



Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture
WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS :: WFW
MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER
July 2009

CONTENTS	<u>News</u>	<u>Coming Events</u>	<u>Technical Information & Publications</u>	<u>Training & Tools</u>	<u>Sharing Success</u>	<u>Vacancies/ Employment Opportunities</u>
General/Cross Area	* <u> </u>	* <u> </u>	* <u> </u>		* <u> </u>	*
Air Resource	* <u> </u>					
Appeals & Litigation						
Aquatic/Fish	* <u> </u>		* <u> </u>			*
Continuing Education/WFW				* <u> </u>		
NatureWatch	* <u> </u>					
Planning						
Soil	* <u> </u>					
TES – Threatened, Endangered Species	* <u> </u>	* <u> </u>	* <u> </u>			
Watershed	* <u> </u>					*
Weather						
Wildlife		* <u> </u>				*
Other Staffs or Partners					R6	WO, R2, R3, R5, R8

* Click on the header to take you to this section of the newsletter.

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

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News:

GENERAL/CROSS AREA

Painting BIG Landscapes Showing Connections of Forest to Sea:

Wyland Foundation & USFS Sign MOU

[Excerpted from FS TODAY; By Deidra McGee, USFS Office of Communication]

"On June 11, Secretary Vilsack and Chief Kimbell took part in the Forest Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Wyland Foundation partnership FOCUS (Forests, Ocean, Climate and Us) event at the People's Garden at USDA Headquarters. The FOCUS project uses art and science to teach young people about the connection between forest and oceans.

The kick-off event featured students from the Washington, DC area and environmental artist, Wyland, painting a series of murals exploring watersheds from the forests to the sea and issues of climate change. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and the Wyland Foundation was signed later in the day."

[FS TODAY - Feature article](#) – **NEW!**

[Briefing Paper](#) (85 KB)

[Wyland Foundation – official website](#)

[Wyland Foundation – Wikipedia](#)

Submitted By: Jean Thomas, USFS/WO/WFW

Random Tid Bit: USFS Swap Meet – Electronic Style

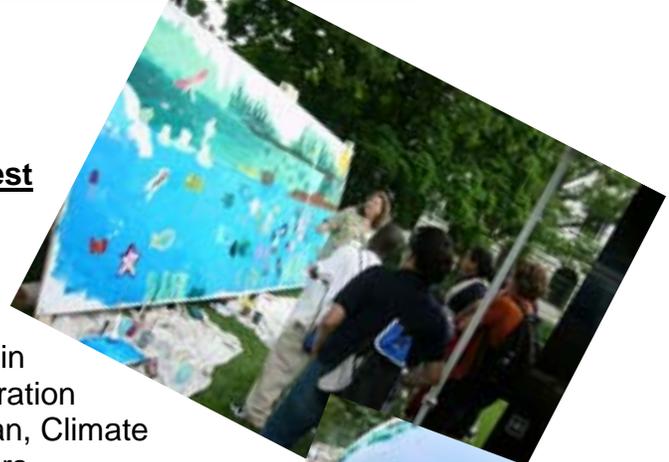
Move into an office full of old books you don't want? Looking for the last edition of *Principle Laws Affecting the Forest Service*? Check out the internal agency website 'exChangeList' (<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/change/exchangelist/catH/>). Post a note on this electronic bulletin board. Currently you can find toner cartridges and other printer supplies as well as a green camper for FS Chevy Silverado. Someone is looking for a Smokey Bear antenna topper

Submitted By: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

Centennial Celebration of Forest Products Lab – Oral Histories

FPL has done some oral histories for the centennial of the Forest Products Lab coming up in 2010. <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FPLHist/>

Submitted By: Julie Blankenburg, USFS/FPL & NFSL



AIR

Air Program Leadership

Air Program Leader, Ann Acheson is on a detail to the Southern Region as the Acting Director for the Biological and Physical Resources Staff for the months of July and August. Filling behind her in DC are two detailers.

For the month of July, Trent Wickman will be in the chair. He hails from Duluth, MN where he is the zone Air Resource Specialist for the Lakes States National Forests (i.e. the Forests in the States of MN, WI and MI). In this position he focuses on smoke management issues and industrial air pollution as it affects wildernesses including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Rainbow Lake. He has worked in this position since 2001. Before that he worked for the air permitting authority in Minnesota. He is an engineer and biologist by training. In his spare time he enjoys getting outside - especially in the winter when he can go cross-country skiing.

