



USDA Forest Service

WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS ::: WFW

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2006

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Federal job announcements can be found at:
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Submit your information; Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement

National in Scope:

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- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

Pressman Takes Position with USFS State & Private Forestry.

As of August 7, 2006 Debbie Pressman will no longer be our National Wildlife Program Leader. She will be moving to the Office of the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry where Debbie will serve as the Chief of Staff. Good Luck Debbie!

Pandemic Influenza and what you need to know.

Written by Kay Knox at [Safety Xchange](#)

First and foremost let me say this: There is no pandemic influenza at this time. The purpose of this story is to provide some background on pandemic influenza. I hope I can cut through some of the confusion and misinformation and explain to you what is and is not-happening.

Pandemic & Avian Influenza Let me start by clarifying terms.

Pandemic influenza, by definition, is an outbreak of an infectious disease that spreads world wide or at least across a large geographical region. This is not what's happening right now. Unfortunately the media coverage has tended to equate avian influenza (bird flu) with "pandemic" influenza.

Avian influenza (H5N1) is commonly transmitted from bird to bird and, rarely, from bird to human.

How Big a Concern Is Avian Influenza? A few suspected cases of human to human transmission of H5N1 have occurred in other parts of the world. But these are considered unique and poultry exposure has not been completely ruled out. In these rare instances, the infection has not continued beyond one person.

Scientists realize that there's a possibility that the H5N1 avian influenza virus could mutate into a virus that could transmit easily from human to human. But this has not yet happened. And it might never happen. In short, no one can state definitively that the H5N1 virus will become the world's next pandemic influenza; nor can anyone rule out the possibility.

Various low-pathogen (disease causing) forms of avian influenza are most often found naturally in waterfowl (geese, ducks, swans) and shore birds (sandpiper-type birds) worldwide; however, there are no documented cases of the disease being transmitted to humans from wild birds. If migrating wild birds were to bring the virus into the Americas and if the virus infected our poultry flocks, major economic losses could occur, not only to the poultry industry but to the national economy. The loss of poultry and poultry products in the grocery stores would definitely have an adverse effect on the nation's food supply. Imagine Thanksgiving without a turkey!

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Infections and the Link to Domestic Poultry

Most known bird to human infections have been linked to close contact with infected birds (domesticated chickens, ducks, & turkeys). Such infections have occurred in countries in which backyard flocks and open markets are used to sell live birds for human consumption.

For the most part, the methods of raising and selling poultry in the US and Canada are different. The majority of poultry production facilities in the US and Canada are large confinement operations. This limits exposure to the general public.

The Present State of Affairs

A report of avian influenza (H5N1 or any other strain) in North America would *not* signal the start of a human influenza pandemic-although it would put us on the alert for one. Federal and state public health officials (veterinary and human health) in the US are actively monitoring the avian influenza situation. Canadian health officials are doing the same. Surveillance in wild and domestic birds is underway in both countries. So far, H5N1 has not been diagnosed in North America.

Poultry owners are being asked to report unusual death, loss or illness consistent with avian influenza to their state veterinary office or to the US Department of Agriculture. Imports of poultry/poultry products from countries with known infections are currently banned from entering the US. (Unfortunately, some illegal transport of poultry into the US does occur.)

If the virus is found in a poultry flock, infected birds would be destroyed and disposed of in a safe, humane manner. They would not be allowed to enter the food chain. It's interesting to note, however, that properly cooked poultry products present no food safety hazard associated with avian influenza.

Conclusion

I hope this casts some light on things. For further information and updates on pandemic influenza, avian influenza, or seasonal influenza, visit: www.FluInfo.in.gov

WMI Book Announcement.

Thinking Like a Manager - Reflections on Wildlife Management

by John F. Organ, Daniel J. Decker, Len H. Carpenter, William F. Siemer and Shawn J. Riley, Artwork by Daniel P. Metz

The Wildlife Management Institute is very pleased to announce the release of its latest book - *Thinking Like a Manager: Reflections on Wildlife Management*. The 120-page book is a fictional account of six wildlifers, brought together under unusual circumstance, who find common confusion, interest and opportunity in the increasingly important human element in each of their different professional roles and geographies.

