



The Plateau Postcard

Spring | 2026 | Southern Colorado Plateau Network Newsletter

Southern Colorado Plateau Network: Who We Are

The Southern Colorado Plateau Network (SCPN) is one of 32 National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Networks across the country established to collect, organize, analyze, and synthesize natural resource data and information about national parks, and provide the results in a variety of formats useful to natural resource managers.

SCPN comprises 19 national park units located throughout the diverse landscapes of northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, the Diné Nation, southwestern Colorado, and southern Utah.

Most importantly, we are a community of individuals who collectively love the Colorado Plateau.

In this issue...

- Page 2 ————— «♦» —————
Plateau Update: White-nose syndrome
- Page 3 ————— «♦» —————
New fossil exhibit at Salinas Pueblo National Monument, with help from Petrified Forest National Park
- Page 4 ————— «♦» —————
A spotlight on Jodi Norris, the irreplaceable former Landscape Ecologist of SCPN

Cascading doorways in Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, New Mexico (Dean Cleaverton)

Plateau Update: White-nose Syndrome

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a devastating wildlife disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd) that primarily infects hibernating bats. The fungus spreads across the skin of the bat, especially near the face and wing areas, and disrupts the bats' resting cycle. When a bat constantly wakes up, their fat reserves deplete faster than normal. That energetic cost can often lead to death. Millions of bats have died across North America from this disease. Occasionally some bats will test positive for the Pd fungus, but do not develop WNS. This can occur when environmental conditions are not conducive to fungal growth, when the exposure is limited, or when certain bat species have behavioral, physiological, or microbial traits that limit fungus growth or disease progression.

As the disease rapidly spread across North America, much of the Colorado Plateau region and other areas in the southwestern United States were spared. It is thought that our arid environment slowed the spread of the fungus, as it thrives in the cold. Also, our bat populations are often more dispersed and have much smaller hibernation sites, versus the densely occupied caves of the eastern and central US. Unfortunately, that time has ended.

The Pd fungus has been detected at Canyonlands National Park (Needles district) in Utah, Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, and Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico. Thankfully, no cases of WNS have been found so far. It was discovered on four species, fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), Arizona myotis (*Myotis occultus*), long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), and Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).



Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) foraging over a pond, one of the bat species that tested positive for the *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* fungus on the Plateau. Photo by José G. Martínez-Fonseca (CC BY-NC)

With the arrival of the Pd fungus to our region, efforts to test for it will ramp up in the coming seasons. Things that we all can do to help slow down the spread are to follow [white-nose syndrome decontamination guidelines](#) if entering caves in our region. Also, do your homework. If Pd has been detected in an area, do not enter caves there, or if cave closures are already in place, please respect that. 🦋

Revised Bird List for Petrified Forest National Park

If you are an avid reader of the SCPN Plateau Postcard Newsletter, and we sincerely hope you are, you will know that we are a HUGE fan of the regional science journal called [Lithodendron](#), put out by the fine folks at Petrified Forest National Park. In Volume 2, our very own Southwestern Avian Ecologist Dr. Harrison Jones assisted park biologist Dylan Schneider with updating the official park bird list.

Their methods included utilizing SCPN monitoring data, both the legacy data collected from 2008-2018, and the modern monitoring efforts lead by Dr. Jones. They also incorporated historic species lists, and eBird/iNaturalist data too. And to leave no stone unturned, they even scoured through photographs of birds killed by window strikes at the visitor center.

Scaled quail.
Photo by
Greg Lasley
(CC BY-NC)



In some cases, updating bird lists for an area actually means removing species from it. One of the main problems is that historical lists (some from the 1960s and 80s) tended to list species without providing any documentation for them. So, they tried to take a more selective approach for the list, excluding species that seemed very unlikely based on historical records such as Chihuahuan Raven and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Neither of these species has ever been reported above the Mogollon Rim in historical or contemporary eBird records. For rare birds that they left on the list that previously had no documentation associated with the sighting, they made sure to find what they could through recordings and photographs.

Check out the new and improved [bird list](#), and while you are at it, check out the interesting [Lithodendron](#) article about the [birds depicted in rock art](#) within Petrified Forest by Jonathan Hardes and Steven Blythe. 🦋

New Permanent Exhibit Unveils Ancient Mammal Relative at Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

A collaboration 275 million years in the making...

