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Field Research Stations

Columbia Environmental Research Center

The Field Station Research Branch, of the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC), specializes in ecological and toxicological research and monitoring that is critical to the nation's natural resource issues in the Great Plains, Intermountain West, and Texas/Texas Gulf Coast regions.

Scientific expertise includes marine ecotoxicology, sediment toxicology, wildlife ecology, grassland bird ecology, assessment of organic and inorganic contaminant effects in native western fishes, Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR), agricultural drainwater evaluation, and assessment of endangered, native, and invasive fish species.

Capabilities include both laboratory and on-site field research. CERC field stations conduct science in partnership with numerous federal, state, local, university, international, and non-governmental cooperators.

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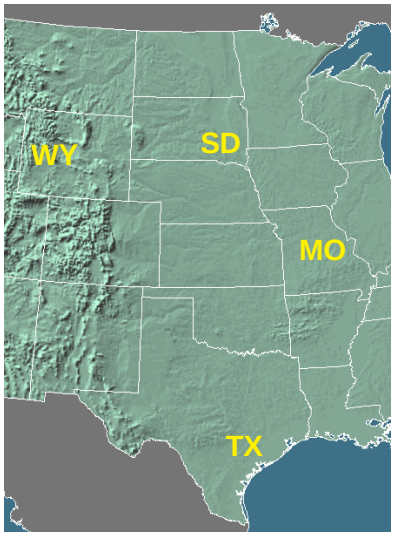

http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/frs_webs/

Great Plains

Yankton Field Research Station

http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/frs_webs/yankton/

The Yankton Field Research Station investigates concerns associated with agricultural, industrial, and petroleum point and non-point contaminants, and how these contaminants affect fish and wildlife resources.

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Intermountain West

Jackson Field Research Station

http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/frs_webs/jackson/

The Jackson Field Research Station examines the influences of mining operations, energy exploration, energy development and production, acid deposition, and metals on fisheries and aquatic ecosystem health. Technical assistance and research support are provided to other Department of the Interior agencies, and states, in Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR). Salmonid fisheries in the intermountain West and Alaska, and alpine lakes and streams in the Rocky Mountains are major resources of concern.

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Texas/Texas Gulf Coast

Texas Gulf Coast Field Research Station

http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/frs_webs/gulf_coast/

The Texas Gulf Coast Field Research Station (TGCFRS) has studied the ecology, distribution, and habitats of birds in south Texas since 1987, conducting research projects in some of the most unusual and harsh environments in the U.S. Research focuses on redheads and the Laguna Madre, Rio Grande breeding bird surveys, grassland birds in coastal prairies, and burrowing owls wintering in south Texas.

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Marine Ecotoxicology Research Station

http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/frs_webs/marine/

The Marine Ecotoxicology Research Station (MERS) laboratory is fully equipped for conducting a wide variety of marine toxicity tests with aqueous samples and sediments. MERS primary research focus is the development and evaluation of methods for assessing the quality of marine and estuarine sediments. Some recent projects include:

- Developing a toxicity database for marine organisms with ordnance compounds (explosives and their degradation products)
- Conducting toxicity identification evaluation (TIE) studies at U.S. Navy facilities in the Pacific Northwest
- Conducting sediment quality assessments and overall condition of U.S. coastal bays.
- Assessing the effects of mining-related activities
- Evaluating the potential effects of African dust on Caribbean marine ecosystems

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