

SBSC Weekly Highlights March 15, 2007

GCMRC Begins Using Bio-Diesel: An International stake-bed medium-duty truck used by Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center's logistics department is now being fueled by bio-diesel. Currently the bio-diesel is only run as 20 percent of the fuel mixture due to concerns over the greener fuel becoming gelled during low temperatures, but as temperatures rise GCMRC will run a 100 percent mixture of bio-diesel. Contact: Carol Fritzinger, Logistics Coordinator for GCMRC at (928) 556-7207 or Parke Steffensen, GCMRC at (928) 556-7193.

Conference on Water Law, Policy, and Science in Lincoln, Nebraska: USGS SBSC scientist Pamela Nagler will give a talk at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Water Resources Research Initiative, titled, "Estimates of Evapotranspiration Rates by Tamarisk Using a Combination of Ground and Remote Sensing Methods." The conference focus is "The Future of Water Use in Agriculture." The UNL WRR Initiative stated that "Nebraska is in a multi-year drought, has overdeveloped its groundwater resources and over-appropriated its surface water in many parts of the state, and is struggling to meet multi-state water agreements." Dr. Nagler will address evapotranspiration related to invasive species and other riparian vegetation in response to one of the "silver bullets" of the conference: the elimination of riparian vegetation, particularly tamarisk. (Pamela Nagler, Tucson, AZ, 520-626-1472).

New Techniques in Avian Monitoring: TJ Fontaine and Charles van Riper III, USGS Southwest Biological Science Center, met with representatives of Raytheon to discuss new techniques for following neotropical migrant warblers. Because of their small size, these birds have proven difficult to follow using traditional radio tracking techniques. Fontaine and van Riper met with Raytheon in the hope of developing new methods, including the use of unmanned aircraft and passive global positioning. Discussion of the future of these techniques is ongoing. For more information: TJ Fontaine fontaine.joseph@gmail.com, 520-623-3720