

West Region Natural Heritage Conference

April 14-17, 2008

Granlibakken Resort, Tahoe City, California

Co-hosted by: NatureServe and the California Natural Diversity Database

AGENDA

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Registration Table Open <i>Prefunction Room</i>	Monday April 14
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Field trip <i>[Meeting place TBD]</i>	
7:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Registration Table Open <i>Prefunction Room</i>	Tuesday, April 15, morning
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST <i>Granhall Room</i>	
Opening Plenary Sessions <i>Bay Room</i>		
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Welcome	<p>Kevin Hunting, Deputy Director of Regional Operations, California Fish and Game Mary Klein, President and CEO, NatureServe</p>
9:00 - 9:45 AM	Plenary Presentations - "Partnerships for Conservation"	<p>Conservation Science through Strategic Partnerships, Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director, California Native Plant Society. Since 1979 the cooperative venture between the California Native Plant Society (CNPS; www.cnps.org) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG-) has promoted plant science and protected native plant species, allowing both institutions to improve the quality of the scientific information they make available to the public, to minimize duplication of efforts, and to focus more effort on promoting science-based natural resource planning and maximizing conservation opportunities in California. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), a statewide non-profit organization, promotes understanding, appreciation, and conservation of California's native plants and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship. Prior to assuming Executive Director of CNPS, Amanda Jorgenson served as the Ecuador Program Coordinator for four years with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and prior to that, was the Executive Director of Fundación Natura, in Colombia.</p> <p>Partnering to Meet GIS-Needs of the Non-Profit Community, Larry Orman, Executive Director, GreenInfo Network, GreenInfo Network (www.greeninfo.org) is a non-profit based in California that supports public interest organizations and agencies with GIS and related information technology, providing data development, geospatial analysis, display mapping and other communications, database and web design. Among all these efforts, GreenInfo has been the GIS support framework for two \$150 million foundation granting programs for conservation, as well as assisting dozens of land trusts and several public agencies on a wide range of natural resource projects. Prior to founding GreenInfo Network, Larry Orman was formerly the Executive Director of Greenbelt Alliance, the regional urban planning and land conservation organization in the San Francisco Bay Area.</p>
9:45 - 10:25 AM	State of the Network	<p>The State of the NatureServe Network in the West, Sabra Schwartz and TBD. Chair of the U.S. Council and Coordinator of Arizona's Heritage Data Management System, Sabra Schwartz, will be joined by other western leaders to provide brief reports on state and provincial member programs across western U.S. and Canada.</p>
10:25 - 10:30 AM	Conference Logistics	Judy Soule, Director Member Relations, NatureServe
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	BREAK <i>Prefunction Area</i>	

Concurrent Sessions

THEMES:	Emerging Conservation Challenges Alder Room	Science Alumni Room	Methodology and Technology Aspen Room	Integrating Science, Technology & Action Bay Room
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<p>Climate Change and Biodiversity: Toward an Index for Susceptibility to Climate Change. Bruce Young and Bruce Stein, NatureServe. 90 min. Changing climates mean that everything is in flux. Our traditional means of setting conservation priorities are no longer robust to all the threats that face biodiversity. We need an index to tell us which elements are more threatened by climate change than others. In this session, we'll start with an update on NatureServe's climate change strategy and then work with participants to outline how such a "Climate Change Susceptibility Index" might be formulated.</p>	<p>Ecological Integrity Assessments and EORANKS: Progress and Next Steps. Don Faber-Langendoen, Linda Vance, Esteban Muldavin, and Gwen Kittel. 180 min.</p> <p>We will discuss the current status of EIA and EORANK methodology by presenting current project results; and discuss the overall Recommendations for changing our methodology. Revisions to our EORANK methodology based on Ecological Integrity concepts are needed in order to ensure that we make use of the best available science when assessing the condition and promoting the conservation value of ecosystem occurrences. We present a multi-level, metrics-based assessment approach that will allow more flexible evaluations of ecological integrity (wall-to-wall, watershed or landscape mapping and EOs), and more intensive evaluations of chosen EOs that need to be tracked over time, or which are being restored. We review applications to grasslands, forests, deserts and wetlands, and ask for input on the recommended changes.</p> <p>Continues after lunch</p>	<p>From Observations to EO's or How to Process 1200+ EO's a Day. Karen Walker. 30 min. The Montana Natural Heritage Program Point Observation Database (POD) holds over half a million animal observation records and our new (read still in development) Botany Observation Geodatabase hold over 5,000 plant observation records. These records get reviewed and filtered and lumped and turned into Biotics EO's at an alarming rate! I will go over the data models for the various (non-Biotics) databases and supporting tables, discuss the methods used to get this data into Biotics, and touch on how the data is displayed on our TRACKER web application.</p> <p>Montana Natural Heritage TRACKER Web Application. Allan Cox. 45 min. The Montana Nature Heritage TRACKER web application allows access to and integration of observation data, element occurrence data, range and predicted habitat data for plants and animals. The TRACKER has two levels of access (general public and "agency partners"), both allowing users to add their own animal observations directly into our Point Observation Database, pending validation by staff. The TRACKER ties directly to our on-line plant and animal field guides, in turn linked to NatureServe Explorer. Aside from a demonstration, we'll explore issues of interoperability of applications; underlying databases; behind the scenes processing tools to accept and manage new observations; managing security and access levels; and how our staff use these tools or managing and updating information, including handling mediated Species of Concern reviews.</p> <p>Internet Data Delivery of California Heritage Data. Tom Lupo. 30 min. Demo and discussion of our web-based GIS data delivery system, called BIOS, for display, querying, reporting and mapping of rare species observation information. See www.bios.dfg.ca.gov for more information.</p>	<p>No Sessions Tuesday</p>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	<p>LUNCH Granhall Room</p>			