The narrative is an entertaining means of exploring the interrelationships of Aldo Leopold's ecological tenets, the public-trust doctrine and sociological considerations that every professional conservationist must recognize and adopt to some degree.

Advance reviewers agree that this book will appeal to and be informative to veteran wildlifers, wildlife students and all other natural resource disciplines. For more information about the book and how to order it (only \$10.00 U.S. + \$2.00 shipping), view the flyer or visit the WMI Website.

Wildlife Management Institute
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Washington, DC 20036-3727
202-371-1808
www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org

OPM Changes.

Excerpted from USFS letter by Kathleen D. Burger, Director of Human Capital Management:
June 14, 2006 File Code: 6150-1

Subject: *Implementation of the Job Family Standard for Professional Work in the Natural Resources and Biological Sciences Group, GS-400*

Points relevant to WFW are:

(JFS = Job Family Standards)

- "The new JFS contains several changes from previously published standards and the previous draft GS-0400 job family standard issued in November 2002."
- "...changing the overall name of the job family from Biological Sciences Group to Natural Resources Management and Biological Sciences Group"
- "...changes the title of positions in the GS-0482 series from Fishery Biologist to Fish Biologist."
- "In the occupational information for the GS-0486 series (p. 37), the standard states that "work includes...assessing and conducting wildlife management transactions, such as acquiring, selling, leasing, or exchanging lands, easements, and other resources."* *Positions that are established to perform work, including land purchase and exchange, land titles and adjustments, boundary management and land records, special use authorizations, and other assorted realty transactions should be classified in the Realty Series, GS-1170. Positions may only be classified in series covered by the GS-0400 Job Family Standard if the work requires *application *of professional knowledge of natural resources management or biological science. Neither the desirability of such qualifications nor the employee's possession of them is a factor in determining the series."

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

• WATERSHED

11TH Biennial Watershed Management Council Conference.

The 11th Biennial Watershed Management Council Conference, 'Community Action & Innovation for Watershed Sustainability' will be held in collaboration with the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance and Walla Walla Community College, October 16 - 20, 2006 at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center, Walla Walla, Washington. The Conference will explore policies and management practices to resolve current and

future water allocation and watershed management issues in the West, and the science and strategies that have been and may be applied in meeting those objectives. Individual Conference Sessions include: Living River Corridor Concepts and Applications; Agreements for Watershed Sustainability; Fuels, Fires and Creeks – Watersheds at the Interface; Timber Harvest and Watershed Sustainability; Watershed Sustainability with Changing Snow and Climate; Innovative Watershed Education; Anadromous Fisheries in the Northwest; Flow for Flexibility – the Washington Initiative; Watershed 101- Integrated Watershed Management and Confluent Processes; and much, much more. For more information and registration, see www.watershed.org/wmc/index.php.

Technical Information & Publications:

- **STREAM TEAM**

The Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO, has a supply of these 4 water related publications:

Bunte, Kristin; Abt, Steven R. 2001. *Sampling surface and subsurface particle-size distributions in wadable gravel-and cobble-bed streams for analyses in sediment transport, hydraulics, and streambed monitoring*. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-74. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 428 p.

This document provides guidance for sampling surface and subsurface sediment from wadable gravel-and cobble-bed streams. After a short introduction to streams types and classifications in gravel-bed rivers, the document explains the field and laboratory measurement of particle sizes and the statistical analysis of particle-size distributions. Analysis of particle parameters, including shape, density, and bulk density are also discussed. The document describes the spatial variability of bed-material particle sizes as well as the horizontal and vertical structure of particle deposits. The discussion of sampling procedures and equipment helps the user to make appropriate selections that support the sampling objective. Sample-size estimates may be obtained from empirical data or computed from statistical relationships between sample size and accuracy. The document explains a variety of methods, their usage and prerequisites. A detailed discussion of sampling schemes guides the user to select appropriate spatial sampling patterns necessary to produce representative samples.

