



Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

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National Conservation Training Center

Local Sponsor: USFWS- R7, NOAA

Anchorage, AK

Speaker Biosketches

Kyle Barrett, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Dr. Kyle Barrett is a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. His scientific focus is largely centered on understanding how anthropogenic disturbances alter habitat quality for vertebrates. Kyle studies issues related to urbanization and climate change from population-, community-, and ecosystem-level perspectives. He is currently working on a climate change vulnerability assessment for coastal vertebrates and habitats in the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and he is leading a team tasked with assessing the vulnerability of North American reptiles and amphibians to climate change. Kyle received his PhD from Auburn University in Auburn, AL, and his MS from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

Donna Brewer, Applied Landscape Conservation Training Coordinator, NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

Donna Brewer is the Landscape Conservation Training Coordinator for the National Conservation Training Center. Donna is also a member of the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Climate Team and works closely with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives community to develop and direct science-based capacities within the FWS and with partner conservation organizations. Donna manages NCTC's structured decision making/adaptive management curricula and coordinates the delivery of several courses and experiential workshops aimed at resolving complex conservation decision problems. Donna has held conservation positions with the University of Southern California, Bureau of Land Management, Calif. Dept of Fish & Game, Minerals Management Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Geological Survey, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

From 1991-1997, Donna and her husband completed a six-year circumnavigation of the world in their 44-foot sailboat. After 46,000 sea miles, 38 countries, 743 anchorages, and 232 islands, Donna is eager to share her new perspective on the diversity and distribution of plants and animals with students at NCTC. She lives just outside of Shepherdstown with her husband, Gary, a marine scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Donna has B.A. in Biological Sciences from University of California, Irvine and a M.S. from California State University at Long Beach.

Michelle Haynes, Ph.D., Applied Landscape Conservation Course Leader, NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

Dr. Michelle Haynes is a 2011 Presidential Management Fellow, serving in the Applied Landscape Conservation team at the National Conservation Training Center with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She leads courses on structured decision making, climate change, and works to integrate

emerging priorities within the USFWS into courses across NCTC curricula. Michelle recently completed her Ph.D. in botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, investigating yak herding and climate change impacts on alpine meadows and Tibetan livelihoods. She found that the rapidly changing climate on the eastern Tibetan Plateau has contributed to large-scale land cover conversion including losses of highly diverse alpine meadows and reduced dairy outputs. Her dissertation was part of a NSF-funded interdisciplinary research collaboration (IGERT) with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in southwest China. Fluent in Chinese, Michelle is passionate about international and domestic environmental conservation and policy.

Jennifer Hoffman, Ph.D., Senior Scientist/Director of Projects, EcoAdapt, Seattle, WA

Dr. Jennie Hoffman is a marine ecologist by training, but has been broadly engaged in the field of climate change adaptation for almost a decade. Her interests include interactions between climate change and other stressors, climate change vulnerability assessment, and adapting conservation and resource management for a changing climate. Dr. Hoffman co-authored and edited *Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems*, published by WWF in 2003. The *User's Manual* led to the development of Climate Camp workshops, a participant-driven process to help resource managers, conservation practitioners, and others create strategies to adapt their own work to climate change. Jennie has helped lead multiple Climate Camps for participants from around the globe. Along with Dr. Lara Hansen and Eric Mielbrecht, Dr. Hoffman recently started a new organization, EcoAdapt, focused entirely on adapting conservation and resource management to climate change.

John A. O'Leary, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW)

John O'Leary received his M.S. in Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He also worked for Massachusetts Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit as Anadromous Fish Restoration Project leader (1979-1989) before becoming a District Fisheries Manager for MDFW in 1990. John has also held positions as the Statewide Anadromous Fish Restoration Project leader from 1990-1999, Watershed Team Leader 1999-2003, and is currently the State Wildlife Plan Coordinator, 2003-present. John also serves as co-chair of Vulnerability Assessment Sub-Committee of AFWA Climate Change Committee developing guidance document meant to aid states in making State Wildlife Action Plans Climate Smart, sits on an informal, national, group assisting USFWS to develop vulnerability assessment techniques, is the State Co-Chair of the Forest Section of the National, Fish, Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy and Chair of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Climate Change Working Group.

Bruce Stein, Ph.D., Director, Climate Change Adaptation, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC

Dr. Bruce Stein leads the National Wildlife Federation's work on safeguarding wildlife and their habitats from climate change, and is one of the lead authors of the vulnerability assessment guide "Scanning the Conservation Horizon." Dr. Stein previously served as a senior scientist with NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy, and was lead author on the book "Precious Heritage: Status of Biodiversity in the United States." Bruce has a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Ph.D. in population biology and plant systematics from University of Washington, St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Gardens.