

Greetings,

This an announcement for the 7th Biennial Coneference. Please take a moment to forward this message onto as many interested people as possible.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract there is still time. Do to feedback we have received, we have extended the deadline for abstract submission. The new deadline for submissions September 18, 2003.

Investigators who have conducted research relevant to the Colorado Plateau are invited to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation that will be scheduled for November 4th, 5th, or 6th, 2003. For complete information on submitting an abstract, please see the web site: www.usgs.nau.edu/conf2003/

Integrating Science and Management on the Colorado Plateau
NOVEMBER 3-7, 2003
Northern Arizona University
duBois Conference Center
Flagstaff, Arizona

ABOUT THE 7TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

This conference provides an interdisciplinary forum for research and land management issues related to the biological, cultural and economic resources of the Colorado Plateau. Anyone who has conducted research or has been involved with land management issues on the plateau is encouraged to take part.

COLORADO PLATEAU SUMMIT DAY

Overcoming Cross-Agency Barriers: Crafting Regional Solutions to an Unprecedented Drought. All day, Monday, November 3rd.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Ecology and Conservation of Grasslands

Plenary Speaker: Sam McNaughton, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Science, Syracuse University

This symposium will highlight the ecological understanding of arid grassland systems and lessons learned from research that readily apply to restoration and improved management of degraded grassland ecosystems. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of fire and grazing in arid grassland systems.

Evolutionary Ecology of Invasive Species

Plenary Speaker: Daniel Simberloff, Director, Institute for Biological Invasions, the University of Tennessee

What are the key ecological and evolutionary responses of non-native, invasive species in new habitats and what are the implications of invasive species studies for the management of invasions? Is it possible to control invasive species? How should we try

to address these topics?

Taming the Cougar, Taming Ourselves

Plenary Speaker: Max Oelschlaeger, McAllister Chair,
Program in Community, Culture, and Environment, NAU

Conflict among humans over natural resources management has reached a fevered pitch in the western U.S. Much of this conflict is fueled by different perspectives and divergent definitions of “the problem.” This session will explore cougar management as a microcosm of natural resources management, focusing on how different perspectives shape discourses among humans and responses to cougars.

Socioeconomic Patterns on the Colorado Plateau

Socioeconomic patterns have been shifting on the Colorado Plateau for the past several years. Rural economies are changing, family patterns and demographics are changing, recreational uses are changing, and attitudes about how lands and uses should be managed are changing. What are some of the trends seen on the Plateau in how people live, recreate, and utilize the landscape? What are expectations of residents and visitors? How can conflict over various uses be negotiated and resolved? This session will explore these issues in an effort to help land managers and the public understand these shifting trends.

Major Challenges in Forest Health & Restoration Ecology What are the opportunities and limitations—both ecological and social—for restoring forest health? Symptoms of declining health in southwestern forests include unnaturally large crown fires and severe pathogenic outbreaks. This session will explore the major issues associated with restoration.

Incorporating Archeological Research into Management Plans

The purpose of this symposium is to evaluate the variety of archeological projects being conducted on the Colorado Plateau and emphasize their importance in management plans.

Impacts of a Megadrought on Colorado Plateau Ecosystems

We are in the midst of an extraordinary drought that may exceed in magnitude any drought of similar length in over 1400 years of climate reconstruction in northern Arizona. This symposium will focus on the causes and consequences of this millennial drought with reference to global climate change.

REGISTRATION

Early Bird registration is \$140 (regular) and \$45 (students) if registered by October 24, 2003. For more information, or to register online, log onto our web site at www.usgs.nau.edu/conf2003/

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Check for updated and additional information at:

www.usgs.nau.edu/conf2003/

SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

NEW Deadline for submission: 18 Sep. 2003

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CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

USGS Southwest Biological Science Center

USGS Colorado Plateau Field Station

NAU Center for Sustainable Environments

NAU Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit

NAU Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research