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Conducting a Biological Inventory of Sloan's Crossing Pond

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Abstract

Sloan's Crossing Pond (SCP) is a popular visitor attraction in Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP). The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed the pond by constructing levees around a natural, upland wetland. This pond is unique not only because it is manmade, but also because it holds water year-round unlike most ponds in MCNP. However, in recent years, the pond has begun to fill in with sediment. Our goal was to conduct a biological inventory around SCP and other nearby ponds in order to determine how wildlife utilize these areas and to determine if SCP is unique in the way that wildlife use it. Data on wildlife along with a forest inventory will give us a more complete understanding of the habitats at SCP, Joppa, and Quarry ponds. This information will provide the National Park Service with data that can be used in making science-based decisions about SCP and other ponds in the park. We used trail cameras and audio recording equipment to collect preliminary data on wildlife presence around SCP, Joppa, and Quarry ponds over a several month period. We hope to collect more data in the future, such as, presence of invertebrate species.