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU) has a new and incredible fossil exhibit that recently went public. Discovered in 2017 by park staff, Scientist in Park intern Emily Thorpe and the then Integrated Resources Specialist Ron Fields, at the Abó Unit, this ancient creature is the first skeleton of an early varanopid, which is a synapsid reptile and early mammal relative, found in the geological layer known as the Yeso Group. As the name suggests, varanopids outwardly resemble modern day varanid or monitor lizards.

The specimen was preserved on two mirror image halves of a boulder that had cleaved in two. The sheer size and weight of the boulders presented a challenge to the park putting the find on display. Thus, the journey to bring this ancient creature to the public has been years in the making. In 2023, SAPU's Integrated Resources Program Manager, Nikki Berkebile, and Donna Deiner, a volunteer of the Friends of Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument Group transported the fossil to Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO) where paleontologists Matthew Smith, Deborah Wagner, and Adam Marsh were waiting to offload the fossil halves. They each had a hand in bringing the exhibit to life. The boulders were cut and made into manageable sizes without destroying any associated fossils within the rock, by using a water-cooled concrete saw. Next, 3D scans of each side of the fossil were made at PEFO and the files given to SAPU to create 3D prints of the fossil. Additionally, Deb and Matt pulled rapid setting polyvinylsiloxane molds of the specimen and Deb produced hand-painted powdered bronze casts to look authentically ancient and rock-like. Any wear and tear on the touchable cast will reveal a bronze interior. A bronze was mounted to the new exhibit's reader railing, while the other replicas were maintained for Interpretive programs off site from SAPU. PEFO also provided expertise in helping with custom exhibit case design, custom specimen mounts, as well as collaborating with artist Brian Engh to bring the specimen to life with stunning paleoartwork to render what the SAPU Permian era varanopid and its paleoenvironment may have looked like at Abó a whole 30 million years before the dinosaurs. SAPU is also indebted to PEFO staff for their collaboration with the text on the interpretive panels within and flanking the new exhibit case.

The Varanopid Fossil Exhibit project "between Petrified Forest and Salinas Pueblo Missions reflects what we do best in the National Park Service – working across park boundaries, combining expertise, and strengthening our stewardship through collaboration and teamwork," shared Petrified Forest Superintendent Vernon Cody.



Bottom left to right: William Torrez (SAPU Facilities Operations Specialist), Natalia Hernandez (SAPU Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services), Nikki Berkebile (SAPU Integrated Resources Program Manager), and Donna Deiner (SAPU Resources Volunteer). **Top left to right:** Matthew Smith (PEFO Museum Curator) and Keegan Bello (SAPU Archaeological Technician).

Additionally, a custom-made exhibit case was acquired to support the weight of the sandstone blocks that include the skeleton thanks to the financial support of the Friends of Salinas Pueblo Missions.

"It is rewarding to see the years of hard work from staff and volunteers finally coming to fruition... the entire process, from discovery to exhibition, brought together many different specialists and citizens across parks and communities. Their dedication has brought life to what was once extinct," shared Nikki Berkebile, Integrated Resources Program Manager for Salinas Pueblo Missions.

The surrounding community of Mountainair, New Mexico, was thrilled by the find in 2017 and it is finally making its long-awaited debut.

"We are excited to share this extraordinary fossil discovery with the public which represents years of partnership, creativity and scientific work," said Salinas Pueblo Missions Superintendent Kathy Faz Garcia. "Discovering a fossil within a national park unit is a glimpse into Earth's ancient past that connects us to millions of years of natural history, reminding us of our responsibility to protect these irreplaceable treasures for future generations." 🦎

