

## Brown's Canyon National Monument Bioblitz and Biotech

The Lois Webster Fund provided approximately 8 days of a seasonal biological technician's time to monitor raptors within Brown's Canyon National Monument and \$500 to provide a dinner during the June Browns Canyon National Monument Bioblitz, helping feed over 70 participants.

Biological Technician, Rosemary Schiano conducted raptor surveys and began monitoring known sites in Brown's Canyon National Monument beginning in March, 2016. Surveys were conducted through Stafford Gulch and Railroad (RR) Gulch for cliff nesting raptors. The known Peregrine Falcon territory in RR Gulch pair was present at the nest location. A later visit in July confirmed that the nest had successfully fledged this season. The historic Prairie Falcon nest ledge locations in RR Gulch were unoccupied.

Breeding Bird Surveys during the Bioblitz were conducted across most trails and roads throughout the Monument. Results show 96 bird species were documented within the Monument with unique finds of Gray Catbird and Black-chinned hummingbird, among others. Mexican spotted owl surveys were conducted, but none were found. Approximately 70 volunteers participated in the Bioblitz and enjoyed the meal provided by funding from the Lois Webster Grant. THANK YOU!

**Photos: USFS Camp Cooks Sara Mayben, Angela Safranek and Lisa Maestas feeding the hungry volunteers**



In mid-June thru early July, Schiano's surveys found a Coopers hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk and Red-tailed hawk. Northern goshawk surveys were completed resulting in negative finds. Visual surveys of cliff and tree nesting raptors in Spring and Cottonwood Gulches were conducted. No Golden eagle nests or Prairie falcon nests have been located in these areas to date. Schiano surveyed cliffs behind the Reef in Stafford and RR Gulch area. Nest ledges that were south facing are completely vacant but a new Golden Eagle nest location was found in Ponderosa Pine outside the boundary of the Monument near Ruby Mountain. Schiano visited RR Gulch Peregrine Falcon nest ledge and the falcons appeared to have fledged. There has been an increase of periods of very hot dry weather in summer recently. Schiano has

observed a change in nesting behavior in cliff nesting raptors in certain areas. Further observation and study will be required to understand these changes.

Thank you for your support of the Browns Canyon Bioblitz and Biotech! So much data has been collected and will be utilized in the management of the Monument into the future.

Stephanie Shively - 11/7/16

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