



2005 Western Wetland Conference Evaluation (62 Total)

1) How did you hear about this conference? (Circle all that apply)

Brochure: **6**

Email: **38**

Personal Contact: **22** (1-L. Saul, 3- B. Goosmann, 1-R. Prather)

Newsletter Article: **2**

News Article: **0**

Other: **5** (2-co-woker, 1-internet)

2) What were the most useful aspects/sessions of the conference?

- Big picture approach, multidisciplinary topics provided me with valuable background to see how my work better fits into the field of wetlands. As well, I was able to pull aspects from many different approaches to monitoring and assessment, ecology, and avian work into our planning.
- Getting updated on recent developments
- Appreciate abstracts
- Connection between management & science, frequent networking breaks
- Common themes, panel/group discussions; hearing from parties on “other side” of mitigation, etc.
- Chance to ask specific questions of experts
- Technical presentations
- The unique regional perspectives of western states
- Compensatory mitigation examples
- Networking/contact opportunities and meeting new people both in a outside of my field (16)
- Hallway conversations
- Water and wetlands in the west
- Gathering and using information/ assessment (4)
- Panels; specific presentations in concurrent sessions- most were good, some not so good- specifically infomercials for consulting firms
- Meeting new people, especially beyond the pure science community; diversity of sessions
- Examples of collaborative efforts to accomplish restoration, protection, and monitoring of wetland systems; state of scientific research on wetlands function and assessments
- Very interesting information of wetlands
- Scientific based data and research material, as well as big picture questions (global warming, wetland degradation, etc.)
- Most sessions were research based, not actual real life management based
- Private landowner/ partner forum, very valuable and interesting (9)
- Information that helps me, as a staff scientist for a consulting firm, do my job in compliance with regulations
- Mix/ diversity of topics and speakers, good cross section of topics (7)
- Learned what others are doing, especially in wetland assessment
- The on-the-ground projects- e.g. Ted LaGrange, Paul Adamus, Lacreia Haynie, Christy Carrello
- Specifics on data gathering and tabulating it- because that’s what I’m doing right now; awareness of corridors of riparian as part of wetland ecology
- The long breaks were good; liked the keynotes
- Applied topics
- Learning about partnerships that states have put together for wetland mitigation/ restoration
- Good blend of science, research, regulatory presentations; also good balance of applied science
- Examples of states such as Co & MT partnerships- how they work & why
- Break out sessions

- Trends- current programs
- Poster displays with handouts; large sessions; land & water session
- Case studies of wetland monitoring and assessment
- Western wetland emphasis
- Presentations of alternative assessments
- Presentations that focused on hands-on approaches to wetlands
- Excellent preparation by speakers; moderators did a great job (and speakers) managing time; lots of opportunity to meet and talk informally
- The sessions were very helpful and definitely increased my understanding of wetlands and riparian habitats
- Talks, concurrent sessions
- Listening to people who have hands-on experience relate their approach, problems, etc.
- Land & water alteration, working in landscapes, tracking and reporting, and applied topics
- Information on monitoring techniques; info on compensatory mitigation
- Scholarship program was great (2)
- Having speakers with experience on wetland projects; extremely important were the mapping techniques being used & restoration approaches taken
- Allowing ½ hour for networking break (2)
- Excellent speakers overall
- Time schedule works well, i.e. ½ day. 1 day ½ day
- The panel discussion on the gap between scientists and managers was the best session and I would have enjoyed a longer time period to further develop strategies and ideas.
- All of it. We are desperate for information!

3) What were the least useful aspects/sessions of the conference?

- Plenary; some of the presentations were not data-driven when they should have been
- Technical academic presentations
- Arriving to register at 10 am for 1 pm start was awkward, it seemed very long
- As a poster presenter I felt there was not enough presentation given to the posters or enough posters to really have a poster session
- Would be nice to be within walking distance to local attractions, restaurants, etc.
- It is difficult to decide which session to attend, had to miss several sessions that I would have liked to attend
- Education and outreach
- Networking breaks perhaps too long
- Nothing was not useful- some information not as clearly presented as it might be
- Consultant presentation on their projects, amounting basically to advertisement of their works- not innovative or stimulating
- Very little information on management
- Info way over my head with respect to my current knowledge base- for example, scientific evaluations of techniques identified only by acronyms; would have liked to know more about the techniques themselves- how to apply, strengths, weaknesses, etc.
- Very high level, relatively non-applicable- e.g. Nancy Keate
- Very large scale research- too abstract (but that's for me) but very interesting
- Three concurrent sessions were too many for me; two would have been better
- Theory topics
- Landscape level wetland mapping
- Suggest shorter 20 minute presentations with less academic-type or approach and more project or program specific presentations
- Some of the smaller scale projects didn't have as much use to the broader scale issues that this conference was after
- Private landowner/ partner forum
- Problems with audiovisual equipment (color adjustment of projector)