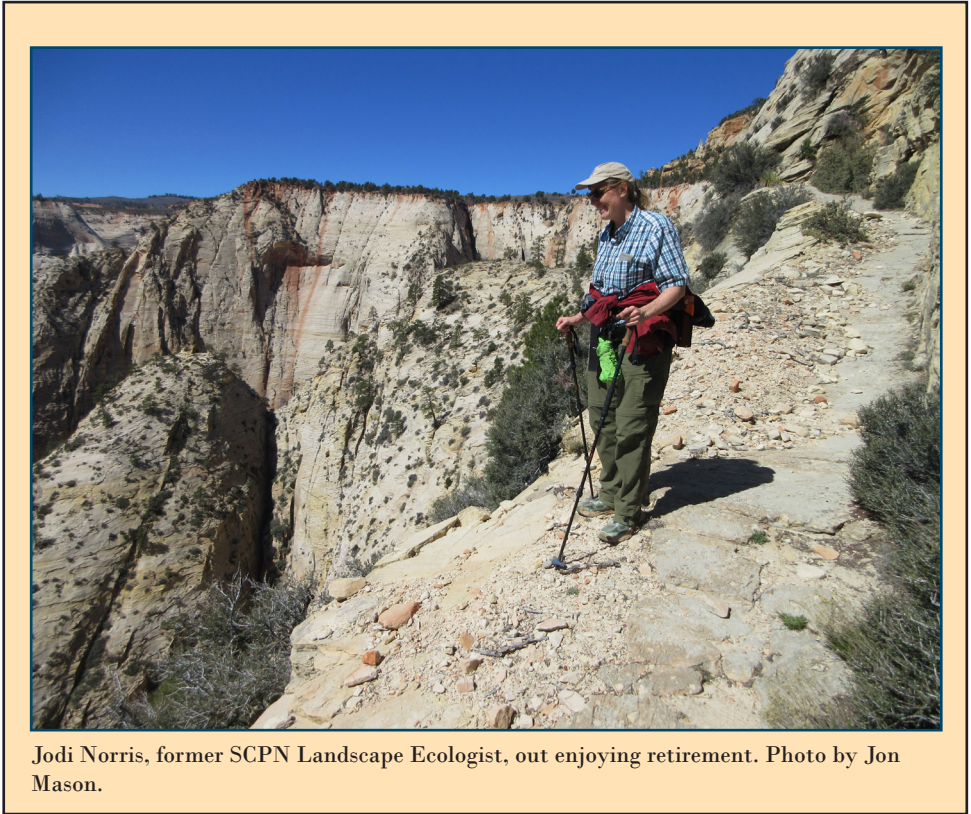
Jodi Norris - A Legacy in the Landscape

The irreplaceable SCPN Ecologist and phenology expert charts new horizons...

Interview by Christopher Calvo

As I considered how to structure my interview with Dr. Jodi Norris for this issue of The Plateau Postcard, I was reminded that she was one of the many reasons I wanted to work for the Southern Colorado Plateau Network in the first place. Not only had I followed her work for a long time, but Jodi had actually helped me along the way of my own science career, often without knowing. There are only a handful of people I have met along the way that were doing exactly what they were supposed to be doing, and Jodi Norris is one of them. Through her work, her collaborations, her deep understanding of science, and her unique way of asking the right questions, so many of us know that Plateau science has benefited a great deal by experiencing the perspective, wit, and brilliance of Jodi Norris.

(This interview took place in March 2026)



Jodi Norris, former SCPN Landscape Ecologist, out enjoying retirement. Photo by Jon Mason.

When do you recall first becoming interested in science?

There were so many examples from so many people, but the aha moment that I might want to be a part of science came in college at a six-week geology field camp in Wyoming. I was standing out on the slopes of the Wind River mountains listening to our professor explain the metamorphic rocks we were seeing. The wind was howling and it seemed pretty miserable, but he was so enthusiastic about these rocks that it made me think that I would be lucky if I had a career that I could be that excited about.

What path did you take that led to a career with the park service?

A very roundabout path! I went to college because I wanted to be a veterinarian, but double-majored in geology because there was a scholarship available in that program. I never felt particularly good at science, and my 'aha' moments were few and far between, but I loved learning about it. I spent 10 years in Wyoming working for the USGS and going to grad school at the University of Wyoming and there I gained a tremendous appreciation for the value of long-term monitoring data. While doing my grad-school work I started learning about GIS and climate and how to apply models, and that experience gave me the opportunity to join the park service as a GIS specialist.

What were some of the most valuable lessons you learned early on?

