

**Presenter: Deborah M. Finch, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Albuquerque, NM**

Deborah Finch has been a program manager and biological scientist for the Grassland, Shrubland and Desert Ecosystems Science Program, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, since October 2010. From 1978 to 2010, she was a research wildlife biologist for the station, and starting in 1994, she led research units focused on grassland and Rio Grande ecosystems. She has produced over 170 publications on research ranging from ecosystem restoration using prescribed fire and fuel removal to avian ecology and habitat relationships. She supervises and coordinates a team of 14 scientists who conduct research on restoration methods, disturbance ecology, invasive species, ecosystem sustainability, and weather and climate. At the request of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Deborah served as the leader for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher recovery team. In 2002, she received the Quivira Coalition's Clarence Burch Award for her work on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in the Cliff-Gila Valley, NM. Deborah was honored with the 2005 Partners in Flight Investigator's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Bird Conservation. The Forest Service presented her with the 2010 Rangeland Research and Development award and with the 2012 Wings Across the Americas Award for Outstanding Achievement in Conservation of Neotropical migratory birds. Deborah was elected as Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union (now American Ornithological Society) in 2015 and served on its board from 2014-2016. Deborah received her Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, her Master's in Zoology and Physiology from Arizona State University, Phoenix, and her Ph.D. in Zoology and Range Science from University of Wyoming, Laramie.