- General discussion of mitigation- here's what we had to do, this is what we did, and here's what we got
- That you could not change concurrent sessions within each session
- Would have liked to see more talks, having 3 tracks was difficult
- Land and water
- Sessions were too short and the lack of time coordination between talks in different sessions made it difficult to hear specific lectures
- Theory- we've all had plenty of that before
- Disruption of organization and time of talks in general
- Opening panel could have been more interactive and within the allotted time frame
- State on nametag was too small
- Jurisdiction/ regulation presentations
- Difficult to attend every session that is of interest with out disturbing other attendees
- The RMBO had a few overlapping presentations- although I guess I could have planned my attendance better; the abstract session of the packet would have been more useful if they were listed in order of presentation- not alphabetically
- Some speakers were unprepared for time frame
- Cost of the hotel
- Explore how to expand concept of watersheds to water catchments and effect of healthy or unhealthy uplands on wetlands & riparian areas

4) I mainly attended sessions on (circle one or comment on what you did attend)

Strategies for Wetland Protection: **20** Gathering and Using Information: **35** Land and Water: **35**

Comments:

- Also some land & water sessions, mostly science & applied science
- As a manager, would like to see more management presentation, less regulatory
- Many power point illustrations were too dark to see & understand. Also, black letters on dark blue or green do not show.
- Great sessions, good to include private landowners
- Landowner session was particularly good-should be considered for general session so everyone gets to hear them
- Well structured, on-time, sufficient time for speakers and questions
- More on management
- I like the landowners view
- There are no playa wetlands in my state but were several presentations on them; need to integrate science and management
- It would have been helpful to have the abstracts before the conference to guide which sessions to go to
- Suggest having issues of implementation in the west: water districts, legal/lawyer, oil/gas development & wetlands
- I thought all three sessions topics were very useful, I attended
- Wednesday's strategies/ partnerships were very interesting
- Presentations on "how to" would have also been nice
- Playas; Monitoring level 1, 2, 3

5) How did the conference improve your knowledge and understanding of wetlands?

- Yes, broadened my view, got me out of my "box." It helped answer some questions regarding methods of assessment.
- I knew next to nothing before, now I know something.
- Learned what my colleagues are working on and ideas for implementing projects in my state

- Gene Reetz made me appreciate the educational function of urban wetlands, even those with poor ecological function.
- Some increase in technical knowledge, learning what others are working on
- Good overall view of many facets and strategies for protection, mitigation, etc.
- Introduction to various issues dealing with wetlands; the science surrounding wetland research; societal value of wetlands
- A better understanding of wetland protection options, not just regulatory strategies
- Other perspectives of policies, resource, problems/solutions
- As a manager, hearing the science
- The sessions provided good info on a wide variety of wetland types, and broadened my overall knowledge of different types
- New concepts, considerations, potential partners
- Learned more about some practitioners lack of good knowledge on wetland
- Much better understanding of work being done throughout the west to assess and protect wetland resources
- I learned how they work
- Gave me a better perspective on the history and current status/ trends in wetland ecology
- Choices in regulatory and policy coupled with climate change and social demands create new challenges for managers that have been highlighted here
- I realize the regulatory agencies are still grappling with which techniques should be used. Regulations are likely to be changing/ evolving to a great extent.
- Expanded view of R & D ongoing in various states
- It gave me some ideas for making my data collection more qualitative
- The various types of wetlands & management issues associated with each
- Awareness of playas and their importance
- I learned about a lot of similar efforts in other places, great for networking
- New or refined ways to look at landscape assessments
- Sharing and learning what is going on in the west and what others are doing (5)
- Update on science of wetland function
- Most of my PWS experience has been in the east coast, this has helped to integrate me into wetland issues in the west
- Better understanding of western wetland issues- state issues; successful partnerships; landowner issues- ranching; learned more about the issues different states deal with and how they deal with it
- Various methods for wetland assessment; trends and existing programs to assess and protect wetlands
- Familiarized me with some relatively new wetland organizations and programs
- Work and updates on projects I was not aware of
- Reinforced the need to get baseline wetland info
- Partnerships were not informative
- Landowner view
- Gave me a broader perspective
- I had a limited knowledge/ understanding of how everything fits together to form a wetland and I feel that the various sessions greatly increased my understanding
- Improved my knowledge of what is being done out there to protect wetlands; did not educate me, recommend research talks
- It gave me a basic understanding of what is involved in the identification and preservation. I also gained a basic knowledge of restoring wetlands.
- Being from a state that is >97% in private ownership, it was interesting to hear about problems facing states predominated by public land
- I am interested in all the wetland programs going on, especially in Colorado, and this has been an education on who is doing work and how all the programs interrelate
- I am now more aware of the partnerships that exist or that are possible; I am also more inclined to hire a consultant for wetlands projects as I can now see the value in their expertise

