

Core Methodology Training Agenda- DRAFT

April 23-26, 2019

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 NatureServe’s new location 2511 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202 (except Wednesday, see below for details). Additional details to follow.

Instructors (in order of appearance):

- Shara Howie, NatureServe, Program Manager
- Sean O’Brien, NatureServe, President & CEO
- Allison Gratz, NatureServe, Director of Network Relations
- Healy Hamilton, NatureServe, Chief Scientist
- Anne Frances, NatureServe, Lead Botanist
- Amanda Treher, NatureServe, Research Botanist
- Don Faber-Langendoen, NatureServe, Senior Ecologist, Northeastern North America
- Whitney Weber, NatureServe, DBA & Product Support Specialist
- Wes Knapp, NC Natural Heritage Program, Chief Botanist
- Chris Ludwig, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Chief Biologist
- Danielle Kulas, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Biodiversity Data and GIS Specialist
- Regan Lyons Smyth, Spatial Ecology Project Manager
- Pat Comer, NatureServe, Chief Ecologist
- Bruce Young, NatureServe, Chief Zoologist and Senior Conservation Scientist

Times	Name of Session	Purpose of Session	Length of Session (minutes)	Presenter(s)
Day 1 (Tuesday) April 23, 2019				
8:30-8:45am	Opening/Orientation	Orientation to CMT agenda, training site, etc.	15	Shara Howie
8:45-9:45am	Ice breaker	Opportunity to get to know your fellow trainees and trainers.	60	Shara Howie
9:45-10:00am	Break		15	
10:00-10:45am	Introduction to NatureServe Network	Provide overview of NatureServe Network mission, goals, how we work together as a network, and strategic direction to contextualize the rest of the training.	45	Lori Scott & Allison Gratz
10:45-11:30am	Conservation Science: Where have we been & where are we going?	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	Regan Smyth & Pat Comer (by phone)
11:30am-12:45pm	Lunch (on your own)		75	

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12:45-1:30pm	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 & Tom Smith (?)
1:30-2:15pm	Taxonomic Concepts and Classifications	Provide overview of NS taxonomic work & priorities, and the framework for how central and local collaborate to keep taxonomy reconciled	45	Anne Frances, Amanda Treher & Don Faber-Langendoen
2:15-2:30pm	Break		15	
2:30-5:00pm	Introduction to Methodological Concepts	Orient trainers to NatureServe methodology concepts including: prioritizing elements of biodiversity, observation collection, mapping, and status assessments.	150	Don Faber-Langendoen & Whitney Weber
5:00pm	Happy Hour with NatureServe staff			
Day 2 (Wednesday) April 24, 2019				
Wednesday morning sessions will be held at a different location to be announced. Wednesday afternoon will be spent at a location along the Potomac River (transportation provided).				
8:30-10:00am	Overview of Element Ranking	To understand the fundamental concepts, procedures, and tools needed to assign a conservation status rank (global & subnational)	90	Amanda Treher & Wes Knapp
10:00-10:15am	Break		15	
10:15-11:30am	Element Ranking Exercises	Learn how to rank through hands-on exercises	75	Amanda Treher & Wes Knapp
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch (provided) & Introduction to Field Site	To receive information about the field site, including site context, plants and animals we will see, etc.	60	Chris Ludwig
12:30-1:15pm	Travel to Field Site		45	
1:15-4:15pm	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	Attendees will split into two groups (species & ecology), and switch groups 90 minutes into session. Species group led by Wes and Chris, and Ecology group led by Don and Whitney.
4:15-5:00pm	Travel back from Field		45	

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5:30pm	Group Dinner			TBD
Day 3 (Thursday) April 25, 2019				
8:30-10:30am	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 & Danielle Kulas
10:30-10:45am	Break		15	
10:45-11:45am	Source Feature/EO Mapping Exercises	To gain hands-on mapping experience through mapping exercises	60	Whitney Weber & Danielle Kulas
11:45am-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)		75	
1:00-2:00pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Overview	To understand the fundamental concepts & challenges around the assessment of an EO.	60	Don Faber-Langendoen, Wes Knapp & Chris Ludwig
2:00-2:15pm	Break		15	
2:15-3:30pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Exercises	To gain hands-on EO ranking experience through ranking exercises	75	Don Faber-Langendoen, Wes Knapp & Chris Ludwig
3:30-4:30pm	Status of NatureServe Network Species Distribution Modeling	Provide an overview of the network's effort to do species distribution modeling	60	Regan Lyons Smyth
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 26, 2019				
8:00am-noon	Ecology Discussion (location details to follow)	Overview of Ecology program, round robin, and discussion of agreed upon topics identified by trainees prior to the session.	1/2 day	Pat Comer to join remotely with Wes Knapp in-person.
8:00am-noon	Species Science Discussion (location details to follow)	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 & Chris Ludwig in-person.
8:00am-noon	In-depth Biotics Training (location details to follow)	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 & Danielle Kulas