Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights
March 20, 2006

Presentation on the effects of climate change on plant species:Kirsten Ironside and Kenneth Cole gave an invited presentation on Computer modeling of climate effects on plant species and the "Application of Forest Inventory Data to Climate Change Modeling" at the NAU Merriam-Powell graduate seminar in Environmental Sciences and at the USDA Forest Service Workshop on the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. These talks were given on March 9th and March 16th respectively. Kenneth Cole, Flagstaff, AZ 928-556-7466 x230

Presentation to Northern Arizona University graduate seminar: On March 14th, Kenneth Cole gave an invited presentation on Paleoecology and Paleoclimatology of the Colorado Plateau to the Northern Arizona University graduate seminar on Global and Environmental Change. Kenneth Cole, Flagstaff, AZ 928-556-7466 x230

High school students assist researcher re-establish pitfall traps: On 21 March 2006, a group of students from the alternative high school, the Southwest Open School, Cortez, CO, will be assisting USGS scientist, Tim Graham, re-establish pitfall traps for amphibians and arthropods in Salt Creek, Canyonlands National Park that were washed out in flash floods last fall. During installation of the traps, Tim will lead the students through a discussion of how Canyonlands NP uses the data provided from the traps as well as several the study addresses (use of vehicles in a riparian zone). Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339

Results evaluating a more cost-effective monitoring technique presented: Tim Graham will present a talk titled "Pilot study to assess effectiveness of Proportion of Areas Occupied methods as a monitoring protocol for Columbia spotted frog *Rana luteiventris"* at the annual Columbia spotted frog rangewide meeting at Salt Lake City, UT, 23-24 March 2006. This USGS/FWS Quick Response Program project evaluates the potential for monitoring Columbia spotted frogs using an occupancy approach as a reliable monitoring technique as opposed to estimating abundance which is the current monitoring method. The occupancy approach decreases visitation to only two visits at each habitat patch thereby decreasing monitoring costs, and making resources available for other protection activities (habitat acquisition and restoration); the current method requires weekly visits during egg-laying season. Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339

Problems with site selection for monitoring rare habitat presented: Tim Graham will be present the poster: The Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative on the Colorado Plateau: pitfalls to selecting survey sites for the Canyonlands Mid-Level Survey Area. by Tim B Graham, Sarah Willbrand, Jessica Reilly, Gery Wakefield, and Michael J Adams, at the Society of Northwest Vertebrate Biology meeting at The Evergreen State College (my alma mater), Olympia, WA, on March 27 - April 1, 2006. The poster discusses the problems with trying to randomly select survey sites when the actual habitat of interest occurs in rare, distinct patches across the landscape. This is part of the national Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) program. Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339

Evaluating the effect of pesticides on non-target populations presented: On April 4-6, 2006, at the 5th Integrated Pest Management Symposium in St. Louis, MO, Tim Graham will present the poster: Mormon cricket control in Utah's West Desert: impacts on non-target arthropod communities and implications for vertebrate species of concern. by Becky Close, Anne M. D. Brasher, Tim B. Graham, Mike Freeman, and Annie Caires. This project evaluates whether non-target arthropods, both terrestrial and aquatic, are adversely affected by pesticides used to control Orthoptera populations in Utah's West Desert, on either short- or long-term bases. Tim Graham, Moab, UT, 435-719-2339