Climate Savvy Aquatic Restoration Workshop Speaker Bios

Dave Patte, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Climate Change Coordinator, (Senior Advisor on Ecosystem Change), Pacific Region

In this position, David will coordinates the Region’s cross-program and strategic approach to climate change and other changing environmental conditions such as sea level rise, water regime shifts, increased invasive species, and many other stressors to fish and wildlife resources. David also coordinates regional efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and to engage employees and the public in understanding that fish and wildlife conservation requires that we not only address environmental problems of the past, but also anticipate and prepare for those of the future. David led the Region’s Climate Change efforts during 2007 and 2008. He co-led and led seven inter-agency scientific conferences and workshops on Climate Change, and was a co-creator of C3, a federal interagency Climate Change Collaboration workgroup for Idaho, Oregon and Washington. David has held the following prior positions with the Service: Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs from 2002 to 2010; Chief of the Region’s Division of Budget and Finance from 1995 to 2002; and Budget Formulation Analyst in headquarters from 1990 to 1995. David and his wife Elizabeth divide their time between homes in Portland, Oregon and Glenwood, Washington. In addition to the pleasure of time with family, friends, and dog, Jack, David enjoys bird watching, hiking, bicycling, photography, cooking, reading and music. David also holds a volunteer Director At Large position with the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, and formerly volunteered on the board of the Forest Park Conservancy, were he served as President for three years.

Lara J. Hansen, Ph.D. EcoAdapt Chief Scientist and Executive Director

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt with a team of similarly inclined folks in 2008. She serves this fine organization as Executive Director and Chief Scientist. She is co-author and editor of one of the earliest texts on the issue of natural system adaptation to climate change, Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems, as well as co-author of one of the newest books on adaptation, Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World. The team that created these books created an engaged stakeholder process (first known as Climate Camp; now known as Awareness to Action Workshops) to help resource managers create adaptation strategies applicable to their work. She serves on the unfairly maligned, vitally important Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the chief climate change scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, creating their international Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, from 2001-2008, and a Research Ecologist with the Environmental Protection Agency from 1998-2001. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Ecology and her B.A. in Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Because she’s an optimist she assumes we’ll get our acts together on climate change--who would want the alternative.
Tim Beechie, NOAA Fisheries, Supervisory Research Fish Biologist

Tim has worked in fisheries resource management since 1984, beginning with fish population assessments and catch monitoring in West African lakes as a Peace Corps volunteer. He later spent nine years with the Skagit River Indian tribes assessing impacts of land uses on salmonid habitats, potential recovery from increased sediment supply and loss of wood, and restoration strategies for Pacific Northwest river basins. He is currently the Science Coordinator for the Watershed Program, and Leader of the Ecosystem Processes Team. He holds a B.S. degree in geology (1983), a M.S. in fisheries (1990), and a Ph.D. in forestry (1998), all from the University of Washington.

Michael Case, University of Washington, Sensitivity Database Manager, Pacific Northwest Vulnerability Assessment Project

Michael started his conservation education at the University of Wisconsin, focusing on Forestry Management, Conservation Biology and Environment Law Enforcement. Realizing that he had a passion for the Pacific Northwest, Michael moved to Seattle and completed a tree growth and climate-focused Masters Degree in Ecosystem Analysis at the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington in 2004. Michael then worked as a Research Scientist for World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) International Climate Change Program for nearly 5 years, being responsible for ensuring that WWF's conservation work not only considered the impacts of climate change, but also included appropriate adaptation planning. Using these experiences, Michael is now focusing his research on a Pacific Northwest region-wide climate vulnerability assessment, working with federal, state and non-profit organizations. This work combines climate science with appropriate communication and policy tools that will facilitate effective research on the vulnerability of key species in the Pacific Northwest and help managers better plan for the future.

Jason Dunham, Aquatic Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey, FRESC Corvallis Research Group

Jason Dunham is an Aquatic Ecologist with U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis, Oregon. He also holds a Courtesy Faculty appointment in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. His research is focused on applying concepts from landscape ecology, conservation biology, and invasion biology to managing aquatic ecosystems and the species they support. He has worked primarily in the western U.S., but has "strayed" to other regions, including Patagonia, Hokkaido, and most recently to the Copper River delta in Alaska. Topically, much of his current work is focused on evaluating land use, ecological restoration, and climate impacts on fishes and aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Paul Heimowitz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Paul Heimowitz is the regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. He has a B.S. in Ecology from the University of Arizona and an M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University. He has been involved in management of Northwest aquatic ecosystems for over 20 years. In his position, Paul develops and implements regional aquatic invasive species prevention, detection, and management programs. Examples of his daily work include coordinating exercises to test zebra mussel response capabilities in the Columbia Basin, developing grant agreements to expand state prevention programs, delivering presentations on invasive species impacts, and collaborating with universities to
research new control methods. Paul also helps coordinate the Student Career Experience Program for the Fisheries Program in the Pacific Region. Prior to joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003, Paul focused on invasive species and other watershed management issues as an aquatic health educator for Oregon State University Sea Grant Extension. From 1990-1998, he worked on oil spill response, damage assessment, and prevention programs with the Washington State Department of Ecology. When he’s not battling invasive species, Paul enjoys spending time outdoors with his two daughters, riding his bike, and learning to play the banjo.

Dan Shively, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Passage and Habitat Partnerships Coordinator

Dan Shively oversees fish passage related projects in the region and also participates in the regional fish habitat partnerships, both candidate and approved, under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. New to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2010, Dan comes with over 20 years of fish habitat restoration and program management experience with the USDA Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. Dan graduated with honors from Oregon State University in 1989, obtaining a Bachelor’s of Science in Fisheries Science and a minor in Watershed Studies. His professional interests and expertise include developing and implementing large-scale watershed restoration strategies; recovery planning for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout; developing and implementing science-based, aquatics-related conservation education programs to connect youth with nature; bull trout reintroduction; in-stream flow assessments and related evaluations for formulating management recommendations on hydroelectric project operations; and aquatic habitat and fish population inventories, monitoring, and evaluation. Dan has been an active member and held various officer and committee chair positions within the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He has also been a leader in the development and deployment of regional training sessions on Watershed and Stream Habitat Restoration. In his off-time, Dan enjoys time with his family, and can often be found on the river with a fishing rod in hand in pursuit of a willing taker.

Mike Mertens, EcoTrust Director of Spatial Analysis

Mike has served as Director of Spatial Analysis and Manager of Ecotrust’s GIS team for the last seven years and has been with Ecotrust since 1999. He has over 20 years of experience in using GIS specific to various aspects of spatial data analysis and geographic information science, ranging from exploratory spatial data analysis to remote sensing, spatial statistics, and development of spatially explicit decision support models. Most of Mike’s work has revolved around seeking an understanding of how humans interact with their environment and he has led a wide array of projects at multiple scales, from site level assessments to global analyses. Mike received a B.S. in Natural Resource Planning from Humboldt State University and is currently completing a Ph.D. in Regional Science at Portland State University, where he also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Geography.