

## **SBSC Weekly Highlights, October 9, 2007**

**USGS Scientist Presents Lecture at Petrified Forest National Park:** Southwest Biological Science Center ecologist Kathryn Thomas presented to the park's ongoing Learning Center Lecture Series on October 3, 2007. Her presentation, "The Vegetation of Petrified Forest National Park," provided park staff and interested public an overview of the plant communities of the park. She summarized findings from the nearly complete four-year effort to map and characterize the plant communities of the park. Findings from a park flora, updated in 2005 by a vegetation team led by Thomas, and a recently completed invasive plant survey, also led by Thomas, were also summarized. (Kathryn Thomas, Tucson, 520-670-5534)

**USGS Ecologist Assists National Park Service Sonoran Desert Network in Project Scoping:** Southwest Biological Science Center scientist Kathryn Thomas assisted the Sonoran Desert Network staff with their inaugural meeting initiating vegetation mapping projects in the networks 10 units. On September 27, 2007, they met with resource managers to scope vegetation mapping work at Fort Bowie National Historical Site, Coronado National Monument, and Chiricahua National Monument. Thomas will provide technical advice to the park during this start-up-year based on her previous experience of park mapping in six national parks in Arizona. All 10 park units will be mapped as part of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring program. (Kathryn Thomas, Tucson, 520-670-5534)