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Cave Creek Sonoran Desert Seedling Project
by Mark Daniels, ERI Research Specialist



In the summer of 2005, a human-caused wildfire burned about 4 acres in Cave Creek Regional Park, north of Phoenix. After the fire, John Gunn, park manager at the time, prepared a restoration project for the burned area that included seeding a mix of more than 20 native plant species and adding straw mulch to assist in plant establishment.

Conventional wisdom has it that re-seeding disturbed areas in desert environments does not work due to harsh conditions, including high temperatures and sparse, unpredictable rainfall. Since hard evidence for or against this assertion is lacking, Gunn contacted ERI Associate Director, Diane Vosick, to inquire about initiating a monitoring program to gauge the success of the seeding portion of the restoration project.

In the fall of 2005, ERI Research Specialist, Scott Abella, and two ERI botanists travelled to Cave Creek and, along with Gunn and his colleagues, established 22 monitoring plots in the seeded area. They then recorded the species present on each 10-m² plot and estimated their aerial cover. Mulch cover was also estimated because Gunn and Abella were interested to see how long the mulch, with its beneficial effects on plant establishment, would persist on the ground. Vegetation on the Cave Creek plots was re-measured in the spring and fall of 2006, and again in the spring of 2007.

During the time of the experiment, rainfall was even lower than usual in the area, which would seem to doom attempts to revegetate the site. Despite the low rainfall, however, there has been a general increase in cover on the burned site, compared to adjacent burned and unseeded private land. A number of the seeded species have become established at the site (Table 1) and several species have done rather well, including the shrubby forb, desert senna (*Senna covesii*), and the grass, purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*).

In 2007, Abella, Gunn, and the ERI botanists co-authored and submitted a manuscript with their findings from the project to *Native Plants Journal*. They hope that by conducting more research like this, and by disseminating the results to land managers in a position to use the findings, we can learn how to effectively revegetate disturbed areas of the Sonoran Desert, and reverse some of the degradation that has occurred in this harsh, fragile environment.



Cave Creek Sonoran Desert Seeding Project
(continued from p.1)
by Mark Daniels, ERI Research Specialist

Species ¹	Sample Date			
	11/2/05	5/1/06	10/12/06	5/2/07
	Frequency (%) ²			
Seeded grasses				
Purple threeawn (<i>Aristida purpurea</i>)	0	91	4	50
Tanglehead (<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>)	95	45	9	0
Curly mesquite (<i>Hilaria belangeri</i>)	86	9	5	0
Seeded shrubs				
Fourwing saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>)	0	9	0	9
Desert ironwood (<i>Oleaya tesota</i>)	9	0	0	5
Seeded forbs				
Rough pricklypoppy (<i>Argemone hispida</i>)	68	5	14	0
Desert marigold (<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>)	14	23	0	18
California poppy (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>)	82	77	0	0
Southwestern mock vervain (<i>Glandularia gooddingii</i>)	5	0	0	41
Gordon's bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella gordonii</i>)	91	82	0	59
Coulter's lupine (<i>Lupinus sparsiflorus</i>)	27	5	0	0
Penstemon (<i>Penstemon cottonii/purvi</i>)	0	68	0	28
Cleftleaf wild heliotrope (<i>Phacelia crenulata</i>)	95	100	23	73
Desert senna (<i>Senna covesii</i>)	59	68	91	82
Desert globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>)	36	55	0	9
Major volunteers				
Menzies's fiddleneck (<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>)	0	86	41	0
Cryptantha (<i>Cryptantha</i> spp.)	46	23	0	9
Redstem stork's bill (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>)	100	95	0	91
Spotted bidiseed (<i>Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia</i>)	0	59	0	0
Cheeseweed mallow (<i>Malva parviflora</i>)	95	32	0	45
Curlynut combseed (<i>Pectocarya recurvata</i>)	0	91	0	9
Desert Indianwheat (<i>Plantago ovata</i>)	73	82	0	18
Arabian schismus (<i>Schismus arabicus</i>)	0	95	82	100

Table 1. Establishment of seeded species and volunteers on a Sonoran Desert Burn, Cave Creek Regional Park, Arizona.

