



Expanding Ecology's Reach





ESA file photo

From the Executive Director

One privilege as ESA's executive director is the time I spend with members, staff and officers as they represent ESA to the larger world. The need for sound ecological science is growing as evidenced by the widening circle of those seeking to engage with us. In 2014, we broadened ESA's reach by continued support of early career ecologists, expansion of our Earth Stewardship Initiative, and preparation for a new journal launch.

President Jill Baron focused on forwarding the Earth Stewardship Initiative, especially between ecologists and the business community. Members implemented a demonstration project along the American River Parkway in Sacramento during the Annual Meeting showing the benefits of ecological science and its applications that are useful for urban designers and planners.

Our science program held its first workshop on "Sustaining Biological Infrastructure: Strategies for Success" this year. Infrastructure project directors from field stations, databases, and collections, participated to develop their budgeting, marketing, and communication business skills. Additionally, at the request of the US Department of State, the science program is leading the US outreach for experts to serve on panels and task forces for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

ESA's award-winning SEEDS program to promote diversity in the ecological field conducted a survey of its students finding that 73% are employed in an ecology-related field. In 2014, SEEDS held regional field trips, one national field trip, and a successful leadership meeting hosted by President Jill Baron. Another education and diversity program highlight includes holding the 6th annual Resources for Ecology Education – Fair and Share (REEFS) workshop for 50 educators.

Engaging early career ecologists in policy activities is one focus for the public affairs program. Each spring ESA hosts its Graduate Student Policy Award winners for a two-day event of policy training in advance of visits to Congressional delegations on Capitol Hill. The Society's blogs, podcasts, and press releases spread information about the science throughout the year. ESA's Twitter account reached over 15,000 followers in 2014, and our social media presence is growing as members increasingly use these communication outlets.

The Web of Science accepted *Ecosphere*, ESA's online-only open access journal, for inclusion. It received its first impact factor this year—ranking 51 out of 140 ecology journals. All ESA journals rank highly in the citation index and maintain their prominence as quality scientific publications. *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, a joint online-only open access publication of ESA and the Ecological Society of China, is on target to launch in 2015 and is unique as an international collaboration between two scientific societies. In 2014, we also initiated a review of our publishing program to ensure our publications remain strong.

I look forward to the Society's Centennial in 2015 as we examine our past and peer into the future of ESA and the science of ecology. ESA's dedicated membership continues to expand ecology's reach and build our solid reputation as a trusted source of ecological knowledge that advances the understanding of life on earth. The following highlights in this annual report provide an overview of the many activities and actions conducted by ESA this year in its science, education, public affairs, publications, and annual meeting programs.

Katherine S. McCarter

From the President



ESA File Photo

ESA was 99 years strong in 2013–2014. It was an honor to serve as President of this great professional society. Our dedicated staff in Washington DC and Ithaca with the many committed members who volunteer their time and effort made the job – if not easy – highly enjoyable. ESA is a tremendously effective vehicle for shaping the directions of our science, discharging our responsibility to society, and attracting the next generation of young scientists. The partnership between ESA's staff and Governing Board members move these activities forward.

Sacramento provided a vibrant backdrop for our Annual Meeting. The Earth Stewardship Initiative went mainstream at the Annual Meeting with over 34 separate events: field trips, a Business and Biodiversity roundtable, symposia, organized oral sessions, discussions, and the very visible demonstration project “Incorporating Ecological Science into Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.” The project is a partnership between ESA, Yale leader Alex Felson, corporate sponsors and local agencies that immersed students and professionals throughout the week in sustainability projects along the America River Parkway.

Last year we initiated a committee to review the current ESA professional certification program and propose updates to make the certification program robust, inclusive, and relevant to professional ecologists. Established in 1981, this is our certification program's first review. The committee, headed up by ESA Board Member Carmen Cid, will provide a comprehensive report to make ESA the flagship certification program for ecological scientists.

Revenues from publication subscriptions to members and libraries have been declining in recent years for many reasons. As immediate Past-president Scott Collins stated, “There is a revolution going on in scientific publishing.” This past year, the Board approved a strategic review of all our publications. ESA members in 2015 can expect changes to our journal publishing operations.

I hosted an amazing group of students for a SEEDS Leadership meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado on food security and food justice. The ESA SEEDS program for next generation ecologists is one of our most exciting activities and relies on donations for its continuation, so please keep it moving forward!

