



Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

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http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

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Catch of the Day (critters, botanical finds, and bizarre occurrences in the news)

Submit your information
Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination
Statement

National in Scope:

- **HOT BREAKING NEWS!**

Chief Bosworth Retired :: Welcome new Chief Kimbell

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth retired February 2 after 41 years of service. Bosworth has been Chief for almost 6 years and he came to the job of Chief from being the Regional Forester in Region 1. Bosworth began his career in the Northern Region as a forester on the St. Joe National Forest (now part of the Panhandle NF) and has served as a District Ranger, Forest Planner, Deputy Forest Supervisor and Regional Planner all in Region 1. He then moved to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Region 4, and then on to the Washington Office as Deputy Director of Timber Management. After that assignment, he became Deputy Regional Forester in Region 5 and then Regional Forester in Regions 4 and then 1. He became the 15th Chief in 200

New Chief Appointed: Gail Kimbell was named the 16th Chief of the Forest Service. Kimbell started her career with the BLM in Oregon and worked as a forester in Alaska and a logging engineer and district planner in Oregon. She was District Ranger on the Colville and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and then served as Forest Supervisor in Alaska, Wyoming and Colorado before moving to the Washington Office as Associate Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems. She became Regional Forester in Region 1 in 2004.

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

Larry Bryant Retires

Larry Bryant, Assistant Director of Range Ecology and Vegetation Management in the Rangeland Management staff, has decided to retire. His decision came rather quickly, and being Larry without any fanfare. January 3, 2007 was his last day. We wish him well in his retirement!

More Kids in the Wood – Call for Grant Applications

REPLY DUE March 16, 2007

The Chief released a letter announcing the opportunity to apply for "More Kids in the Woods" grants. Many WFW professionals conduct **NatureWatch** and other projects that are a perfect fit for "More Kids in the Woods". For example, "Walks in the Woods" learning about plants and animals while hiking our national forests and grasslands; "Get Fit - Move Outside Missoula"; "Fishing Days/Derbys"; "Migratory Bird Day Festivals", and the many other projects accomplished each year.

Send Grant Application to: more_kids@fs.fed.us

[More Kids in the Woods: Call Letter 89.5 KB doc](#)

[More Kids in the Woods: Proposal Form/Application 101 KB doc](#)

Contact: Kristen Nelson 202 205-1406, USFS, WO/Rec, knelson@fs.fed.us

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, WO/WFW, Appeals & Litigation Assistant

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

Acting Wildlife Program Leader

Nick Schmal, currently the Regional Fish Program Leader in R9, was acting National Fish Program Leader - November 13, 2006 to January 12, 2007. Thank you, Nick for a job well done. The staff now welcomes Amy Unthank. Amy is the Regional Fish Program Leader in R3. She is acting in the position from January 15 to March 16, 2007.

- **TES**

ESA/CWA Case will be argued before Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has granted certiorari in a case with huge implications for the administration of the Endangered Species Act (National Association of Home Builders v. Defenders of Wildlife, 06-340).

NAHB and the state of Arizona had separately asked the court to review a Ninth Circuit decision that found EPA's transfer of NPDES permitting authority to Arizona to be illegal. In a 2-1 decision last year, the appeals court said that the ESA requires federal agencies to "insure" that their actions do not jeopardize threatened or endangered species, even when the mandates of another statute appear to be in conflict with that requirement.

Arguments are expected to take place in April. More links at <http://www.eswr.com/latest>

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS, WFW

Polar bear proposed listing under the U.S. ESA

In a 154-page document, the Bush administration explained that polar bears' ice habitat -- used as platforms for hunting, mating and resting -- could vanish within half a century.

FR proposed listing as a Threatened species.

From proposed rule:

"As described under Factor A, the primary threat with the greatest severity and magnitude of impact to the species is loss of habitat due to sea ice retreat, however there are no known regulatory mechanisms currently in place at the national or international level effectively addressing threats to polar bear habitat."

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS, WFW

- **WILDLIFE**

Ducks Died Of Fungal Infection
Idaho Fish and Game News Release

State and federal officials have confirmed that about 2,500 mallard ducks found dead southeast of Burley, died of an acute fungus infection.

The official cause of death is acute aspergillosis, a respiratory tract infection caused by a fungus commonly found in soil, dead leaves, moldy grain, compost piles, or in other decaying vegetation.

Some deaths occurred on the Sawtooth National Forest.

Technical Information & Publications:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREA**

New Publication: Broadening Participation in Biological Monitoring - Handbook for Scientists and Managers

The Institute for Culture and Ecology

Pilz, David; Ballard, Heidi L.; Jones, Eric T. 2006. Broadening participation in biological monitoring: handbook for scientists and managers. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-680. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 131 p.

