

## 2020 CONSERVATION BANKING WEBINAR SERIES

# WEBINAR 1 SPEAKER BIOS

### The Market & Regulatory Drivers for Conservation Banking

**Katie Allen** leads The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network (CLN) in the development, execution and evaluation of The Fund's range of services related to innovative partnership programs, capacity building trainings, sustainability consulting and technical assistance. Katie works with community, governmental, and corporate partners to build capacity among leaders to enable on the ground conservation solutions and reach sustainable economic development goals.

Since 2010, Katie has designed and led several national and place-based initiatives for The Fund including the Federal Lands Livability Initiative, the National Workshop on Water Quality Trading, and Appalachian Gateway Community workshops and sustainable tourism assessments. She serves as facilitator for CLN's long-standing and highly-acclaimed Balancing Nature and Commerce Course, Mitigation Banking for Inter-Agency Review Teams Course, and Conservation Banking Course, as well as their regional offerings across the country. She holds a Masters of City and Regional Planning in Environmental and Land Use Planning from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Boston University.

**Shauna Everett** is a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has worked on all aspects of the Endangered Species Act, with current focus on Pacific Northwest forest management. Related to mitigation, Shauna functions as the primary representative for policy and technical assistance on environmental market programs in the region including conservation and wetland mitigation banks. She is also a policy lead for Greater sage-grouse mitigation programs across the species' range. Shauna has worked on several national policies, co-authored white papers and a book chapter on compensatory mitigation, and has taught national conservation banking training courses for the last decade. She holds a master's degree in Wildlife Ecology from Oklahoma State University and Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Arkansas.

**Christopher Hartley** is the Deputy Director and Senior Environmental Markets Analyst with the USDA Office of Environmental Markets. He is responsible for the development of policy, tools, and metrics to support landowner participation in ecosystem services markets. He previously worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, DC and in California. He holds a Doctorate in Agricultural Ecology and masters' degrees in Agronomy and International Agricultural Development from the University of California - Davis.

**Valerie Layne** is an Ecologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources (IWR) in Alexandria, VA. She supports the USACE Regulatory Program through developing and delivering trainings on compensatory mitigation for USACE regulators, and as the National Administrator for the Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS), working with the RIBITS team to ensure RIBITS continues to meet the needs of the regulatory community. Prior to joining IWR, she was a Senior Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for over a decade, where she specialized in joint-agency review and guidance for compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation and conservation banks, served on IRTs in two Corps Districts, and was a RIBITS Super-Administrator for the Service. All told, she has nearly 30 years' experience ranging from biological inventories, special status species surveys, and monitoring ecological restoration and mitigation projects in the non-profit and private sectors, to regulatory with the federal government.

**Angela Somma** became the Chief of the Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service in 2005. As Division Chief, she oversees national programs and policies to implement the Endangered Species Act for marine and anadromous species. Those programs include recovery of threatened and endangered species, placing species on the threatened and endangered species list, designating experimental populations, critical habitat designations, protective regulations for threatened species, and cooperative programs with States. Ms. Somma joined the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1992.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, go to the [Webinar Series Information](#) page. All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to this website.