



Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

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News:

GENERAL/CROSS AREAS

First National Get Outdoors Day

“We are pleased to report that plans are underway across the nation for the very first National Get Outdoors Day. From here in the nation's capital to southern California, partners are planning for June 14, when Americans - and especially families with children - will respond to invitations to visit a site for a day of fun, of introductions to activities and programs, and to learn how to connect with the Great Outdoors.”

[More Information...](#)

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, USFS/WO/WFW

New President at the Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy announces its selection of a new President. Mark Tercek comes to the Conservancy from Goldman Sach's "Center for Environmental Markets". Read about him at:

<http://www.nature.org/pressroom/leadership/art24764.html>

Submitted By: Wayne Owen, USFS/WO/WFW

SOIL

RMRS Aspen Website

Rocky Mountain Research Station website “Aspen Restoration in the Western United States” provides information on the current loss of aspen communities. Created in 2003 it is still “a good summer read”. Check it out.

www.fs.fed.us/rm/aspen/

Submitted By: Randy Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

Cheatgrass Management – RMRS Newsletter

April issue of the Rocky Mountain Research Station newsletter focuses on cheatgrass management. It has a number of links to subject areas that we need to keep abreast of when considering reseeding where cheatgrass is present or has the potential to invade.

[Newsletter online...](#)

Submitted By: Randy Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

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RMRS Scientists Co-host Soil Monitoring Workshop

During the last week of April, Research Soil Scientists Dan Neary, Flagstaff, and Deborah Page-Dumroese, Moscow, along with Carl Trettin, Southern Research Station (SRS), hosted a workshop on the Scientific Background for Soil Monitoring on National Forests and Rangelands in Denver, CO. The meeting was designed to gather the state-of-the-science on soil monitoring, and was attended by 35 people from not only SRS and RMRS, but from Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, the WO, Virginia Tech University, University of Nevada at Reno, University of Washington, University of Idaho, Michigan Technological University, University of Saskatchewan, San Dimas Technology Center, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Canadian Natural Resources, and Weyerhaeuser Corp.

RMRS contributors included: Ann Abbott, Data Acquisition Management and Appropriate Sampling; Mike Amacher, FIA and Forest Health; and Dan Neary/Carl Trettin/Deb Page-Dumroese - Soil Quality Monitoring Methods - National and International Perspectives. Leah Behler, Moscow, was the official note taker. A peer-reviewed journal special issue will follow as well as a GTR synthesis.

(Excerpted from the RMRS Explorer, May 12th issue.)

Submitted By: Randy Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

Missoulian Soil Rehabilitation Article

This link is to the front page of the Missoula newspaper. It features a soils rehabilitation project Cole Mayn had been planning on the Bitterroot National Forest.

<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2008/04/28/news/local/news03.txt>

Submitted By: Randy Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

TES – Threatened and Endangered Species

National Speleological Society's page of WNS Information

This is the electronic caving log passed on by the National Speleological Society. This site is being monitored by FWS because of WNS. It is very helpful for cavers to enter their caving information and could serve important in understanding human interface with the spread or lack there of for WNS. <http://necaveconservancy.org>

Submitted By: Pat Ormsbee USFS/R6/WFW

WATERSHED

3rd Successful National Ground Water Course, Asheville, NC, May 2008

The 3rd offering of the Geology and Minerals Training Office Ground Water Resource Management course was held in Asheville and on the surrounding Pisgah National Forest from May 4-9, 2008. Twenty-seven agency staff from across the country participated in the four-and-a-half day course, bringing the total number of course “graduates” to over 100. The session was opened on Sunday night with a presentation from the Washington Office Director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants, who noted the importance of ground water on NFS lands in the context of societal needs for additional fresh water, climate change, and the Chief’s water emphasis area. After spending two days in the classroom, attendees spent two days in the field measuring monitoring wells and evaluating ground water-dependent ecosystems. As a bonus, on the second day in the field, the class got a tour of the Cradle of Forestry by District Ranger Randy Burgess. Thanks go out to the GMTO staff, the instructor cadre, Suzanne Krieger of Region 8, and the staff of the National Forests in North Carolina and the Bent Creek Experimental Watershed for helping make this a successful week.