This handbook and the companion materials are tools that were written specifically for natural resource managers and scientists in the U.S., but they are broadly applicable to many types of collaborative, multiparty, citizen, or volunteer projects and many types of resource monitoring. The handbook should be useful to anyone interested in participatory processes and resource monitoring whether managers or citizen groups initiate the project.

Forms that can be used to document all aspects of a participatory monitoring project, and an associated training curriculum about use of the handbook, can be downloaded from this page on IFCAE's web site: www.ifcae.org/pbm/. A hyperlinked version of the handbook, and information about consulting assistance for your participatory projects, are also available from IFCAE.

Ordering Printed Hardcopies: Printed color hardcopies of this publication can be easily obtained for free by contacting the Publications department of the Pacific Northwest Research Station by:

Website form: www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/order.shtml

Phone: +1.503.808.2138

Email: pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us

Mail: PNW Publications, Portland Habilitation Center, 5312 NE 148th Avenue, Portland, OR 97230

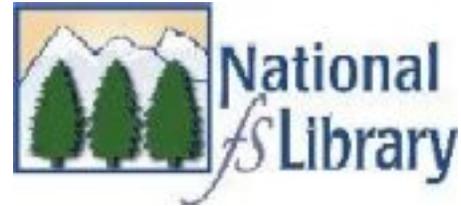
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(large file - may take a few minutes to load)

National FS Library Monthly and Management Alerts are available

Monthly Alert and Management Alert items can be ordered shopping cart style. In alternating months, the Alert includes a Management Alert, with articles offering tips and help for all employees. Access journals to numerous societies directly from NFSL website. Need to be on a Forest Service computer.



<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/library/>

Submitted By: Julie Blankenburg, USFS, FPL, Librarian

DigiTop offers access to journals

DigiTop now offers electronic access to the full-text of more than 4,000 scientific journals, including 1,000 titles with content published prior to 1996 and 14 key databases.

<http://digitop.nal.usda.gov>

New archival additions include journal titles from the following publishers:

- Springer: Aquatic Ecology; Environmental Geology; Trees; etc.
- Elsevier: Palaeogeography; Palaeoclimatology; Palaeoecology; Remote Sensing of Environment; etc.
- Canadian National Research Council: Canadian Journal of Forest Research
- American Association for the Advancement of Science: Science Classic, which includes the full-text archives of Science dating back to 1880.

Submitted By: Julie Blankenburg, USFS, FPL, Librarian

Call for Proposals -Applications of Remote Sensing

Reply Due: March 1, 2007

This is an invitation to Forest Service units to submit proposals for projects to the Remote Sensing Steering Committee. The committee sponsors applications of remote sensing and associated geospatial technologies for management of natural resources. Project proposals will be reviewed by the steering committee, and projects will start during the Summer of 2007.

Those interested in submitting proposals should visit <http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us/> and become familiar with current applications.

Submitted by: Henry Lachowski, USFS, Remote Sensing Applications Center

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

New PNW Publication – Farmed Atlantic Salmon & NFS Streams

PNW GTR-697 "Assessment of Risk for Invasion of National Forest Streams in the Pacific Northwest by Farmed Atlantic Salmon", by Pete Bisson.

<http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/25130>

Submitted By: Doug Ryan, USFS, PNW Research Station

Fish Passages: Seeking Case Studies

The FishXing Team is collecting examples of fish and aquatic organism passage projects - stream crossing replacement and retrofits. Learning from our experiences, these case studies teach us how to keep improving. PROJECT STAFF WILL DO MUCH OF THE WORK FOR YOU. See what is being done already:

<http://www.stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/case.html>

WFRP-MS Application is being used to gather information on some projects, but if you are not entering data in the database, you can forward you projects to Michael.

This is a joint project between the FishXing Team led by the US Forest Service, and the HEC-26 Team at FHWA, B.Y.U., and Washington State University.

Contact: Michael J. Furniss, USFS, PNW/PSW Research, Hydrology, Soils, and Geomorphology

Submitted By: Michael J. Furniss, USFS

The Rocky Mountain Research Station Publications

Available in single or bulk orders

1. USDA Forest Service. 2005. Guide to Identification of Bankfull Stage in the Northeastern United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-133-CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 4 CD-ROM set. NOT online.
2. 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. Online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr128.html
3. 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.
Online at: www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr74.html
4. Paradiso, James J. 2000. A bank-operated traveling block cableway for stream discharge and sediment measurements. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-44. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 36 p. NOT online at this time.

