

Western Region

From Gary Fellers, NPS Research Biologist at Point Reyes NS in California comes word of a new book that "looks very good and might be of assistance to NPS field biologists. Many of the animals and diseases are widespread and hence the book's focus on the south-east is not a serious problem for the rest of us."

The book is *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States*, by William R. Davidson and Victor F. Nettles of the University of Georgia, and is available for \$10 from the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study group in the U/GA College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, GA 30602.

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Thomas L. Stohlgren (U/Cal Davis CPSU) recently published two papers titled "Litter dynamics in two Sierran mixed conifer forests I. and II" in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. The first paper, "I. Litterfall and decomposition rates" (18:1127-1135), details a 4-year study of litter dynamics in a giant sequoia-fir and fir-pine forest in Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs. The second paper, "... II. Nutrient release in decomposing leaf litter" (18:1136-1144), describes the chemical factors influencing leaf litter decomposition.

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A personal note from Bill Halvorson, research biologist at Channel Islands NP, accompanied his report (see page 23) on the organizational meeting of the new Society for Ecological Restoration and Management in Oakland, Calif., in January. "The conference," he wrote, "was exceptional in that it focused on the NPS by having park people talk about what they were doing and how *they* perceived the world of natural area management. Then they had interested outsiders talk about *their* views of how management should be done. All this was done in the context of everybody learning new restoration/rehabilitation techniques and procedures.

"It was a discussion of management right down to the grass roots, literally," Halvorson continued. "What was so refreshing to me is that the debate came down from lofty idealism to the practical and applicable. I think everyone who went with an interest in natural area management came away with a more balanced realization that there are no easy or universal answers. 'Let it be' or 'Let it burn' are not always the highest good, and neither is manipulation. What we need is more and better information, better monitoring, and more informed decisions about the state and management of our always changing resources."