

High school students participate in inventory and monitoring of bats in the Upper Columbia Basin Network

A group of eight high school science students was brought together for two weeks in July 2004 to study bats in three national monuments in the Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN) of the Pacific West Region. The team was organized through collaboration between the network and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, in Portland. The team divided its time between the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (Oregon), Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Idaho), and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (Idaho). It succeeded in making a significant contribution to the network's inventory and monitoring program and clearly demonstrated that the "tent- and van-" based high school research team model can and should be used in future network inventory and monitoring projects. As UCBN coordinator Lisa Garrett recently remarked, "That science students can have an unparalleled hands-on educational experience and at the same time make real contributions of data and recommendations to NPS resource professionals is really exciting for us."

Students, some of whom traveled from as far away as Texas and Illinois to participate, were trained in the various methods and life history topics required to study bats in the Pacific Northwest. They quickly became proficient at important research tasks, including the setup and



Two bat team students use calipers to measure the forearm length of a long-eared myotis in Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. NPS PHOTO



Oregon Museum of Science and Industry bat research team students demonstrate the Anabat bat call recording equipment to Hagerman Fossil Beds operations chief Fran Gruchy. NPS PHOTO

operation of mist nets, acoustic monitoring equipment, and the identification and measurement of captured bats. Students concluded the program by assembling a final report that was submitted to each of the monuments and the network, complete with tables and maps generated in Microsoft Excel and ArcView GIS.

Notable findings from the team's work include first-time documentation of eight species of bats in and around Hagerman Fossil Beds, including the Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western pip-

istrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*), and pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*); addition of the fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) to the Craters of the Moon inventory species list; and monitoring results from pallid bat and Townsend's big-eared bat maternity roosts in John Day Fossil Beds and Craters of the Moon. Information from the roost monitoring is being used by the network as it begins to prioritize vital signs and consider

possible protocols for vital signs monitoring.

The Upper Columbia Basin Network is planning to organize a weed and rare plant mapping research team with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in 2005.

—Tom Rodhouse, ecologist, NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network, University of Idaho; thomasr@uidaho.edu.