NO charge for these publications and to order single or multiple copies:

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

Phone: (970) 498-1392 FAX: (970) 498-1122
Mail: Send your name and address in block format:
Publishing Services
Rocky Mountain Research Station
240 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 USA

- **WILDLIFE**

Request for FY 2008 Technology and Development Project Proposals

Do you have an idea for improving the use of technology in the Forest Service? If you do, you should consider submitting your idea using the process described in the attached letter.

Proposals submitted over the next several months will be considered for inclusion in the FY 2008 programs of work for the San Dimas and Missoula Technology and Development centers. Proposal deadlines vary, read the letter!

Each year, the steering committees for the technology and development centers consider a wide variety of proposals many related to Inventory, Monitoring, and Geospatial concepts. The only bad idea is the one that never gets proposed!

[Letter 68 KB doc](#)

[Proposal 35.5 KB doc](#)

Submitted By: Andy Peavy, USFS, IMI

Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

GIS Courses scheduled at GSTC in Feb/March

The following two ESRI courses are scheduled at GSTC/RSAC in Salt Lake City. More courses are on the way, so check the Geospatial Training and Awareness website often <http://fsweb.geotraining.fs.fed.us>

Course descriptions, tuition, and registration available at the following links.

Intro to Geo processing Scripts using Python Feb 21-22, 2007
<http://fsweb.geotraining.fs.fed.us/tc.php?op=c&courseID=111>

Data Production and Editing Techniques March 13-15, 2007

Submitted by: Stu Gregory, USFS, Geospatial Service & Technology Center

Natural Resources Training - Online

Opportunities for natural resource training are popping up everywhere. Check out these documents for training that might work for you.

- Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium: group of universities and natural resource agencies providing online Masters Degree programs.
<http://cnr.iddl.vt.edu>
[NRDL Poster 451 KB pdf](#)
- 3000+ English speaking universities world wide offering curriculum in natural resources
[NRDO US Spreadsheet xxx XLS](#)

Contact: Bill Woodland, 202-205-1035, USFS, WO/NFS/National Training & Education Manager

Submitted By: Shelly Witt, WO/WFW, Continuing Education Program Leader

Bat Conservation International Workshops

For the fourth consecutive year, BCI will be hosting an Acoustic Monitoring workshop to be held in Kentucky. Experiences at each workshop are designed to teach new techniques, refresh old ones and foster an interest in pro-active conservation, education, and research projects. Please contact me if you have questions or need more information. Information, registration forms, and scholarship forms can be found on BCI's website: www.batcon.org/home/index.asp?idPage=30.

Submitted By: Marc Bosch

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

Southwestern Region Fisheries Biologist attends International River Conference

The 2006 International Conference on Riverine Hydroecology: Advances in Research and Applications incorporating the 2nd International Symposium on Wood in World Rivers (the first symposium was hosted by Oregon State University in 2000) was held at the University of Stirling in Bridge of Allan, Scotland. The conference was attended by over 220 delegates from 22 countries, including one from the National Forest System, Sean Ferrell, Forest Fisheries Biologist on the Santa Fe National Forest in the Southwestern Region.

[Briefing Paper 37 KB doc](#)

Submitted By: Amy Unthank

- **WILDLIFE**

NRMP monitoring protocol database

The Natural Resources Monitoring Partnership (NRMP) is a collaborative effort by the natural resource management community to improve monitoring efforts in order to support effective evaluation and decision-making. Current participants include state, federal, and Canadian natural resource management agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions.

http://nrmp.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=819&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true

Doug Powell, Christina Vojta, and Sarah Hall have been participating in the NRMP project for the past year. They have provided the system requirements developed for the prototype FS "Protocol Database" to the team which adopted most of the data elements in the FS prototype which was based on practitioner interviews and tests during 2003-2005.

So far the content is limited. It was just opened for input in December. You can find the "Northern Goshawk Bioregional Monitoring Design" listed. This is one of the products from our agency investments in information assets.

New features were scheduled for release in January.

Ideally, the NRMP database will ultimately be the one-stop source for federal, state, and private parties to locate monitoring protocols. As such the database has the potential to overcome one of the greatest challenges we faced with the FS prototype system -- providing a cost-effective compendium of metadata that enables FS staff to inform partners of protocols we use and enables FS staff to locate protocols others have, so we don't reinvent existing methods.

EMC is working on a "redesign" of our Inventory and Monitoring web information so that the link provided by the NRMP site to the old IMI pages will be replaced with pages that provide information on FS inventory and monitoring (I&M) programs and guides (at least some of our FS I&M information that is beyond the scope of the NRMP project).

Regional Round Up

Share the events or achievements going on in your Region.