For the month of August, Ann Mebane will be in the chair. Ann is from Cody, WY where she fills a shared, virtual position between the national Air Program and NRIS Air. She handles COR duties, agreements and assists with budget planning for the Air shop and is the Business Area Manager for NRIS Air. Ann has been working in a variety of positions in the Air program since 1993. When not working, Ann likes to spend her time playing in the mountains of Wyoming with her family.

Submitted By: Trent Wickman, USFS/WO/WFW & USFS/R9/Lake States NFs

AQUATIC/FISH

Dam Removals Restoring In-Stream Flows – Colville NF and Gifford Pinchot NF

Of the many aquatic restoration projects taking place in R6 this summer we have two very exciting dam removal projects.

Growden Dam Removal Project - Colville NF

As part of the Growden Dam Removal Project, Growden Dam will be dewatered and removed in partnership with men and women of the United States Air Force Reserve through the Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT). Air Force Reservists will remove the dam, sediment behind the dam, and restore the area to a more natural stream course.

Growden Dam was built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a recreational pond. The dam does not meet Washington Department of Ecology Dam Safety Section Standards. Removal of the dam will improve fish habitat by reducing water temperatures, improving fish passage, and allow the natural flow of streambed material to be carried down the stream to help provide the necessary environment critical for spawning fish.

[More information is available online](#)

Hemlock Dam Removal and Trout Creek Restoration Project – Gifford Pinchot NF

Hemlock Dam, an aging concrete structure that once provided power and later irrigation to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Forest Service will be dismantled to improve habitat, water quality and passage for Lower Columbia River steelhead. Hemlock Dam was built by the CCC in 1937 to provide irrigation and power to the adjacent Wind River construction company Nursery.

Since the early 1990's, the Forest Service along with partner agencies and organizations have focused restoration efforts on Trout Creek, in efforts to restore the historically exceptional steelhead habitat (Steelhead are listed as Threatened under ESA). Riparian, upland and instream habitats in upper Trout Creek have been enhanced by projects intended to reduce fine sediment introduction to Trout Creek, to provide increased shade on the stream, to improve fish passage at road crossings, and to improve instream habitat by placement of woody debris complexes. Removal of Hemlock Dam and restoration of lower Trout Creek is part of a whole-watershed approach to habitat restoration on the Gifford Pinchot NF, and is the culmination of many years of planning.

[Live WEB CAM – very cool!](#)

[More information is available online](#)

Submitted By: Deborah Konhoff, USFS/R6/NR

NATUREWATCH

Bald Eagle Chick Live Cam – Voted #1 by EarthCam!

Our “Eagle Cam” was voted #1 best WebCam by a panel of [Earth Cam](#) producers. The NatureWatch Eagle Cam was selected the “... best out of hundreds of popular webcam submissions. The criteria used for judging includes imate quality, uniqueness of the content and overall technical achievement in webcam technology.” The panel found the cameras amusing, amazing and astounding.

NatureWatch didn't rig the voting (the Top Ten frequently change) by having agency employees nominate the Eagle Cam. The #1 ranking came from a company with whom NatureWatch has never worked. Point being – more visibility for NatureWatch and the Forest Service, in a good way; reaching groups of people who may have never heard of the Forest Service.

Our Eagle chick – Pengra - is doing very well. No longer a small fluffy ball of feathers!

[Watch the eagle family at the Live Cam](#) (URL link)

Submitted By: Don Virgovic, USFS/WO-R6/WFW

Why Do Environmental Education?

Sometimes we hear statements about “why do we bother doing ‘touchy feely’ environmental education? – that isn't the Forest Service job.” Well, one reason – people vote. And unaware voting people might not see the value in having land management agencies. Not too sure people who think the manatee is an insect are going to understand the nuanced management of fire and ecosystems, for example. Assuming ‘manatee’ is being confused with ‘praying mantis’. Keep these statistics in mind when communicating with the public.

[Editorial from WFW Newsletter editor]

Poll of US Adults about Wildlife by: Dr. Stephen R. Kellert, Yale University

Question

% of US Adults with Incorrect Answers

A manatee is an insect.	76%
Spiders have 10 legs	51%
The skeleton of sharks are cartilage rather than bone.	64%
North American Tarantulas are poisonous.	64%
Snakes are covered with slime.	31%
A whale is a large fish.	46%

NBC News

27 out of every 100 adults in the US still think that the Sun revolves around the Earth.
13 out of every 100 adults in the US still think that the Earth is Flat.