NEON, the National Ecological Observatory Network, is the NSF-supported ecological flagship developed to address compelling environmental issues in a time of rapid change. It will become a vital tool for all of ecology as NEON nears full operational capacity in 2016. ESA initiated discussions this past year with NEON, NSF staff and their scientific advisers with the aims of helping to train and engage the scientific community in using NEON data and also to ensure there is adequate scientific review and oversight during construction.

What do you get from being a member of the Ecological Society of America? You get the momentum of over 9,000 members working collectively to promote ecological science, education, and outreach. You get the excitement of great journals, dynamic annual meetings, and a voice that speaks for ecology and ecologists at all career stages from undergraduate through early career, to senior scientists. ESA shares its science with the executive and legislative branches of government. And next year you get a great-big Birthday Party as ESA turns 100 years old and celebrates its Centennial! Enjoy reading the annual report of our accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. S. Baron". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ESA in Action

Science Programs

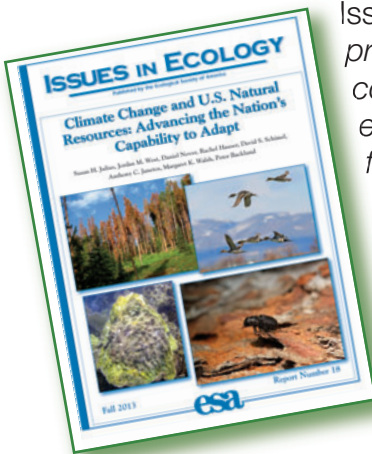
Ecology for Community

In 2014 ESA's Science Program launched the Sustaining Biological Infrastructure (SBI) training initiative with NSF support to provide project directors with the business planning, marketing, and communication skills needed to ensure their valuable resources will continue to exist for the scientific research community.

- Participants reported significant gains in their ability to access private funds, manage finances, and communicate with stakeholders.
- The course will be offered again in 2015 and 2016.



Nineteen infrastructure project directors travelled from as near as Virginia and as far as Alaska and Hawaii to attend the first "Sustaining Biological Infrastructure: Strategies for Success" course from June 10–12, 2014 near Baltimore. Participants came from a diverse group of projects which included databases, field stations, and collections.



Issues in Ecology – provides a scientific expert consensus summarizing environmental matters for non-experts. Climate Change and U.S. Natural Resources: Advancing the Nation's Capability to Adapt provides a broad perspective on approaches for adapting to climate change impacts on national water and land resources and biodiversity.

Solutions for Sustainability



IPBES was established in 2012 to strengthen the role of science in decision-making related to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. NSF awarded ESA a grant for "US Scientific Community Engagement in [IPBES]," to raise its profile among US scientists and assist the US government in soliciting nominations for experts to serve on IPBES panels and task forces.

ESA in Action

Advancing Ecological Science

For the past-twenty years, ESA's Science Programs staff has provided support for the Vegetation Classification Panel.

- The Panel developed the scientific content of the US National Vegetation Classification (USNVC).
- The USNVC **promotes** standardized assessment of vegetation, **facilitates** collaboration on inventory, mapping, and management across jurisdictional boundaries, and **provides** a common system to which users contribute and improve
- The Panel manages the USNVC peer review process ensuring a dynamic standard that can change over time
- The Panel maintains "VegBank," an open-access vegetation plot database



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ESA in Action

Education & Diversity Programs

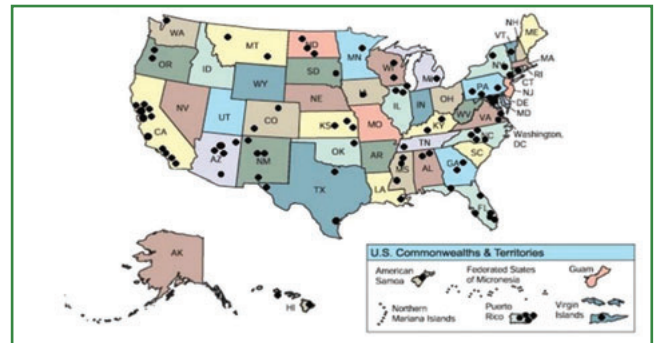


In the past year, ESA sought to solidify partnerships and facilitate the discovery of teaching resources to advance outstanding education:

- ESA's EcoEd Digital Library now holds more than 400 teaching resources.
- Over 50 faculty members participated in the 6th annual "Resources for Ecology Education – Fair and Share (REEFS)" workshop.
- Fifteen faculty members from minority-serving institutions, and NEON Inc. participated in the workshop, "Using Large Scale Datasets in the Classroom."

SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability)

SEEDS is ESA's flagship award-winning education program to diversify and advance the ecology profession through hands-on opportunities for undergraduates. The SEEDS program promotes diversity within the ecology profession to ensure environmental understanding and a sustainable future.



Our SEEDS Chapters' campus network has grown from 23 in 2002 up to 88 in 2014. ESA has received over \$2 million in grants from foundations between 2007 and 2014 and more than \$270,000 in contributions from companies, partners, friends and ESA members.

SEEDS Impact Survey Results

- 1 in 3 SEEDS alumni hold a graduate degree
- 40% of alumni are currently enrolled in graduate programs
- 80% – 90% of respondents valued all the core programs
- 95% of current students indicated that it is important to have a SEEDS program for undergraduates interested in ecology or related fields

Field Trips

Ecology field trips are immersion experiences that bring the natural world alive for the freshman and sophomore SEEDS students who are new to ecological science. Creating sparks of curiosity by trekking in the field and showing them a career path in ecology may change their lives and ours too!

Mountain Lake Regional Field Trip May 22–25, 2014:

Twelve students participated in the SEEDS Regional field trip at the Mountain Lake Biological Station (MLBS) in Virginia. This was the first time many of the students had ever visited a field station or done any ecological fieldwork.



Working with MLBS researchers and graduate students, the students learned about the forked-fungus beetle and the black-eyed juncos. Students demonstrated high interest in the interdisciplinary direction that ecology as a field is moving.

ESA in Action

Trout Lake National Field Trip, May 8–11, 2014:



ESA File Photo

Nineteen students attended the field trip held at the Trout Lake Station managed by the Center for Limnology of the University of Wisconsin in Boulder Junction. With over 2,500 lakes surrounding the station, it was the perfect location to study fresh water ecosystems.

Students were able to experience the thawing of Trout Lake after the long winter and see the start of the new season.



ESA File Photo

With the help of Dr. Tim Kratz, Director of Trout Lake Station, and Dr. Noah Lotting, Research Scientist, students were given a wide range of information about the research projects conducted there.

ESA members generously give their time and talent to the next generation of ecologists.

9th SEEDS Leadership Meeting

The Leadership Meeting was held from April 9–13 at the John Wesley Powell Center and Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, hosted by Dr. Jill Baron, ESA President. Focused on the theme, *Food Security, Food Justice: Sustaining Agricultural Abundance and Healthy Communities*, 26 students from SEEDS Chapters all across the US and Puerto Rico, including current and incoming SEEDS Undergraduate Research Fellows, took part in the four-day event.



ESA File Photo



ESA File Photo

Jill Baron, ESA President, taught and led SEEDS students during the Leadership Meeting in Fort Collins. Five workshops, a field trip of a mid-size dairy farm (La Luna), a career panel, breakout groups, and a reception with local ESA members hosted by the newly-formed CSU SEEDS Chapter and CSU College of Agricultural Sciences, rounded-out the activities.

SEEDS Undergraduate Research Fellowships 2013–2014

- Anna Ortega, Fort Lewis College; Mentor: Dr. David Inouye, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab
- Yashira Cruz, University of Puerto Rico – Humacao; Mentor: Dr. Raymond Carthy, University of Florida
- Dianne Quiroz, University of California – Berkeley; Mentor: Dr. Scott Mills, University of Montana

ESA in Action

Public Affairs

Informing Policy

Every year, ESA engages in science policy to inform environmental policy and foster support of research and STEM education through Congressional briefings, action alerts, policy newsletters, budget analysis, position statements and letters.

ESA Members Engaging in Policy

The Biological Ecological Sciences Coalition program, orchestrated by ESA and the American Institute of Biological Sciences, brought 5 ESA Graduate Student Policy Award (GSPA) winners and 24 other young scientists to Washington DC for "Congressional Visit Days." They met with staff from over 60 Congressional offices on Capitol Hill to discuss their research and advocate for sustained investment in science. The two-day event included a policy seminar with White House and federal agency staff and an overview of the federal budget process.



Left to right: Brittany West Marsden (University of Maryland), Sarah Anderson (Washington State University), Amber Childress (Colorado State University), Johanna Varner (University of Utah), and Andrew Bingham (Colorado State University) were the 2014 GSPA winners.



