

## **SBSC Weekly Highlights 7/23-7-28**

**Managing invasive plants on tribal lands:** Navajo and Hopi land managers have been organizing into two new cooperative weed management areas to manage invasive plants on tribal lands. Drs. Kathryn Thomas of the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center and Barron Orr of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension presented to a group of 35 tribal representatives of various Hopi and Navajo agencies on July 21st at a workshop in Kykotsmovi, Arizona. The workshop focused on tools to aid in invasive plant data collection, management and sharing. For more information contact: Kathryn\_A\_Thomas@usgs.gov, 520 670-5534.

**The Southwest Noxious Weed Short Course** (July 25-27, 2006) in Farmington, New Mexico, has been a yearly event for 13 years. It is known as a premier way to obtain current information on invasive plant management in the Southwest. Dr. Kathryn Thomas of the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center will be presenting to the short course on invasive plant mapping and documentation on Thursday July 27, 2006. She will describe computer tools available to weed managers on the Southwest Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (<http://www.usgs.nau.edu/SWEPIC/>) and how to contribute to and obtain data from the Southwest Exotic Plant Mapping regional database. For more information contact: Kathryn\_A\_Thomas@usgs.gov, 520 670-5534.

**Determining Gila River Water Diversion Effects on Endangered Birds.** The Gila River Technical Subcommittee is a multi-agency and multi-partner group tasked with evaluating the probable effects of future Gila River water diversions on the natural resources of the upper Gila River watershed in Arizona and New Mexico, and recommending associated research to document and monitor these effects. On June 30th, USGS scientist Mark Sogge traveled to Albuquerque to provide the Subcommittee with an oral presentation on the status and ecology of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. This invited talk, coauthored by USGS researcher Scott Durst, was requested by the Interstate Stream Commission (which chairs the Technical Subcommittee) and the Bureau of Reclamation because the endangered flycatcher is one of the key species that must be considered in planning and executing the water diversions. The presentation provided the Subcommittee with the latest information on the flycatcher's status, distribution, and habitat use, with a focus on the Gila watershed. Sogge also discussed an array of research questions and methodologies that could help address key questions regarding how water diversions may affect flycatchers and flycatcher habitat. Contact: Mark Sogge; mark\_sogge@usgs.gov; 928-606-1286.