

# **Webinar 2: Setting the Stage for Success: Strategic Site Selection and Mitigation/Conservation Bank Instrument Development**

## **Instructor Biographies**

**Michelle Mattson** is an ecologist with 25 years of professional experience in ecosystem restoration, site assessment, and regulatory compliance as a consultant in southern California and as a Corps' regulator. At the Corps' Institute for Water Resources (IWR), Michelle is considered a compensatory mitigation subject matter expert (SME) and leads developing mitigation trainings, supports policy development, and works with other programs such as the Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP) and IWR's New Horizons Program. Michelle has always enjoyed her work on interagency efforts looking for creative solutions to complex restoration and mitigation problems. She sadly misses her time in the field working hands-on with technical teams to design, install and monitor restoration projects, as well as developing mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs from the ground up. Michelle has a B.S. in Ecology from UC San Diego.

**Tyler Bell** is the Director of Westervelt Ecological Services' Rocky Mountain Region. She is a Professional Wetland Scientist and a Certified Wildlife Biologist. She has worked in the field of compensatory mitigation for 14 years. Ms. Bell attended the University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forest Resources, for her undergraduate studies in Forest Resources and Wildlife Biology (2006), completed a US Geological Survey-funded M.S. degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2011), and completed a M.L.A. in Sustainability at Harvard University (2024).

**Toby McBride** is a Senior Biologist with the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, starting his career there in 2007. He was originally hired as a contaminant's biologist, primarily working on oil spill and historic mining heavy metal issues. He participated in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) efforts on the Cosco Busan (SF Bay) spill, Deepwater Horizon (Gulf) spill, Refugio Beach (Santa Barbara) spill, and numerous other historic mine cleanups efforts. Since 2018, he's been involved in the Conservation Banking division in Sacramento, overseeing and managing for the FWS over 20 different species conservation and preservation banks. Toby holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from Texas Tech University, and a B.S. in ecology from University of New Mexico.