

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights November 7, 2005

SCORE Report Released: The Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) recently published the "State of the Colorado River Ecosystem in Grand Canyon" as USGS Circular 1282. The 220 page document contains 13 chapters summarizing the state of natural and cultural resources in the Grand Canyon ecosystem that are affected by operations of Glen Canyon Dam. GCMRC functions as the science arm of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The report was prepared in support of the 25 stakeholders involved in the program, as well as for the public. The report can be accessed from the internet at <http://www.gcmrc.gov/products/score/2005/score.htm>. (Ted Melis, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7282)

Colorado River Ecosystem Science Symposium: The Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center's 2005 biennial science symposium was held in Tempe, Arizona on October 25-28, 2005. The symposium featured the public release of USGS Circular 1282 entitled "The State of the Colorado River Ecosystem in Grand Canyon." Intense press interest in this report resulted in numerous articles in newspapers such as USA Today, Arizona Daily Sun, Arizona Daily Star, Salt Lake Tribune, and The Arizona Republic. More than 130 scientists, managers, stakeholders, and the public attended the symposium. The first detailed reports on findings from the November 2004 experimental high flow release from Glen Canyon Dam were also presented. Further, Symposium attendees were very interested in the preliminary results reported from monitoring on the effects of recent drought generated warm water releases from Glen Canyon Dam on native fish reproduction in the mainstem of the Colorado River in 2005. (Dennis Fenn, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7094)

Lower Colorado River Research Presented at USGS/USFWS Workshop: Steven Gloss, Ecologist with the Southwest Biological Science Center (SBSC) will participate in a joint USGS/USFWS Workshop at the Fort Collins Science Center on November 8 entitled "Landscape Scale Conservation Planning and Modeling". The objective of the workshop is to: 1. Develop an understanding of landscape-scale conservation initiatives at FWS. 2. Present progress on new ecoregional planning efforts in the southwest region of FWS. 3. Highlight related scientific expertise of the Fort Collins Science Center. 4. Develop ideas about how USGS and FWS can collaborate on landscape approaches. 5. Discuss resource needs, including data, staff, and modeling capacity. Gloss will speak on "Collaborative Projects and Landscape-Scale Efforts" that describe recent collaborative Conservation Planning efforts conducted by SBSC and USFWS Region 2 on the Lower Colorado River (LCR) and the Middle and Upper Rio Grande watersheds in CA, AZ, NM, and CO. Gloss's presentation will emphasize work recently funded through DOI Landscape Funds on restoration ecology at FWS refuges along the Lower Colorado, as well as previous work by USGS researcher, Charles Van Riper on neotropical migratory birds along the LCR. (Steven Gloss, Tuscon, AZ, 520-670-5391)

Tools for Invasive Non-native Plant Management: Southwest Biological Science Center ecologist Kathryn Thomas will present a session with Barron Orr, Geospatial Extension Specialist, with the University of Arizona extension at the Southwest Vegetation Management Association annual meeting in Phoenix November 3rd. Thomas and Orr's session, New Tools for Mapping, Data Management, and Data Sharing, will focus on the various tools available to Southwest land managers to collect and manage occurrence data on invasive non-native plants. During the session they will demonstrate existing tools and describe their new joint project, funded through the USDA, to provide better data collection linkages between the field and regional databases for both invasive plants and community wildfire readiness. (Kathryn Thomas, Tuscon, AZ, 520-670-5553)

Land Managers Updated on Southwest Research at Conference: Scientists from the Southwest Biological Science Center will be providing land managers of the southwest research updates with posters and presentations at the 8th Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau in Flagstaff, Arizona, November 7-11. Ecologist Kathryn Thomas will be heading a session on the results of

the Southwest Regional Gap Analysis in the Colorado Plateau. The session will feature six presentations by SWReGAP team members including SBSC scientists Charles Drost and J. Judson Wynne. Thomas will also present a talk "Invasive Species Networks: Challenges for the Colorado Plateau", a poster "SWEMP: Documenting Invasive Non-native Plant Occurrences Regionally", and a poster with SBSC scientist Monica Hansen "Vegetation Communities of Sunset Crater, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki National Monuments." (Kathryn Thomas, Tuscon, AZ, 520-670-5553)

Desert Tortoise Habitat Suitability Modeling: Southwest Biological Science Center ecologist Kathryn Thomas will present a poster "Choices and Challenges for Spatial Habitat Models: Predicting Desert Tortoise Habitat" at the USGS All-USGS Modeling Conference at the Olympic Peninsula, Wa. November 15-17. The poster presents the status of desert tortoise habitat suitability modeling for a study being conducted by Thomas and USGS co-authors Leila Gass, Todd Esque, Robert Webb and David Miller. Two different modeling algorithms, GARP and Biomapper, are being examined for modeling the distribution of the threatened Mojave population of the desert tortoise. The goal of the All-USGS Modeling Conference is to bring together people in all disciplines who are involved in modeling. (Kathryn Thomas, Tuscon, AZ, 520-670-5553)

Mountain Lion Management and Grizzly Bear Conservation Highlighted at Yale School of Forestry: USGS scientist David Mattson delivered two lectures and one informal lunch-time seminar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies during the week of October 24th. Mattson's lectures to graduate classes in Species & Ecosystem Conservation and Foundations of Natural Resources Policy & Management focused on the science/policy interface, highlighting mountain lion management in Arizona and grizzly bear conservation in the northern US Rocky Mountains. Discussion during the lunch-time seminar covered ethics, professional practice, and relations between science and policy. (David Mattson, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7466 ext 245)