

Agenda

Wetland Science *M. Strain*

- Defining wetlands and identifying different types
 - Wetland soils and vegetation
 - Wetland hydrology
- Environmental services provided by wetlands

Wetland History in the United States: Systematic Destruction and Degradation *L. Herrera*

- The historic view of wetlands: wastelands
- Wetland elimination in service of agriculture and development
- Turning the corner: the Clean Water Act of 1972
- National Food Security Act of 1985
- State wetland initiatives

Wetland Mitigation: Objectives and Processes *N. Church*

- Section 404 permitting and mitigation thresholds
- 2008 Mitigation Rule hierarchy: permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation, in-lieu fee programs, and mitigation banking
- Enhancement, restoration, creation, preservation
 - Pros and cons of each
 - Wetland and stream project examples
- Maintenance
- Monitoring

Wetland Mitigation Banking *V. Bruce*

- Wetland mitigation banking process
- Service areas and sponsors
- Regulatory compliance

State In-Lieu Fee Programs *C. Keefer*

- State In-Lieu fee program overviews
- In-lieu fee mitigation projects
- Funding for restoration projects
- Mitigation by purchasing in-lieu credits

Permittee Responsible Mitigation *H. Bobich*

- Parameters of acceptable projects
- Draft compensation site plan
- Submittal requirements
- Conservation easement

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Wetland Mitigation Law and Procedure

Live, Interactive Webinar - Thursday, April 11, 2024

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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Review wetland science and identify the important environmental services provided by wetlands.

Understand the role of wetland preservation and restoration in halting the systematic destruction and degradation of wetlands.

Explore the objectives and processes of wetland mitigation.

Get an overview of the wetland mitigation banking process.

Examine state in-lieu fee programs for wetland mitigation.

Examine the option of permittee responsible mitigation.



HalfMoon Education Live Webinars

Wetland Mitigation Law and Procedure

Live, Interactive Webinar - Thursday, April 11, 2024



Understand basic principles of wetland science

Identify the purposes of wetland preservation and restoration

Define the objectives of wetland mitigation

Explore the wetland mitigation banking process

Get an overview of state in-lieu fee programs

Learn about permittee responsible mitigation

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Faculty

Mitchel R. Strain, CPSS, PWS has over 35 years of experience with all aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance including preparation of environmental assessments (EA), environmental impact statements (EIS), categorical exclusions (CE) and other NEPA documentation, baseline biological assessments, and habitat evaluation procedure (HEP) analyses; threatened and endangered species surveys and critical habitat assessments; wetland and stream evaluations; cultural resource investigations; and vegetative community surveys. Mr. Strain's particular expertise is in wetland science; including delineation, creation, and restoration of wetlands for mitigation and wildlife habitat; Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and 401 permitting; and design of constructed wetland treatment systems.

Larissa Herrera is an aquatic biologist with over eight years of experience in natural resource assessment, including wetland delineations, environmental permitting, stream assessments, mussel/macroinvertebrate surveys and identification, and threatened and endangered species surveys. She graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology and Program in the Environment (PitE) from the University of Michigan and an M.S. degree in Water Resource Science from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Ms. Herrera recently moved back to the mitten to work for Holland Engineering's Environmental Group. She holds a USFWS permit to survey and handle federally listed mussel species. Her favorite mussels are the spectaclecase and snuffbox.

Nichol Church, PWS is an environmental scientist with Snyder & Associates. She has over 14 years of professional environmental experience. Before she started her career as an environmental scientist at Snyder & Associates, she worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers in Rock Island, Jacksonville, and Omaha Districts after graduating from Iowa State University in 2009. Her area of expertise focuses on wetland delineations, stream assessments, Section 404 permitting, and wetland and stream mitigation banking documentation.

Victoria K. Bruce is the CEO of The Mitigation Banking Group, Inc. She has over 19 years of sales and marketing experience serving Florida's mitigation banking credit industry. Her vast background in the wetland mitigation and habitat conservation banks industry has designated her as one of Florida's most sought-after mitigation bank sales brokers. Mrs. Bruce is passionate about partnering with mitigation bankers, environmental consultants and developers to aid in the mitigation process. She is responsible for developing and implementing strategies and forecasts that support existing relationships with industry partners and promote future growth for the industry.

Chelsea Keefer, MS has been a restoration biologist for the Stream + Wetlands Foundation (S+W) since June 2020, and she has eight years of experience working in the natural resources field. Ms. Keefer is responsible for preparing and overseeing coordination of S+W's mitigation project submittals to the Interagency Review Team. During her time at S+W, she has been instrumental in the submission and approval of over 20 in-lieu fee (ILF), mitigation bank, and permittee responsible projects. To date, the S+W ILF program is fully in compliance with all its advance credit sales obligations. Prior to joining the S+W team, Ms. Keefer worked for a northeast Ohio environmental consulting firm where she primarily worked on mitigation projects. She also worked at two different environmental test laboratories performing soil and water analyses using sophisticated equipment. During her formal education, she conducted a rigorous research study in native species revegetation and seed ecology. She published her findings as the primary author of a peer reviewed research paper that appeared in the *Journal of Rangeland Ecology and Management*.

Heather Bobich, PWS is an area manager at Davey Resource Group, Inc. Ms. Bobich effectively takes projects from inception through completion. She is a landscape designer with an environmental science and geology background and more than 15 years of experience in the public and private sectors. In addition to managing a large portfolio of diverse and complex projects, Ms. Bobich also generates pricing and proposals for a wide range of consulting and restoration projects, conducts field investigations, wetland and stream permitting, restoration and mitigation design, native landscape design, best management practice plans, construction oversight, violation resolution and facilitation, and client and agency coordination.

Credit Information

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