- My knowledge on mapping techniques, restoration approaches, cooperation/interactions with private and public sector were increased greatly
- Very helpful to include discussion of relationship between water, water law & wetlands- could have used more on this important issue! Include water owners & users perspective as well- build bridges here!
- Networking and finding out anything that other western states do was useful

6) Are there topics you would like to see at the next Western Wetland Conference?

- Continue broadening perspectives, especially wildlife (amphibian) and process-based studies. Also more on potential applications of spatial analysis, wetland mapping.
- Isolated wetlands; efficacy of past/existing restoration projects
- Would like an invasive species management in wetlands topic
- Track strictly dealing with wetland hydrology
- How to take wetland assessment from concept to specific implementation
- How to better educate local officials on the need to protect and restore wetlands and how to fund projects
- Water rights, river channel restoration
- Topics on invasive species (2)
- Wetland banking as mitigation
- We should have some presentations on land management agencies wetland problems (ski area impacts, grazing, oil & gas development impacts) and how to improve mitigation for these adverse impacts
- Using natural systems for storm water treatment-restoration/enhancement
- Sessions that are specifically process oriented
- More examples of local efforts to protect, restore wetlands (i.e. local government, NGO's, tribes)
- How to manage wetland with goals
- More field projects presented
- Specific wetland delineation examples. Maybe some site-specific discussions.
- More on actual on-the-ground inventorying & classifying techniques for managers
- More on the social perception of wetlands
- More science based talks (2)
- Would have liked more sessions presenting more basic info as I'm fairly new to the wetlands evaluation field
- Land trust pros & cons; water rights explained
- More on mitigation banking
- More "rubber meets the road" applications to balance the scientific/theoretical/academic approaches
- Integrating/ using more information from the aquatic side (fish & invertebrate) linking that to the terrestrial side; it seems like these two groups have their own separate meetings
- Groundwater recharge, wetland law update- new supreme court decisions and/or implementation
- Suggest having "state" break out sessions, i.e. CO, UT, AZ, MT, etc.
- How to do effective mitigation; jurisdictional wetlands; USACE policy; restoration methods
- More results- examples of successful mitigation wetlands; suggest a panel discussion with scientists, lawyer, water district, manager, economist, politician
- More on applied management and conservation's role in protection & restoration of wetlands- good changes to the landscape
- More science, especially an outreach to graduate students currently working on wetland studies
- New or upcoming programs, guidance, regulatory issues, etc.; riparian systems
- Specific session on assessment tools; session on biodiversity of wetlands (biological importance)
- Banking successes/ challenges
- More on data sharing and how we can learn from others
- Playa lakes; better first night forum, keep people there longer; more landowner interaction & applications
- Constructed wetlands: techniques, strategies, case histories
- Wetland vegetation classification at varying scales

- More partnering information would be helpful
- More student involvement, possibly research only section; playa lake talks; involvement with PLIV
- More construction of wetlands where aridity exists; salt marsh, alkaline wetlands, reclamation of wetlands, creation of wetlands
- How to develop a wetland program; wetland identification; conducting surveys-what works best with certain species
- Protection of wetlands in private vs. public dominated states (comparison session)
- Would be beneficial to have sessions split into states (comparable regions)
- Trends & status of wetland mitigation banking in the west
- More info on the non-profit sector; education programs, land trusts, volunteer management
- More on landscape based protection efforts that include private land (individual efforts to protect one stream/wetland are OK but aren't going to get the job done)
- More talks on the biotic approach/involvement of wetlands; also, the current mapping techniques & projects people have been involved with
- Could show some actual restoration projects using cattle as a tool. See Quivara Coalition in Santa Fe for this
- Explore the legal implications of improved water storage achieved by wetland & riparian restoration relative to water law in western states
- Explore options for states to legislate greater wetland protection in light of federal limits on actual proactive protection
- New arid land supplements; tribal wetland programs; legal issues affecting wetland protection

7) About how often should a Western Wetland Conference be held? (circle one)

Every year: **15** Every Two Years: **37** Every Three Years: **11** Every 4-5 Years: **0** Never: **0**

8) Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to share with us?