Participants at Bent Creek Experiment Watershed 1



Participants pose for group photo.

Submitted By: Chris Carlson, USFS/WOWFW

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Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

AQUATIC/FISH

Joint Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel (GLP) & Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP)

On behalf of the Executive Committees of the GLP and MRBP ANS Panels, I am pleased to provide the preliminary agenda and other related information for the upcoming joint ANS Panel meeting. We will be convening June 17-19, 2008 in Milwaukee Wisconsin at the DoubleTree Hotel, located at 611 West Wisconsin Avenue, in downtown Milwaukee (53203).

Agenda: The preliminary agenda, as attached, has been developed jointly by the GLP and MRBP Executive Committees. Please recognize that this agenda is preliminary and is subject to change. An important goal of this meeting is to provide a forum that will facilitate further communication and coordination among members of both ANS Panels given the shared issues of concern existing within these interconnected watersheds. During the first day and a half of the meeting (Tues., June 17 – Wed., June 18), the GLP and MRBP will convene to discuss common priority issues. On the afternoon of the second day (Wed., June 18), each ANS Panel will meet separately to address Panel-specific issues. ***A feature of the meeting will be joint committee break-out sessions to facilitate coordinated work on issues of common concern between the committees.*** Committee chairs will be working together to develop agendas for these break-out sessions. Please note that GLP Committees will have additional time on Wednesday to meet independently from the MRBP Committees.

Activities are also being planned to provide further opportunities for networking and socializing among meeting participants. A reception will be held Tuesday, June 17 evening at the hotel, as a social event bringing meeting participants from both ANS Panels together. Meeting field trips are being planned for Thursday, June 19. The overall program for this joint ANS Panel meeting is being structured to provide time for interaction and networking between members from both regions.

Meeting Sponsorship: We are pleased to acknowledge the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office as co-sponsors for this event.

Please contact Kathe Glassner-Shwayder (shwayder@glc.org) if you have questions or need further information on the meeting.

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFW

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Technical Information & Publications:

TES – Threatened and Endangered Species

Pollinator Online Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico

The Smithsonian has released an internet version of “Krombein, et al., (eds). 1979. Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Volumes 1-4”. It can be freely accessed at <http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=krombein>. The Smithsonian Institution provided this contribution through the Biodiversity Heritage Library project.

Submitted By: David Pivorunas, USFS/WO/WFW

Training - Tools:

TRAINING

Continuing Education/WFW

Hello -- Call for Nominations -- Letter is in Your Inbox

The official letter went out through the FS email system on May 29, 2009. It was signed May 23, 2008. Forest Service employees can register in AgLearn. Regions 3, 6 and 8 offer tuition assistance -- look for forthcoming information from Regional CE Coordinators. Anyone wanting to register, but doesn't have AgLearn access, can contact vendors directly or Shelly Witt.

[How to Apply...](#)

[Calendar...](#)

[Downloadable brochure...](#)

Contact: Shelly Witt (switt01@fs.fed.us)

[More Information...](#)

Submitted by: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

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Sharing Success:

GENERAL/CROSS AREAS

Zalunardo Receives Award

June 4, 2008, Dave Zalunardo will receive the National Grassland Leadership Award at the National Grassland Managers meeting in Fargo, North Dakota. He has been a strong advocate and leader for the Crooked River National Grassland for the past 17 years. Dave's energy and leadership has resulted in Regional and National recognition of the Grassland.

His personal efforts, dedication to the Grassland, and his ability to excite others to excel and to work together has resulted in the continuing success of ecosystem restoration.

His skill in wildlife planning and viable ecosystem analysis and in instigating collaboration among all grassland users has helped generate more holistic management, and has helped gain support for that work from coworkers, partners and others who continue to implement, support and fund the work.