This document is online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr74.html

Schmidt, Larry J.; Potyondy, John P. 2004. *Quantifying channel maintenance instream flows: an approach for gravel-bed streams in the Western United States*. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-128. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 33 p.

This paper discusses one approach for quantifying channel maintenance instream flow necessary to achieve the Forest Service Organic Act purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows. The approach is appropriate for quantifying channel maintenance flows on perennial, unregulated, snowmelt-dominated, gravel-

bed streams with alluvial reaches. The approach identifies the minimum essential regime of streamflows necessary for the channel and its floodplain to remain fully functioning with respect to sediment and flow conveyance. The paper discusses the role of water, sediment, and vegetation in maintaining a channel and provides methodologies for estimating the upper and lower limits of the required sediment transporting flows. Conceptually, these flows range from intermediate flows associated with initial coarse sediment movement from the coarse surface layer of gravel-bed streams (Phase 2 transport) up to the 25-year flow event. The paper also provides suggestions for analyzing and displaying results, implementing studies at the watershed scale, determining data needs, and post-project management and evaluation. Best application of the approach occurs at sites having long-term bedload data and streamflow records.

This is also online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_qtr128.html

King, John G.; Emmett, William W.; Whiting, Peter J.; Kenworthy, Robert P.; Barry, Jeffrey J. 2004. *Sediment transport data and related information for selected coarse-bed streams and rivers in Idaho*. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-131. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 26 p.

This report and associated web site files provide sediment transport and related data for coarse-bed streams and rivers to potential users. Information on bedload and suspended sediment transport, streamflow, channel geometry, channel bed material, floodplain material, and large particle transport is provided for 33 study reaches in Idaho that represent a wide range of drainage areas, average annual streamflows, channel gradients, and substrate sizes. All the study reaches have a coarser layer of surface bed material overlaying finer subsurface material.

Both bedload and suspended sediment transport increase with discharge and the relationship can be reasonably represented using a log-log model. At most sites, the suspended load makes up the majority of the total sediment load. The size of the largest bedload particle in transport and usually the median size of the bedload increase with discharge. However, the median size of the bedload is much smaller than the channel surface material and sand is the primary or a large component of the bedload material.

A large proportion of the annual sediment production occurs at the higher streamflows during snowmelt. On average, discharges equal to or larger than bankfull occur 3.3 percent of the time and transport 61.5 percent of the annual bedload sediment. Discharges less than the average annual discharge, on average, occur 75.0 percent of the time and transport about 3.8 percent of the annual bedload sediment.

This is also online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_qtr131.html

Hardy, Thomas; Palavi Panja; and Dean Mathias. 2004. *WinXSPRO, A Channel Cross Section Analyzer, User's Manual, Version 3.0*. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-147. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 95 p.

WinXSPRO is an interactive Windows™ software package designed to analyze stream channel cross section data for geometric, hydraulic, and sediment transport

parameters. WinXSPRO was specifically developed for use in high-gradient streams (gradient > 0.01) and supports four alternative resistance equations for computing boundary roughness and resistance to flow. Cross section input data may be from standard cross section surveys using a rod and level or sag-tape procedures. WinXSPRO allows the user to subdivide the channel cross section into multiple sub-sections and has the ability to vary water surface slopes with discharge to reflect natural conditions. Analysis options include developing stage-discharge relationships, evaluating changes in channel cross-sectional area, and computing sediment transport rates. Resource specialists can use the estimated stream-channel geometry cross section hydraulic characteristics and sediment transport output to assist with channel design and monitoring, instream flow analysis, the restoration of riparian areas, and the placement of instream structures. (Updated software can be obtained at www.stream.fs.fed.us/publications/winxspro.html)

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This is online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_qtr147.html

There is NO charge for these publications. To order single or multiple copies:

Email: rschneider@fs.fed.us (include full mailing address)

FAX: (970) 498-1122

Phone: (970) 498-1392

Mail: Send your name and address in block format (as if you are addressing an envelope) to:

Publishing Services
Rocky Mountain Research Station
240 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 USA

- **WILDLIFE**

New Report Documents First Ever Multi-State Review of Feral Cat Impacts on Birds.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has published a new report, *Impacts of Feral and Free-ranging Cats on Bird Species of Conservation Concern: A Five-State Review of New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, and Hawaii*, which, for the first time, analyzes the effects that cats are having on some of America's most at-risk bird species at cat predation hotspots. The [five-state review](#) illuminates troubling threats to endangered species such as the Florida Scrub-Jay, Piping Plover, and Hawaiian Petrel, and other key birds such as the Painted Bunting, Least Tern, and Black Rail.