- Next conference should be in Boise, ID (downtown) Walking distance to river & wetlands! Be careful not to have very closely overlapping talks on the agenda. It's hard to tell from just title- I should have read abstract more closely on those.
- Good venue, great organization as evidenced by how smoothly everything went. Good mix of speakers and attendees.
- Highly organized and attention to detail & logistics paid off. Smooth flowing, well-run conference. Plenty of networking time built into agenda. Good food was critical to enjoyment and good conversation.
- Great job!
- Would like more practical management presentations or hands-on practicums led by experts (monitoring, GIS, hydrology)
- Great turn out. Excellent educators/presenters. Consider having next conference in Montana.
- Great to have it in Colorado, consider having it here again!
- Well organized conference
- Karen Filipovich did a great job engaging the audience and with introductions. The conference came off beautifully, congrats MT Watercourse
- Good job- especially since it was your first attempt!
- Thanks to the steering committee
- Maybe include more examples of management and/or restoration of wetlands
- Microphones in all rooms
- Require each speaker to use a microphone even if they believe their voice is loud enough, it often times is not. Air conditioning, attendee movements and other environmental factors inevitably make hearing the speaker very difficult. I can't tell you how much more enjoyable it is to listen to a speaker without having to struggle to hear!!

- Please leave doors at the back of each session, not the center of the room, open so that attendees may come and go without disturbing/ distracting noises of opening/closing doors; please provide open chairs at the back of the room for latecomers
- Wireless mouse for presentations (2)
- Very much liked the discussion before lunch on Wednesday
- Location good, too expensive
- Equipment should be up to date, give the presenters remotes for the projectors (2)
- On the name tags- make the organization/agency name bigger; I was disappointed that the local (CO) Corps employees were not here- please be sure they are invited
- Very well planned, great event
- Invite regulators from US Army Corp from each western state; host 2-4 hour workshops during AM/PM concurrent sessions, i.e. permitting, monitoring, evaluation/ assessment, hydrology; student research papers
- Add more topics of interest to regulatory agencies & mitigation opportunities for sectors having impacts on wetlands
- Welcome and introduction was way too long; session/speaker introductions were way too long; should provide handouts or presentation CD's to reduce need for note taking; need more conservational sessions (oil, gas, etc.); environmental manager participants
- Very good conference, very useful!
- Consider collaborating with the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; provide info on nearby attractions- for example, I discovered a great natural area (Jefferson Co. open space) within walking distance of the motel that was open to hiking
- Great supporting elements- break out session, local lunch, snacks, etc.
- Thanks for coming to Colorado
- Allow time during each talk for room changes
- Gifts for the presenters
- Bravo
- This has been such a nice event. Thanks so much for all of your good work! Also, thanks for providing scholarships. I wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise.
- I would like to see the power points on the Watercourse website so that I can see what I missed
- Need to stick to printed agenda during concurrent sessions, no add-ons, this helps to assure that attendees can attend talks that they choose (2)
- Allow time between talks to assure that people can move between talks without disruption (2)
- Moderators need to enforce time management, must stay on time or everything else during conference suffers
- Great conference- good speakers
- Ensure presenters and provided laptops all have the same version of Power Point- some presenters had newer versions and some aspects didn't work
- Each presenter needs to know exactly what time his/her presentation is scheduled to start
- Thanks for putting this together!
- It would have been helpful if poster session people got to give a 1 minute talk about posters as planned, not many people wandered around during the reception, it would have helped networking
- Great array of speakers, presentations, posters; really liked the reference books available for purchase
- Speaker suggestion: Bill Zeedyck of New Mexico- influence of roads & proper design for wetlands maintenance- fantastic!
- Several times I wished to remain seated to take notes or eat, and see the speaker, if the speaker had been on a riser I and other short people could have seen better
- Need to give awards to: good managers, scientists, stewardship, partnerships in the west

Western Wetland Conference: Summary of Evaluations (55 Total)

