

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights January 31, 2006

Global warming not exacerbating effect of Arizona frog fungus: The January 23 edition of the Arizona Daily Star reports that USGS scientist Cecil Schwalbe, UA scientist Phil Rosen, and AZ State Game and Fish biologist Michael Sredl have concluded that global warming likely does not aggravate the effect of the chytrid fungus - a disease that does kill Arizona frogs. Global warming is blamed for the chytrid fungus killing frogs in Central and South America, but climatic factors in Arizona differ sufficiently to make it unlikely that recent warming is increasing frog deaths from the fungus in Arizona. Global warming, however, may contribute to declines in frog populations caused by other factors, such as habitat loss due to dried up springs, ponds, and streams. Cecil Schwalbe (520) 621-5508 ext. 3.

Science News magazine names USGS publication one of most compelling of 2005: Science News magazine recently named a September publication by Southwest Biological Center researcher, Kenneth Cole, one of the most compelling Earth science stories of 2005. The publication uses fossil packrat pellets and elevational movements of Utah agave plants to examine the Younger Dryas cold period in the Grand Canyon (Geology, Sept. 2005). (<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20050924/fob7.asp>) (<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20051224/bob26.asp#earth>). Kenneth Cole, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7466 x230.

USGS scientist invited to present on Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program in Ethiopia: Jeff Lovich of the Southwest Biological Science Center was the keynote speaker at a conference in Nazareth, Ethiopia entitled "Enhancing equitable livelihood benefits of dams using decision support systems." He presented a paper on the role of USGS in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The conference was jointly organized by Addis Ababa University, Southern Waters (South Africa), the Ethiopian Ministry of Water Resources, and the International Water Management Institute. Delegates from at least 11 countries attended the invitation-only meeting. Jeff Lovich, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7358.

Cub Scouts visit SBSC, Canyonlands Research facility for Science Badge: On February 6th in Moab, UT, Southwest Biological Science Center scientist, Tim Graham will lead the Cub Scouts on a tour of the Canyonlands Research Station to show the scouts what a scientist do in her/his job. This event will help scouts earn their Science Badge. Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339