

Moving Soil Restoration into the Future

June 3-4, 2010, Portland, OR

A workshop to integrate soil science into restoration and water quality projects.

Sponsored by:

Western Forestry and Conservation Association
Portland, OR • www.westernforestry.org

Whether it's roadside restoration, fuels reduction, meadow restoration, mine rehabilitation, water quality improvement, carbon sequestration, wetland mitigation, or any other number of natural resource projects, high quality soils information can be critical for informed management and successful outcome of projects. Yet often, little attention or understanding is given to soils in project planning, implementation, and monitoring. Why is soils information and expertise often overlooked or not required? What would it take to elevate soils expertise to a place where it would be considered a critical element in plant restoration or water quality projects? How do we create opportunities to fill the soil information gaps so that we can build a knowledge base over time? We believe now is an opportune time to answer these questions but it will take a collaborative effort, requiring the experience and perspective of key people.

On June 3rd and 4th 2010 we will be offering a facilitated 2-day working meeting in Portland Oregon to begin the dialogue of how to better integrate soil science into restoration projects.

The objectives of the meeting are:

- Define the level of soils information being used in restoration and water quality projects.
- Determine if this is adequate.
- If not, address why adequate soils information or expertise is not happening.
- Outline what opportunities exist for soil scientists in this field.
- Outline roadblocks and information gaps.
- Address what could be done to raise the level of soil science expertise in these fields.
- Develop an action plan.

The target audience is resource scientists, researchers, and managers who see the need for this type of dialogue and the opportunities that it can create. We expect between 35 and 50 participants.

Program co-chairs: David Steinfeld, USDA Forest Service, **Michael Hogan**, Integrated Environmental Restoration Services and facilitation by **Susan Clark**, Dynamic Competence LLC

Location and Lodging:

The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel (www.doubletreegreen.com) at 1000 NE Multnomah St. The hotel is on the MAX light rail system at the Lloyd Center stop on the east side of the Willamette River (see <http://trimet.org/maps/railsystem.htm> for the light rail system map). The DoubleTree is 45 minutes from the airport on the MAX red line. Lodging is available at the DoubleTree by calling 800-996-0510 and mentioning "Soil Restoration" meeting. Single rooms are at the Portland per diem rate of \$120/night plus tax.

The session will start at 9 AM on June 3 and conclude at 3 PM on June 4. Look for signs, "Soil Restoration Meeting", directing you to the meeting room. Coffee and refreshments will be provided each day, but attendees will be on their own for lunch on both days.

Registration:

The meeting registration fee is \$295 and online registration is available at www.westernforestry.org or by calling Michele at 503-226-4562.

Proposed Agenda

<u>June 3</u>	Thursday
9:00 AM	Overview of the meeting and round of brief attendee introductions. A summary of attendee's background, expertise, work experience, specialties, projects they have worked on, as well as questions they want answered will be filled out prior to the workshop. These summaries will be provided in a booklet to each attendee.
10:00	Break
10:30	Facilitated discussion to define the problem.
Noon	Lunch (not included with registration)
1:00	What is creating this problem? What are the roadblocks? We know what the problem is, what is holding us back?
2:30	Break

- 3:00 Small group sessions to look for solutions to roadblocks. The roadblocks will be divided into common topics and attendees will be able to select one of these topics for focused small group discussions on solutions.
- 5:00 Adjourn for day one (followed by informal meetings at a local brewpub)

June 4 Friday

- 8:00 Small groups report back on their solutions to full group.
- 9:00 Full group ranks solutions and narrows solutions to a preferred and workable subset for future action.
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Full group develops action plan of preferred solutions.
- Noon Lunch (not included with registration)
- 1:00 Action plan, next steps, commitments to action steps
- 3:00 Group adjourns