

ACES 2018 Pre-Conference Workshop
Monday, December 3, 2018 | 8:30am – 12:00pm

Title: *Development of a How-to Guide for Building Quantification Tools used in Habitat and Biodiversity Markets.*

Description:

This ½ day workshop will bring together experts involved in habitat and biodiversity markets, such as conservation banks, habitat exchanges, payments for ecosystem services, and eco-label certification programs, to elicit information on their experiences in building, using, and adapting tools used to quantify habitat quality and functionality. This information is meant to aid in the completion of a how-to guide for developing habitat and biodiversity quantification tools being undertaken by the workshop organizers. Participants will openly discuss, critique, and offer suggestions on the content of the how-to guide to ensure it conveys information needed to help stakeholders build tools that facilitate market performance. There will also be 4 panelists that will briefly describe challenges and successes they experienced during tool development or application. This workshop will compliment an earlier workshop held in May 2018 at the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference which served as the kickoff to the development of the how-to guide.

Agenda and format:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions – Brief introduction to workshop format and organizers (5 min)
- 2) Overview of the need and purpose for developing the how-to guide (10 min)
- 3) Panelist Presentations – Panel of tool developers, tool users, and mitigation regulators will each describe challenges and successes experienced during the development and/or application of tools (15 min each)
 - a) *Ted Toombs* – Environmental Defense Fund
 - b) *Doug Bruggeman* – Ecological Services and Markets
 - c) *Deblyn Mead* – Bureau of Land Management
 - d) *Becca Madsen* – Electric Power Research Institute
- 4) Break (5 min)
- 5) Audience and organizer questions for panelists & open discussion (35 minutes)
- 6) Showcasing how-to guide (descriptions of major sections, sources of information used, organization of guide, etc.) (30 min)
- 7) Break (10)
- 8) Facilitated discussion and solicitation of feedback on how-to guide content, structure, and usability (45 min)
- 9) Wrap-up (10 min)

Workshop benefits and target audience:

Habitat and biodiversity markets represent an economically-efficient strategy for conserving species and their habitats and are being increasingly utilized by federal regulators, private industry, and others seeking to conserve natural resources. The growth of these markets, however, has been hindered in part by a lack of transparency and consistency in the tools used to quantify the functionality or quality of habitat. To address this issue, we are collaborating with the USDA Office of Environmental Markets and professionals with experience working in these markets to develop a guide for building quantification tools. Some of the topics to be covered in the guide include what stakeholders to involve and when to involve them, how to avoid/minimize roadblocks and confront adversity, and how to construct ecologically sound, adaptable, yet inexpensive and easy to use tools. This guide will benefit persons

developing tools for use in markets such as conservation banking, habitat exchanges, payment for ecosystem services programs, or eco-label certification programs.

Workshop organizers:

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Qualifications of workshop organizers:

Scott Chiavacci is an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Science and Decisions Center. Emily Pindilli is an economist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Science and Decisions Center. Scott and Emily, in partnership with the USDA Office of Environmental Markets, have developed a database of the quantification tools used in U.S. habitat and biodiversity markets. It was through this work and conversations with market participants that they identified the need for a how-to guide on tool development. In addition to developing the database, Emily led research and published a report on the policy, economic, and ecological implications of market-based conservation in the United States (visit <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1414> to access report).

List of invited workshop speakers:

Ted Toombs – Ted is a conservation scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund's Ecosystems Program. He provides scientific guidance on the social and ecological aspects of EDF's habitat markets work. Ted's work has involved conservation banking in the United States and metrics used in biodiversity offsets worldwide.

Doug Bruggeman – Doug is the founder of Ecological Services and Markets and an adjunct professor at Lenoir-Rhyne University and Michigan State University. His work has involved developing a credit estimation tool in addition to market-based strategies for mitigating the effects of habitat loss and adapting to climate change.

Deblyn Mead – Deblyn is the National Mitigation Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management where she is responsible for mitigation policy development and implementation. Prior to this she was a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program. Deblyn has spent over 20 years working on mitigation and conservation banking policy development and practice.

Becca Madsen – Becca is a Senior Technical Leader with the Electric Power Research Institute where she provides expertise on endangered species issues, corporate sustainability, and non-carbon environmental markets. Becca's work has involved an evaluation of the state of biodiversity markets worldwide and compensatory mitigation crediting and debiting schemes.