Engaging Volunteers and Visitors in Tracking Environmental Change Using Phenology

Training Description
Plant and animal seasonal events, such as flowering, bird migration, and insect emergence, are easy to observe and can tell us a lot about environmental change. In this webinar, you will learn how to document the timing of these life cycle events, called phenology, through the USA National Phenology Network's *Nature's Notebook* program. The USA-NPN's Outreach Coordinator and Liaison to the USFWS Erin Posthumus will provide instructions on how to plan a phenology program that can engage volunteers and visitors and provide data that can be used for management. She will also share further opportunities from the USA-NPN for in-depth training on how to plan and implement a long-term phenology monitoring program as well as other phenology tools that are available to you to help you understand the impact of climate change on your refuge.

Objectives
Upon completion of this training, you will be able to:
- Recognize the ways that phenology data collection can both engage volunteers and document changes in plant and animal activity;
- Become familiar with the infrastructure of the USA National Phenology Network's *Nature's Notebook* program;
- Describe the options for enrolling in an online course or undertaking self-learning to create a phenology monitoring program.

Photo: Two observers with plants - credit: Brian F. Powell

Date
Thursday, May 21, 2020
2 pm EDT/1 pm CDT.
*Please register for this webinar.*

Location
Online webinar via Webex.

Who Should Attend
Anyone who needs information about plant and animal life cycle events and doesn’t have the staff time or resources to collect the data. Anyone who is developing or enhancing a citizen science program for educational and/or natural resource decision-making purposes.

Length
60 minutes

Tuition
None

To Register
https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb6846c7fc9aff0d2ed4e0628f9d8bff9

Contact
Blaine Eckberg by email,
blaine_eckberg@fws.gov

Reasonable Accommodation
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this training for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Blaine Eckberg by email,
blaine_eckberg@fws.gov or TTY 800-877-8339 by close of business Thursday, May 14, 2020.

Phenology is nature’s calendar—when cherry trees bloom, when a robin builds its nest and when leaves turn color in the fall.