

2020 CONSERVATION BANKING WEBINAR SERIES

SPEAKER BIOS

Webinar #5: Service Area & Credit Determination: Balancing Ecological & Economic Factors

Katie Allen leads The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network (CLN) in the development, execution and evaluation of The Fund's range of services related to innovative partnership programs, capacity building trainings, sustainability consulting and technical assistance. Katie works with community, governmental, and corporate partners to build capacity among leaders to enable on the ground conservation solutions and reach sustainable economic development goals.

Since 2010, Katie has designed and led several national and place-based initiatives for The Fund including the Federal Lands Livability Initiative, the National Workshop on Water Quality Trading, and Appalachian Gateway Community workshops and sustainable tourism assessments. She serves as facilitator for CLN's long-standing and highly-acclaimed Balancing Nature and Commerce Course, Mitigation Banking for Inter-Agency Review Teams Course, and Conservation Banking Course, as well as their regional offerings across the country. She holds a Masters of City and Regional Planning in Environmental and Land Use Planning from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Boston University.

Scott Chiavacci is an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Science and Decisions Center. Since 2016, Scott has been working to compile, understand, and facilitate the availability of quantification tools used in market-based conservation mechanisms like conservation banking, eco-label programs, and Payments for Ecosystem Services programs.

Scott holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University, a M.S. in Biology from Arkansas State University, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Greg DeYoung is a co-founder of Westervelt Ecological Services. Mr. DeYoung has over three decades of experience in planning environmental review, wetland mitigation, and endangered species conservation. His background includes the permitting of mitigation and conservation banks and large-scale mitigation projects in the West, Rocky Mountain, and Southeast Regions. He has also served as Director for three non-profit organizations: the Nevada County Land Trust, the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, and the Whitney Oaks Wetland Conservancy.

Mr. DeYoung holds a Bachelor's degree in environmental biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master's degree in urban planning from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Stephanie Ehinger has been working as an ESA-consultation biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Lacey, WA since 2000. Her subject matter expertise includes conservation/mitigation banking and habitat quantification to facilitate mitigation. She led the team that developed the marine Nearshore Habitat Values model (NHVM) for Puget Sound that is being used jointly with the USACE in Puget Sound to quantify impacts from small overwater structures. In 2020 she led the development of the Puget Sound “conservation calculator” which is a user-friendly interface to the NHVM and Habitat Equivalency Analysis. The “conservation calculator” allows to quickly determine habitat impacts from common nearshore actions and is available on NMFS’ web page. She currently participates in the Interagency Review Team (IRT) of the Wapato conservation bank in the Lower Columbia and has been jointly, with a sub-group of the IRT, developing a fish credit quantification approach for riverine floodplain habitats.

Dana Herman has been with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Sacramento Field Office for 5 years. She is a Senior Biologist in the Conservation Banking Division. Prior to her time with the Service she received her M.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University.

Deborah (Deblyn) Mead is the National Mitigation Lead for the Bureau of Land Management. She joined the BLM after a 20-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Deblyn held various positions in the Ecological Services Program at USFWS in the field and at headquarters, including Entomologist and Senior Biologist. She has been instrumental in developing mitigation policy, guidance, and tools at the field and national levels for 25 years. Early in her career she worked for the U.S. Geological Survey on a 3-year Phase II contaminants study in the Klamath Basin. Then as a biological consultant for 2 years, during which time she worked on energy projects in California and the southwest. Deblyn also developed and taught community college courses in biology and entomology. She holds a bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of California, Davis, and a master’s degree in ecology and systematic biology from San Francisco State University.

Michelle Mattson is a stream and wetland ecologist with the Corps' Institute for Water Resources (IWR). She has 18 years of experience as an environmental consultant and regulator conducting functional and conditional assessments and working with restoration teams to design, install and monitor restoration and compensatory mitigation projects. Michelle has supported the development of watershed-based programmatic permitting and advance mitigation programs including SAMPs, mitigation banks and ILF programs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, go to the [Webinar Series Information](#) page. All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to this website.