Concurrent Sessions

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1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<p>Climate Change and Ecoregional Planning in British Columbia Central Interior. Gwen Kittel, Timothy Kittel, Pierre Lachetti, Dusan Markovic. 30 min. NatureServe is currently working with The Nature Conservancy of Canada on Ecoregional Planning for the Central Interior and Sub-Boreal Ecoprovinces of British Columbia. New Ecological Systems have been developed for this 25 million hectare region, and new, innovative ideas for incorporating Climate Change into the plan have been brought forth. This area is experiencing the largest outbreak of pine bark beetle infestation ever recorded in modern history. Our climate change strategy is to take a scenario-independent, no-regrets approach. The coupling of climate change and beetle kill required that this be a multiple threat strategy.</p> <p>The Wildlife Action Plan of Nevada – Dealing with Climate Change. 30 min. TBD. The Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) of Nevada is currently in the implementation phase. Through important national legislation, climate change has become a focus. The current WAP does not specifically target climate change and its future impacts on the wildlife of Nevada. Through a special grant, the implementation team will update and map distributions of focal species and analyze the potential impacts from climate change on habitats and ecological systems.</p> <p>The Pulse of our Planet: The USA-National Phenology Network. Jake F. Weltzin. 30 min. The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) is an emerging and exciting partnership between federal agencies, the academic community, and the general public to monitor and understand the influence of seasonal cycles on the Nation's biological resources. The goal of the USA-NPN (www.usanpn.org) is to establish a wall-to-wall science and monitoring initiative focused on phenology, the seasonal pulse of the biosphere and thus the gateway to climatic effects on ecosystems and ecosystem services. This talk will illustrate how phenology is an emerging integrative science for assessing impacts of global change, and for increasing citizen awareness and participation in understanding environmental impacts of human activities.</p>	<p>Ecological Integrity Assessments: Progress and Next Steps. State Applications. 90 min. Continued from morning</p>	<p>Protected Areas Inventories - Designing the Next Generation Larry Orman. GreenInfo Network. 30 min. With increased rural and urban pressures on open lands for development, understanding the pattern of existing protected areas has never been more important. In California, GreenInfo Network, supported by a group of public agencies and non-profits, is in the final stages of the first complete inventory of all protected land in the state - from tot lots to national parks, most mapped at the accuracy of tax parcels. At the same time, a national effort is just beginning to design the next generation of protected lands inventories, going beyond the USGS Gap stewardship layer and Conservation Biology Institute Protected Areas Database project. We will describe the issues and opportunities these endeavors pose for conservation and broader planning strategies.</p> <p>US Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation Approach. Cheryl Hickam, USFWS. Across the conservation community, species and habitat conservation increasingly rely on landscape approaches that integrate scientific information with management decisions. Strategic Habitat Conservation has been developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as an iterative framework of Biological Planning, Conservation Design, Conservation Delivery and Monitoring and Research. We describe the framework, how we expect it to improve our abilities to define desired biological outcomes and articulate the consequences of site-scale actions on landscape scale functions. We will discuss the implications of this new approach for biological data needs and partnership opportunities.