Name of principal investigator:
Name: Roger Bales  Phone: 209-724-4348  Email: rbales@ucmerced.edu

Name of institution represented:
University of California, Merced

Co-Investigators:
Name: Robert Rice  Phone: 209-228-4397  Email: rrice@ucmerced.edu

Project title:
Spatial properties of snowcover

Purpose of study:
The purpose of this project is to develop strategies to accurately measure and model water and carbon fluxes in forested areas across the rain-snow transition and extending to the tree-line using a blend of remotely sensed and ground-based information. This will result in more-accurate estimates of snowpack, snowmelt and the partitioning of snowmelt into runoff, infiltration and evapotranspiration, plus the interaction of the water cycle with bi-directional fluxes of carbon between forests and the atmosphere. Our basic hypothesis is that strategically placed instrument clusters, designed to compliment satellite remote sensing information, provide the basis for more accurately and efficiently measuring and scaling water balance components, and hence basin-scale fluxes, than does an approach that relies on widely distributed snowpack and weather-station point measurements of the type now available. A corollary to this is that water balance estimates provided by the measurement system will improve forecasts of snowmelt runoff and other water balance components using emerging hydrologic models, and hence provide a more-accurate projection of mountain water supply and the timing of its runoff. It is expected that this new information will also provide significantly improved indices that will enable better management of forest and aquatic habitats, as water storage amounts and fluxes provide important indicators of how the systems can and do respond to climate variability and change.

Subject/Discipline:
Water Quality

Locations authorized:
Tioga Pass Road (Hwy 120) within 200 feet of the road between Merced Grove and Tioga Pass. Specifically, Gin Flat (37.765 degrees N and 119.773 degrees W), Quarry (37.811 degrees N and 119.509 degrees W), Smokey Jack (37.816 degrees N and 119.713 degrees W), and Merced Grove (37.764 degrees N and 119.843 degrees W).

Instruments will be deployed in a 1-km2 area around the central point. In addition, an instrument will be deployed in Moss Creek where it crosses the Big Oak Flat Road (37.779 degrees and 119.833 degrees W, 1765 m elevation). Vegetation in the Moss Creek Drainage is classified by Yosemite National Park as White Fir-Incense Cedar-Sugar Pine Super association. The forest near Doghouse Meadow also includes a Jeffery Pine-White Fir and White Fir-Sugar Pine association, plus some White Fir Super association, and Red Fir-White Fir association.

Transportation method to research site(s):
By car when road is open. By skis when road is closed.

Collection of the following specimens or materials, quantities, and any limitations on collecting:

n/a
Name of repository for specimens or sample materials if applicable:
Repository type: Will be destroyed through analysis or discarded after analysis
Objects collected:
Snow samples for isotopes and chemistry

Specific conditions or restrictions (also see attached conditions):

Park contact is Jim Roche 209-379-1446

This permit is valid thru December 2013. Park entrance fees are waived while conducting the research. Each member of the investigator's team (i.e. field crews) must carry a copy of this permit and NPS conditions at all times while conducting the research and show to park staff when requested.

This permit is valid as a wilderness use permit, if research needs to be conducted in the Yosemite Wilderness. Researcher agrees to comply with all park regulations. Researcher agrees to NPS General Conditions for Scientific Research and Collecting Permit, Superintendent's Order: Flagging and Temporary Demarcation Guidance, and Warning: Disease Threat (Equipment Decontamination Protocol for Researchers Working in Yosemite National Park.) (attached). Researcher agrees to NPS, Yosemite National Park, Wilderness Use Permit guidelines. A Minimum Requirement Analysis document (if required) for research in Yosemite's Wilderness is on file in the individual researcher's hard file of the Research Permit Coordinator's office in Resources Management and Science.

Researcher must submit an Investigators Annual Report at the end of each permit year through the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS) website. In this case, the researcher needs to submit a report for 2013.

This permit is only valid until December 31, 2013. The researcher will need to apply for a renewal permit early in 2014 (January or February), if wanting to continue the study as it is NOT automatic. This is submitted in the RPRS website by following the links under the heading. Submit applications for research permits. After typing in your last name, the website finds all of your permits in all NPS units. You can find your Yosemite permit and click on the link, Apply for permission to continue this study at this park (a renewal request).

Yosemite requires that you have both your IAR and renewal application in the website before your application for the New Year can be reviewed. Please also note: Before your permit will be issued, any Repository Agreement for Collected Specimens (included as appendix pages in the final application sent to you after your application submittal by the RPRS website) must be signed by the responsible official at the repository institution and faxed in to Mitzi Thornley (209) 379-1131.

Researcher will NOT collect special status plants or animals.

DRIVING ON RESTRICTED-USE ROADS IS NOT ALLOWED.