Submitted By: Jina Mariani, USFS/WO/WFW & Jerry Davis, USFS/R8/Ouachita NF

SOILS

[CONTENTS](#)

Soil Organic Matter Dynamics: Land Use, Management and Global Change International Symposium

[Excerpt from Briefing Paper]

The first international symposium was held in France in 2007 to present the latest research on soil organic matter (SOM) across the world with presentations on recent findings and highlight future research directions. Over 260 participants from thirty three countries participated in the 2009 symposium. Colorado State University served as the local host along with NRCS, ARS, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station. The next international SOM symposium will be held in Belgium in 2011.

[2009 NCSS Conference: Briefing Paper - FLAG Inventory \(Las Cruces, NM\)](#) (pdf 53 KB)
[Related FLAG information](#)

Submitted By: Randy Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

TES – THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

68 Critically Imperiled Plant Species' Profiles Available Online

Sixty-eight new critically imperiled plant species profiles are available on the [Celebrating Wildflowers web site](#). The newest batch includes those species ranked by NatureServe to be G1 or T1 in Regions 6 and 4. The G1 and T1 plant species from regions 2 and 3 have also already been posted. The site has included rare plant profiles for all listed (TEP) plant species on National Forest System lands since 2007.

To be profiled on this website a plant must be proposed or listed as threatened or endangered (TEP) by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act; and/or a plant must be ranked as Critically Imperiled by NatureServe, that is ranked as G1 and/or T1 using NatureServe's ranking criteria and be known to currently exist on at least one location on National Forest System lands.

Submitted By: David Pivorunas, USFS/WO/WFW

HR669 – Status: Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act

Title: To prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species that negatively impact the economy, environment, or other animal species' or human health, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z.](#) [GU] (introduced 1/26/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (35)

Latest Major Action: 4/23/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions.

Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

[PDF of the Bill](#) (192.4 KB)

[HTML of the Bill](#)

[CONTENTS](#)

Editorial comment: Non-native introduced wildlife species are a primary or secondary threat to many TES species.

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

Meadow Damage Destroys Habitat, Sets Back Study

[Link](#)

Sonora, July 1, 2009 - Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor Susan Skalski announced today that scientists discovered serious damage to a high elevation meadow undergoing a five year study which included monitoring the habitat of the Yosemite Toad. Upon arriving at Groundhog Meadow near Herring Creek on June 24, Forest Service researchers saw a blue pickup truck being loaded with motorcycles and making a hasty retreat. The team entered the meadow on foot to find it terribly scarred with deep wheel ruts from spins and zigzags across the meadow.

This illegal and irresponsible type of activity damages habitat and causes serious harm to the amphibian wildlife in meadows. The deep cuts drain the shallow layer of water off the meadow, stranding the eggs and tadpoles living there.

"At this stage there is very little we can do to save them. By the time restoration work is complete the meadow will be dry and the fledgling life is lost," said Kimberly Peterson, biological team crew leader. "It is just horrible, the damage done to the sensitive ecosystem at Groundhog Meadow, not to mention the research completed over the last three years of a five year study is severely compromised."

Now, a reward is being offered, so we tweeted: Reward offered for OHV Vandals Who Trashed Groundhog Meadow near Herring Creek ... have info? Call 1-888-334-2258 or 1-209-532-3671

[Editorial comment: Excellent example of social media being put to work.]

Pulled off FSWebster communications: 07/15/09

WATERSHED

World Water Monitoring Day™ (WWMD) - September 18, 2009

An easy and educational opportunity Forest or District Hydrologists can do with 4-H clubs, Scout troops, schools ... or anyone can do with their own kids.

[Excerpted from WWMD website]

[World Water Monitoring Day™ \(WWMD\)](#) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

An easy-to-use [test kit](#) enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen (DO). Results are shared with participating communities around the globe through the WWMD Web site.

[World Water Monitoring Day](#) is officially celebrated on **September 18**; however, the monitoring window was extended for the first time in 2009 from March 22 (World Water Day) until December 31. Participants are encouraged to celebrate with WEF and IWA in September or to observe their own WWMD anytime during the extended window. The deadline for submitting data to the WWMD database is December 31.