One big lesson is that the folks doing field data collection and data handling are the backbone of science. From my time at both the USGS and NPS I learned the value of high-quality natural resource data that is documented and stored safely for anyone to use – for decades and even centuries later. Coming from a geology background, I'm so interested in changes that occur through time, especially now those occurring with global change and habitat loss. Our understanding of any changes that occur through periods of time like years and decades is based the foundation on the painstaking data collection of field crews and technicians who care about doing a good job. When I started out, I was lucky to have mentors who explained why I needed to understand care about quality of the data and samples I was collecting. Later, when I started working with databases, I learned that many of the same lessons applied there for keeping the data safe, understandable, and publicly available so that the same data can be used in many different studies.

What do you value about the Colorado Plateau region?

I first visited the Colorado Plateau when I was 12 with my geologist sister and brother-in-law and was gobsmacked by the beauty.

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each.”

- Henry David Thoreau



To study phenology is to study the timing and cyclical patterns of events in the natural world, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Aspen leaves changing color with the seasons is a great representation. Photo by Jerry Kirkhart (CC BY)

I'm still amazed every day by the beauty, but what I appreciate just as much now is how obvious the interdependencies and relationships are between the rocks, plants, wildlife, climate and seasons. These interactions are so dramatic that everywhere I walk there are a hundred obvious puzzles for why something is growing/living here and not there, why at this time of year, and whether it's doing its plant or animal thing like flowering or singing more exuberantly this year or this week or this location and why.

Can you share a particular project or research breakthrough that you consider one of the highlights of your career?

For me, the most interesting one was threading together how shadows and snow interact to create false Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) signals in evergreen vegetation. The story was a really complicated one that involved field testing NDVI responses to shadows, realizing that there were two extensive but neglected research histories that documented false NDVI responses to both snow contamination and shadowing. Then using the wide ground swath of MODIS satellite data as a super-power instead of a weakness, because the wide swath angle and its slight east-west shift in orbit every day means that you can compare back-to-back days of data that have very different shadowing properties to test hypothesis about how shadowing and solar-sensor geometry impact NDVI.

How did collaboration with colleagues enhance your research, and what do you value most about those partnerships?

Every collaboration I've done has been a lot more work than working solo, but each time the value brought by the discussions and ideas of others have made the outcome so much better than it ever would have been if I just tried on my own. Because of these collaborations I've learned to expect that when I come into any new situation I'm going to be surprised, and my opinions are going to change as I learn new things. Initially I thought that was a bad sign of how ignorant I was, but later I realized that the process of being surprised is natural and good, and I even looked forward to the surprises. One of the more recent surprises that I really enjoyed was learning from Harry Jones' work about what I think of as counterintuitive patterns for phenology and birds, in which something like rainfall might be good for plants, but in the short-term extra rainfall in a particular year can be bad for birds' ability to feed their young. His work on molt migration was also really fascinating to think of in a phenological sense. I think with climate change there are going to be a lot of intricacies like these that can mean that our intuition or projections about the direction of change might be wrong at particular time scales or might only apply to transition periods or conversely might not apply to the transitions but instead apply only be seen after transitions are complete and a new equilibrium is achieved.

Jodi Norris interview continued...

As you enter a new chapter of life, what are some personal goals or journeys you're looking forward to pursuing?

I feel like retiring has opened up a whole world of possibilities for interests to pursue and I'm not sure yet which ones are going to stick. Some things I'm considering are doing a long, slow trip around the world, contributing to high resolution GPS benchmark surveys in the United States, contributing biological observations from remote areas on the Colorado Plateau to I-naturalist, learning Spanish, trying canyoneering, joining one of the local conservation groups, and taking some short courses on natural history and geology.

Do you plan to stay involved in science post-retirement?

Yes, I'm still working with Jess Walker on developing methods for satellite monitoring of pinyon-juniper woodlands. We've made a lot of progress with that and I'm hoping to share it with the parks in the coming months. I'm still visiting/doing maintenance at some of the park climate stations and will continue to work with the parks on that in the coming years. I'm also looking forward to small, accessory roles in park and citizen science. I'm so impressed with how many opportunities there are to help with volunteering in the parks and with the Forest Service.

