

Pacific Northwest Wetlands Symposium: New Resources for Mapping & Climate Adaptation

November 8, 2012, 9am-4pm, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, WA

Workshop Detail

This one-day interactive workshop is designed as a forum for introducing and exchanging feedback on a new suite of wetlands mapping and climate adaptation resources for Pacific Northwest freshwater wetlands. The wide range of mandates, needs, and ecological contexts under which wetlands ecologists work highlights the importance of good information exchange among resource developers and managers, to support the production of tools that are both useful (for actual resource management) and used (in the workflow). This workshop is designed to facilitate that exchange and to enhance and build connections among managers, consultants, and researchers from many institutions in the Pacific Northwest region.

Goals for the workshop include:

- Presentation of new wetlands products and how they can be used
- Exchange of feedback to inform development of the next generation of products
- Discussion of management and research needs and how to address these
- Enhanced connections among wetlands researchers and managers in the region

Intended Outcomes

- Enhanced awareness of resources to support wetland management & climate adaptation planning
- Increased capacity of participants to use new resources
- Increased capacity of participants to incorporate climate adaptation into management
- Implementable activities developed by participants to employ the ideas developed in the workshop
- New connections to support collaboration in wetlands research and management across institutions
- Enhanced awareness of the importance of wetlands

Products to be explored include:

- Hydrological projections for wetlands for the 2040s and 2080s
 - Ephemeral, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands
 - Multiple geographic scales (individual pond to whole Pacific Northwest)
- Remote sensing methods for detecting wetlands using NAIP and LiDAR
- Climate adaptation applications of the above products

Morning sessions: Introduction to new methods and products for mapping and projecting climate impacts on freshwater wetlands, and applications and case studies of how these tools may be used to support vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation planning & implementation to increase the resilience of wetland-reliant species.

Afternoon sessions: Discussion of current and future needs and uses of these products to guide development of the next generation of products and enhance applicability and information transfer. Discussions will involve both the whole group & breakout groups.

Target audience: Local, state, tribal, and federal agency managers and research biologists; restoration ecologists; consultants; academic freshwater ecologists; and hydrologists.

Geographic focus: Freshwater wetlands on the East and West sides of the Cascade and Olympic Ranges and lower British Columbia, including riparian wetlands, springs, wet meadows, small ephemeral pools, large permanent ponds and lakes, across a range of ecological contexts (forest, alpine, and arid lands).