Architect of the Capitol



ESA File Photo

ESA was among 35 science and education organizations that participated in the 20th Annual Exhibition and Reception of the Coalition for National Science Funding on Capitol Hill in May 2014. David Inouye (right) discusses his phenology research with Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ).

Communicating Research

Scientists around the world publish their research in ecology and environmental science in ESA's scientific, peer-reviewed journals: *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Ecosphere*, and *Ecological Applications*. ESA's journal *The Bulletin* continues to provide interesting items and updates about ecological science for members. The first online-only *Frontiers* Special Issue was published in August 2013. In early 2014, ESA converted both the "Dispatches" section and "Life Lines" column to immediate open access. *Ecosphere* received its first impact factor ranking in 2014 and submissions continue to grow.

In 2015 the Ecological Society of America and the Ecological Society of China are jointly publishing a new journal entitled *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*. The journal will highlight ecological research taking place in regions of rapid economic growth and industrialization around the world.

In 2014 the Associated Press, *National Public Radio*, *National Geographic*, the *Toronto Sun*, *Time*, *Science News*, *Wired*, *Greenwire*, *The Guardian*, the *New York Times*, the *LA Times*, the *Economist*, and other outlets covered research published in the society's journals. Topics of the articles included caiman tears, sage grouse fears, declining polar bear numbers in Alaska; drought, bear, and wildfire behavior in California; the formidable predatory persistence of invasive lionfish; the climate-change fighting predations of native salamanders; and the dispersal of tide pool invertebrates by gull transport.

Besides issuing press releases, ESA highlights members' research through the Society's blog and podcasts. ESA's social media presence continues to burgeon through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Google+, and our Twitter following surpassed 15,000 this year.

ESA Journal Ranking and Impact Factors

"Ecology" Category (out of 140 journal titles)

- 5 FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (8.412)
- 8 ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS (7.107)
- 17 ECOLOGY (5.0)
- 26 ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS (4.126)
- 51 ECOSPHERE (2.595)

"Environmental Sciences" Category (out of 210 journal titles)

- 3 FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (8.412)
- 18 ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS (4.126)



Opening Channels for Two-way Communication: ESA Social Media 2014



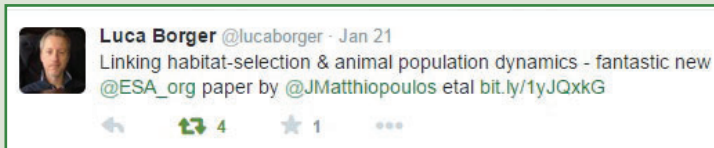
Facebook: 5,720 Likes



Twitter: 15,000 followers



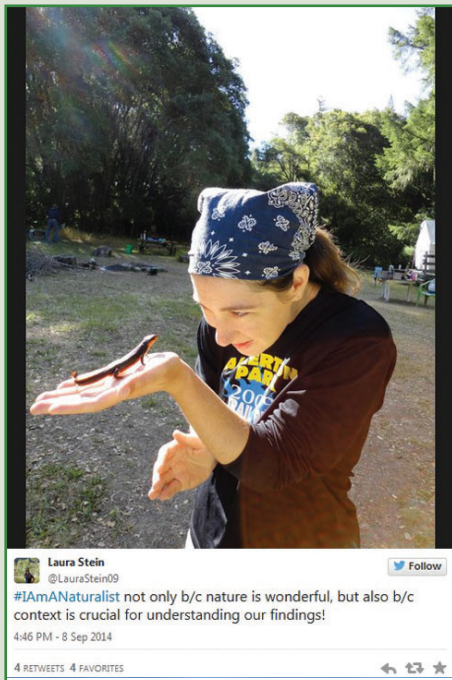
Blog: 70,000 visitors
(in 2014)



Sharing new research:
A biologist in the United Kingdom shares Jason Matthiopoulos' Ecological Monographs preprint on Twitter.



Metrics:
Altmetrics tracks online mentions of scholarly articles by DOI and citation.



Connecting:
In September 2014, ESA's Natural History section spearheaded a social media campaign to affirm the importance of natural history in modern ecology. Hundreds of ecologists, educators, practitioners, and enthusiasts proudly identified as natural historians on Twitter. The movement reached people and organizations well beyond the ESA membership, garnering participation from Smithsonian and Scientific American. The Twitter tag #IAmANaturalist is still active.

