

SBSC Weekly Highlights, May 29-June 2, 2006

Crustal Soils and Dust Spread Across NPR's Airwaves MOAB, UT—Jayne Belnap of the USGS Canyonlands Research Station was interviewed for National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" regarding her work with fragile crustal soils. Belnap described cyanobacteria's role in providing dust suppression and also outlined the hazards of increasingly dusty conditions due to soils disturbed by off-road vehicles and growing deer populations. Dust from the arid Southwest has been increasing over the past five years, raising local concerns for highway safety as well as long-range concerns regarding the naturally-occurring arsenic, mercury and other toxins found in the Colorado Plateau's soils. Read Belnap's entire interview and see photographs at:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5415315> (Jayne Belnap, Canyonlands Research Station, Jayne_Belnap@usgs.gov)