The report highlights the growing trend of so-called "managed" feral cat colonies that use Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) techniques, and their effects on birds, particularly at State and Globally Important Bird Areas. The evidence is clear: free-roaming cats are bad for birds. The report draws other important conclusions, perhaps most significantly that state and federal resources for controlling feral cats must be significantly increased in order to achieve the goals identified in Endangered Species Recovery Plans and State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies.

The report is available for download in pdf format from the [Cats Indoors!](#) section of ABC's [Web site](#), along with a host of other educational tools such as brochures, fact

sheets, posters, a teacher's guide, print and radio public service announcements, and more. These materials are designed to be used in efforts by the public to educate neighbors, friends, clients, and others that cats and wildlife are safer when cats are kept indoors, and that humane, permanent removal of cats is needed to protect our native wildlife.

State and federal wildlife agencies, conservation and animal welfare groups, veterinarian associations, wildlife rehabilitators and thousands of individuals have supported ABC's *Cats Indoors!* Campaign since its inception in 1997. The report was made possible through a generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information on the report or the *Cats Indoors!* Campaign, please contact [Linda Winter](#), Director of ABC's *Cats Indoors!* the campaign for safer birds and cats, at 202-234-7181, ext. 201.

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Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

The Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO. has a good supply of RMRS GTR-133CD.

Guide to identification of bankfull stage in the northeastern United States, 2005. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-133-CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Consistent identification of bankfull stage is essential to watershed analysis, stream evaluation, stream restoration, fish habitat assessment, and stream related design and construction. This training program demonstrates basic techniques of bankfull identification on a range of stream types typically found in the northeastern United States. A historical perspective on bankfull determination is provided and the scientific principles upon which it is based are reviewed. Bankfull determination is discussed within the context of the Rosgen Stream Classification System. Uses of bankfull stage information in practical applications are demonstrated and a catalogue of stream sites is included as a self-test of bankfull determination skills. Training material is presented in a series of learning modules on four CD-ROM disks and includes video clips recorded at 20 different stream sites in the northeastern United States.

It is not available online, but a free copy or copies of this publication can be ordered through the following options:

Email: rschneider@fs.fed.us (include full mailing address)
FAX: (970) 498-1122
Phone: (970) 498-1392

Mail: Send your name and address in block format (as if you are addressing an envelope) to:

Publishing Services
Rocky Mountain Research Station
240 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 USA

- **GENERAL / CROSS AREAS**

SAFETEA-LU 2006 Transportation Bill Training Homepage is Now Available!

<http://wwwtest.fs.fed.us/eng/transp/safetea-lu/>

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Regional Round-Ups:

- **REGION 2 – Aquatic/Fish**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION FISHERIES AND AQUATIC ECOLOGY NEWS!!

JUNE 2006

COLORADO HOSTS THE FIRST USA NATIONAL FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Colorado hosted the first National Flyfishing Championships and Conservation Symposium in Boulder from June 1-4, 2006. Clear Creek Ranger District Fishery Biologist Bill Janowsky and Regional Aquatic Program Leader Dave Winters worked closely with Colorado Trout Unlimited Executive Director David Nickum to ensure that the “kick-off” Conservation Symposium was widely publicized to the public and was a success. Mr. Janowsky was instrumental in putting together a first class display of educational video’s, invasive species information and general educational materials for the public. The national “Rise To The Future” display was also exhibited, and Bill and Dave were there to meet over 70 contestants from the United States and invited guests from as far away as England. Other agencies including the Colorado Division of Wildlife, United States Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and several public conservation groups also participated. Teams of 2 to 5 fly fisherman spent 3 days being challenged in both streams and lakes to identify the top angler to represent the USA in the World Championships in Coimbra, Portugal in September. A total of five “beats” were fished under demanding time constraints by each team. Of special note is that 3 of the sites were located within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, and the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests

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and Pawnee National Grassland. Several Forest and District personnel made this event a success by ensuring permits were issued in a timely manner and volunteering their time to help with the events. We should all be proud of the involvement of the Rocky Mountain Region! What's next!! We have been informed that because of the success of this years championships, it is going to be held here for the next 5 years. We expect our participation to grow considerably next year.