Cultural Resources in Yosemite are protected by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470). Archaeological resources in the park are also protected and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470aa), which carries criminal and civil penalties for removing or damaging archaeological resources. The Permittee shall provide adequate supervision of its employees, clients, and team members to ensure that the park's historical and archeological resources are not disturbed. The Permittee is responsible for informing its employees, clients, and team members of park regulations.

Any ground disturbance must be cleared with the Chief, Resources Mgmt. and Science.

Researcher will send two (2) copies of the final report and one copy of all documentation including data, maps, photos, reports and publications to the Yosemite Museum. Miriam Luchans, Museum Registrar, is the contact at 209-372-0281.

Researcher is required to send to Yosemite National Park Resources Management and Science Division all relevant
spatial data that was collected within the park. The preferred format for the data is ESRI Arc (vector or grid), either shapefiles, coverages, geodatabases, or grids. It is also preferable to have the data projected in UTM zone 11 North, North American Datum 1983. Digital data must also include a full metadata file that describes the data, including spatial reference system, contact information, abstract of data collection and purpose, information on the data itself, and all other relevant information. Metadata should adhere to the Federal Geographic Data Committee standard.

Researcher or park staff can contact the Yosemite Research Permit Coordinator, Mitzi Thornley (209) 379-1060 if there are any questions.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

For SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLECTING PERMIT

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

1. Authority - The permittee is granted privileges covered under this permit subject to the supervision of the superintendent or a designee, and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the National Park System area and other federal and state laws. A National Park Service (NPS) representative may accompany the permittee in the field to ensure compliance with regulations.

2. Responsibility - The permittee is responsible for ensuring that all persons working on the project adhere to permit conditions and applicable NPS regulations.

3. False information - The permittee is prohibited from giving false information that is used to issue this permit. To do so will be considered a breach of conditions and be grounds for revocation of this permit and other applicable penalties.

4. Assignment - This permit may not be transferred or assigned. Additional investigators and field assistants are to be coordinated by the permittee or the person(s) named in the permit and should carry a copy of the permit while they are working in the park. The principal investigator shall notify the park's Research and Collecting Permit Office when there are desired changes in the approved study protocols or methods, changes in the affiliation or status of the principal investigator, or modification of the name of any project member.

5. Revocation - This permit may be terminated for breach of any condition. The permittee may consult with the appropriate NPS Regional Science Advisor to clarify issues resulting in a revoked permit and the potential for reinstatement by the park superintendent or a designee.

6. Collection of specimens (including materials) - No specimens (including materials) may be collected unless authorized on the Scientific Research and Collecting permit.

The general conditions for specimen collections are:

â Collection of archeological materials without a valid Federal Archeology Permit is prohibited.

â Collection of federally listed threatened or endangered species without a valid U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species permit is prohibited.

â Collection methods shall not attract undue attention or cause unapproved damage, depletion, or disturbance to the environment and other park resources, such as historic sites.

â New specimens must be reported to the NPS annually or more frequently if required by the park issuing the permit. Minimum information for annual reporting includes specimen classification, number of specimens collected, location collected, specimen status (e.g., herbarium sheet, preserved in alcohol/formalin, tanned and mounted, dried and boxed, etc.), and current location.

â Collected specimens that are not consumed in analysis or discarded after scientific analysis remain federal property. The NPS reserves the right to designate the repositories of all specimens removed from the park and to approve or restrict reassignment of specimens from one repository to another. Because specimens are Federal property, they shall not be destroyed or discarded without prior NPS authorization.

â Each specimen (or groups of specimens labeled as a group) that is retained permanently must bear NPS labels and must be accessioned and cataloged in the NPS National Catalog. Unless exempted by additional park-specific stipulations, the permittee will complete the labels and catalog records and will provide accession information. It is the permittee's responsibility to contact the park for cataloging instructions and specimen labels as well as instructions on repository designation for the specimens.

â Collected specimens may be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and shall be dedicated to public benefit and be accessible to the public in accordance with NPS policies and procedures.
Any specimens collected under this permit, any components of any specimens (including but not limited to natural organisms, enzymes or other bioactive molecules, genetic materials, or seeds), and research results derived from collected specimens are to be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and may not be used for commercial or other revenue-generating purposes unless the permittee has entered into a Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA) or other approved benefit-sharing agreement with the NPS. The sale of collected research specimens or other unauthorized transfers to third parties is prohibited. Furthermore, if the permittee sells or otherwise transfers collected specimens, any components thereof, or any products or research results developed from such specimens or their components without a CRADA or other approved benefit-sharing agreement with NPS, permittee will pay the NPS a royalty rate of twenty percent (20%) of gross revenue from such sales or other revenues. In addition to such royalty, the NPS may seek other damages to which the NPS may be entitled including but not limited to injunctive relief against the permittee.

7. Reports - The permittee is required to submit an Investigator(s) Annual Report and copies of final reports, publications, and other materials resulting from the study. Instructions for how and when to submit an annual report will be provided by NPS staff. Park research coordinators will analyze study proposals to determine whether copies of field notes, databases, maps, photos, and/or other materials may also be requested. The permittee is responsible for the content of reports and data provided to the National Park Service.

