick Kleeman** are part of the scheduled program for the **2015 Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society’s Western Section**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=201>

January 27-30, 2015 (Frascati, Italy)
Nathan Stephenson has been invited to speak at the **European Space Agency’s** first-ever **BIOMASS Science Workshop** in Italy. “Improving Understanding of Environmental Controls of Forest Biomass and Productivity: Insights from Permanent Plot Networks” will be the talk’s title.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=203>

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