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# ECOLOGY ON THE WEB

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Ecology on the Web features a mix of projects, blogs, and online writing in the coming issues. We have no biases into the types of web sites that are included, and encourage you to submit your own or other's web sites, blogs, wikis, blog entries, etc., along with a short annotation (150 words or less) that provides readers with a brief description of the contents of the site and why the site is of interest.

Should you wish to submit an annotated web site or have any comments or suggestions, contact the Section editor, **Jarrett E. Byrnes** directly at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, 735 State Street, Suite 300, Santa Barbara, California 93101; (805) 892-2512; E-mail: [byrnes@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:byrnes@nceas.ucsb.edu).

*Submissions for this issue were provided by Josh Tewksbury at the University of Washington, Daniel Wovcha at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Jennifer Smith at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Jai Ranganathan at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.*

## Projects

*The Wiki of Sierra Nevada Global Change Observatory*  
(<http://observatoriosierranevada.iecolab.es>)

The Sierra Nevada Global Change Observatory is a monitoring program that aims to identify the impacts of global change in the Sierra Nevada Biosphere Reserve of Southeastern Spain. Using a wiki model, we have created a collaborative encyclopedia to improve internal collaboration and publish updated results of the monitoring program. We also share our global change monitoring methodologies for use both by the people working in the program and the general public. The wiki is organized in different

thematic areas: key species, ecosystems and processes, ecological and socio-ecological indicators, etc. Each page contains multiple links to slides, text files, bibliographic references, images, videos, and other materials related to each issue. The wiki also increases the availability of updated scientific knowledge about the reserve for environmental managers. Since its creation in 2009, more than 100,000 visitors from 70 countries have visited our wiki. We are actively working to translate it into English and also to increase the number of editors and existing articles. For comments, contact Antonio J. Pérez-Luque at e-mail: [ajperez@ugr.es](mailto:ajperez@ugr.es), Francisco J. Bonet, or Regino Zamora.

*The San Francisco Bay Sea-Level Rise Web Site*

(<http://data.prbo.org/apps/sfbslr/>)

The San Francisco Bay Sea-Level Rise web site (SFBSLR) is hosted by the California Avian Data Center (CADC) at PRBO Conservation Science. SFBSLR is a decision support tool aimed at assisting bay-area managers, planners, and conservationists in planning responses to rising ocean levels currently resulting from climate change. This web site projects changes for the entire San Francisco Bay Estuary using a dynamic marsh accretion model, and allows users to compare side-by-side maps of current and future tidal marsh distributions. We provide multiple scenarios depicting different elevation, time, sediment, and organic material projections, in addition to modeled bird species habitat and vegetation predictions. For more information on SFBSLR, please contact Grant Ballard at e-mail: [gballard@prbo.org](mailto:gballard@prbo.org)

**Blogs**

*In the Grass, On the Reef*

(<http://wfsu.org/blog-coastal-health/>)

The “In the Grass, On the Reef” blog is a joint effort by two community ecologists and their local public broadcasting station (WFSU, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida) to communicate the ins and outs of field ecology to the public in an interesting, accessible, and informative manner. It covers a diverse array of topics, including the specifics of the primary research projects (consumptive and non-consumptive predator effects on oyster reef ecosystem function; biodiversity effects in salt marshes), the relevance of this research to the region, the importance of coastal habitats for valued ecosystem services, and the day-to-day responsibilities of the researchers and their crews. In addition, the blog incorporates perspectives from the many artists, writers, and musicians who gain inspiration from these same coastal systems. For more information about *In the Grass, On the Reef*, contact Rob Diaz de Villegas at e-mail: [rdiazdevillegas@fsu.edu](mailto:rdiazdevillegas@fsu.edu)

*Journal of Ecology Blog*

(<http://jecologyblog.wordpress.com/>)

The *Journal of Ecology* is 100 years old this year! The blog was started as part of the celebration of this milestone. The blog aims to bring the research published in the journal to a broader audience by breaking

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down the sometimes dense scientific findings for a public audience. Towards this goal we: (1) publish authors' nontechnical summaries of their papers along with pictures of their study sites or organisms; (2) highlight interesting or recent papers in the journal; (3) incorporate guest posts of particular interest to our readers; and (4) conduct interviews with ecologists who publish in the journal remotely and in person at conferences. For more information, contact Scott Chamberlain at e-mail: [schamber@rice.edu](mailto:schamber@rice.edu)

### **Online Writing**

*Why do fundamental research in a world with pressing applied problems?* (<http://oikosjournal.wordpress.com/2012/03/16/why-do-fundamental-research-in-a-world-with-pressing-applied-problems/>)

*Why parsimony?* (<http://theartofmodelling.wordpress.com/2012/03/14/why-parsimony/>)

*Some thoughts on a GitHub of Science* ([http://www.trevorbedford.com/archive/feb\\_20\\_2012.html](http://www.trevorbedford.com/archive/feb_20_2012.html))

*Beyond crunching data: the power of ideas* (<http://compassblogs.org/blog/2012/04/16/beyond-crunching-data-the-power-of-ideas/>)

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