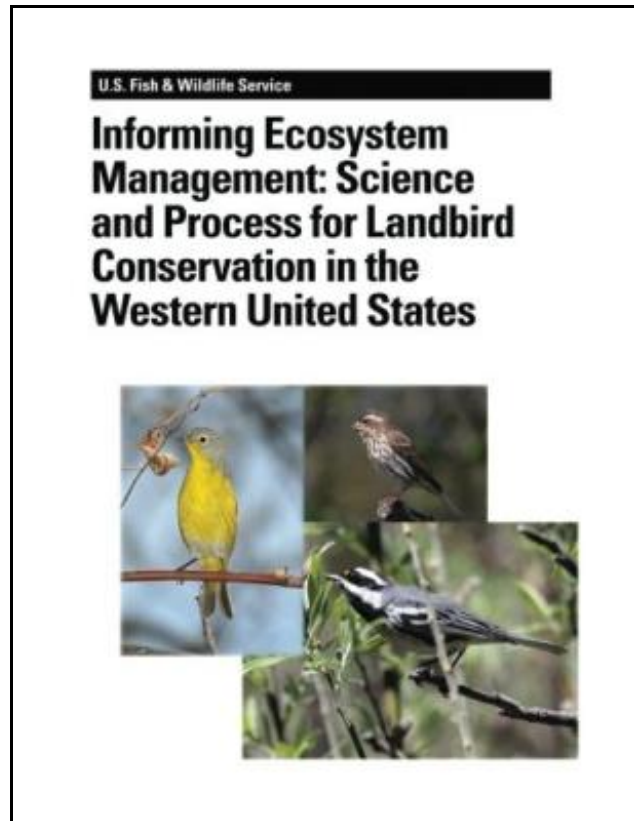


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INFORMING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: SCIENCE AND PROCESS FOR LANDBIRD CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES



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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 70 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. Recent advances in bird conservation are marked by the integration of science and land management. Information gained from past research can now be used to develop user-friendly management tools. Partners in Flight (Rich et al. 2004) as well as shorebirds (Brown et al. 2001), waterbirds (Kushlan et al. 2002), and especially waterfowl (North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee 2004) initiatives use their respective conservation plans to catalyze this process and influence land management planning across the landscape. Using these conservation plans within a broader monitoring framework, managers can glean pertinent information about ecosystem dynamics. Land managers work in a setting where change is continuous and unpredictable (Bosch et al. 2003). Within this dynamic environment, they often are faced with making management decisions without any scientific support to guide them. Management activities need to be linked to the scientific process in order to better understand potential influences on the surrounding ecosystem. One scientific tool that will help to forge this link is monitoring. Monitoring measures population and habitat change and often elucidates the causes of change. Performed in concert with management actions, monitoring can help to evaluate the effectiveness of management prescriptions (Alexander et al. 2007) and provide assurance that management efforts are focusing on agreed-upon goals (Keough and Blahna 2006). Land managers and biologists commonly monitor birds, both to track bird populations themselves, and as a tool to measure ecosystem health as a whole. Birds are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor and standardized methodologies exist to allow comparisons across sites (Ralph et al. 1993). Birds occupy a wide diversity of ecological niches and respond quickly to changes in their environment. While bird monitoring is common, it is not always clear...



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