



Ooze News



Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest Chapter

Volume 29, No. 1: Winter 2019

<http://www.sws.org/pacific-northwest-chapter>

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President

Lizbeth Seebacher
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program, PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 407-6938
lsee461@ecy.wa.gov

Executive Vice President

Josh Wozniak
Parametrix
719 2nd Avenue, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 394-3700
jwozniak@parametrix.com

Immediate Past President

Yvonne Vallette
USEPA, Region 10
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 326-2716
Vallette.Yvonne@epa.gov

Program Vice President

Nate Hough-Snee
Meadow Run Environmental Research
Leavenworth, WA
(435) 535-5085
nate@natehough-snee.org

Treasurer

Erin Page
Whatcom County
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive, Suite C
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 778-5953
epage@co.whatcom.wa.us

Secretaries/Newsletter Editors

Maki Dalzell
HDR Engineering, Inc.
929 108th Ave. NE, Suite 1300
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 450-6322
maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com

Katrina Poppe
Northwest Ecological Services, LLC
2801 Meridian Street, Suite 202
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 734-9484
katrina@nwecological.com

President's Corner

By Lizbeth Seebacher, PNW Chapter President

Happy New Year and welcome 2019!

The New Year promises to be a very busy one for wetland scientists. The Society of Wetland Scientists is joining other aquatic science societies opposing the EPA and Corps of Engineers proposed revisions to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) definition. Please read more about the proposed changes [here](https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule), (<https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule>), a link from the SWS website. SWS members who would like to comment on this Rule have 60 days from the time the rule is published in the Federal Register.

An update posted on Jan 7th on the EPA website states that due to the government shutdown, the EPA and Corps of Engineers (Dept. of the Army) will postpone the planned January 23rd public hearing on the proposed new WOTUS definition as well as the publication in the Federal Register. So, you have more time to prepare! Please consider submitting your own comment or as a group on this extremely important change in the rule governing WOTUS. If you would like to read the press release being issued by SWS and other CASS societies, follow [this link](#).

Other items to look forward to in 2019, May is American Wetlands Month! The PNW Chapter would like to offer an activity for our SWS PNW Chapter members this May. See article below and stay tuned to find out what we will be doing, when and where!

The 2019 Annual Meeting, The Role of Wetlands in Meeting Global Environmental Challenges: Linking Science, Policy and Society, will be taking place in Baltimore, MD starting on May 28th to May 31st. The Chesapeake Bay will be a big focus for this conference, possibly providing some knowledge and experience

that could be helpful for the restoration of Puget Sound. **Abstracts are accepted until Monday, February 4th**, if you are interested in presenting your work to other scientists internationally.

The SWS PNW Chapter will be offering another mini-conference during the spring of 2020. Stay Tuned! Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or would like additional information from anyone on the board of the PNW Chapter or on the national level. Looking forward to seeing you all in May at the National Wetlands Month activity as well as in Baltimore!

Recapping Restoration 2018: Restoring Resilient Communities in Changing Landscapes

By Nate Hough-Snee, Program Vice President

Last October the Society of Wetland Scientists Pacific Northwest and the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest held their joint meeting in Spokane, Washington. “Restoring Resilient Communities in Changing Landscapes” was jointly organized by both societies and brought together hundreds of talks and posters, a pub talk, and four invited plenary talks all united around the theme of building resilience in ecosystems and human communities during an era of unprecedented change.

The conference’s events began with field trips and workshops led by many SERNW and SWS-PNW members. Attendees spoke highly of the function-based performance standards workshop organized by Washington State Department of Ecology Staff, Diane Hennessey and Teri Granger. Longtime SWS-PNW member and former chapter president, Scott Luchessa (Seattle City Light), and Ray Entz (Kalispel Tribe) led a trip to a City of Seattle restoration site associated with the Boundary Hydropower project. A few other field trips included a review of revegetation efforts over decades at the



Spokane River in Riverside Park, Spokane. (Photo: Katrina Poppe)
Spokane landfill, led by SWS-PNW executive vice president Josh Wozniak (Parametrix) and City of Spokane landfill manager Scott Winsor, and a visit to an extensive wetland restoration project on the Silver Bow River in Idaho, led by Karen Cathey (USFWS). SWS-PNW is extremely grateful to all of the individuals who planned or led field trips and workshops, worked on logistics, or shared access to their field sites.