</p> <p>Colorado Biodiversity Scorecard. David Anderson. 30 min. Conservation practitioners face similar needs to track, measure, and report on the status of species of concern and associated habitat. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program employs a "scorecard" approach to species and habitat metrics. This session will present the approach and lessons learned from its application.</p>	<p>No Sessions Tuesday</p>
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK Prefunction Area				
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	<p>iMapInvasives: A Web-based Approach to Invasive Species Data Aggregation, Mapping and Decision-making. Mandy Tu. 30 min. On a nation-wide basis habitat loss is the number one threat to biodiversity. The number two threat: invasive species – and on land that is already protected from development, invasive species is the number one threat. To address this growing problem, the NY Natural Heritage Program, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and The Nature Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Team are collaborating to develop a prototype for a web-based, invasive species mapping system. See how this collaboration can benefit your program in the future.</p> <p>Mapping Weeds in Nevada. Kim Williams. 30 min. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program initiated a weeds mapping program in March of 2007. Occurrences of noxious and invasive weeds are being compiled in Biotics. Mapping progress, as well as some challenges and barriers of using widely disparate field techniques will be discussed.</p> <p>Discussion. Opportunities and needs for addressing invasive species in the West, with a focus on multi-state or partnering opportunities.</p>	<p>Shrub-steppe: Inventory and Conservation Planning. John Gamon, John Fleckenstein, Rex Crawford, Lisa Hallock. 90 min. This session will focus on inventory, mapping, and conservation challenges for the Shrub-Steppe describe Washington Natural Heritage Program's efforts to inventory shrub-steppe habitats in eastern Washington, all with an eye toward refining conservation priorities and taking action(s) on those sites that emerge as high priorities. The session will cover 1) overview of approach to inventory of a large area ; 2) innovative approaches to conducting inventories for a rare snake; and 3) ecosystems classification efforts in sand dune habitats in Washington. Jimmy Kagan will discuss inventory, mapping, challenges and lessons learned in Oregon.</p>	<p>New Tools and New Products for Botany and Zoology. Bruce Young. 30 min. Over the past year, we've made significant progress improving our methods, performing Red List Assessments, and improving data visualization methods on our websites. This presentation will provide a brief overview of these exciting advances.</p> <p>Collaborative inventory, planning, and data sharing efforts with the US Forest Service. Roxanne Bittman, Sabra Schwartz., Nancy Benton. 60 min. Collaborative inventory, planning, and data sharing efforts with the US Forest Service. Roxanne Bittman, Sabra Schwartz., Nancy Benton. 60 min. Many member programs have agreements in place for various tasks with the USFS, but these agreements vary widely in scope and content across the network. This work session will focus on challenges and successes working with the USFS, focusing on strategies we can all use to strengthen our ties with one of the West's largest land managers.</p>	<p>No Sessions Tuesday</p>
5:30 - 6:30 PM Reception with Cash Bar Granhall Room 6:30 - 8:00 PM Dinner Granhall Room				

