

Summer 2005 Lewis Woodpecker Survey

Stephanie Jenkins, a DeVlieg Undergraduate Researcher, completed her 2003 summer research project on Lewis Woodpecker (LEWO) populations along the Big Creek drainage. During the 2005 Bleak Internship, Sara Jones, Melissa Lamb and Neal Richards reevaluated Jenkins' sites. The interns also found several new LEWO nesting sites near the Taylor Ranch Field Station. The nesting site reevaluations were done using "A Field Protocol to Monitor Cavity-Nesting Birds" (Dudley and Saab). Jenkins' nesting sites were difficult to locate even with the GPS coordinates and hyper-spectral images she provided. LEWO nest primarily in dead cottonwood trees. These trees are general found in groups, which makes it difficult to single out specific trees using GPS coordinates.

The 2005 Bleak Interns decided to develop a new naming system to aid future LEWO researchers. The basic format is i.e. 35-05-01. The first two digits describe Jenkins nearest nesting site, the second two digits refer to the year the nest site was reevaluated and the last two digits refer to the specific site number. For example, if three nest sites near Jenkins' site 35 were reevaluated in 2005 they would be documented separately as: 35-05-01, 35-05-02 and 35-05-03.

This year the following nest sites were reevaluated:

| Location | UTM (NAD 27) | Status | Date Visited |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 32-05-01 | 11T 0666695, 4997008 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-02 | 11T 0666415, 4996854 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-03 | 11T 0666349, 4996789 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-04 | 11T 0666404, 4996867 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-05 | 11T 0666446, 4996918 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-06 | 11T 0666086, 4996712 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-07 | 11T 0666063, 4996870 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 32-05-08 | 11T 0665923, 4997162 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 34-05-01 | 11T 0668021, 49996836 | Active | 8-5-05 |
| 35-05-01, 35-05-02 | 11T 0668281, 4996111 | Active | 6-14-05, 8-4-05 |
| 35-05-03 | 11T 0668286, 4996212 | Active | 6-14-05, 8-4-05 |
| 38-05-01 | 11T 0669180, 4997078 | Active | 8-4-05 |
| 38-05-02 | 11T 0668696, 4996772 | Active | 8-4-05 |

Site Reevaluations:

Site 32-05-01

Location description: north sides of Big Creek on POTRI closest to Big Creek, south fork, south side, 2 POTRI snags still standing, cavity on smaller of the two snags in what appears to be an old limb cavity

Nest height: 12 m

Tree height: 18 m

Observations: two adult LEWO calling/agitated calling, young behavior and adults foraging

Site 32-05-02

Location description: POTRI 20 m from creek, 45 m from trail, single trunk broken 9 m from ground, no bark

Nest height: 7.5 m

Tree height: 9 m

Observations: young behavior, adult calling and foraging, young in cavity, crows in the area

Site 32-05-03

Location description: POTRI 40 yds. from trail, 25 yds. from Big Creek, when facing the creek the left POTRI snag, one branch 5 ft. from the top of the snag

Nest height: 14 m up, less than 1 m from the top

Tree height: 15 m

Observations: feeding begging young, one adult calling/agitated call and foraging

Site 32-05-04

Location description: POTRI with no bark, 40 yds. from the trail, 40 yds. from Big Creek, tree has a lot of branches at the top

Nest height: 15 m

Tree height: 25 m

Observations: feeding begging young, adult foraging, no adult at the nest cavity

Site 32-05-05

Location description: Ponderosa Pine snag 40 yds. from the trail, 10 yds. from Big Creek, by 4 down Douglas fir trees in a pile

Nest height: 11.75 m

Tree height: 12 m

Observations: feeding begging young, adult agitated calling and foraging

Site 32-05-06

Location description: multiple cavities in burned Douglas Fir stand, tree is one of the larger in the stand, cavities can be seen from the trail

Nest height: 20 m

Tree height: 35 m

Observations: 2 adults and young

Site 32-05-07

Location description: 13 m. from the trail to the south in a Douglas Fir, cavity in swelling of the snag

Nest height: 13 m

Tree height: 20 m

Observations: young behavior, adult calling/agitated calling, adult entered the nest, adult foraging, crows in the area, many other LEWO nests nearby

Site 32-05-08

Location description: south side of Big Creek on the last bend in the river before Lobeaur

Nest height: 15 m

Tree height: 22 m

Observations: feeding begging young, one adult calling and foraging, adult nest guarding