What is a memory that you have from working here at SCPN that you will always take with you?

The bowling party that we had when I retired left me so moved thinking about just how much I loved and would miss each of my co-workers. They are all so amazing and smart and kind; I feel like I could pick any of them as a mentor for how to be a good person. I miss them a lot, and I hope I'll run into other wonderful people in the future, because there really are a lot of good people who care about the land. ✂



Jodi Norris, doing one of the things she loves most, experiencing the Colorado Plateau. Photo taken at Zion National Park, Utah by Jon Mason.

SCPN Voices:

Jodi Norris was an invaluable addition to SCPN. Her climate expertise, scientific chops, and careful and thoughtful nature made SCPN science better. She worked tirelessly to provide SCPN parks with the information they needed to plan around changing climate including supporting and managing the climate stations (so vital to the long term climate record!), developing a phenology vital sign, and projecting soil water deficits into the future to examine ecosystem sensitivities. She was especially knowledgeable about pinyon-juniper systems, working to identify and find solutions for an NVDI issue caused by winter reflectance and organizing the SCPN pinyon juniper working group. She is greatly missed by her colleagues at SCPN!

- Megan Swan

Jodi is an outstanding scientist. Her commitment to scientific integrity and cross-discipline collaboration was a model for us all and served to the benefit of SCPN. Never satisfied with "good-enough" she would pursue questions, uncertainties and problems with dogged determination. Intelligent, hardworking, and kind - SCPN is the worse for her absence.

- Cindy Parker

Among her many talents, Jodi set the gold standard for collaboration, thoughtful care and fostering of strong SCPN partnerships and park relations. I think often this rich contribution was made quietly behind the scenes and gradually, and it can't easily be measured, however her work throughout her tenure at SCPN has a quality that reflects this commitment and skill. She built SCPN community!

- Mary Anne Schrade

Get to Know the Plateau

Species spotlights for our unique and diverse region. Want to help?

The Get to Know the Plateau effort is an ongoing series of web articles and printable briefs put out by the Southern Colorado Plateau Network that provide biological and conservation information on regional species and habitats of the Colorado Plateau. Many of the species chosen are rare, some are endemic, some are recognized tribally and/or federally as threatened or endangered, and some are considered common but are integral and iconic to our lands. And for this effort to succeed, we need YOUR help!

The goals for this navigate in two directions, one is to provide important educational content about regional species that deserve more recognition, and the other is to provide an opportunity for scientists, interpreters, students, and park staff to communicate information on a national level.

The basic Get to Know the Plateau format follows in the outline of Habitat and Ecology, Description, Conservation Status and Threats, Related/Similar Species (if any), Of Note (interesting tidbits), and References. All should be short and to-the-point paragraphs so that they can fit into a one-page printable version ([example](#)). The one-page format is by no means a fixed rule, as some species have more than enough information available for two or more pages if the writer chooses.

There are a couple caveats to this effort. One is that there might not even be enough information on some of these species to research and compile. For example, some of these species are thought to only exist in one very tiny area. The other is that there might not be a usable photograph of the species. We can cross those bridges as they come.

Grand Canyon Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus abyssus*)
Photo by RatioTile (CC BY-SA)





Southern Colorado Plateau Network
Inventory and Monitoring Program



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

GET TO KNOW THE PLATEAU

Cinder Phacelia

Phacelia serrata

Habitat & Ecology

Choosing a very specific substrate and location to survive, cinder phacelia thrives in exposed sunny locations where the soil consists of deep volcanic cinders. Habitat can also include ponderosa pines and pinyon-juniper and tends to be at elevations ranging from 5,200 to 8,000 feet. There are only two known areas where cinder phacelia grows, the San Francisco Volcanic Field in northern Arizona, including Sunset Crater National Monument, and Zuni Bandera Volcanic Field in New Mexico, including El Malpais National Monument. Roughly 200 miles exists between these two locales, and more surveys should take place to determine if this plant might be in other locations.