¹ These species were seeded but showed little establishment: Grasses: cane bluestem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Rothrock's grama (*Bouteloua rothrockii*), plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), vine mesquite (*Panicum obtusum*), plains bristlegrass (*Setaria vulpisetia*), spike dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*); Shrubs: fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*); Forbs: trailing windmills (*Allionia incarnata*), exserted Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja exserta*).

² Based on twenty-two 10-m² plots.

Planting Trials in Northern Arizona Ponderosa Pine Forests
by Judy Springer, ERI Research Specialist, Sr.



The high cost of restoring with seedlings: Is it worth it?

Wildfires, ecological restoration treatments, roadbuilding activities, and other disturbances on the landscape can result in open, bare areas that contain few healthy native plants and may be suscep-

tible to invasion by aggressive non-native plant species. While seeding has been the preferred method for increasing native plant cover in such situations, using grass plugs, shrubs or forb seedlings is a possible, but largely untested, alternative in northern Arizona ponderosa pine forests.

Scott Abella, a former ERI ecological research specialist and now an assistant research professor at UNLV, and I, with the assistance of several other ERI employees, conducted five planting trials, involving 11 native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The idea was to test the success of transplanting and outplanting following ecological restoration treatments in ponderosa pine forests. None of the planting trials involved the use of supplemental watering or other amendments, except for addition of pine litter in one of the studies. Plant survival was mainly dependent on timing of precipitation, the health of the young transplants, and microsite conditions at the planting site.

At a treatment site on Mt. Trumbull in the Arizona Strip, where reproductively mature grasses were transplanted into five different microsities, Abella and Springer found the survival of squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) and muttongrass (*Poa*



Planting Trials in Northern Arizona Ponderosa Pine Forests (continued from p.2)
by Judy Springer, ERI Research Specialist, Sr.

fendleriana) was about 20% after five years (Figure 1). Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and upland sedge (*Carex geophila*) transplants did not fare as well. No transplants of these four species survived in an unthinned control area.

Synopses of the other planting trials indicate that Lambert's locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*) did not survive transplanting very well (4% survival after 13 months), even with the addition of pine litter. Wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and Fendler's meadow-rue (*Thalictrum fendleri*) had moderate survival after one year (48%, 28%, and 56%, respectively). Fendler's meadow-rue exhibited significantly greater survival when outplanted below Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) than in openings. This same trend did not hold for wandbloom penstemon (*Penstemon virgatus*), however. Penstemon survival averaged about 50% whether planted under an oak or in an opening nearby.

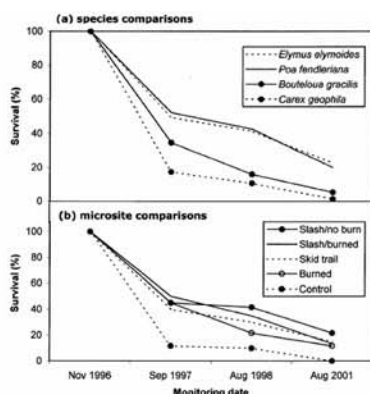


Figure 1. Percent survival of four graminoids in five ecological restoration treatments a) in all treatments and b) all species combined per treatment type.

Road ripping is a common method for obliterating roads created from tree thinning activities, fire fighting, or recreation activities. In a study designed by Abella, in which he planted ragleaf bahia (*Bahia dissecta*) and mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*) seedlings, survival ranged from 74-80% for these two species after one year. Seventy-three percent of the live ragleaf bahia flowered, as did 38% of the mountain muhly.

It remains to be seen whether the relatively high costs of transplanting will ever allow this method to replace conventional seeding practices. However, transplanting and outplanting methods may be most appropriate in small areas, such as abandoned roads, slash-pile scars, or for establishing islands of native plants. The manuscript for this study is in preparation and will be submitted for publication this year. For additional information, please contact Scott Abella (scott.abella@unlv.edu) or Judy Springer (judy.springer@nau.edu).