[Getting involved in World Water Monitoring Day is easy!](#) Just follow these simple steps:

1. **Register your site.** Choose any lake, stream, bay, or other water-body where you can safely monitor. Register yourself and your site.
2. **Prepare your monitoring equipment.** Use your own equipment or purchase an easy-to-use test kit by clicking on Test Kits. Each kit contains an informative instruction book and enough reagents to repeat up to 50 tests.
3. **Monitor your site.** Invite others to help you monitor, or do it yourself. Visit your site anytime from March 22 through December 31 to test the water. You can officially celebrate WWMD with us on September 18.
4. **Report your data.** Submit your data on this site simply by logging in to your account. Results may be entered any time prior to December 31, 2009 for inclusion in the annual World Water Monitoring Day Year in [Review report](#).

Submitted By: Jean Thomas, USFS/WO/WFW

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

GENERAL/CROSS AREA

Water/Energy Sustainability Symposium

Theme: Chart Course toward Sustainable Water and Energy Policy for the 21st Century.

Dates: September 13-16, 2009

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Contact: Lisa Hall, 850-508-7782, lisa.hall@saltermitchell.com

Details: The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are hosting the first Water/Energy Sustainability Symposium to address challenges in meeting future water and energy needs. The Symposium brings together leaders from government, energy and water industries, academia, water organizations, and other stakeholders, to chart a collaborative course toward sustainability for both resources. Registration is currently open.

More Information: www.gwpc.org

Sponsors: GWPC and DOE in collaboration with the National Ground Water Association, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the National Rural Water Association, the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council, the National Oil Shale Association, the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, the Western States Water Council, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, and others.

TES – Threatened and Endangered Species

Reintroduction Symposium – Registration Now Open

Theme: *Evaluating Reintroductions As a Plant Conservation Strategy:
Two Decades of Evidence*

Dates: October 21-22, 2009

Location: Saint Louis, Missouri

[More Information](#)

Contact: Maureen Fischer, Maureen.Fischer@robot.org

Description: The Center for Plant Conservation is sponsoring its fourth. In commemoration of 25 years of plant conservation experience, the Center for Plant Conservation is hosting the symposium at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Reviewing the past and current state of knowledge about plant reintroductions and their role in improving endangered species conservation and these proceedings will be published as an edited volume. Reintroductions are not only helping the practice of plant conservation, but are also contributing to restoration ecology theory. Understanding the conditions for successful reintroductions is becoming critical in the face of climate change.

[CONTENTS](#)

WILDLIFE

WILD9 Symposium

Dates: November 6 – 13, 2009

Location: Mérida, Mexico

Theme: *Wilderness as a strategic element in the global response to climate change.*

Symposium on Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values

9th World Wilderness Congress

Abstracts were due April 1, 2009 (so you missed that window)

Attendance nominations were due July 17, 2009; Agency participation announced July 31, 2009 to facilitate registration. Contact Christina Boston (cboston@fs.fed.us) about participating in the WILD9 Symposium.

[More information](#)

Technical Information & Publications:

GENERAL/CROSS AREA

FS Research Launched Podcast and Radio Module

The U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station today launched Forest Eco, its new 2-minute podcast and radio module.

[Hear the podcast and learn more about 'Forest Eco'](#)
[Learn more about SRS research](#)

Submitted By: Jina Mariani, USFS/WOWFW

National FS Library – BioOne.2 Now Available through DigiTop!

DigiTop has added BioOne.2 to its online journals. BioOne.2 is a collection of 57 journals in addition to the ones already available through DigiTop. A few new titles available are:

The Canadian Entomologist
Madroño
Natural Areas Journal
Northwest Science
Western North American Naturalist

Go to the Library's website for more information on BioOne.2 and to see a complete list of the new journals.

Submitted By: Julie Blankenburg, USFS/FPL & NFSL

Article: Groen, A. H. and S. W. Woods (2008). *Effectiveness of aerial seeding and straw mulch for reducing post-wildfire erosion, north-western Montana, USA*. International Journal of Wildland Fire 17(5): 559-571.