Site 34-05-01

Location description: could not locate the nest cavity

Nest height: unknown

Tree height: unknown

Observations: three active adults in Douglas Fir south side of Big Creek 250 ft. east of site 34SJ, more activity south side of Big Creek, adult calling and foraging

Site 35-05-01

Location description: lower Rush Creek at trail creek crossing, three large dead POTRI and two small POTRI on the east side of rush creek, three large dead POTRI, many natural cavities where branches broke off in all three large POTRI

Nest height: 23 m

Tree height: unknown

Observations:

6-14-05 two adults actively mating near large nesting hole (~70 ft. from the ground) on the middle of the north eastern largest tree, facing northwest, saw no birds in the potential nest holes, agitated calling, 2-3 adult LEWO, calling, copulating at cavity entrance, adult flyovers, foraging

8-4-05 two adults at the cavity, feeding begging young

Site 35-05-02

Location description: lower Rush Creek at trail creek crossing, two dead POTRI on the west side of Rush Creek, nesting cavity in southern snag at the top of the large southern branch, irregular hole shape; second hole on southern snag, main trunk, north aspect, 1.5 m lower than other hole—active flicker nest

Nest height: unknown

Tree height: unknown

Observations: inactive

Site 35-05-03

Location description: lower Rush Creek north of 35-05-01 & 02, long POTRI roughly 20m mouth of rocky outcropping on the east side of Rush Creek, snag 20 m tall, nesting hole on the east side just below the bark, roughly 14m from the base of the snag

Nest height: 14 m

Tree height: 20 m

Observation:

6-14-05 male, agitated foraging, calling, foraging, adult fly over

8-4-05 one adult, cavity, feeding begging young, foraging

Site 38-05-01

Location description: 75 yds. up from the pack bridge, west side of Cliff Creek

Nest height: 30 m

Tree height: 45 m

Observations: 75 yds. above the Big Creek pack bridge across Cliff Creek, east and west side of Cliff Creek up to 150 yds. above the pack bridge, feeding begging young, four adults foraging

Site 38-05-02

Location description: south east side of dead POTRI, upstream of north pasture, next to the water's edge

Nest height: 14 m

Tree height: 20 m

Observations: adult foraging, young begging

*all active nests had nestlings, none of the young were fledged as of 8-5-05

Summer 2004 Lewis Woodpecker Survey

In the summer of 2003, Stephanie Jenkins completed a survey of woodpecker populations within the Big Creek drainage. This summer, Greg Hansen, Anna Pierce, and Cinnamon Robinson re-evaluated selected nest sites that had been used during Jenkins' study. Using a procedure set forth in "A Field Protocol to Monitor Cavity-Nesting Birds" (Dudley and Saab) nest sites and nest activity was documented. GPS locations differed slightly from what Jenkins had recorded, possibly due to differences in UTM settings. At site 31, Stephanie found three different nesting sites. Due to the GPS inaccuracy, her three locations were lumped into two locations in our survey. We attempted to recheck the same locations, but there may be differences in exact nest sites. We found that nesting activity occurred later in the summer than was proposed by the protocol, but more visits to the nest sites need to be completed before assessing nest successfulness. Below is a summary; recorded UTM locations are summer 2004 recordings.

| Location | UTM (NAD27) | Status | Date Visited |
|----------------|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Cliff Creek | 0669238N 4996790E | Inactive | 6-14-04 |
| 30SJ | 0665924N 4997177E | Inactive | 6-8-04 |
| 31aSJ | 0666396N 4996833E | Active- Nestling | 6-8-04 |
| 31bSJ | 0666514N 4996934E | Active- three possible nest sites | 6-8-04 |
| 32SJ | 0666809N 4996830E | Inactive | 6-8-04 |
| 35SJ | 0668269N 4996361E | Active- two nest sites, one with confirmed nestlings | 6-14-04 |
| 36SJ | 0666357N 4997100E | Inactive | 6-14-04 |
| 38SJ | 0668797N 4996565E | Active- one confirmed nest site, one more suspected | 6-8-04 |

6-8-04

- 30SJ- Two POTRI snags with possible cavities, one on bank of river has obvious cavity. No LEWO sightings, no vocalization.
- 31aSJ- POTRI snag 3m from river, 50m from trail, cavity height 7m, tree height 8m.
- 31bSJ- This area may encompass two or all three of Stephanie's site 31 GPS locations. During our observation time (1.5 hours), we counted at least eight