Ecology and Society Publishes a Special Issue About Old Growth in Western Frequent-fire Forests
by Dave Egan, ERI Editor/Writer

The online journal, *Ecology and Society*, recently published a series of articles about the past, present, and future of old growth in the frequent-fire forests of the American West. This special issue is the product of an Old Growth Writing Workshop, sponsored by the ERI and held at Northern Arizona University on April 18-19, 2006. A multi-disciplinary group of 25 writers produced this important collective expression in order to explain the unique ecological and cultural history of old growth in the dry forests of the American West. Moreover, the authors suggest ways to



Ecology and Society Publishes a Special Issue
About Old Growth in Western Frequent-fire
Forests (continued from p.3)

by Dave Egan, ERI Editor/Writer

conserve and restore old growth in these frequent-fire ecosystems—methods and strategies that are distinctive from those employed in the more heralded old-growth rainforests of the Pacific Northwest.

Several current and former ERI staff and students contributed to this special issue, including Scott Abella, Jesse Abrams, Wally Covington, Charlie Denton, Dave Egan, Peter Friederici, Pete Fulé, Andy Sánchez-Meador, Judy Springer, Diane Vosick, and Victoria Yazzie. They were joined by professors from the NAU School of Forestry (Carol Chambers and David Ostergren), several Forest Service employees, and other researchers, land managers, social scientists, and policymakers from throughout the western United States.

The special issue can be accessed by visiting:
<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/viewissue.php?f=33>.

ERI Adopts a Second Aspen Fence
by Daniel Laughlin, ERI Research Specialist

The golden glow on the mountains near Flagstaff was beautiful last autumn...and deceitful. In fact, it may have been one of the longest and most lovely autumns for aspen colors in years, but the truth is the aspen groves are dying. Just take a walk in an aspen grove this summer and look around for seedlings. Chances are you won't find one--not a single stem. Why, you ask? Because Rocky Mountain elk happen to be particularly fond of aspen seedlings, and there is a very large elk population in northern Arizona. Thus, the most

effectively and immediate method to assist the recovery of aspen around Flagstaff is to erect tall fences to keep the elk out.

As researchers at ERI, my colleagues and I spend most of our time analyzing data and reporting on the effects of restoration treatments. I thought it would be fun and rewarding to get our hands dirty twice a year by participating in one of the more important restoration projects in southwestern forests: aiding aspen regeneration by maintaining elk enclosure fences.



Left to right: Don Normandin, Yiqun Lin, Chris McGlone, Daniel Laughlin standing outside the Windsor Tank Aspen Fence. Photo by Kara Laughlin

On a weekend in the autumn and spring, a small crew of ERI volunteers now heads out to Mormon Lake to monitor the integrity of the first aspen fence, which was built in 2006, and to make necessary repairs. Last spring, Don Normandin, Yiqun Lin, Chris McGlone, Kara Laughlin, and I braved some snowy May weather and mended a few holes in the fence. I am pleased to report that the U.S. Forest Service built a second fence in 2007 at the same location. We agreed to monitor this new fence as well. And even better, the new fence is currently nameless, which means we get to christen it! It is too early to tell whether aspen are successfully regenerating within our exclosures, but other aspen fences that are full of seedlings attest to the success



ERI Adopts a Second Aspen Fence (continued
from p.4)
by Daniel Laughlin, ERI Research Specialist



An aspen grove enclosed by the second and as-yet-unnamed fence. Photo by Daniel Laughlin

of the adopt-an-aspen fence program. Interestingly, wily humans, not elk, are one of the biggest threats to the fences. Elk hunters have been known to tear holes in the fences to lure hungry elk to the grassy swards of fescue and muhly grasses inside. Once in the enclosure, the unsuspecting elk are greeted by certain death. It's hard to beat the irony found in the rural lands of Arizona. I checked both fences this past fall and no repairs were necessary. We will head back out this coming May to see if any damages have occurred.