For the complete article or additional information, please contact:

David Winters

Regional Fish and Aquatic Ecology Program Lead

USDA Forest Service

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Colorado 80401

Phone: 303-275-5023 / Fax: 303-275-5075

- **REGION 9 – Aquatic/Fish**

Lake Ottawa Produces Excellent Fishing (and Fun)



The Iron River District of the Ottawa National Forest hosted the annual Kids All American Fishing Derby at Lake Ottawa on June 10, 2006. This year's event drew 32 young anglers from around the area and featured a big fish contest, casting contest, fish identification contest, and minnow races.

Wal-Mart and many businesses from the Iron River Community donated prizes and food,

making it a special day for kids looking to improve their fishing skills.

In all, 57 fish were caught and released by the contestants, including walleye, smallmouth bass, rock bass, perch, and suckers.

Forest Service employees from the Iron River District Office assisted in preparing and running the day's events at the Lake Ottawa Day Use Building, which provided a scenic backdrop for the participants and their family members.

The budding anglers demonstrated great sportsmanship and conservation practices while enjoying some outstanding fishing conditions on one of the Ottawa National Forest's best known and most popular lakes.

By: Linda Sybeldon (*R09_Ottawa*)

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Shawnee National Forest Sponsors Fishing Derbies

On June 10, 2006 the Shawnee National Forest participated in two Rise to the Future fishing derbies, one held at Lake Glendale in Pope County and one at Glen O. Jones Lake in Saline County. Both fishing derbies were successful with a total of 256 participants plus the adults that accompanied them.

The Lake Glendale event was organized by Hidden Springs Biological Sciences Supervisor Bob Monroe and Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) employee Billie Moore. Illinois State Trooper Dale R. Pool, Forest Service employees Roy Street, Jim Smith, Rebeccah Lampert, Monica Neal and Steve Widowski, plus retiree Mike Spanel were instrumental in the success of this fishing derby. Several agencies, organizations and 47 local businesses supported the Lake Glendale fishing derby by donating numerous prizes. Pope County Sportsman's Club gathered the supplies to cook lunch for all of the participants and adults present. A total of 102 children participated and each one of them went home with one of the donated items ranging from bicycles and savings bonds to a bag filled with a variety of goodies that included fishing tackle and water bottles.

The Glen O. Jones Lake fishing derby was organized by Forest Service retiree, Mike Spanel. Shawnee National Forest employees Wendy Cowser, Sue Hirsch and Mike Welker, along with summer Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) hires Lindsay Adams, Bruce Bainbridge, Melissa Mead and Kaci Price were there to lend a hand wherever needed. Numerous local businesses and organizations donated a multitude of awards from bicycles to fishing equipment that were given out to derby participants. Everyone present was provided a lunch which included donated hotdogs and soda. Volunteers worked at the grills cooking the hotdogs. None of the 154 Glen O. Jones derby participants went away hungry or empty handed.

You can view a Slideshow of the derby at:

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/about/slideshow/derby

WFW Newsletter Contact Information: Disclaimer – Non Discrimination Statement

WFW Newsletter is a monthly newsletter without a clever name and is provided by the National Forest System Watershed-Fish-Wildlife-Air-Rare Plants staff (including Soils) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at agrant@fs.fed.us or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity. Emphasis on brevity. Links to detailed URLs or documents are great – include them in your information contribution. If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the "[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)" workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe. If photos are included in your submission please provide alternative text with each photo. Alternative text should not repeat captions but describe the scene shown in the photo.

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the [USAJOBS website](#).

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