Concurrent Sessions

THEMES:	Emerging Conservation Challenges Alder Room	Science Alumni Room	Methodology and Technology Aspen Room	Integrating Science, Technology & Action Bay Room
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<p>Monitoring and Mapping Weeds at the US Air Force Academy. David G. Anderson. 30 min. The US Air Force Academy ("the Academy," near Colorado Springs, CO) is critically important for the conservation of Preble's meadow jumping mouse, which was listed as threatened in 1998. Occurrences of several other rare animals, plants, and plant communities are also found on the Academy property. One component of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program's partnership with the Academy has been to support biodiversity conservation through mapping and monitoring of targeted noxious weed species. This presentation is an overview of the ongoing weed mapping and monitoring program at the Academy.</p> <p>Mapping and Planning for Isolated Springs in Nevada. Janel Johnson (NNHP) and Susan Abele (TNC). 30 min. Many isolated springs occur throughout Nevada. These represent critical habitat to a number of rare endemic species. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have partnered in a two-year mapping and plan writing project. NNHP will conduct field surveys of over 300 springs throughout the state. This information will be used to create community EOs, Site descriptions, and rare species EOs in Biotics. TNC will use this information in their CAP planning process to produce a comprehensive conservation plan.</p>	<p>Spatial data for ecological elements: Where we are, where are we going, how will we get there. Pat Comer and Marion Reid. 180 min. During this session we will get an overview of the Biological Mapping Approaches Team (BMAAT) recommendations especially as they pertain to ecological elements. IHEN, observations, element occurrences and vegetation maps will each have focused overview and discussion time, answering the following questions for each: what do we have, how are we using it, what do we want or need it for, should we be exchanging it, and what tools do we have to manage it. Individual Heritage programs will be asked to be prepared to provide 5-10 min overviews related to one of these. Discussion time we hope will lead to identification of priorities, roles, responsibilities for the western Network for developing, managing, sharing, and disseminating ecology spatial data.</p>	<p>Collecting and managing observation data. Rob Solomon, Lynn Kutner, TBD. 90 min. This session would be a series of short presentations (3 to 4) from various Western Regional Heritage Programs and CDC's who have establish procedures and in some cases developed system for collecting and managing observation datasets. It would also include a short presentation on NatureServe's observation data initiatives as well (Provisional observation standards, Kestrel, and more).</p>	<p>LandScope America. Lori Scott, Rickie White, John Gamon, Michael Menefee 90 min. This session will introduce the LandScope America initiative through demonstrations and presentations by two of the pilot states – Colorado and Washington. Session outline: - See a demonstration of the LandScope America website (60 mins) -- take a tour of LandScope's unique and dynamic interface -- explore two examples of state sub-sites now in development - Colorado (Renee Rondeau) and Washington (John Gamon) - Learn how you can participate in this initiative (30 mins) -- options for contributing content for the 2008 release -- steps for building a LandScope sub-site in your state.</p>

Wednesday, April 16, morning, continued

Concurrent Sessions

THEMES:	Emerging Conservation Challenges Alder Room	Science Alumni Room	Methodology and Technology Aspen Room	Integrating Science, Technology & Action Bay Room
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<p>Habitat Modeling of Rare Plant Species in Pacific Northwest Forests. Claudine Tobolske. 30 min. Habitat distribution models were constructed for several rare plant species in western Oregon. Inductive models based on Maximum Entropy and Random Forest were used to generate predictive maps for each species. Field surveys based on model outputs identified 22 previously unknown populations of 4 species; these data were then used to recalibrate and refine model predictions. For a given species, Random Forest generally produced higher rates of prediction success than Maximum entropy. Overall, field survey results, model accuracy measures, and qualitative observations confirm the utility of habitat models for predicting rare species occurrence.</p> <p>Predictive Modeling on Forest Industry Lands in Idaho: A Collaborative Effort. Rickie White and Jon Hak. 30 min. Funded by Forest Capital Partners and the Idaho State Wildlife Grant Program, NatureServe and the ID CDC are collaborating on a project to predict locations of rare species and ecological communities in northern Idaho. Forest Capital Partners funded the development of the models, and ID F&G is funding the field verification, which will occur in the summer of 2008.</p> <p>Reconstructing past and ensemble forecasting future distributional responses of California's birds to climate change. Bill Monahan & Gary Langham, Science Department, Audubon California. 30 min. Audubon California is developing climate-based predictive distribution models for California's c. 400 bird species. In phase I, we build and validate historic (1966-2006) time series models using the observed climatic associations of each species. In phase II, we project the species models using multiple climate change models and scenarios for the 21st century. Results are in the form of predictive distribution maps that can be used to help prioritize areas for bird conservation in the face of a changing climate and model uncertainty.</p>	<p>Spatial data for ecological elements: Where we are, where we're going, how will we get there, cont., [1&19]</p>	<p>Observations Working Session. Jennifer Nichols and Lynn Kutner. 90 min. Tracking observations data is becoming increasingly important for programs and the products they deliver. Designed to follow Rob Solomon's session on observations data use in programs, this working session will focus on gathering program input including definitions for, and relationships between, observations and EOs in their programs, whether it's important to retain these relationships, which types of observations data they are using, and which they feel are most important to focus on first for spatial methods work.</p>	<p>Vegetation Mapping and Classification in California. Todd Keeler-Wolf and Diana Hickson. 45 min. In the past decade a number of mapping and classification projects have been completed by the California Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program. We will discuss elements of appropriate attributing, techniques maximizing efficiencies of data collection, analysis, and map representation. We also will discuss needs for flexibility with regard to access, data collection, and partnerships. The uses of these mapping and classification products will be discussed with regard to predictive habitat modeling, conservation planning, and monitoring.</p>

