

# Forest Service Wildlife & Fish Research Updates - DIGEST

*A bimonthly newsletter for the Wildlife and Fish SPA scientists and staff*

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## Station Updates

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- NCTC Webinar - Geo Data Portal: Translating Climate Data for Geographic Analysis – August 29
- Webinar: Developing Ecologically & Socially Robust Adaptation Frameworks for LCCs – September 27

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- Recently Released Report on Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity, Ecosystems, & Ecosystem Services
- Preliminary Report– 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation
- New DVD available: Forest and Grassland Carbon in North America: A Short Course for Land Managers

## FS R&D Publications

- Vulnerability of species to climate change in the Southwest: threatened, endangered, and at-risk species at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona.
- Fish and other aquatic resource trends in the United States: A technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment.
- Climate Change in Grasslands, Shrublands and Deserts of the interior American West: A Review and Needs Assessment.
- The origin of recently established red fox populations in the United States: translocations or natural range expansions?

## Submit Newsletter Items

## Station Updates

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### → **SRS: Prescribed Fire Effects on Amphibians and Reptiles**

Forest managers across North America use prescribed burning for many reasons—restoring ecosystem functions, improving wildlife habitat, reducing wildlife hazard, to name a few. Prescribed fire can have both beneficial and negative effects on specific plants and animals. Managers are increasingly sensitive to possible effects of fire on amphibians and reptiles in a time when the populations of these animals are declining. SRS scientists recently published findings about the effects on herpetofauna of frequent prescribed fire in the pine woodlands of the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Key results from [the Forest Ecology and Management](#) article by SRS researchers **Roger Perry** and **Craig Rudolph** and colleagues provide important information for managers planning the short-rotation burns needed to restore and maintain pine woodlands. Read the full SRS Compass Article [online here](#).

### → **RMRS: Keeping Woodpecker Populations Viable in the Black Hills**



Collaborative studies between RMRS Wildlife Biologist **Mark Rumble** and scientists at the University of Missouri are investigating the spatial requirements and resource selection of black-backed woodpeckers occupying mountain pine beetle-infested and burned forests in the Black Hills of South Dakota. “Black-backed woodpeckers are a disturbance dependent species that rely on forests recently killed by fire or insect infestations where they forage on the larval stages of mountain pine beetles and woodborer beetles,” said Mark. “These forests change rapidly and therefore provide habitat for this species for relatively short periods of time.” Recently, the Black Hills population of the woodpecker was

petitioned for protection under the Endangered Species Act. By estimating population size specific to forest conditions, researchers hope to estimate the regional population necessary to maintain a viable black-backed woodpecker population in the Black Hills.

#### → **RMRS: Fire Effects Information System**

The [Fire Effects Information System](#) is an online collection of over 1100 literature syntheses on the basic biology of plant & animal species and their relationships with fire. Several syntheses on important wildlife species have been rewritten and published in the past few years—including moose, elk, ruffed grouse, and peregrine falcon. Be sure to check out this incredibly valuable resource. FEIS is developed and maintained by RMRS with the assistance of many federal agencies: USDA, USDOJ, BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS.

#### → **RMRS: Report Says Goshawks Can Stand Hauling Noise**

RMRS researcher **Teryl Grubb** and Forest Service managers, along with the U.S. Army's Engineer Research Development Center, are partners in precedent setting research into the potential noise effects of log hauling past active northern goshawk nests in the Southwestern United States. Their findings are highlighted in a new report titled "[Response of Nesting Northern Goshawks to Logging Truck Noise, Kaibab National Forest, Arizona.](#)" According to the authors, results clearly show that current hauling restrictions within goshawk primary foraging areas on the Kaibab Plateau are indeed unnecessary. National forest biologists are hopeful that, armed with this new scientific evidence, hauling restrictions can be modified not only on the Kaibab National Forest but throughout the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service, wherever goshawks are at issue.

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## Meetings, Webinars, and Workshops

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#### → **NCTC Webinar - Geo Data Portal: Translating Climate Data for Geographic Analysis – August 29**

Nathanial Booth of USGS and Adam Terando of NC State University will present a webinar – “Geo Data Portal: Translating Climate Data for Geographic Analysis” – as part of FWS Climate Change Science and Management webinar series on **Wednesday, August 29** at 3pm (Eastern). The Geo Data Portal (GDP) was developed with support from the NCCWSC in response to the wide practice in environmental modeling of accessing and processing climate change model data. The GDP platform assists scientist and resource managers in accessing and using downscaled climate projections and other modeling resources. The GDP provides easily downloadable calculations and information for various regions, climate factors, and time periods of interest. These capabilities will be described during this webinar, along with future plans for disseminating other relevant data products across the NCCWSC and Climate Science Center network. You must register to join this webinar [online here](#).