8. Confidentiality - The permittee agrees to keep the specific location of sensitive park resources confidential. Sensitive resources include threatened species, endangered species, and rare species, archeological sites, caves, fossil sites, minerals, commercially valuable resources, and sacred ceremonial sites.

9. Methods of travel - Travel within the park is restricted to only those methods that are available to the general public unless otherwise specified in additional stipulations associated with this permit.

10. Other permits - The permittee must obtain all other required permit(s) to conduct the specified project.

11. Insurance - If liability insurance is required by the NPS for this project, then documentation must be provided that it has been obtained and is current in all respects before this permit is considered valid.

12. Mechanized equipment - No use of mechanized equipment in designated, proposed, or potential wilderness areas is allowed unless authorized by the superintendent or a designee in additional specific conditions associated with this permit.

13. NPS participation - The permittee should not anticipate assistance from the NPS unless specific arrangements are made and documented in either an additional stipulation attached to this permit or in other separate written agreements.

14. Permanent markers and field equipment - The permittee is required to remove all markers or equipment from the field after the completion of the study or prior to the expiration date of this permit. The superintendent or a designee may modify this requirement through additional park specific conditions that may be attached to this permit. Additional conditions regarding the positioning and identification of markers and field equipment may be issued by staff at individual parks.

15. Access to park and restricted areas - Approval for any activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas is allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit.

16. Notification - The permittee is required to contact the park’s Research and Collecting Permit Office (or other offices if indicated in the stipulations associated with this permit) prior to initiating any fieldwork authorized by this permit. Ideally, this contact should occur at least one week prior to the initial visit to the park.

17. Expiration date - Permits expire on the date listed. Nothing in this permit shall be construed as granting any exclusive research privileges or automatic right to continue, extend, or renew this or any other line of research under new permit(s).

18. Other stipulations - This permit includes by reference all stipulations listed in the application materials or in additional attachments to this permit provided by the superintendent or a designee. Breach of any of the terms of this permit will be grounds for revocation of this permit and denial of future permits.

WARNING: DISEASE THREAT

Equipment Decontamination Protocol for Researchers Working in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park needs to minimize the human spread of parasites and non-native organisms between water bodies. The fungal pathogen, Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, known as chytrid fungus, can be lethal to amphibians. This fungus is now in many lakes and water bodies in the park, is transmitted by aquatic zoospores, and is the proximate cause of recent mass mortalities and declines in the mountain yellow-legged frog.
All researchers must adhere to the following procedures to disinfect equipment, shoes, and clothing after entering a water body and before going to and sampling a new water body (each pond, lake, meadow, stream, tributary, etc.):

1. Before leaving any aquatic site, remove all organic matter (e.g., mud, plants, algae) from nets, measuring and sampling devices, boots, and other surfaces that have come into contact with water or potentially contaminated sediments, and rinse with clean water.

2. After every exposure to any aquatic site, submerge everything that contacted water (e.g., boots, waders, measuring and sampling devices, traps) in a bucket or plastic bag for 2-5 minutes with either:

   (A) Quaternary ammonium compound 128 (use 0.1% of the active ingredient, didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride [DDAC]), or

   (B) Household bleach (use 2% of the active ingredient, sodium hypochlorite). Bleach should be mixed from a bottle that has not been open for more than six weeks due to its rapid degradation.

Used disinfecting chemicals should be disposed of safely, such as in a sanitary sewer.

When using quaternary ammonium compound 128, rinse the disinfected equipment at least 100 feet from any aquatic area and over organic matter where the compound will break down (e.g., trail soil, decomposing log, duff). Rinse water should be obtained from the next water body.

When using bleach, the chemical does not have to be rinsed from the equipment after disinfection if the equipment is allowed to dry between water bodies. If it does not dry, rinse the treated equipment at least 100 feet from any aquatic area over inorganic substrates (e.g., rocky trail). Rinse water should be obtained from the next water body.

NOTE: completely drying equipment prior to moving between sites is probably not effective if chytrid has a resting stage. Do not substitute the disinfection procedure with drying.

Please contact the Wildlife Biologist (Steve_Thompson@nps.gov, 209-379-1437) with any questions or concerns.

Sources:


Recommended by park staff (name and title):

Research Permit Committee

Reviewed by Collections Manager:
Yes ☑ No ___

Approved by park official:

Title:
Chief, Resources Management & Science

Date Approved:
4-2-13

Principal investigator's signature:

(Date)
4-11-13

and Restrictions of this Permit as Specified

(Principle investigator's signature and dated by the principal investigator)

THIS PERMIT AND ATTACHED CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS MUST BE CARRIED AT ALL TIMES WHILE CONDUCTING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE DESIGNATED PARK(S)