ERI Graduate Student and NAU Researcher
Receive \$30K Grant from Arizona Game and
Fish Department

by Daniel Laughlin, ERI Research Specialist

Liz Kalies, a graduate student with NAU's School of Forestry and the ERI, and Carol Chambers, a professor of wildlife ecology in the School of Forestry, have secured a \$30,000 research grant from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Working in partnership with the ERI, they plan to use the funding to continue Kalies's doctoral research into the effects of restoration and fuels reduction treatments on small mammals in Arizona's ponderosa pine forests.

With the increasingly widespread implementation of ecological restoration and fuels reduction treatments on forested landscapes around northern Arizona, there is concern among wildlife scientists that the treatments do



not harm the habitat and food needs of the small mammal community. The small mammal community in particular forms a crucial link between lower-level ecosystem functions, such as seed and fungal spore dispersal, and top-level predators, such as the northern goshawk and Mexican spotted owl.

Kalies's work involves trapping animals at about 200 sites around northern Arizona with the help of ERI undergraduate field crews, then applying a cutting-edge analytical method called "occupancy modeling" to assess changes in the small mammal community that result from forest treatments. Armed with these results, Kalies and Chambers hope to propose treatments that will improve habitat for small mammal communities. Ultimately, this partnership between NAU/ERI researchers and the AZGFD will help land management agencies design landscape-scale forest restoration treatments that will achieve forest management goals while better protecting wildlife species and enhancing their habitat.

ERI Botanists Team with the Arboretum at
Flagstaff to Study Native Penstemons
Judy Springer, Research Specialist, Sr.

The genera *Penstemon* is the largest genus of native wildflowers in North America, and the Four Corners Area is thought to be the center from which penstemons evolved and spread. Arizona has some 45 unique species. Fifteen species, subspecies or varieties in Arizona are ranked as S1 (critically imperiled) or S2 (imperiled). Many more are not yet ranked.



ERI Botanists Team with the Arboretum at Flagstaff to Study Native Penstemons (continued from p.5)

Judy Springer, Research Specialist, Sr.



Coiled anther penstemon
(*Penstemon ophianthus*)

With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ERI botanists recently teamed with researchers from the Arboretum at Flagstaff to collect data on three native penstemon species: pineneedle beardtongue (*Penstemon pinifolius*), Flagstaff beardtongue (*P.*

nudiflorus) and coiled anther penstemon (*P. ophianthus*). Flagstaff penstemon is endemic to Arizona and is listed as S3 (vulnerable) Pineneedle beardtongue is found in Arizona and New Mexico, and coiled anther penstemon is found in all states of the Four Corners Area. Both are listed as S2.

None of these species are widespread or common, and the extent of their range in Arizona is unknown. Furthermore, there is little information available about their ecology or about the threats to existing populations. Using information obtained from historical collections of these three species at local herbaria, researchers from the ERI and the Arboretum conducted surveys to document historical and current populations. When populations were located, we also compiled information on threats to the plants. Preliminary results suggest that two of the major threats to these species are drought and animal herbivory, but more work is needed.

The ERI and Arboretum will continue collaborating to obtain funding that will be used to locate additional populations of these plants and to collect information about their life history and ecology. The



more we understand about the ecology of the rare and uncommon species of penstemons, the more effective land management agencies will be in determining whether measures need to be put in place to protect these species from threats to their well-being.

Flagstaff beardtongue
(*Penstemon nudiflorus*)

ALUMNI CORNER – JANUARY 2008
by Kaitlin Tymrak and Robin Long

Stop the presses! **Luke Brandy** (B.S. Forestry '06) writes that he's returning to his native Oregon with his wife, Erin Thurston (B.S. Environmental Science '06). They have left golden California for verdant Oregon where Luke has accepted a timber sale prep job on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest. His new duty station will be in Cave Junction, which is about halfway between the Rogue Valley where he grew up, and the Redwoods. Erin will be going to river guide school on the Rogue River. Happy trails, you two!