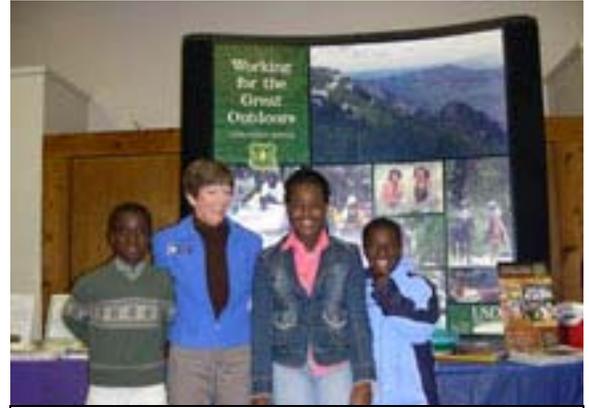
Submitted By: Robert Alvarado, USFS/R6/WFW / Written By: Kathy Bowman, USFS/R6



Atlanta Urban Forest Festival

In an ongoing series of events, the Southern Region continues to showcase efforts involving Connecting People with Nature through NatureWatch and Kids in the Woods programs. On Saturday, April 5, 2008, the Forest Service's Region 8 personnel helped host the Atlanta Urban Forest Festival.

Despite the threat of sever thunder storms and nearly constant rain, about 100 individuals (probably about 95% minority) showed up for the Atlanta Urban Forest Festival. The Southern Region of the Forest Service was well represented. Robin Palmer and Marchel Chandler of the Civil Rights unit staffed the Forest Service exhibit. Dennis Krusac of the Biological and Physical Resources Unit led several interpretive walks through the urban forest of the Atlanta Outdoor Activities Center. Wildflowers were blooming and birds were singing, but the highlight of the walks was when two little girls decided they wanted to pet a slug. These kids were hooked. Atlanta City Council woman Mary Norwood went on one of the interpretive walks and was very supportive of providing green space and getting kids in the woods.



City Council woman Mary Norwood with 3 attendees at the Forest Service exhibit



Small children holding hands around the "Grand Father Beech"

Future plans for the Southern Region include participation in the 2nd annual national African American Earth Summit at Spelman College and the National Wildlife Federation and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance "Take Your Kids to the Woods Day" for Saturday of Earth Week.

Submitted By: Dennis Krusac, USFS/R8/WFW

R8 Kids in the Woods

The Forest Service Southern Region participated in an Earth Day event in Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday, April 26, 2008. The event was held in conjunction with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Spelman and Morehouse colleges.

There were 21 people who showed up for a Privet Pull (a non-native invasive species treatment), 18 for a hike led by Dennis Krusac (USFS, Endangered Species Specialist) and another 15 - 20 people with small children and wanted to hike on their own. These photos were taken 7 miles from the RO within the city limits of Atlanta.

People were amazed at what was seen in Cascade Springs Nature Preserve, a 125-acre property owned by the City of Atlanta. Besides this nice stream and falls, there were several large diameter hardwood trees (24' +), wildflowers, lots of migrating birds, hiking trails, and NO trash.



**Submitted By: Dennis Krusac,
USFS/R8/WFW**

AQUATIC/FISH

Hiawatha's Aquatic Passage Project Improves Murphy Creek: Replacement of aging Thunder Lake Road culvert restored passage for aquatic organisms and restored river channel.



Top: the project in progress, old culvert still in place. Bottom: the new arch provides for passage of aquatic organisms.

Story submitted by David Silvieus, District Ranger

The primary purpose of the Murphy Creek Aquatic Passage project was to remove an aging culvert and the barrier the culvert posed to fish and aquatic organisms. The existing culvert was too small, and as a result the channel above the culvert was impeded and was wide, shallow and allowed sediment to settle in. The water coming out of the culvert was above the elevation of the stream and provided a barrier to fish and other organisms. The 8-foot metal culvert was replaced with a 36-foot concrete span prefabricated arch. Over time the channel above this crossing will narrow and deepen and return to a more natural condition similar to that downstream. The diversity of aquatic habitat will

also increase. Funding for the project came primarily from the fish passage Congressional earmark-with a total cost of \$661,000.

The Forest collaborated with the Schoolcraft County Road Commission, the US Postal Service, Schoolcraft County emergency services, Big Bay de Noc School District and the community to coordinate the timing of the construction and nature of the detour. Residents along the Thunder Lake Road were concerned about having a 12-mile detour from July 15 to October 20. Public meetings took place to describe the purpose and need for the concrete arch, and many residents understood the benefits and were willing to support the project.