[Full Text Link](#)

Various methods are available to reduce post-wildfire erosion, but there is limited quantitative information on the relative effectiveness of these techniques. We used rainfall simulations to compare the erosion and runoff rates from adjacent 0.5-m² plots treated with aerial grass seeding and straw mulch with untreated control plots following the July 2002 Fox Creek Fire in north-west Montana. In the first summer after the fire, plots seeded at a rate of 9 kg ha⁻¹ had a mean of less than 5% ground cover and the seeding treatment had no effect on the rainsplash erosion rate. In contrast, straw mulch application at a rate of 2.24 Mg ha⁻¹ resulted in ~100% ground cover and an 87% reduction in rainsplash erosion relative to the control (P = 0.001). Measurements on a subset of the plots in the second summer after the fire indicated that ground cover in the treatments and the control averaged 39%, and neither treatment provided a significant increase in ground cover or reduction in erosion relative to the control. These results add to the growing weight of evidence that straw mulch application is highly effective in reducing erosion in the first year after fire, whereas grass seeding is often ineffective because of the limited increase in ground cover that it produces.

Article: Vaillant, N. M., J. A. Fites-Kaufman, et al. (2009). *Effectiveness of prescribed fire as a fuel treatment in Californian coniferous forests*. International Journal of Wildland Fire 18(2): 165-175.

[Full Text Link](#)

Effective fire suppression and land use practices over the last century have altered forest structure and increased fuel loads in many forests in the United States, increasing the occurrence of catastrophic wildland fires. The most effective methods to change potential fire behavior are to reduce surface fuels, increase the canopy base height and reduce canopy bulk density. This multi-tiered approach breaks up the continuity of surface, ladder and crown fuels. Effectiveness of fuel treatments is often shown indirectly through fire behavior modeling or directly through monitoring wildland fire

effects such as tree mortality. The present study investigates how prescribed fire affected fuel loads, forest structure, potential fire behavior, and modeled tree mortality at 90th and 97.5th percentile fire weather conditions on eight National Forests in California. Prescription burning did not significantly change forest structure at most sites. Total fuel loads (litter, duff, 1, 10, 100, and 1000-h) were reduced by 23 to 78% across the sites. The reduction in fuel loads altered potential fire behavior by reducing fireline intensity and increasing torching index and crowning index at most sites. Predicted tree mortality decreased after treatment as an effect of reduced potential fire behavior and fuel loads. To use limited fuel hazard reduction resources efficiently, more effort could be placed on the evaluation of existing fire hazards because several stands in the present study had little potential for adverse fire effects before prescribed fire was applied.

Article: Liang, J., D. E. Calkin, et al. (2008). *Factors influencing large wildland fire suppression expenditures*. International Journal of Wildland Fire 17(5): 650-659.

[Full Text Link](#)

There is an urgent and immediate need to address the excessive cost of large fires. Here, we studied large wildland fire suppression expenditures by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Among 16 potential non-managerial factors, which represented fire size and shape, private properties, public land attributes, forest and fuel conditions, and geographic settings, we found only fire size and private land had a strong effect on suppression expenditures. When both were accounted for, all the other variables had no significant effect. A parsimonious model to predict suppression expenditures was suggested, in which fire size and private land explained 58% of variation in expenditures. Other things being equal, suppression expenditures monotonically increased with fire size. For the average fire size, expenditures first increased with the percentage of private land within burned area, but as the percentage exceeded 20%, expenditures slowly declined until they stabilized when private land reached 50% of burned area. The results suggested that efforts to contain federal suppression expenditures need to focus on the highly complex, politically sensitive topic of wildfires on private land.

Submitted By: Deb Konnoff, USFS/R6/NR (Excerpted from "The Thursday R6 Update – Well Read – July 10, 2009)

AQUATIC/FISH

Briefing paper: *Nonnative Fish Removal*, RMRS - Boise Scientist Michael Young

The briefing paper, if relevant to your work, will lead you to the web based downloadable publications. Please pass along to the field units and other appropriate staff.

[PDF – Nonnative Fish Removal](#)

Submitted By: Kerry Overton, USFS/RMRS/Boise Aquatic Sciences Lab

TES – THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Briefing paper: *Detecting Mobile Boreal Toads*, RMRS - Boise Scientist Michael Young

The briefing paper, if relevant to your work, will lead you to the web based downloadable publications. Please pass along to the field units and other appropriate staff.

[PDF – Detecting Mobile Boreal Toads](#)

Article: Hauser, C. E. and M. A. McCarthy (2009). *Streamlining 'search and destroy': cost-effective surveillance for invasive species management*. Ecology Letters 12(7): 683-692.