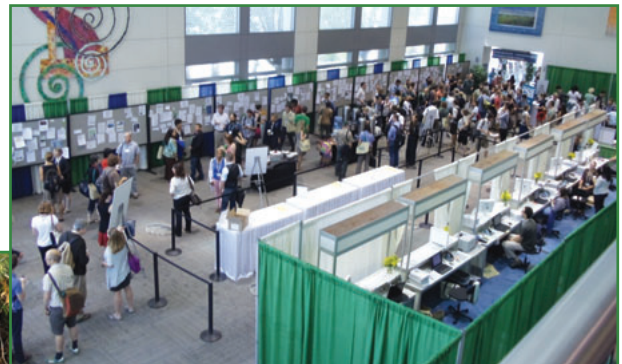
Annual Meeting

"From Oceans to Mountains: It's all Ecology"



Over 3,600 ecologists descended on Sacramento, California in August for ESA's 99th Annual Meeting. The gathering was abuzz with thousands of presentations on a wide range of topics as researchers, students, educators, resource managers and policymakers shared ideas and information. Attendees enthusiastically embraced using ESA's first meeting app.

ESA's Earth Stewardship Initiative presence remained strong with over 34 separate events capped with a demonstration project "Incorporating Ecological Science into Landscape Architecture and Urban Design." ESA donated \$18,000 as environmental offsets to the Yolo Basin Foundation which supports stewardship of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.



ESA File Photo

ESA's mingle in the registration area.

ESA File Photo



ESA members ventured out for a two-day field trip to Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park to witness and discuss the impacts and behavior of the 2013 Rim Fire as it crossed vegetation types, land ownership, and management practices.

Rushan Yen



Fellows and project managers laid out a 20-foot-by-30-foot map in the convention center to explore existing issues and opportunities for the American River Parkway.



Katherine McCarter

The Railroad Museum proved a fun spot for the ESA social with true-to-scale rail cars and preserved car interiors.



ESA File Photo

Plants on forest floor need sun too, so Chiou-Rong Sheue studies how they get their vitamins as shown in the sketch drawn during in the "Beyond the Written Word" workshop.

2014 Awards

- W.S. Cooper Award:** Scott Wing, Caroline Strömberg, Leo Hickey, Fleur Tiver, Brian Willis, Robyn Burnham, and Anna Behrensmeyer
- George Mercer Award:** Douglas Rasher and Mark Hay
- Robert T. MacArthur Award:** Mercedes Pascual
- Eugene P. Odum Education Award:** Manuel C. Molles, Jr.
- Eminent Ecologist Award:** Jane Lubchenco
- Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award:** Charles Nilon
- Sustainability Science Award:** Fikret Berkes

Finances

Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2014

Revenues

Grants & Contributions	847,181
Membership Dues	605,812
Subscriptions	2,530,093
Manuscript Charges	629,035
Annual Meeting	979,960
Investment Income	402,537
Other Revenues	379,878
Contracts	113,225

Total Revenues 6,487,721

Expenses

Public Affairs	197,193
Science Program	581,596
Annual Meeting	846,684
Chapters & Sections	45,923
Journal Publications	2,833,894
Education	406,205
Member & Administrative Services	1,266,283

Total Expenses 6,177,778

Change in Net Assets 309,943

Net Assets as of June 30, 2013	4,199,865
Net Assets as of June 30, 2014	4,509,808

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	1,433,518
Investments	4,915,045
Accounts receivable	467,135
Grants receivable	200,531
Prepaid expenses	210,768
Furniture & Equipment (less depreciation)	23,413
Deposits	24,616

Total Assets 7,275,026

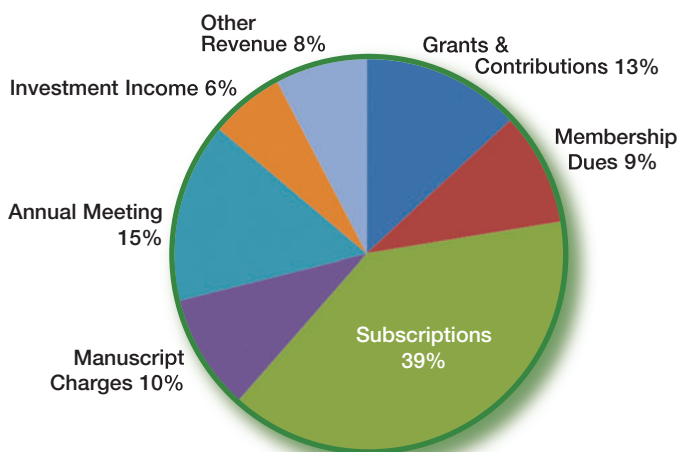
Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	235,902
Deferred revenue	2,529,316
Unrestricted Net Assets	3,221,204
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,238,604
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	50,000