Now that the project is complete we have an improved crossing and improved aquatic habitat in Murphy Creek. The success of this project may build public support for similar planned projects that will require detours. **For more information contact Janel Crooks at 906-789-3329.**

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFW

Stocking of small lake insures successful fishing experiences for everyone

A small five acre lake on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF has been a put, grow, and take lake for over 15 years.



Contributed by Tom Moris, Wildlife Biologist,
Chequamegon-Nicolet NF.

The Forest has been actively managing Little Cub Lake for over 15 years to maintain water quality. The lake has been treated each year with 1000 pounds of lime to keep the water's pH near neutral. Tests on the water quality were conducted in 2007 and indicated the pH levels were almost perfect for trout. To determine if the lake had winter kill, a common occurrence in some small bog lakes, dissolved oxygen levels were measured at the end of March 2008 and were at an acceptable level. Some years small numbers of trout are caught between 10-12 inches, indicating they survived over the winter.

Little Cub Lake is a bog lake that has no inlet or outlet, making it a perfect candidate for stocking brook trout. This year 1,000 7 to 8 inch brook trout were placed in the lake. It has been managed as a "put, grow, and take" trout lake for more than 15 years. The term "put, grow, and take" means that the lake is stocked with about 1000 7-8 inch brook trout with the specific intent that they will be fished for and utilized by the public. The stocking contributes to approximately 180 anglers per year. A fishing license and trout stamp from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is

Top Photo: The trout were hand-carried from live wells to the lake in 5-gallon buckets

Bottom Photo: Trout being released into Little Cub Lake

required, and for this lake the daily bag limit is 5 trout with no size limit - if it's caught, it can be kept.

The WDNR is responsible for stocking this lake. They have been very pro-active in their stocking efforts. As an example, this year's fish came from the WDNR Brule hatchery which is outside the Lake Michigan watershed. This alleviated the threat of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), known to occur in the Lake Michigan watershed.

The lake can be reached by a 200-yard, freshly graveled foot trail off Bear Lake Road near Bear Lake Campground in southeastern Forest County. A parking area for five cars is available at the trailhead at no charge. **For more information contact Cathy Fox at 715-362-1362**

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFW

2008 ENVIROTHON focuses on Recreations Impacts on Natural Resources

Hoosier employee serves on Indiana's Envirothon team and takes the lead in 2008 Current Issue.



The Envirothon team from Brownstown High School presents their concept for Zollman Springs Historical Farms.

Across North America this spring found high school students studying resources related to recreational impacts on natural resources. Each year the Envirothon - a competition held across the US and Canada sponsored by Canon, the Forest Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, focuses on core subjects: forestry, soil, wildlife, and aquatics. Then one current issue is selected annually at the national level. For 2008, the issue was recreational impacts on natural resources. High School students across the county in 4-5 person teams representing their school science classes, 4H, or FFA group compete first in regional contests and then at the State level. The winning team at the State level goes on to the North American competition held this year in Arizona.

Teena Ligman, Public Affairs Specialist on the Hoosier, had helped with Indiana's Envirothon

before, so when Indiana's Envirothon Committee heard what the current issue was, they immediately called Ligman and asked if she'd take the lead in the current issue. Ligman agreed saying, "It was an amazing experience. I wrote the questions for both the regional and state contests and developed the presentation that was given at the six regional Envirothons in Indiana." Since two of the regional events ended up being held on the same day Stacy Duke lent a hand and gave the presentation at one of the events.

Ligman explained that each of the regional events is organized by local Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Educators. Each all-day regional event draws an average of 20 teams which attend a series of presentations on five topics and then are tested on each subject, including a hands-on component. "It was an incredible opportunity for us to tell the story about impacts caused by recreation on public lands." Ligman explained, I tailored my presentation to Indiana and talked about the impacts to caves, karst and to wetlands and watersheds as well as all the usual impacts of recreation; but across North America each state was doing the same thing."

The top three teams, (four if there were any ties) from each of the regional competitions went to the state competition held at the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana. "This," said Ligman "Is where it REALLY gets cool." Each team at the state competition had to take another version of a test on each of the five core subjects including an outdoor component with test questions. "But the real meat of the competition was the presentation," said Ligman.