While the pre-conference trips and workshops were going full swing, Yvonne Vallette (EPA) and Bill Kirchner (USFWS) held down the registration fort with an army of other volunteers from SWS and SER and local colleges and universities. Thanks to everyone who volunteered at registration, as a moderator, or in any capacity small or large. Without so many committed volunteers and generous sponsors these meetings wouldn’t be economical for our members.



Ben Goldfarb speaking about *Eager* at an evening plenary. (Photo: Nate Hough-Snee)

Tuesday through Thursday were a whirlwind of talks, including plenaries Washington State Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz, National Geographic Explorer Erin Pettit, Author Jack Nisbet, USFS Fish Biologist extraordinaire Dan Isaak, and Ben Goldfarb

who delivered the Wednesday Night Pub Talk. Organized sessions on everything from wildfire and sagebrush to wetland restoration and using beaver in stream restoration (and much more) kept over 200 attendees occupied and engaged for the full three days.

SWS-PNW is extremely grateful for the work that our organizing committee, partner organization (SERNW), conference volunteers, and speakers put into making the meeting a success. To see the full conference program, including archived talks, or leave conference feedback please see the archived conference website: <https://restoration2018.org/>
<https://restoration2018.org/conference-presentations/>

The next SWS-PNW meeting will take place in 2020, and will follow the one-day mini-meeting format last used in 2017. Stay apprised of all SWS conference, field trip, and workshop news by checking into the chapter website later this winter:
<http://www.sws.org/pacific-northwest-chapter>



Ben Goldfarb delivering a plenary talk about beavers at the SWS-SER Meeting. (Photo: Katrina Poppe)

Celebrate American Wetlands Month with the PNW Chapter

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

The PNW chapter is planning field trips and social gatherings in multiple locations throughout the month of May 2019 to celebrate American Wetlands Month! Currently we're looking at having field trips in regions including Puget Sound (Seattle), Northern Washington (Bellingham/Mount Vernon), Central Washington (Leavenworth), and Southern Washington/Oregon (Portland/Vancouver). More information to come for specific dates and locations, so keep checking our social media and emails!

USDA's Update on Wetland Determination Guidance

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

On December 7, 2018, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued an interim rule for the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. The interim rule clarifies the USDA's process for delineation, determination, and certification of wetlands on subject lands to determine ineligibility of certain USDA program benefits for production of an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland.

The interim rule does not change the definition of a wetland for USDA program participation purposes but rather provides greater clarity and uniformity in how NRCS makes determinations nationwide by codifying many of the technical updates into regulations. Specifically, updates to the provisions include:

- Identifying that determinations will rely on precipitation data from 1971-2000. Though data and average rainfall have varied over time, using this specific dataset makes determinations more predictable.
- Clarifying the certification status of previously completed wetland determinations, including those completed 1990-1996.
- Adding definitions for playas, potholes and pocosins. These terms are found in current policy, but they are added to the regulation for transparency.
- Clarifying that determinations do not have to cover the entire farm tract, but only the area of the farm on which a producer is planning to make changes.

- Establishing that NRCS can now assess offsite, impacts on neighboring wetlands when producers request minimal effects exemptions. For those neighboring wetlands, NRCS can now do the evaluations off-site using aerial photography and other resources.
- Incorporating criteria to better reflect on-field observations of hydrology, rather than basing determinations strictly on a set number of days.

USDA is accepting comments on the proposed interim rule until February 5, 2019. A copy of the Federal Register is available online: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/07/2018-26521/highly-erodible-land-and-wetland-conservation>

Social Media Update

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

Did you know we have official Facebook and Twitter accounts for our chapter? Find us on Facebook as Pacific Northwest Chapter of Society of Wetland Scientists

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/50185811318/> and Twitter as [@SWS_PNW](https://twitter.com/SWS_PNW). We will post events, trainings, and articles on our social media, and you can also share with us by joining the Facebook group or following our Twitter account!

WOTUS Proposed Revision

By Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretary

The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a revision to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) definition, to clarify federal authority under the Clean Water Act. The public comment period is open until February 26, 2019 (60 days after its December 28, 2018 publication in the Federal Register). SWS members are encouraged to learn more about the proposed revision and consider submitting a public comment.

This [fact sheet](#) outlines the proposed changes and includes instructions for submitting a public comment.