[Full Text Link](#)

Invasive species surveillance has typically been targeted to where the species is most likely to occur. However, spatially varying environmental characteristics and land uses may affect more than just the probability of occurrence. Biodiversity or economic value, and the ease of detection and control are also likely to vary. We incorporate these factors into a detection and treatment model of a low-density invader to determine the surveillance strategy that minimizes expected management costs. Sites with a high probability of invader occurrence and great benefits associated with detection warrant intensive surveillance; however, the optimum investment is a nonlinear function of these factors. Environments where the invader is relatively easy to detect are prioritized for surveillance, although only a moderate investment is necessary to ensure a high probability of detection. Intensive surveillance effort may be allocated to other sites if the probability of occurrence, budget and/or expected benefits is sufficiently high.

Article: Malt, J. M. and D. B. Lank (2009). *Marbled Murrelet nest predation risk in managed forest landscapes: dynamic fragmentation effects at multiple scales*. Ecological Applications 19(5): 1274-1287.

[Full Text Link](#)

The effects of forest fragmentation on bird populations have been studied primarily as static phenomena. Yet when forests are allowed to regenerate, local edge contrast and landscape matrix composition change with time, and we would expect fragmentation effects to change accordingly. Describing this process is critical for the conservation of avian species sensitive to forest fragmentation, including the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), a seabird threatened by ongoing harvest of old-growth forest nesting habitat. We experimentally assessed potential murrelet nest predation probability in four regions of southwestern British Columbia, Canada. We compared the fates of 448 simulated murrelet nests at paired edge and interior treatments, at sites with “hard” edges (recent clearcuts), “soft” edges (regenerating forest), and natural edges (i.e., riparian areas). Motion-sensitive digital nest cameras enabled us to focus on known predators of real nests, and patterns of nest fates did not differ between real and simulated nests. Using information-theoretic model selection (AIC) with the combined data set (116 sites), we assessed effects at patch (13 ha), landscape (1700 ha), and regional (96 000 ha) scales. Nest disturbance probability at hard edges was 2.5 times that of interior sites, but soft edges had less than half the disturbance probability of interiors. There was no edge effect at natural edges. At the landscape scale, overall avian disturbance risk declined by as much as 50% with increasing amounts of regenerating forest in the surrounding matrix. These results indicate that initially negative fragmentation effects decrease as forests regenerate, at both patch and landscape scales. There was no evidence that these patterns differed between regions. Predator surveys suggested that Steller's Jays drive patterns of nest predation risk at the regional scale. Assuming that corvids are the most important predators, larger reserves of habitat will lessen negative hard-edge effects. Smaller reserves should be embedded in a protective matrix of regenerating forest to reduce predation risk at both patch and landscape scales. Our results suggest that dynamic fragmentation effects are generalizable across widespread regions and can be broadly applied to both murrelet management and the conservation of old-growth forest-breeding birds in general.

Training and Tools:

WFWARP Continuing Education Program

2010 WFWARP Continuing Education Training Available!

2010 WFWARP Continuing Education workshops are open for registration!

You can register in AgLearn.

Detailed workshop information is available at our [WFWARP-CE website](#). The official WO and RO "call" letters are "out". Hard copy brochures are in the mail to past participants (going back to 2006), Line Officers and Research Stations.

If you want to receive a hard copy of the 2010 WFWARP-CE brochure, contact Shelly Witt, Program Leader.

Contact: Shelly Witt, 435-881-4203 or switt01@fs.fed.us

Submitted By: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

Sharing Success:

Read success stories at our **USFS Success Story Reporting System**. Have a USFS Success? Share it through the USFS Success Story Reporting System. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/index.php> - NOW ON WWW!

Region 6

Art in the Forest, for the Forest

[Excerpted from "The Thursday R6 Update"; USFS PNW Region Newsletter; July 24, 2009]

Author: Maret Pajutee, Sisters District Ecologist, Deschutes NF

"The sound of rushing water and the scent of pine... and turpentine... were all part of a conservation event on Whychus Creek on July 18. Umbrellas and



easels sprouted in strange places along the banks of this Wild and Scenic River as Sisters Ranger District and the National Forest Foundation hosted the first Whychus "Paint-Out". The outdoor art competition attracted 30 plein air artists from across the Oregon to capture their vision of a wild river that few people know and many had forgotten. Artists had only four hours to hike, paint, frame their piece, and return it to Sisters Arts Works for judging.

"Plein air" comes from the French expression "*en plein air*" which is commonly interpreted "in the open air" but actually means "in full area"

and is used to describe the act of painting in a scene that surrounds you outdoors.