- **Region 9:**

Hoosier Builds Vernal Wetlands to Repair Off-Road Vehicle Damage

Written by Clark McCreedy - R09_Hoosier



Much of the land acquired by the Hoosier National Forest has a history of user-constructed trails and roads that invariably attract illegal Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use. The majority of these roads and trails have been constructed without consideration of other resource values.

As a result, ORV use tends to aggravate existing erosion and entrenchment of these roads and trails. Building on an existing partnership that has emphasized larger wetland restorations, the Hoosier National Forest and the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife have begun to place a priority on restoration or creation of smaller vernal wetlands.

And, to accomplish multiple resource objectives, priority for placement of vernal wetlands has focused on these abandoned, entrenched, and eroded roads. Emphasis on

these areas has allowed this partnership to achieve road obliteration, reduce erosion, provide essential habitats for Eastern forest bats, reptiles and amphibians, and nearly eliminate illegal ORV use of these sites.

Over the summers of 2005 and 2006, nearly 100 vernal wetlands were constructed within the beds of entrenched and eroding trails or roads. Forty of the vernal wetlands have been constructed in two watersheds of conservation import: The Patoka River Watershed, noted as a focal area for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity, and the Lost River Watershed, noted for its karst resources.

In addition to treating roads, in coming field seasons the partners will use this approach to remediate an abandoned open pit mine and enhance existing constructed wetlands.

This project is a result of an on-going partnership between the Hoosier National Forest and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife. This partnership has a 50-year history of on-going cooperative land management and has been widely viewed as a model of collaborative conservation.

The Forest Wildlife Group of the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, the partner tasked with the on the ground installation of these vernal wetlands, currently consists of four staff

members, several of which have participated in management on the Hoosier National Forest for over 20 years. This partnership brings a recognizable attitude of mutual ownership to land management on the Hoosier National Forest

These vernal wetlands, though early in their development, have already become the focus of outreach and education. Interpretive signs have been designed for the sites and existing outreach programs now use the sites as outdoor demonstration areas. As these wetlands began to revegetate, members of the Division of Fish and Wildlife leadership team have received on-site tours.

Already, plans have been formulated to allow our local conservation partners to participate in the enhancement of these wetlands by assisting in the placement of woody debris and re-establishment of native plants. And, with the success of this initial effort, it is hoped that vernal wetland constructions will continue to add to conservation on the Hoosier.

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS, Region 9

- **Region 3:**

- **Burro Creek Allotment & the Arizona Elk Society**

Early in 2005, the Arizona Elk Society approached the Apache-Sitgreaves National

Forests and the Brown family of the Springerville, Arizona ranching community with an offer of cooperation. A small group of individuals representing an array of interests wanted to discuss how they could make some meaningful impacts on the high elevation meadow environment of the White Mountains of Arizona. The collaborative group included sportsmen, ranchers, U.S. Forest Service (Springerville Ranger District), Arizona Game & Fish, and the Arizona Elk Society. The Arizona Elk Society's initial proposal was to acquire the "Burro Creek Allotment" on the Springerville Ranger District and work with the permittee and the Forest Service to retire some pastures, and possibly set aside the



remaining pastures in a forage reserve for the cattle operation. As the project progressed, the group determined that a broader landscape approach would provide greater benefits to a larger array of habitats and species.

The Arizona Elk Society viewed the area as exceptional habitat for elk. The Arizona Game & Fish Department broadened the group's perspective to include antelope, deer, coldwater fisheries and the Apache trout recovery program. The ranchers saw the land as having some great livestock pastures; other areas of their allotments simply were not conducive to grazing.



The solution involved the re-structuring of five allotments affecting approximately 25,000 acres. Five pastures from three different allotments are scheduled to be withdrawn from grazing to enhance developed

recreation and promote a safe experience for the public in the Big Lake Recreation Complex. Three pastures from two different allotments are scheduled to be withdrawn from grazing to enhance habitat for Apache trout and other cold water fisheries. Nine pastures from four different allotments will be excluded from grazing for a minimum of 10 years to allow for recovery of the herbaceous forage base. Four pastures from the Burro Creek Allotment have been re-distributed to four other allotments to offset the loss of animal unit months due to the aforementioned livestock withdrawals or exclusions.

This project has been a great gain for the improvement of elk habitat, protection of critical aquatic species habitat, and improvement in the grazing systems for five permittees.

Contact: Springerville Ranger District,
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, 928-333-4372

Submitted By: Deb Bumpus, USFS, R3, Apache-Sitgreaves NF

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 and Meteorology) 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 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.

If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the "[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)" workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe.

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

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