#### → **Webinar: Developing Ecologically & Socially Robust Adaptation Frameworks for LCCs – September 27**

Drs. Dominick A. DellaSala and Marni Koopman of Geos Institute will present a webinar on **September 27 from 2-3pm Pacific Time** on adaptation planning approaches for large landscapes sponsored by the North Pacific LCC. For the past 4 years, the [Geos Institute](#) has been developing adaptation blueprints and stakeholder processes that aid land managers and communities in preparing for climate change. Conservation blueprints use numerous spatial data layers that reflect current conditions (patterns of biodiversity, focal species distributions, landscape intactness, etc) combined with potential future conditions (downscaled climate projections, dynamic vegetation model output, and climate envelope model output) to identify priority areas and potential climatic refugia in a changing climate. Geos Institute has piloted this approach in the North Pacific LCC and Southern Rockies LCC. With a community-based adaptation planning process, known as [ClimateWise](#), they use the blueprint approach and other relevant climate change science to assist communities in planning across sectors for climate change in an integrated and ecologically sound manner. This process has been piloted at watershed and regional scales in Oregon, California, and Montana. In this webinar, Geos Institute will illustrate both [adaptation blueprints](#) for large regions and ClimateWise processes for stakeholder planning at more localized scales that are consistent with an "all lands approach" adopted by the LCCs and are exportable throughout the LCC network.

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## News, Reports, & Publications

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### → **Experimental Forests and Ranges 2012 Summer Newsletter Available**

The Summer 2012 Issue of the Experimental Forest and Ranges Newsletter is now available [online here](#). This issue presents a strategic vision or the EFR Network and goals of a new synthesis report for the Luquillo Experimental Forest. It also discusses improving data management communication across the EFR Network and the roll of Experimental Forests in science and management among other topics. Information is included regarding a new EFR conference display that highlights the story and accomplishments of EFRs over their 100+ year history.

### → **Recently Released Report on Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity, Ecosystems, & Ecosystem Services**

Drs. Michelle Staudinger and Shawn Carter from the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center are members of the steering committee and writing team, which consists of over 60 contributors from federal agencies, academia, and NGOs, to the recently released “Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services Technical input to the 2013 National Climate Assessment” report. The report consists of seven chapters that cover the latest research and findings on climate change impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services and is a USGS contribution to the 2013 National Climate Assessment that is available on the [global change website](#).

### → **Preliminary Report– 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation**

The US Fish & Wildlife Agency has issued a report of preliminary findings from the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR). The final National Report will be available in November 2012. The preliminary report shows that Wildlife Watching Expenditures for 2011 (\$55 Billion) have surpassed those of both Hunting (\$34 billion) and Fishing (\$41.8 billion). The Survey is a partnership effort with state agencies and national conservation organizations and has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife-related recreation in the United States. The Survey collects information on participation and expenditures for hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching activities such as observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife. The preliminary report can be found [online here](#).

### → **New DVD available: Forest and Grassland Carbon in North America: A Short Course for Land Managers**

What role do forests and grasslands play in storing carbon and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions? What options exist for encouraging carbon sequestration and storage in vegetation and soils? The short course Forest and Grassland Carbon in North America aims to provide public and private land managers with information on the science, management and policy of forest and grassland carbon. Course topics are divided into three themes: (1) The Carbon Cycle and the Role of Ecosystems, (2) Carbon and Wildland Management, and (3) Carbon Assessments and Markets. The course is available online, and now on DVD as a General Technical Report published by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station; order by visiting the website: [www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/carboncourse/order.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/carboncourse/order.html)

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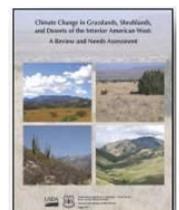
## FS R&D Publications

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→ **Vulnerability of species to climate change in the Southwest: threatened, endangered, and at-risk species at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona.** K.E. Bagne, K.E.; D.M. Finch. 2012. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-284. Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 139 p.  
<http://www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/41079>

→ **Fish and other aquatic resource trends in the United States: A technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment.** Loftus, Andrew J.; Flather, Curtis H. 2012. GTR-RMRS-283.  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr283.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr283.html)

→ **Climate Change in Grasslands, Shrublands and Deserts of the interior American West: A Review and Needs Assessment.** Edited by Deborah M. Finch. 2012. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-285. Fort



Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 140

p. <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/41171>

→ **The origin of recently established red fox populations in the United States: translocations or natural range expansions?** Statham, Mark J.; Sacks, Benjamin N.; Aubry, Keith B.; Perrine, John D.; Wisely, Samantha M. 2012. *Journal of Mammalogy*. 93(1): 52-65 <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/40806>

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**Do you have any updates, webinars, publications, or information to submit to the newsletter? We welcome and greatly encourage your contributions!**

**Please send contributions to Nicole Buell, [nbuell@fs.fed.us](mailto:nbuell@fs.fed.us)**

*(Wildlife & Fish Research Updates- DIGEST, August 28, 2012)*