The purpose of the event was to help promote upcoming restoration work on Whychus Creek, on September 26 during the National Forest Foundation's "Friends of the Forest Day". National Forest Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports the Forest Service and conservation work on public lands. They have recently chosen Whychus Creek and the Metolius River as a focus for a major conservation campaign called the "Tale of Two Rivers".

The event was an idea of artist and sponsor Kathy Deggendorfer who visited the wilder parts of Whychus with National Forest Foundation and Forest Service organizers.
More information: Deschutes NF, 541-383-5300

Submitted By: Deb Konhoff, USFS/R6/NR

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

www.usajobs.gov

WO

VACANCY: WFWARP/WO – Budget Coordinator (vice Bob Glasgow)

Due: August 11, 2009 – EXTENDED 2 WEEKS

\$102,721.00 - \$133,543.00 USD /year

GS-0401/1301-13/14

Your chance to work in the heart of the action and make a difference.

Location: Washington DC – Lovely downtown Yates Auditors Building

Vacancy Announcement being advertised under 2 series.

Biological: ADS09-NFS-WFP-401-00198G

Physical: ADS09-NFS-WFP-1301-00198G

Description: Exercises management responsibilities related to the initiation, administration, and/or closeout of grants, cooperative agreements, and/or interagency agreements (IAGs), including responsibility for monitoring performance. Manages (or assists in the management of) grant/cooperative agreement/IAG pre-application/agreement, grant proposal preparation, award, administration, and/or closeout activities. Manages the execution of approved budgets. Makes funds available in the approved fiscal year to organizations to support their missions, functions, and programs. Oversees the economical and efficient use of funds available to prevent excess obligations and expenditures.

Find the OutReach Notice at USDA Forest Service Applications (internal website)

OUTREACH: WFWARP/WO – National Wildlife Ecologist

DUE: August 24, 2009

GS-0486-13/14, National Wildlife Ecologist

Another chance to work in the heart of the action and make a difference.

Location: Washington DC – Lovely downtown Yates Auditors Building

Primary Contact: Chris Iverson/WO/USDAFS, 202-205-3199, civerson@fs.fed.us

Description: Leads the National Wildlife Ecology Program in the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants staff in the Washington Office and reports to the Assistant Director of Wildlife, Planning, TES, Air and Soils Programs. The National Wildlife Ecologist provides Forest Service leadership in wildlife ecology including wildlife habitat planning and evaluation, conservation assessments and strategies, habitat management, inventory and monitoring and the conservation of biological diversity on the National Forests and Grasslands. As a principal wildlife ecologist, the incumbent is a recognized leader and technical authority for wildlife ecology in the Forest Service, National Forest System deputy area. The position provides expert technical services at the national level for the conservation and restoration of wildlife populations and habitat, ecosystem management and the conservation of biodiversity on National Forest System lands.

The position provides national leadership in the design of tools, models and assessments to address key land management issues affecting the conservation of wildlife resources. Coordinates development and application of habitat inventory protocols, habitat capability models, population monitoring protocols and habitat planning and monitoring concepts and methods. Ensures that these tools are scientifically sound and the tools are integrated with other Forest Service resource planning and evaluation procedures. Concepts and technologies include surrogate species, population viability analysis and planning, wildlife habitat capability and cumulative effects analysis and wildlife habitat and population monitoring. The position oversees the overall direction of the National Wildlife Ecology Program. Principal program responsibilities include planning and analysis procedures; inventory and monitoring of wildlife populations and habitats; wildlife species and habitat modeling and information systems; and training, education, and technology transfer.

Find the OutReach Notice at USDA Forest Service Applications (internal website)

OUTREACH: WFWARP/WO – National Surface Water Program Leader/Hydrologist

DUE: August 16, 2009

GS-1315-13/14

Job Code: Job Code 181735; PI# 90397924

Another chance to work in the heart of the action and make a difference.

Location: Washington DC – Lovely downtown Yates Auditors Building

Primary Contact: Ronald L. Dunlap, 202-205-1790, rldunlap@fs.fed.us

Description: National Surface Water Program Leader is responsible for providing overall leadership, coordination, planning and direction for the program. This position reports to the Assistant Director for Watershed and Fisheries Programs. The position will be located in the Washington Office and work and interact with other staff personnel on specific tasks. Natural Resource Program Coordination 50%; Consults with Others in the Hydrology Field 25%; Natural Resource Program/Project Advice and Assistance 25%

Find the OutReach Notice at USDA Forest Service Applications (internal website)

OUTREACH: EMC/WO – National Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

DUE: Vacancy Announcement is expected to open in August, 2009

GS-0340-14, Program Manager

Location: Washington DC – Lovely downtown Yates Auditors Building; WO-Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) staff.