Wedding bells rang in Tucson for **Sanjeev Pandey** (B.S. Forestry '05) and his bride, Joelle. They were married in an Indian ceremony at Govindas Restaurant, which Sanjeev reports is Tucson native



ALUMNI CORNER – JANUARY 2008

(continued from p.6)

by Kaitlin Tymrak and Robin Long



Linda Ronstadt's favorite place to eat. You guys look sharp in Indian dress! Sanjeev continues to work for Native Seeds Search in Tucson and Patagonia. He says, "I am learning lots about growing melons and watermelons, killing bugs, and whacking weeds." Next year may find him in graduate school studying landscape architecture. Congratulations Sanjeev and Joelle!

Wondering where **Sonja Wilson** (B.A. French, '07) is? Why in Costa Rica, of course. Sonja wrote that she is surfing, doing yoga, and working at a cabina resort in beautiful Santa Theresa. Sonja is experiencing many adventures, such as eating iguana soup.



While it was her first time eating a sustainable food source, she said, "I felt bad for the little fellow." The water and electricity in her town goes out every other day and she finds herself trying to live as eco-friendly and simply as possible.



There is baby news from **Julie Blake Gidley** (B.S. Environmental Science '99). Silas James Gidley was born on October 25, weighing 10 lbs. 10 oz. After a few extra trips to

the hospital, the Gidley family is "happy to be at home eating, sleeping, burping, and spitting up." Julie informs us that Silas is Latin for "of the woods." Welcome to the world, Silas!



Amy Waltz (Ph.D Biology, '01) just checked in from Bend, Oregon, her home for the past 2 ½ years. She is busy working as a fire ecologist for The Nature Conservancy,

where she has the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, "as long as the word 'fire' appears somewhere in the title." Her husband, Rob, recently opened a unique coffee-shop/indoor playground, so she is learning that a small business owns you, not the other way around. Whew!

California keeps claiming ERI folk! **Dave Passovoy** (M.S. Forestry '05) recently moved to Sacramento to begin his new job as an environmental scientist for the California Department of



Forestry and Fire Protection. He will be working in the Bear, Feather, and American River watersheds. Dave also keeps busy with his almost-two-year-old daughter, Aliya, who is talking up a storm and making Dave wish he had spent more time reading books on child development.



ALUMNI CORNER – JANUARY 2008

(continued from p.7)

by Kaitlin Tymrak and Robin Long



Tom Heinlein (M.S. Forestry '96) writes that he is moving back to the Lower 48 for a job with the Bureau of Land Management as a field manager in Monticello, Utah. He anticipates making the trek home from Nome,

Alaska sometime in March. Congratulations, Tom, and welcome back from the Great Land.

Good news is happening for **Aaron Wilkerson** (B.S. Forestry '03). Aaron was recently promoted to Utah State Forester with the Bureau of Land Management. He and his wife, Ericka, and their three kids will be moving to Salt Lake City.

For the past four years, Aaron has been working as a Forester managing lands on the Arizona Strip. He's come a long way since this photo was taken in Robin's office immediately after he first got hired back in 2003!



And finally, **Brandon Oberhardt** (B.S. Photography '03) returns as our featured artist in the ERI Art Gallery here in the NAU Forestry Building. Brandon recently traveled to Ecuador and nine stunningly colorful photographs now grace the walls of the ERI.



His photos can be viewed online and are available for purchase. Go to:

<http://www.brophotography.com/>

Have alumni news to share? Please send your news to Robin Long at robin.long@nau.edu or call (928) 523-7187.