Description

Phacelia serrata is in the Boraginaceae family, and the subfamily of Waterleaf or Hydrophyllaceae. It is an annual, growing about 4"-14" tall. The leaves are a serrate lanceolate shape with a basal base. A distinguishing feature are the multicellular glandular hairs that can get quite sticky on the stems. Attractive petite blueish to light violet flowers in a bell like formation develop in coils similar to the tail of a scorpion, hence the common name for many Phacelia plants, scorpionweed. The corolla itself has five petals. Cinder phacelia blooms between July-October.

Conservation Status and Threats

According to the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council's Rare Plant Scorecard, Phacelia serrata is "Under Conserved". Natural Heritage New Mexico lists it as an 'S2' species, meaning it is imperiled. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department classify it as a Species of Concern. The Bureau of Land Management has placed it under its Watch status.



C. Griffing/NPS

Rare and Endemic Plant



NPS

Known threats to this species are cinder quarrying, but populations have been shown to recover once quarries are abandoned.

Related Species

A relative and look-alike, Phacelia integrifolia, grows throughout the region, often in cinder substrate as well. This species also has a different bloom cycle that can begin as early as April.

Of Note

As botany is always full of imagination and purpose, Phacelia's genus produces nectar at the base of the flower's corolla, where the nectar is protected by tiny flaps. The pollinator has to struggle past these flaps to make its way to the desired food source, causing pollen to cover its whole body, which it then transfers to the next plant it travels to.

References

Springer, Judith, Mark L. Daniels, and Marie Nazaire. 2009. Field Guide to Forest and Mountain Plants of Northern Arizona, page 386.
Carter, Jack, Martha Carter, and Donna J. Stevens. 2009. Common Southwestern Native Plants, pg 227.

Prepared by Ashley Doyle

Cinder Phacelia (*Phacelia serrata*) is a great example of an endemic species on the Colorado Plateau.

This whole project is intentionally designed to be something fun and worthwhile that can be done by people who desire to get involved in science communication. If that is you, then we truly can't wait to help get your words out there to the public. We have compiled a vast list of species that may be considered for this project, but by no means should that stop you from choosing a species you are passionate about and think deserves a spotlight. From lichens to birds, forbs to bees, cactus to bats, and mushrooms to shrimp (yes, we have shrimp on the Plateau!) there's a species for you to spotlight.

Appreciate you taking the time to read about this, feel free to share this opportunity with someone you know that would be interested as well. E-mail me anytime to get a species list and to get started:

christopher_calvo@nps.gov 

Inventory and Monitoring Division Awards 2025-2026



Drumroll please! SCPN Staff pictured left to right: Mary Anne Schrade, Christopher Calvo, and Megan Swan.

Photo by: Cindy Parker

Every year the Inventory and Monitoring Division (IMD) celebrates colleagues that truly excel at their position. The IMD awards help us acknowledge successes, share innovative contributions, celebrate outstanding efforts, and encourage wider adoption of effective practices.

For the 2025 and 2026 award years, we at SCPN are proud to announce that three of our colleagues have won!

Megan Swan, the spectacular SCPN Botanist, won the 2026 award for Excellence in Partnership and Collaboration. Part of her nomination notes that she won because she “has transformed the way long-term ecological monitoring data is gathered, interpreted, and applied. What began as a focused effort to strengthen field partnerships has evolved into a critical operational bridge between SCPN’s upland vegetation monitoring crew and the Grand Canyon Fire Effects staff. Working side by side at strategically selected monitoring plots throughout Grand Canyon National Park and Walnut Canyon National Monument in northern Arizona, the teams integrate their complementary expertise to build a more comprehensive and actionable understanding of forest and woodland conditions across the region.”

Next up is the incredible Mary Anne Schrade who works for both SCPN and the Northern Colorado Plateau Network as the Management Support Specialist. Mary Anne won the 2026 Excellence in Operations and Administrations award. Her nomination reasons are way too long to list and could honestly fill up this entire newsletter! Suffice to say, this past year and a half have been incredibly difficult for everybody, but Mary Anne met all challenges, and there were many. As part of the nomination states “Not only did she effectively navigate these hurdles, but she excelled at them.”

Finally, Christopher Calvo won the 2025 award for Excellence in Science Communication. The nomination says “Chris translated his unique experience in radio broadcasting and writing into a comprehensive program of science communication unlike any other in the division, with a particularly strong focus on public outreach.