Wednesday, April 16, afternoon

Concurrent Sessions

THEMES:	Botany	Zoology	Ecology	Information Management	Leadership
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	Alder Room	Aspen Room	Alumni Room	Bay Room	Courtview Room
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<p>Botanists' Forum. Kelly Gravuer. 30 min.</p> <p>Cross-jurisdictional status of western rare plants. Kelly Gravuer (NatureServe) to facilitate. Remainder of day. Assemble western NHP botanists and other agency personnel and experts (if possible) to review global status and global rank fields for western rare plants occurring in more than one jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Using the Element New Rank Calculator with Western Animals. Bruce Young and Geoff Hammerson. 90 min. The new Element Rank calculator reflects improved criteria and produces more transparent and repeatable Element Ranks. We'll show off the new rank calculator by working through tricky examples drawn from the western fauna.</p>	<p>Ecology ELEMENT-LEVEL data exchange in the west: what's been done so far, what do we want to do. Marion Reid & Pat Comer. 90 min. We'll do an overview of the simple one-way exchanges done so far with CNHP, WYNDDDB and WANHP. This can lead to discussion of how can we get to actually doing EXCHANGING of community element data. This time can also be used to continue discussion of tools & processes for managing our mapped spatial data.</p>	<p>Update on Data Exchange Tool Innovations. Donna Reynolds. 30 min. An update will be provided on development of the next generation of data exchange tools. These include TAXI, a web-based method for documenting, disseminating, and (eventually) automating taxonomic changes. Plans will be discussed for a new paradigm for data exchange which decouples the taxonomic reconciliation component from the EO aggregation component. This will allow data to be synchronized incrementally and more frequently than is currently possible.</p> <p>The California Natural Diversity Database - Why we do the things we do. Darlene McGriff. 60 min. I will present statistics on the kinds and amount of data that come into the CNDDDB and on our productivity in mapping EOs. I will discuss how we set priorities for data entry. I will give details about some of our larger and more complex datasets with explanations for the way we mapped EOs.</p>	<p>Network Coordinators' Forum. Judy Soule. 90 min. NatureServe Network Coordinators meet to catch up and compare notes on challenges and opportunities in their program, share information on funding and multi-state collaboration opportunities.</p>
3:00 - 3:30 PM	BREAK <i>Prefunction Area</i>				
3:30 - 5:00 PM	<p>Cross-jurisdictional status of western rare plants. Kelly Gravuer (NatureServe) to facilitate. Cont.</p>	<p>Using the New Generic Element Occurrence Rank Specifications with Western Animals. Geoff Hammerson and Bruce Young. 90 min. Addressing a long-time need, NatureServe and heritage scientists have developed a generic approach to element occurrence ranking specifications. During this session we will unveil the new generic rank specs and show how to use them on western animals.</p>	<p>Ecological systems classification & map review and revision: Upland Systems. Marion Reid. 180 min. One session will focus on upland systems, the other session on the wetland and riparian systems. During these work sessions we will use the visual tool of the systems map to clarify, discuss and revise the ecological concepts of the vegetation types, and would capture the information in a database or word document for future revision of descriptions. In addition, this review would result in improvement and revision of the map itself.</p>	<p>Information Managers Forum - TBD - Opportunity for information managers to compare notes and exchange ideas on best practices.</p>	<p>LandScope America Phase 2 Strategy. Judy Soule, Lori Scott., Bruce Stein. 90 min. Working session about the phase 2 expansion goals for LandScope. Session will provide information about steps that states can take to enlist as a sub-site, and about resources that will be available from NatureServe, including fundraising coordination.</p>
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Dinner with Guest Speaker John Muir Laws <i>Lake Room</i>				