Drought Influences the Regrowth of Understory Vegetation More than Grazing Chris Sorensen, School of Forestry/ERI Undergraduate Research Assistant

For more than a century, ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) ecosystems in the Southwest have been subjected to a combination of different land use practices, such as logging, fire suppression, and domestic livestock grazing. Among these practices, grazing has long been recognized as one of the most pervasive and, therefore, has been a commonly studied topic. However, researchers and others have had difficulty separating the effects of grazing from variation in climatic patterns, other disturbances (e.g., fire), and different management styles. This has confounded the topic, resulting in an assortment of conclusions and suggested practices. The most commonly accepted recommendation is to rest pastures or remove livestock for a short period of time (e.g., 1-2 years) to allow the understory vegetation to rejuvenate. In this article, I report on a study that tested that recommendation.

In the summer of 2005, I began a three-year study at Mount Trumbull to evaluate the short-term effects of cattle exclusion on the herbaceous understory in a partially restored ponderosa pine forest. I established 10 paired plots consisting of a treatment enclosure and a grazed control. The 35-m by 35-m electric fence enclosures were erected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to



**Drought Influences the Regrowth of Understory
Vegetation More than Grazing (Continued
from p.8)**

**Chris Sorensen, School of Forestry/ERI
Undergraduate Research Assistant**

prevent cattle from trampling lizard pitfall array traps that were being used to study the effects of restoration treatments on lizard populations. The AZGFD constructed the exclosures in the summer of 2005, which allowed for the collection of pre-treatment data. Using a modified Daubenmire plot design, the help of other ERI undergraduates and the honed skills of several ERI botanists, I collected data on the following understory vegetation characteristics: aerial cover, species richness, and species diversity.



After finalizing and analyzing the data, I found that two years of cattle exclusion did not increase understory abundance or affect species richness and diversity. The most significant correlation I observed was between annual precipitation and total cover. During the pre-treatment year, precipitation levels at Mount Trumbull were far above the average. Each year after that, precipitation steadily declined to below the average amount. As one might expect, the large drop in precipitation significantly decreased total understory vegetation.

Although this study was faced with several confounding factors, including a small sample size

and a break in the grazing allotment fence during the summer of 2006, it still provides some insights for livestock management on Mount Trumbull. For example, one to two years of livestock removal did not significantly increase or improve understory vegetation. Therefore, removing livestock for a short-period of time may not heal understory degradation caused by livestock grazing. In the case of this study, however, you could also argue that the current grazing intensity did not appear to have any negative effects. Therefore, is removing cattle to improve forage conditions worth the investment? This study also reinforces the importance of adapting livestock management to account for climate variability. Rainfall proved to be the most influential factor in this study, and if it is not taken into consideration, livestock and the understory community could be negatively affected. However, given the short-term nature of this study and its relatively small sample size, I would also recommend that more research be done on this topic.



This research project taught me a lot about the ups and the downs of the research process. From organizing the gear for the trips to Mount Trumbull to clean-

ing up the data and analyzing it, the research process can be very challenging and rewarding. As a School of Forestry/ERI student, it has given me a great appreciation and understanding for all the work that is conducted and has yet to be done in the fields of forest and range management. With that said, I commend the ERI for all of its work and I am truly grateful for all the help and support I received from its students and staff.



Staff News

Dave Egan, ERI Editor/Writer

Welcome Joe Seidenberg to the ERI



Joe Seidenberg joined the ERI staff in early January as a program coordinator with an emphasis on community outreach. With a recent masters degree in public affairs ('07) from Indiana University Bloomington and

previous work experience in the United States and Africa, Joe is poised to carry forward the collaborative work with communities that has made the ERI a unique applied research organization.

Joe was born and raised in the Hoosier State but was always fascinated with the cowboy lifestyle, and as a result spent a great deal of his youth riding horses and hunting/exploring in the woods near Terra Haute with friends. He has an undergraduate degree in cultural anthropology ('99) from Butler University in Indianapolis. During his studies there, Joe participated in a field study of southwestern Native American tribes that helped him develop a deep appreciation for the unique cultures of our country and its varied/fragile landscapes.