Consultant List Updates

By Maki Dalzell, Co-Secretary

The PNW Chapter hosts a quarterly updated consultant list on the website: <http://www.sws.org/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-resources.html>. The only requirement to be on this list is current SWS PNW membership. **Please note that updates to your SWS member profile through SWS business office do not automatically carryover to the consultant list.** The PNW Chapter does not get member profile information from the SWS business office, and we need you to keep us informed for updates on the consultant list. If you would like to be added to the list or have your information updated, contact Maki Dalzell at maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com.

Calendar of Wetland Classes and Workshops

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

To better serve our members we have included a list of wetland related classes and workshops occurring in the Pacific Northwest. If you know of other organizations that offer classes please forward the web link to katrina@nwecological.com.

Coastal Training Program:

<http://www.coastaltraining-wa.org/>

- How to Administer Development Permits in Western Washington's Shorelines: Jan 30, 2019. Tacoma, WA.
- Tree and Shrub Identification for Western WA Puget Lowland Habitats: Feb 20, 2019. Mt. Vernon, WA.
- Plant Identification in Central and Eastern Washington Habitats: Mar 6, 2019. Ellensburg, WA.
- Navigating SEPA: Mar 13 or 14, 2019. Mt. Vernon, WA.
- Using the Revised WA State Wetland Rating System (2014) in Western Washington: Mar 20-21, 2019. Lacey, WA.

Northwest Environmental Training Center:

<https://nwetc.org/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

Portland State University Environmental Professional Program: <https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-professional-program/>

- River Restoration Part I Physical Processes: Mar 12-14, 2019. Portland, OR.
- Basic Wetland Delineation: Mar 25-28, 2019. Portland, OR.

- River Restoration Part II Ecological Processes: Apr 9-11, 2019. Portland, OR.
- Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements: Apr 22-23, 2019. Portland, OR.

Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc.:

<http://www.richardchinn.com/>

- Wetland Delineation Training: Mar 11-14, 2019. Seattle, WA.
- Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training: Mar 13-14, 2019. Seattle, WA.

The Seminar Group:

<http://www.theseminargroup.net/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

University of Washington – Professional Development Program:

<http://www.pce.uw.edu/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

University of Washington Botanic Gardens:

<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/adults/conferences-symposia/>

- Washington Botanical Symposium: Mar 6, 2019. Seattle, WA.
- Ecological Restoration Symposium – “Restoration Beyond the Reference System”: Mar 27, 2019. Seattle, WA.

Washington Native Plant Society:

<https://wnps.org/>

- Know Your Grasses workshop: June 19-21, 2019. Seattle, WA.

Western Washington University:

<https://ee.wvu.edu/>

Registration opens May 7 for WWU students, May 14 for non-WWU students

- Wetland ID and Delineation: June 24-28, 2019. Bellingham, WA. (For info contact Elizabeth Binney at elizabeth.binney@wwu.edu).
- Wetland Plant ID: July 24, 25, 27, July 1, 3, 2019. Bellingham, WA. (For info contact T. Abe Lloyd at thomas.lloyd@wwu.edu).

Wetland Training Institute:

<http://wetlandtraining.com/>

No wetland related courses at this time.

Ooze News Deadlines for Articles

Articles and announcements are welcomed and appreciated for the spring edition of the Chapter newsletter, Volume 29 Number 2, no later than April 15, 2019. Please send associated documentation to co-secretaries Katrina Poppe at katrina@nwecological.com or Maki Dalzell at maki.dalzell@hdrinc.com. We will review your information for submission to the Ooze News.

SWS Funds Available for Wetlands Workshops

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

The PNW Chapter Board is encouraging applications for SWS support to conduct workshops on relevant topics. The application can be found on the chapter website:

<http://www.sws.org/Pacific-Northwest-Chapter/pacific-northwest-chapter-events.html>

Chapter Board Meetings

By Lizbeth Seebacher, Chapter President

The PNW Chapter Board conducts quarterly board meetings via conference call. These meetings are open to the general membership and you are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, concerns, want to get involved or are just curious please feel free to attend the meetings. Our last meeting was held on January 17, 2019 at 11:00 am, and our next meeting date is February 8, 2019 at 11am. If you are interested, please contact Lizbeth at lsee461@ecy.wa.gov to receive conference call information.

SWS PNW Member List Serve

By Maki Dalzell/Katrina Poppe, Co-Secretaries

Of the many benefits of becoming a SWS-PNW member, members enjoy being on an exclusive list serve which provides up to date information regarding events, workshops, news, etc. If you're not a member already, please consider becoming one or encourage your colleagues, employees, or the like to join. Thank you!