

**ACES 2018 Pre-Conference Workshop**  
**December 3, 2018 | 1:30pm – 5:00pm**

***TITLE***

The ESII Tool in Practice: Using the Results of the ESII Tool for Multiple Applications

***DESCRIPTION***

This interactive, half-day training, delivered by EcoMetrix Solutions Group, will introduce participants to various applications of the [ESII Tool](#). The ESII Tool (pronounced “easy”), was developed in collaboration by Dow, TNC, and EcoMetrix Solutions Group, and is owned by TNC. ESII is a free assessment tool that provides information that can lead to better decisions and better conservation outcomes. It fills an important gap between simple tools built upon limited scientific information and complex tools that require expert users. Designed for natural resources managers, engineers, business managers, and ecologists alike, the tool can be used in the early stages of decision making to identify benefits provided by natural assets so that their value can be incorporated into operational and planning decisions. The ESII Tool can be used in site planning, impact assessments, cost/benefit analyses, or to compare alternatives. Outputs from the tool can be used directly in financial analyses or engineering models. The tool consists of the iOS-based Field App, used to collect ecological information on site, and the web-based Project Workspace, where projects are set up, data is reviewed, and outputs are generated.

Using real-world examples and case studies from around the world, participants will explore how information about ecosystem services can inform decision-making in a variety of planning and decision contexts. During the course of the afternoon, the workshop will address:

- impact analysis,
- alternative analysis,
- watershed characterization,
- corridor studies,
- cumulative effects - establishing site/landscape connections, and
- using the Tool for creating environmental performance standards.,

This session will use a mix of case study presentations and interactive small groups to explore these different decision contexts. In addition, participants will be challenged to identify different decision contexts to promote discussion of how best to integrate ecosystem services into the decision process and identify whether ESII or another tool would be helpful.

This workshop is related to the morning workshop “Hands-On Ecosystem Services: Interactive Training of the Ecosystem Services Identification & Inventory (ESII) Tool”. Participants are encouraged to attend both, but it is not required because each workshop is stand alone.

***BENEFITS OF THE WORKSHOP AND TARGET AUDIENCE***

This workshop is relevant for individuals and organizations interested in identifying and assessing ecosystem services on a given site quickly and inexpensively. These may be planners, engineers, facilities managers, and natural resource managers interested in using decision-support tools for a wide range of activities including: assessing site designs and alternatives; assisting with restoration projects; creating an inventory of natural assets; scoping impact assessments; comparing green vs. gray infrastructure; and supporting dialogue and engagement with local communities.

Outputs from the ESII Tool can improve management decisions, while enhancing an organization's stewardship of nature and commitments to community success. Using the ESII Tool also increases awareness of the value of natural lands and waters, provides ideas on how to enhance land use designs, and triggers more detailed analyses of nature and the benefits provided by nature on a site.

## **AGENDA**

- 1:30-2:00p      Welcome & Workshop Objectives  
*Review workshop objectives, agenda and introduce facilitators. Summarize related ESII Tool workshop<sup>1</sup>, discuss participants' decision contexts for using the ESII Tool or similar decision-support tools.*
- 2:00-2:35p      Introduction to the ESII Tool  
*Provide an overview of the ESII Tool, with focus on the types of measurement units provided by the tool.*
- 2:35-3:00p      Exploration of Various Planning Contexts (i.e., impact analysis, alternative analysis, watershed characterization, corridor planning, cumulative effects, environmental performance standards)  
*For each of the six decision contexts, ESG will start by providing a case study that illustrates how the ESII tool can be used in that context. The participants will then break into small groups to discuss questions on around that type of application. The small group discussion will be summarized through a facilitated discussion process.*
- 3:00-3:30p      Break
- 3:30-4:15p      Continuation of Previous
- 4:15-5:00p      Other Decision Contexts  
*In a large group facilitated discussion, participants will be encouraged to share thoughts on the types of decision contexts most relevant to them – particularly contexts that have not already been covered. The group will be encouraged to discuss how ecosystem services fit into that decision context and how the ESII Tool, or some other tool could help inform the decision.*

## **WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS**

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<sup>1</sup> This is a summary of the morning workshop "Hands-On Ecosystem Services: Interactive Training of the Ecosystem Services Identification & Inventory (ESII) Tool".

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### **WORKSHOP ORGANIZER QUALIFICATIONS**

**Kevin Halsey** | As a Senior Consultant with EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG), Kevin oversees development of ecosystem services decision support tools created by the firm. His work with ESG focuses on integrating ecosystem services into decision making processes and, in that role, much of his time is devoted to developing strategies for measuring ecosystem service production and for addressing uncertainty. In addition to his responsibilities working with ESG, Kevin is an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law, where he teaches a course on identifying and managing environmental risk in business transactions. Kevin also teaches courses on ecosystem services and land management for the University of Oregon's Sustainability Leadership Program.

**Kenna Halsey** | As a Senior Consultant with EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG), Kenna is the founder and owner of EcoMetrix Solutions Group, LLC, an Oregon firm (DBE, WBE, ESB certified) focused on the development and application of ecosystem services-based quantification strategies and decision support tools. She specializes in the development and implementation of new programs, particularly those related to ecosystem services evaluation, impact avoidance and minimization, and impact mitigation. She has 27 years of experience providing program-level and project-level natural resource planning services. Kenna's diverse experience includes designing long-range sustainability strategies focused on project implementation; management and development of detailed, alternative natural resource mitigation and conservation approaches and associated accounting systems; and development of habitat assessment methodologies for terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Her most recent work includes managing ecosystem services assessments and the development of ecosystem service quantification tools for Fortune 500 corporations and NGOs who are exploring the use of ecosystem services concepts and measurement tools in their project-level decision making processes throughout the US and worldwide.

**Morgan Erhardt** | As an Ecosystem Services Analyst with EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG), Morgan helps develop and support the ecosystem service tools ESG creates for clients and partnering organizations. Morgan provides a key role through the application of Bayesian analysis principles to the ecological concept models and algorithms within the quantification tools developed by ESG. Morgan is also responsible for providing ongoing technical support for ESII Tool users through the ESII Tool help desk. In addition, Morgan has played a key role in the ecosystem service analysis ESG has provided for clients throughout the US and around the world.