Each team was required to do a 20 minute presentation. The problem they were given was to select a tract of public land in their local community that was under-developed and to assume the role of a planning committee to develop a recreational plan for the property. Every member of the team had to participate equally and make use of maps, photographs, zoning ordinances,

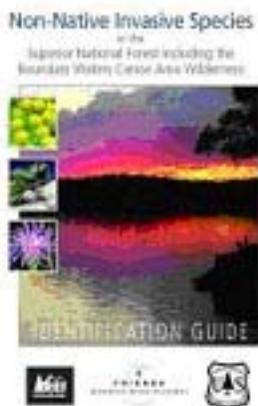
budgets, graphs, etc. "Those presentations were phenomenal!" said Ligman. The committee posed as the town planning board that they had to present their plan to, and served as the judges for the presentation. "It was really hard to pick, because there were so many amazing presentations and those kids had worked so hard on their presentations," said Ligman. "I swear they had put as much time into their plans as we do some of our environmental assessments and tried to think of everything that we might ask, and gotten opinions and facts from experts in different fields. It was just very impressive how hard those teams had worked on their plans and how they'd dug into the project and really come up with some great ideas."

Ligman said people often wonder if people are listening when they make presentations. As she sat with the judges listening to the presentations she was pleased how many of the techniques and suggestions she'd made in her presentation weeks before at the regional competitions had been wrapped into different recreation plans. "One judge said they didn't know where that boot brush station idea came from, but boot brush stations to wipe invasive seeds off shoes at trailheads showed up in almost every plan," said Ligman. "It made me laugh because that was one of the examples I gave for mitigating invasive problems. She said there were also a lot of signs proposed to warn fishermen not to dump their bait or requiring anglers to buy their bait at the local nature center. "It did my heart good to know that the kids had gotten several of the messages!"

A team from Clinton County won the Envirothon for 2008. They scored high marks on the written tests but clinched the competition with their presentation to take an abandoned industrial park and dump and clean it up and create a city park and ball field. "This group had their presentation choreographed down to the minute and had done an incredible amount of research on how to accomplish their goal including paving their parking lot with a new material that absorbs rainwater - so as not to disrupt the watershed." Ligman acknowledges that though the Envirothon teams may have learned from her, it was inconsequential to what she learned from them. **For more information contact Teena Ligman at 812-277-3579**

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFW

New Field Guide Targets Non-Native Invasive Species: To help spread the word about stopping NNIS, the Superior National Forest teamed up with the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and REI, Inc. to produce a new field guide.



The handsome new NNIS guide is available to all Forest visitors.

They may be creeping into your yard, dropping from the sky, or even riding along, undetected on your clothing, outdoor equipment, or boat. Exotic plants and animals known as non-native invasive species (NNIS) are threatening our forests, our waters, and wildlife habitat. These aggressive "aliens" do not respect ownership boundaries, state lines, or even international borders.

As they spread across the landscape, they can irreversibly alter natural habitats and replace the native plants and animals that belong there.

The Superior National Forest has a unique opportunity to limit the economic, environmental, and social impacts caused by NNIS. Compared to other Midwestern states, the Eastern Region has relatively low levels of NNIS infestation. However, this could change

quickly without help from the public.

To help spread the word about stopping NNIS, the Superior teamed up with the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and REI, Inc., to produce a new field guide that is specific to our area. In addition to color photos and descriptions to help the reader recognize NNIS that may be found on the Forest, this pocket-size guide includes tips on how not to help these exotic pests spread. There is also a pull-out post card in the guide for people to use to report sightings of NNIS.

Every person that picks up a Wilderness permit or requests information from the Forest receives a copy of the guide. Copies of the guide are also being distributed by the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. The entire guide, including a quick click to report sightings, is posted on the Non-native Invasive Species section of the Superior National Forest web site: www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior.

During the first season, the guide was a "hit" and literally flew off the shelf. The reprint for 2008 will extend references to include Ontario, Canada where land managers are concerned about many of the same species.

This is another example of the Eastern Region's Courageous Conservation goals of "Connecting Citizens to the Land" and "Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries." **For more information contact Kris Reichenbach at 218-626-4393.**

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFW

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

Federal job announcements can be found at: http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

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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