



RAPID RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

Serving Society through Ecological Expertise

Spring 2010

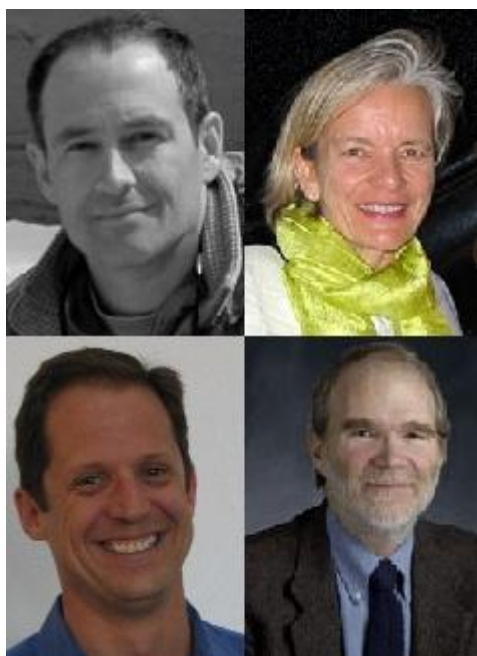
INFORMING THE PUBLIC AND POLICYMAKERS

➤ **ROB JACKSON** participated in a congressional hearing on geoengineering, where he discussed the complexities of biological land-based strategies such as large-scale tree planting with lawmakers on the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee. While reminding those present that engineering the environment should be seen as a last resort and could have far-reaching ecological implications, Jackson elaborated on some of the tradeoffs associated with changing land use and management to enhance carbon sequestration. "The same plantation that cools the Earth by removing carbon could warm it by reflecting less light," Jackson said. "And your new plantation affects the Earth in other ways, too. Trees typically use more water than other plants, and this increased evaporation cools land locally, loads energy into the atmosphere and produces clouds that absorb or reflect sunlight and produce rain. Overall, these biophysical changes can affect climate more than carbon removal."



Rob Jackson (far right) provides testimony during a House Energy and Environment Subcommittee hearing.

- **JASON NEFF** has been working with the US Bureau of Land Management to develop climate adaptation plans for southern Colorado.
- **NORM CHRISTENSEN** and several other scientists worked to provide detailed recommendations for the US Forest Service's new forest planning rules, addressing ecological concerns such as ecosystem sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. **TOM SWETNAM** assisted the Society in reviewing the recommendations; ESA joined the Society for Conservation Biology in commenting on the new forest planning rules.
- **MEG LOWMAN** continues to serve as Climate Change and Science Advisor to Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, who is currently running as a democratic candidate for Governor of Florida.



Climate statement authors: (clockwise from upper left) Jason Neff, Lisa Graumlisch, Alan Townsend, Phil Robertson.

REACHING OUT

➤ **JASON NEFF, LISA GRAUMLICH, ALAN TOWNSEND,** and **PHIL ROBERTSON** drafted and reviewed ESA's position statement, "[Managing Ecosystems in a Changing Climate](#)" and an accompanying [factsheet](#). The Society released both the statement and the factsheet in early 2010—to read the press release, click [here](#).

The new RRT directory is online!

www.esa.org/pao/rrt

Please feel free to send feedback and profile updates.

IN THE MEDIA

➤ In a feature from Greenrightnow.com (ABC's Green Living site), **DICK MACK** discussed efforts to combat invasive species in the US. "Ironically," he said, "most of our problems we brought upon ourselves. Two-thirds of the plant invaders were deliberately introduced (via horticulture), and it backfired." Read the full story [here](#).

➤ ABC News featured **DEE BOERSMA** in a story about the declining penguin population in Argentina's Punta Tombo Peninsula. The video and transcript are available [here](#).

➤ **SCOTT COLLINS** and several of his LTER colleagues recorded two shows with KUMN, the Albuquerque National Public Radio affiliate. Both episodes were part of KUNM's University Showcase—the first looked at the LTER network as a whole; the second discussed research currently underway at the Sevilleta LTER where Collins is Principal Investigator.



Scott Collins, Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Project

ESA WELCOMES THIRTEEN NEW RRT MEMBERS



Ramble Ankumah: Tuskegee University. Professor and Department Head, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences

Elena Bennett: McGill University. Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resource Sciences

Gretchen Daily: Stanford University. Bing Professor of Environmental Science, Biology; Director, Center for Conservation Biology; Senior Fellow, Woods Institute; Chair, The Natural Capital Project

Patrick Gonzalez: University of California-Berkeley. Visiting Scholar, Center for Forestry.

Nancy Grimm: Arizona State University. Professor, Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Science; Co-Director, Central Arizona-Phoenix LTER

Peter Groffman: Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Senior Scientist.

Kevin Gurney: Purdue University. Associate Professor, Agronomy, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences.

Sarah Hobbie: University of Minnesota. Associate Professor, Ecology, Evolution & Behavior.

Rob Jackson: Duke University. Nicholas Chair of Global Environmental Change; Professor, Biology.

Dov Sax: Brown University. Assistant Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology.

Josh Schimel: University of California-Santa Barbara. Professor, Environmental Studies and Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology; Chair, Environmental Studies Program.

Tom Sisk: Northern Arizona University. Professor of Ecology; Graduate Programs Director, Center for Sustainable Environments.

Tom Swetnam: University of Arizona. Director, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research; Professor, Dendrochronology.



Thank you to experts who have finished their terms:

- David Allan
- David Andow
- Andrew Blaustein
- Virginia Dale
- Laurie Drinkwater

- Mark Hay
- Travis Huxman
- David Lodge
- Rob Naiman
- Mark McPeck

- Knute Nadelhofer
- Lou Pitelka
- Bill Schlesinger
- Tom Stohlgren
- John Wiens