Beginning in late 2001, Joe served a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa. While in Ghana, he facilitated natural resource management projects and learned many valuable lessons about conducting collaborative work. He also became fascinated with the pressing need to find sustainable solutions to human and ecosystem interactions at both the local and international level. Several years later, Joe returned to Africa as an intern for the Policy and Law Division of the United Nations Environment Program in Nairobi, Kenya.

Joe describes his interests as traveling and adventuring (hiking/climbing, snowshoeing, paddling) in areas steeped in natural beauty, interacting with diverse cultures and individuals, cooking and eating an array of tantalizing foods, listening and dancing to world beats, and spending time with family and friends.

If you haven't met Joe, please stop by and introduce yourself. He's in Jesse Abrams's former office.

Diane Vosick Leaving ERI for Post with The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

ERI Associate Director and Outreach Team Leader, Diane Vosick, recently announced that she has accepted the position of Forest Restoration Program Director with The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Her last day with the ERI will be February 29, 2008.

Diane has been with the ERI since 1999 and has made numerous contributions to the organization during that time, not the least of which have been providing invaluable support to Wally Covington, serving in leadership roles on policy issues, and working diligently with government leaders and agency heads to secure permanent, legislation-endorsed funding for the ERI as one of three institutes focused on dry forest restoration in the Southwest. More recently, she was instrumental in guiding the Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests through the Governor's Forest Health Council and in penning the executive summary for that document. Diane also recently served as a key member of the small-diameter wood supply analysis working group--a body of stakeholders that has helped to identify whether there is a reliable quantity of timber for sustainable wood products production in northern Arizona.



Diane Vosick Leaving ERI for Post with The Nature Conservancy (continued from p.10)

After completing an introductory training period at TNC's main office in Portland, Diane will be working out of the organization's central Oregon office in Bend. In her new position, she will coordinate and direct an interdisciplinary team with expertise in government relations as well as regional and site-based conservation. Working with this staff, Oregon TNC leadership, and field practitioners, Diane will help establish TNC of Oregon as a major conservation partner in public lands forest restoration with the aim of accelerating the restoration of fire-prone forests in the state. Her job also calls for managing the Northwest Fire Learning Network, establishing key partnerships with important statewide public and private organizations, identifying funding needs and assisting with fundraising, and developing restoration strategies for restoration sites (whew!!). While that's a big list of duties, we expect Diane to handle them with her usual mix of intelligence, determination, contagious energy, and good humor.



On behalf of the ERI staff, I'd like to congratulate Diane on her new position and wish her and husband, Geoff, all the best. The move will allow them to be near their beautiful grandchildren, who live with their parents in Portland. In addition to being near to their family, Diane and Geoff will have the opportunity to explore the many natural wonders of Oregon—the Pacific Ocean shore, the

Cascade Mountains, nature reserves such as Zumwalt Prairie and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and wild areas along the Snake River.

Diane, we'll all miss your spark, your smile, your love of anything Bruce Springsteen....and, of course, your version of the Snoopy Dance (which for those of you who have missed it, Diane does when we receive news that our federal monies have been approved).

Starting a Family

Kristen Pearson, Former ERI Research Technician



Starting a family is always an adventure, but my husband, Tal, and I had no idea it would be quite this adventurous. Last autumn, after a year of endless paperwork and waiting, we set off to Ethiopia to adopt two infants and learn a bit about their culture and history. We spent three wonderful weeks traveling in the southern region of the country visiting different indigenous tribes and viewing some fabulous wildlife. We also traveled to the two regions where our kids are from, learning about their birthplaces and their family history. The last week we spent visiting and getting to know our kids in the orphanage. We learned that Ethiopia is not only the birthplace of humankind, but also the source of coffee and, although we weren't coffee drinkers, we quickly became fond of it when we realized sleep was a thing of the past for us as new parents. We definitely chugged some delicious Ethiopian coffee before our epic 24-hour plane ride home with our new family. Our son, Malaku, is now 14 months and our daughter, Adey, is 8 months. We are all doing well.