TOPIC	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	COMMENTS
The hotel was satisfactory (clean, comfortable, and the staff accommodating).	29	19	2	Too expensive, did not stay overnight at hotel; Very nice location; Charging for internet was a negative, LaQuinta or Holiday Inn might be a good choice in the future; Yes very clean and comfortable meeting rooms, stayed at another hotel; Hotel was clean but one of the lunch time servers was rough to the point of being rude; Food is awful; Choice of location was poor, too far from airport, costing me \$140 more than necessary; Wish they had a policy on not washing towels/bedding daily (this is an arid state), expense trip from airport; Seems expensive for the services provided-pool was cold, whirlpool didn't work, internet services ridiculously over-priced, food just adequate; Meeting rooms were well stocked and lunches went well; Excellent in every way except the AC was too high for me; Bad location, should be in town; Did not stay at the hotel but my experience here throughout the days was good; Water pitchers were not refilled after village people left; Food was fine but slightly larger continental breakfast choices would have worked (cereal, milk, etc.)
The registration process went smoothly.	45	9	0	Need better name badges, hard to see, also spell out state; Well attended and smooth; It seemed extremely long from 10 AM until 1 PM
The registration fee was reasonable.	31	17	2	Cost was too high relative to information packets, food was not very good-keep it simple-nothing fancy; Such a high quality for a reasonable fee; Very reasonable for the conference, very expensive for the hotel; Although not a problem for myself, I know it was very steep for students and non-profits; Very reasonable
The length of the conference was satisfactory (not too long or short).	36	21	0	Just right; I was able to drive in and out and attend conference in same days, great to save money!; ½ day longer preferable
The meeting rooms were satisfactory (sufficient space, room temperature okay).	31	23	1	More space would help with a few sessions; Too large, many empty seats allowed people to spread out, made difficult if microphone didn't work; More open chairs at back of room for latecomers; Too cold; Too few talks; The half hour breaks were good; Need back-up data projectors; Noise of climate control distracting; Maybe a little more room; No beverages (coffee, etc.) were available during the session breaks Tuesday; Lights weren't good, slide changing instead of using mouse would be better; Some a little too stuffy; A bit chilly under the fans; Rooms cold, breaks/ meals great!

The meeting format was satisfactory (plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, keynotes, poster session, workshops, field trip, etc.).	27	24	5	Offer more field trip options, they could be off wetland topics, need to have better mixer to facilitate socializing, recommend tour of brewery (water related) if nothing else would be fun; Wish I could have attended more of the sessions but can only be one place at a time; Transition time between sessions are needed, exact presentation schedule needs to be followed so a participant can plan which presentation to see and guarantee it will be going on at the stated time; Give more time between speakers, reduce break times between to allow for changes between speakers; Concurrent sessions were very difficult to attend, but I'm sorry I don't have any better ideas; Of course 2 presentations of interest end up at same time, more basic beginner presentations added would be useful; Too few; Prefer plenary-you miss too much with concurrent; Could make some session presentations 20-25 minutes, Need to make presentations short, forces presenters to be more specific, not wander; Well organized, plenty of time between sessions made this conference seem less hectic than many I have attended; Add workshops; Some facilitators were poorly trained to so lights; Would prefer 2 concurrent sessions; I wish I could be in 3 places at once; More discussion on topics would be useful; Panel discussions are valuable, but often without concrete "how to" value. I liked the concurrent sessions, as structured with long breaks; I liked having ½ hour slots-not as rushed as most conferences, also liked the longer network breaks
The Poster Session was interesting and beneficial.	13	33	5	Just walked through, if there was a specific session, I didn't attend; Recommend involving more research students (MS, PhD), very few posters, posters presented were not very good with the exception of a few; Need more academic research posters; Need more posters; More posters and participants, less "advertising"; Corridor format made talking with presenters more difficult; More students, more posters; More interactions would have been nice, the poster presenters were not around; Add more/ invite various universities from each state; The poster session was a bit weak; Need more science posters and fewer promotional posters; No intro to posters; Not enough posters (2); Somehow I missed it; Hopefully more will be brought next time
The Field Trip was interesting and value-added.	5	4	1	A second field trip on rural restoration/ mitigation needed; I assume, I'm filling this out before it starts; Did not attend due to \$25 cost and the fact that I was familiar with type of wetland, I would like multiple choices; The refuge managers talk was too long
The keynote speakers provided valuable information.	24	25	1	Justice Hobbs was outstanding, both useful information and inspiration for why we do this! Water law is a very critical issue, landowner panel very important for gatherings such as this, Joe Rocchio and Bill Goosmann excellent; Too general and too many topics addressed; Both were very articulate, but not a lot of new info presented. Dr. Fleischner's best stuff was his personal anecdotes and stories
I would likely attend a future Western Wetland Conference	33	21	0	If it included more playa lake talks and landowner sessions; I felt this conference was a little too advanced for me, although I learned a lot; Depends upon our organizational budget and the conference program; Add more topics of agency and management interest; If held in CO, no out of state travel; I would like too...
I would like further information about wetland events in the Western states.	42	11	0	I'm still not sure if I'll attend again; Rarely get to travel out of state; I'm on your mailing list