Primary Contact: Rick Ullrich, 202-205-1120 or rullrich@fs.fed.us

Description: This position reports to the Assistant Director for Resource Information on the Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) staff in the National Forest System (NFS) Deputy Area. The National M&E coordinator has the responsibility to provide focus and guidance to an expanding monitoring commitment by the agency, encompassing difficult and diverse functions or issues that affect critical aspects of the major programs. The coordinator will provide assistance in setting monitoring priorities, foster the identification of appropriate approaches and methodologies, and promote the involvement of the agency's research community in the accomplishment of technical and scientific components of M&E. The incumbent provide national leadership and coordination on matters of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and assures that there is appropriate consideration of monitoring information in the development of agency policies, programs, and activities. The coordinator works with Regions, Forests and Stations to promote and encourage the effective use of standard monitoring methodologies, indicators, measurement protocols, etc., by appropriate line and staff officers.

REGION 2

OUTREACH: Wildlife Biologist – Arapaho/Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG

DUE: August 24, 2009

Open Continuous Announcement

Announcement Number: ASD08-FSJOBS-0040DP (general public);
ASD07-FSJOBS-0040G (status candidate)
[Select "Greeley, Colorado" as interested location]

Contacts: Lori Bell, District Ranger, Pawnee National Grassland, labell@fs.fed.us, 970-346-5003

Description: District Wildlife Biologist on the Pawnee National Grassland. Duties would include coordinating district research agreements, supervision of 1-2 seasonal employees, general administration of the wildlife program; maintenance and creation of habitat improvement and enhancement projects; conducting biological analysis to support a variety of projects including lands and minerals, range, and recreation. A rigorous wildlife habitat and species monitoring program is in place and requires annual reporting. Incumbent also expected to interact with internal and external partners and/or agencies as well as serving as district staff officer and acting District Ranger as assigned. This vacancy announcement is an "open continuous roster" process, which means the announcement for Wildlife Biologist is open continuously, **and you should apply now.**

REGION 3

VACANCY: Wildlife Biologist – 4 Forest Project Initiative Implementation Team/Arizona

DUE: ?

GS-0486-12

Announcement: ADS09-R3COC-4505G (P-CL)

This position is also being advertised DEMO. The Outreach has been posted on the National Outreach Database. Please distribute to anyone you may think is interested.

Contact: Linda L. Wadleigh, 928.226.4680, lwadleigh@fs.fed.us

REGION 5

VACANCY: Regional Fisheries Program Manager – PSW

DUE: August 10, 2009

GS-0482-13

Announcement Numbers: ADS09-R5-RO5EC-00082G (Merit Promotion-internal)
ADS09-R5-RO5EC-00082DP (Demonstration Project-external)

Can be viewed on the OPM web site "USA Jobs" listed or in AVUE.

[More information \(Internal agency site\)](#)

www.usajobs.opm.gov

Click on Search Jobs or Run Search

Public or Status: click on status

Agency: USDA

Subagency: Forest Service

Type in block above "Keyword Search Tips": ADS09-R5-RO5EC-00082G - hit enter; both vacancy announcements should appear

www.avuedigitalservices.com

Click on "Search for Jobs" on log-in page

Series: 0482

Grade: 13

Announcement # ADS09-R5-RO5EC-00082 (leave off the G or DP for search)

Agency: Forest Service

Click on "search"

REGION 8

OUTREACH: Lead Cartographer – Southern Region (R8)

DUE: August 23, 2009

GS-1370-12

Location: USFS Southern Region, Resource Information Management Unit. Geospatial Program group.

Duties: Responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the regional cartography and mapping services program. This includes the following; the regional mapping program (Single Edition Quadrangle (SEQ), Secondary Base Series, Forest Visitor and other maps), the regional Geographic Names program, and map printing activities; coordinating and monitoring the Region's portion of the Forest Service Geospatial Service and Technology Center's (GSTC) program of work coordination of the regional map sales program and is the primary point of contact with internal and external organizations that participate in this program.

Contact: Eric Schmeckpeper, 404-347-2592, eschmeckpeper@jfs.fed.us. Requesting people complete the Candidate Outreach Response Form When available, the vacancy announcement for this position will be advertised on [OPM's website](#).

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 is 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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