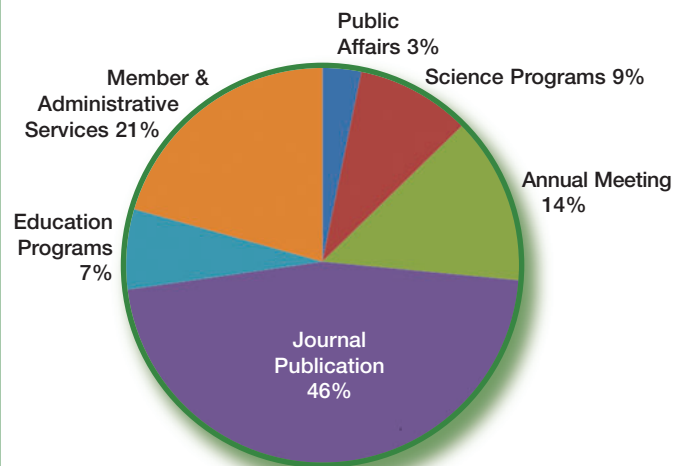
Total Liabilities and Net Assets 7,275,026

Audited by Gelman, Rosenberg, Freedman.
For a complete audit report please contact
ESA's Washington DC office.

2014 REVENUES



2014 EXPENSES



2014 Fund for the Future

ESA thanks its generous donors who help support Society initiatives. If you would like to help the Society advance the science and profession of ecology, please consider making a donation at <http://www.esa.org/esa/donate/>.

\$1000+

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\$500–999

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Department of Energy
Environmental Protection Agency

Moore Foundation
National Science Foundation
Princeton University Press
SimBio
USDA Forest Service
US Geological Survey

About the ESA

The Ecological Society of America, founded in 1915, is the world's largest professional organization of ecological scientists. ESA's 9,000 members work in academia, government and in the private sector to improve society's understanding and stewardship of life on Earth. Members' work addresses threatened and endangered species, alternative energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, emerging diseases, climate change and many other important issues.



Jill Baron, ESA president, and her team visiting Rocky Mountain National Park on Sept. 20, 2013 to collect samples after the historic Colorado floods.



Vancouver Aquarium

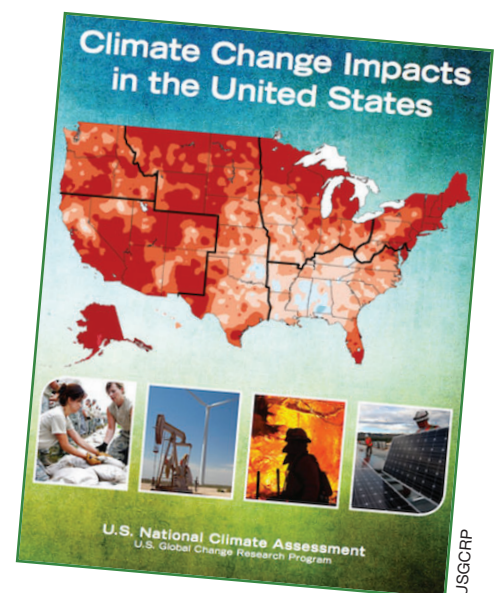
Sea otters consume sea urchins and help keep the undersea kelp forest healthy.

The Society works to broadly share ecological information through policy and media outreach, education and diversity initiatives and projects that link the ecological research and management communities and help integrate ecological science into decision-making. ESA also organizes scientific conferences and publishes high-impact journals.



Carlos de la Rosa

A Julia butterfly and a solitary bee sip tears from the eyes of spectacled caiman on Costa Rica's Puerto Viejo River.



Over 50 ecologists contributed to The National Climate Assessment released in 2014 that links science and decision making.

ESA Governing Board & Staff

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Cover photograph:

Student member Johanna Varner hikes on a peak in the Salt Lake City Wasatch. Credit: Liz Pederson; Graduate Student Policy Award winners meet on the Capitol steps in Washington, DC. Credit: Alison Mize; Members hike in Stanislaus National Forest. Credit: Ryan Danby; Members converse in Sacramento at the Annual Meeting. Credit: Katherine McCarter

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