

Core Methodology Training Agenda

April 24-27, 2018

Primary Goal: To gain a working knowledge of methods and standards used by a majority of the NatureServe network programs (“core methods”), and an understanding of the current focus, and future direction, of the NatureServe Network.

Location: All sessions will be held at Colorado State University - more details on exact building and room to follow. On Wednesday, April 25, we will spend the afternoon at Coyote Ridge Natural Area, 20 minutes outside of Fort Collins.

Instructors (in order of appearance):

- Shara Howie, NatureServe, Program Manager
- Dave Anderson, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Director & Chief Scientist
- Lori Scott, NatureServe, Interim President & CEO, and Chief Information Officer
- Pat Comer, NatureServe, Chief Ecologist
- Dr. Don Faber-Langendoen, NatureServe, Senior Ecologist, Northeastern North America
- Whitney Weber, NatureServe, Product Support Manager
- Anne Frances, NatureServe, Lead Botanist (to join by phone)
- Jill Handwerk, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Botany Team Leader/Information Manager
- Amanda Treher, NatureServe, Research Botanist (to join by phone)
- Jeremy Siemers, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Team Leader and Zoologist
- Bruce Young, NatureServe, Director of Species Science (to join by phone)

Times	Name of Session	Purpose of Session	Length of Session (minutes)	Presenter(s)
Day 1 (Tuesday) April 24, 2018				
9:00-9:15am	Opening/Orientation	Orientation to CMT agenda, training site, etc.	15	Shara Howie & Dave Anderson
9:15-10:15am	Ice breaker	Opportunity to get to know your fellow trainees and trainers.	60	Shara Howie
10:15-10:30am	Break		15	
10:30-11:15am	Introduction to NatureServe Network	Provide overview of NatureServe Network mission, goals, key projects, and strategic direction to contextualize the rest of the training.	45	Lori Scott
11:15am-noon	Impact of Network Data & Methods (Local, Regional and International Examples)	To give trainees a sense of how our data & methods are translated into conservation impact - locally as well as regionally and internationally.	45	Shara Howie & Dave Anderson
noon-1pm	Lunch (on your own)		60	
1:00-1:45	How We've Changed to Address Changing Conservation Challenges	Gives overview of the field of biodiversity conservation and how we fit into the picture, and new methods, data, and tools are changing to address challenges.	45	Pat Comer

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1:45-2:45pm	Introduction Methodological Concepts	Orient trainers to NatureServe methodology concepts including: prioritizing elements of biodiversity, observation collection, mapping, and status assessments.	60	Don Faber-Langendoen & Whitney Weber
2:45-3:00pm	Break		15	
3:00-4:15pm	Methodological Concepts, Cont'd.	Cont'd.	75	Don Faber-Langendoen & Whitney Weber
4:15-5:00pm	Taxonomic Concepts	Provide overview of NS taxonomic work & priorities, and the framework for how central and local collaborate to keep taxonomy reconciled	45	Anne Frances & Don Faber-Langendoen
5:30pm	Happy Hour			Coopersmith's Brewing

Day 2 (Wednesday) April 25, 2018

8:00-9:30am	Overview of Element Ranking	To understand the fundamental concepts, procedures, and tools needed to assign a conservation status rank (global & subnational)	90	Jill Handwerk & Amanda Treher
9:30-9:45am	Break		15	
9:45-11:00am	Element Ranking Exercises	Learn how to rank through hands-on exercises	75	Jill Handwerk & Amanda Treher
11:00am-12:00pm	Lunch & Introduction to Field Site	Provide information on the field site, including context of site, plants and animals we will see, etc.	60	Colorado Natural Heritage Program Staff
12:00-1:00pm	Travel to Field Site		60	
1:00-4:00pm	Field Site Data Collection Exercises	To understand the type of data needed in the field in order to create a source feature or EO	180	There will be two groups - species group led by Jeremy and Whitney, and Ecology group led by Don and Jill. Attendees will attend each group - 90 minutes in one group, and then switching to other group for 90 minutes.
4:00-5:00pm	Travel back from Field Site		60	
5:30pm	Group Dinner			Los Tarascos

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Day 3 (Thursday) April 26, 2018

8:00-10:00am	Source Feature/EO Mapping	To understand the fundamental concepts, procedures, and tools needed to create or edit a source feature or EO.	120	Whitney Weber & Jill Handwerk
10:00-10:15am	Break		15	
10:15-11:15am	Source Feature/EO Mapping Exercises	To gain hands-on mapping experience through mapping exercises	60	Whitney Weber & Jill Handwerk
11:15am-12:15pm	Lunch		60	
12:15-2:15pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Overview	To understand the fundamental concepts & challenges around the assessment of an EO.	60	Don Faber-Langendoen & Jeremy Siemers
2:15-2:30pm	Break		15	
2:30-3:30pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Exercises	To gain hands-on EO ranking experience through ranking exercises	60	Don Faber-Langendoen & Jeremy Siemers
3:30-4:30pm	Status of NatureServe Network Species Distribution Modeling	Provide an overview of the network's effort to do species distribution modeling	45	Dave Anderson
4:30-5:00pm	Feedback and Closing Remarks	Get feedback to inform future CMT	30	Shara Howie
5:30pm	Dinner on your own			

Day 4 (Friday) April 27, 2018

8 am-noon	new! Ecology Discussion	Overview of Ecology program, round robin, and discussion of agreed upon topics identified by trainees prior to the session.	1/2 day	Pat Comer
8 am-noon	new! Species Science Discussion	To provide a summary of tools and communication avenues available to network botanists and zoologists, and then focus on discussing trainees' questions and conundrums submitted prior to the session.	1/2 day	Bruce Young to join remotely. Jeremy Siemers in-person.
8 am-noon	new! In-depth Biotics Training	Hands-on training in querying and bulk uploading in B5, or other identified topics determined by the trainees prior to the session.	1/2 day	Whitney Weber & Jill Handwerk