

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights February 7, 2006

The SBSC Director's Annual Outstanding Performance Awards: The SBSC Management Team established "The Annual Dennis B. Fenn Science Award." This award will be given by the SBSC Center Director each year to the outstanding science achiever for the past year. The top candidate will receive the "Dennis B. Fenn Annual Outstanding Scientist" Award for \$1,000, and 2nd and 3rd place candidates will receive be 'Director's Awards' for \$500 each. These awards will be put into the winners travel account to be used to off-set travel costs in their research efforts or to be used for travel to a professional meeting for presenting research results. Each year the top candidate will have their name engraved on a plaque which will be displayed at the SBSC headquarters in Flagstaff. Charles Van Riper III, Tucson, AZ, (520)626-7027

Ecologist Develops Species Inventory for Belize Cave: Southwest Biological Science Center Wildlife Ecologist and NAU Biology graduate student, J. Judson Wynne gave a presentation entitled: "Sensitive Ecological Areas, Species Inventory and Nutrient Loading of *Actun Chapat* Cave, Vaca Plateau, Belize" as part of the Biology Seminar Series on 06 February 2005 at NAU's Wettaw Building Auditorium. His presentation is based on a synthesis of information from limited field research and a review of literature on both invertebrate and vertebrate observations from a Belize cave. Products from this research include (1) identifying two ecologically sensitive areas: a large multiple species bat roost, and a subterranean pool containing troglobites and stygobites., and (2) developing a species inventory list containing 41 vertebrate and invertebrate. J. Judson Wynne, Flagstaff, AZ 928.556.7466 x238

USGS assists Organ Pipe National Monument with Resource Monitoring Program: Dr. Jayne Belnap will be attending a workshop to assist Organ Pipe National Monument with their resource monitoring program. She will be meeting with NPS staff and other USGS scientists in Tucson, Az on March 27-31 to review their current program and to suggest needed changes. Jayne Belnap, Moab, UT, 435.719.2333

USGS Scientist Leads BLM Field Trip to Newly-established Watershed Program: Dr. Jayne Belnap will be leading a field trip on April 12th to show members of the Upper Colorado River Salinity Forum and BLM staff a newly-established watershed program near Grand Junction, CO. This program will examine the effects of grazing on the mobilization of salinity and selenium into streams and rivers. Jayne Belnap, Moab, UT, 435.719.2333

Workshop on Soil Crusts: Dr. Jayne Belnap will conduct a week-long, multi-agency workshop on biological soil crusts in Boise, ID. from April 25-27th. This class will cover the biology, ecology, identification and management of soil crusts. Jayne Belnap, Moab, UT, 435.719.2333

Dr. Belnap Visits Mongolia to Assess Rangeland Condition: Dr. Jayne Belnap has been awarded an Embassy Fellowship for Mongolia, and will be there during May and June to help develop ways to assess rangeland condition. Jayne Belnap, Moab, UT, 435.719.2333