We collectively want to say that being surrounded by every single amazing person who is not only part of IMD, but part of all the parks and monuments we proudly work for, is what drives, motivates, and truly inspires us to do the best we can do. 🦋

Southern Colorado Plateau Network Science Round-Up

Pinyon-juniper specialist birds are resilient to local-scale reduction of canopy cover and pinyon pines, but amount of understory shrub cover determines the composition of the insectivore guild - By H. Jones, B Merriell, M. Swan, M. Johnson and R. Siegel - [Journal Article](#) or [SCPN Brief](#)

Long-term trend in the Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Community of the Mancos River at Mesa Verde National Park - By S. Stumpf and L. Ploughe - [Report](#) - [Web Article](#) - [SCPN Brief](#)

Vegetation trends in pinyon-juniper woodlands in Southern Colorado Plateau Network parks - By M. Swan - [Report](#) - [Web Article](#) - [SCPN Brief](#)

Trends in satellite-derived phenology in grasslands and shrublands of Southern Colorado Plateau Network parks - By J. Norris - [Report](#)

Semi-arid plant communities of the southern Colorado Plateau in relation to regional climate context and local topographic conditions: comparing species abundance patterns across a network of sites to identify climate-driven vulnerabilities and inform hypotheses about future composition shifts - By L. Thomas - [Report](#)

Shifts in suitability of pinyon-juniper communities: A climate adaptation framework for range-wide management of arid woodland resources - By A. Noel, D. Schlaepfer, I. Barrett, M. Duniway, J. Norris, C. Domschke, B. Butterfield, M. Swan, K. Hartwig, M. Crist and J. Bradford - [Journal Article](#)

Determining bat presence and activity in Petroglyph National Monument to inform visitor management - By M. St. Germain, E. Johnston, and C. Diggins. [Report \(restricted\)](#) - [Web Article](#) - [SCPN Brief](#)

Most Pinyon-Juniper woodland species distributions are projected to shrink rather than shift under climate change - By A. Noel, D. Schlaepfer, B. Butterfield, M. Swan, J. Norris, K. Hartwig, M. Duniway and J. Bradford [Journal Article](#)

If you're rare, should I care? How imperfect detection changes relationships between biodiversity and global change drivers - By A. Miller-Tur Kuile, A. Bui, A. Apigo, S. Lamm, M. Swan, J. S. Sanderlin and K. Ogle [Journal Article](#)

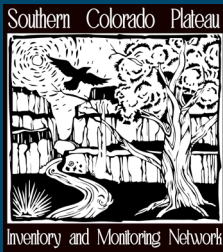
Changes to vegetation structure and tree species composition drive bird species turnover following disturbance in southwestern United States mixed-conifer forest - By H. Jones, B Merriell, M. Swan, M. Johnson and R. Siegel - [Journal Article](#) 

The bluff at El Morro National Monument
(Domencio Convertini/CC BY-SA)



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“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run,
then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But
whatever you do, you have to keep moving
forward.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

Newsletter designed and written by
Christopher Calvo (unless noted)

2026 SCPN Field Schedule

Water Quality										
Apr GRCA	May BAND/CACH	Jun GLCA	Jul GRCA	Aug BAND	Sep GLCA/CACH	Oct BAND/GRCA	Nov CACH	Dec GLCA		
Aquatic Macroinvertebrates										
Apr GRCA			Sep CACH			Oct BAND/GRCA				
Groundwater/Surface Water										
Apr WACA	May CACH/ELMO/SAPU	Jun CHCU/WUPA	Aug CHCU/ELMO/SAPU	Sep CACH/WUPA	Nov WACA/CHCU/ELMO/SAPU/CACH			Dec WUPA		
Upland Vegetation and Soil										
May GLCA	Jun GLCA/WACA	Jul GRCA/MEVE	Aug MEVE/WUPA	Sep BAND/WUPA	Oct AZRU/CHCU/PEFO	Nov PETR				
Birds										
Apr WUPA			May PEFO/CACH/GRCA			Jun MEVE/BAND/GRCA				

If any park staff would like to join us in the field or have any questions, please reach out.