Thursday, April 17, morning

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM BREAKFAST *Granhall Room*

Concurrent Sessions

THEMES:	Botany <i>Courtview Room</i>	Zoology combined sessions <i>Aspen Room</i>	Ecology <i>Lake Room</i>	Leadership <i>Bay Room</i>	Intermediate Biotics Training <i>Cedar House</i>
9:00 AM - 10:30 PM	Cross-jurisdictional status of western rare plants. Kelly Gravuer (NatureServe) to facilitate. Cont.	Zoologists Forum. 90 min. Opportunity for western zoologists to discuss current projects, challenges, and opportunities.	Ecological systems classification & map review and revision: Upland Systems. Marion Reid, Cont.	Providing Multi-jurisdictional Element Occurrence Data via Web Services. Leslie Honey, Sabra Schwartz, John Gamon, Rayo McCollough, Kat Maybury. 90 min. In November 2007, more than twenty member programs endorsed a network-wide product that NatureServe should build to provide access to multi-jurisdictional species data to clients via web services. A team of NatureServe and member program staff has begun to develop this product, including making many decisions about specifics. We will present our straw-man product for active criticism, review, and feedback. NOTE: THIS WORKING SESSION IS FOR MEMBER PROGRAMS AND NATURESERVE STAFF.	Intermediate Biotics Training (special registration required, continues through Friday). Whitney Weber and Donna Reynolds. 2 days

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM BREAK *Prefunction Area*

THEMES:	Botany <i>Courtview Room</i>	Zoology <i>Aspen Room</i>	Ecology <i>Lake Room</i>	Leadership <i>Bay Room</i>	Intermediate Biotics Training <i>Cedar House</i>
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Cross-jurisdictional status of western rare plants. Kelly Gravuer (NatureServe) to facilitate. Cont.	Tracking Subspecies for Conservation. Geoff Hammerson. 90 min. What are the characteristics of the subspecies and populations that we should be tracking for conservation purposes? Should we be tracking populations in isolated mountain ranges even if those populations have not been accorded taxonomic recognition? We'll discuss this question with examples from western states and provinces.	Ecological systems classification & map review and revision: Upland Systems. Marion Reid, Cont.	Network Vision. Judy Soule. 90 min. Help shape the vision for the NatureServe Network. What do we wish to accomplish together? What does it take to be effective, in terms of coordination, alignment, and capacity to realize our goals? This vision will inform program fundraising efforts in NatureServe.	Intermediate Biotics Training, cont.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH *Granhall Room*- Main Conference Adjourns

Thursday, April 17, afternoon

Post-conference Workshop

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Intermediate Biotics, cont.

Friday, April 18, all-day

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Intermediate Biotics, cont.

Wednesday, April 16, afternoon

Concurrent Sessions

	Botany Alder Room	Zoology Aspen Room	Ecology Lake Room	Information Management Bay Room	Leadership Courtview Room
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3:00 - 3:30 PM **BREAK Prefunction Area**

3:30 - 5:00 PM	<p>Cross-jurisdictional status of western rare plants. Kelly Gravuer (NatureServe) to facilitate. Cont.</p>	<p>Using the New Generic Rank Specs with Western Animals. Geoff Hammerson and Bruce Young. 90 min. Addressing a long-time need, NatureServe and heritage scientists have developed a generic approach to element ranking specifications. During this session we will unveil the new generic rank specs and show how to use them on western animals.</p>	<p>Ecological systems classification & map review and revision: Upland Systems. Marion Reid. 180 min. One session will focus on upland systems, the other session on the wetland and riparian systems. During these work sessions we will use the visual tool of the systems map to clarify, discuss and revise the ecological concepts of the vegetation types, and would capture the information in a database or word document for future revision of descriptions. In addition, this review would result in improvement and revision of the map itself.</p>	<p>Update on Data Exchange Tool Innovations. Donna Reynolds. 30 min. An update will be provided on development of the next generation of data exchange tools. These include TAXI, a web-based method for documenting, disseminating, and (eventually) automating taxonomic changes. Plans will be discussed for a new paradigm for data exchange which decouples the taxonomic reconciliation component from the EO aggregation component. This will allow data to be synchronized incrementally and more frequently than is currently possible.</p>	<p>Network Coordinators' Forum. Judy Soule, TBD. 90 min. NatureServe Network Coordinators meet to catch up and compare notes on challenges and opportunities in their programs.</p>
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6:30 - 8:00 PM **Dinner with Guest Speaker John Muir Laws Granhall Room**

Thursday, April 17, morning

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST Granhall Room**

Concurrent Sessions

	Botany Alder Room	Zoology combined sessions Aspen Room	Ecology Lake Room	Leadership Bay Room	Intermediate Biotics Training Cedar House
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12:30 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH <i>Granhall Room</i>- Main Conference Adjourns					
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