



Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center



Weekly Highlights

March 2010

I. Departmental/Bureau News

- **Upcoming**

USGS scientist Dan Fagre will present a talk and participate in a panel discussion at the Center for the Rocky Mountain West conference *Climate Change in Western Montana: Implications for Water and Other Natural Resources*, on March 26th in Kalispell, Montana. (Dan Fagre, 406-888-7922 or dan_fagre@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Erich Peitzsch will present the talk "The Changing View from the High Alpine of Glacier National Park" on March 27th at the Cabinet Resource Group Annual Meeting in Noxon, Montana. (Erich Peitzsch, 406-888-7925 or epeitzsch@usgs.gov)

USGS scientists Emily Almberg and Paul Cross co-author an article to be published in the upcoming edition of *Ecological Applications*. The article, "Persistence of canine distemper virus in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's carnivore community." explores the conditions necessary for the long-term persistence of canine distemper virus (CDV) in Yellowstone National Park's carnivores. The study suggests that transmission between multiple wild carnivore species is the most likely mechanism allowing the virus to persist within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. (Emily Almberg, 406- 994-5034 or ealmberg@usgs.gov)

USGS scientists Dan Fagre and Erich Peitzsch will host Dr. Jordy Hendrikx from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, March 25 – April 28. Dr. Hendrikx will work with the USGS Climate Change in Mountain Ecosystems program on collaborative avalanche and glacier research. (Dan Fagre, 406-888-7922 or dan_fagre@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Lisa McKeon will present the talk "Photography as a Tool for Studying Climate Change in Glacier NP." on March 22nd at Glacier National Park Headquarters in West Glacier, Montana. (Lisa McKeon, 406-888-7924 or lmckeon@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Greg Pederson will present the talk “Climatic Changes Across the Western US: Biophysical and Phenological Responses.” on March 24h at U.S Fish and Wildlife Service’s Fish Technology Center in Bozeman, Montana. (Greg Pederson, 406-994-7390 or gpederson@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Clint Muhlfeld will present the talk "Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in Wilderness Areas of the Northern Rocky Mountains: Implications for conservation in the face of habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change" March 24th at the 2010 Wilderness Stewardship in the Rockies conference hosted by the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. (Clint Muhlfeld, 406-888-7926 or cmuhlfeldk@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Clint Muhlfeld will present the talk “Hybridization between native Westslope cutthroat trout and introduced rainbow trout: Genomic extinction or adaptive evolution?” on March 10th at the University of Montana’s Biological Sciences Weekly Seminar. (Clint Muhlfeld, 406-888-7926 or cmuhlfeldk@usgs.gov)

The Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center will present three posters at the USGS Showcase of Genetics and Genomics in Reston, VA on March 10th. The posters are related to work on bear conservation genetics in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems. (Suzanna Carrithers, 406-994-7257 or scarrithers@usgs.gov)

- **Current.**

USGS scientists Jeff Kershner co-authors an article published in the current edition of Ecological Applications. The article, “Propagule pressure and stream characteristics influence introgression: cutthroat and rainbow trout in British Columbia.” discusses modeled levels of introgression between native and introduced trout in the Upper Kootenay River, British Columbia, Canada. (Jeff Kershner, 406-994-5304 or jkershner@usgs.gov)

USGS Geologist Emeritus Ken Pierce was honored at a Montana State University ceremony for book authors. He is co-author of a 2009 book on hydrothermal explosions in Yellowstone National Park and he is also co-editor of a 2009 book on the track of the Yellowstone hotspot. (Ken Pierce, 406-994- 5085 or kpierce@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Rick Sojda and collaborators were awarded funding through the USGS Biological Resources Discipline for their project “Decision Support for Assessing Waterbird and Landbird Movements and Habitat Use in Interior Landscapes and the Upper Great Lakes in relation to Potential Wind Energy Development”. (Rick Sojda, 406-994-1820 or sojda@usgs.gov)

USGS scientist Clint Muhlfeld co-authors an article published in the February edition of Conservation Genetics. The article, “Founding population size of an

aquatic invasive species.” discusses the invasion of non-native lake trout in lake systems of northwest Montana, and implications to the native bull trout population. (Clint Muhlfeld, 406-888-7926 or cmuhlfeldk@usgs.gov)

II. Agency Work on Presidential Initiatives

III. Notable Congressional Activity

The USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center was contacted by Susan Buckley of the New York City children’s magazine, Apple Seeds. The Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project will be featured in the upcoming edition, Adventurous, Dangerous, and Messy Jobs, to be published in early May.

IV. Press/Media Inquiries

- **Newspapers/magazines/wires, etc.**
- **Broadcasts and Film**
- **Upcoming News Releases**

Keeping track of grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies: The USGS- Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center is working on a release discussing new research findings in the Greater Yellowstone (GYE) and Northern Continental Divide (NCDE) ecosystems, the two largest remaining strongholds for grizzly bear populations in the contiguous United States. The two studies highlight dynamic tools to assist in conservation and management of this charismatic species. The release will come out in a few weeks and partner agencies will be notified. (Chuck Schwartz, 406-994-5043, charles_schwartz@usgs.gov or Katherine Kendall, 406-8887994, kkendall@usgs.gov)

Brucellosis Increasing in Elk in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: The USGS- Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center is working on a release discussing new research findings which suggest brucellosis, an animal disease that typically causes late-term abortions and infects cattle, bison, and elk, appears to be increasing in free-ranging elk in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The research suggests that elk-to-elk transmission of this disease may be increasing because of larger winter elk aggregations. The release will come out in the next week and partner agencies will be notified. (Paul Cross, 406-994-6908 or pcross@usgs.gov)

- **Other (forum meeting, press conference, media training, etc.)**

V. Key FOIA Requests