

National Association of Wetland Managers Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting



Building an Evergreen Future with Wetlands

April 8-11, 2025

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 8

(All times listed are in Pacific Daylight time.)

Day 1 Morning: The Big Picture for Wetland Protections

Breakfast is provided from 7:00am-8:30am

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| 7:30am – 9:00am | Registration |
| 9:00am – 9:30am | Opening Remarks & Welcome (Mark Biddle, NAWM Board Chair) |
| 9:30am – 10:00am | Keynote Speech (Greg Masten, Member of the Yurok Tribe, descendant of the Hupa and Karuk peoples) |
| 10:00am – 10:30am | BREAK |
| 10:30am – 11:30am | Panel: The Future of Wetland Protection, Conservation, and Restoration
(Moderator: Donna Downing, NAWM. Panelists: Karen Menetrey, Rio Grande Return; Mark Biddle, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Rue Hoover, Nez Perce Tribe; Michelle Bahnick, Tulalip Tribes) |
| 11:30am – 12:00pm | NAWM Priorities for 2025 (Marla Stelk, Executive Director, National Association of Wetland Managers) |
| 12:00pm – 1:30pm | LUNCH PROVIDED |

Day 1 Afternoon: Tribal Wetlands and Aquatic Resources

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| 1:30pm – 2:00pm | The PNW TWIG (Tribal Wetlands Working Group): Supporting EPA R10 Tribes in Protecting Wetlands and their Cultural Uses (Rue Hewett Hoover, Nez Perce Tribe) |
| 2:00pm – 3:00pm | Panel: The Tulalip Tribes' Wetland Program Successes and Lessons Learned <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief Intro to Tulalip Wetland Program (Michelle Bahnick, Tulalip Tribes)• Tulalip Tribes Wetland Management and Assessment Program (Jared Busen, Tulalip Tribes)• Wetland Camps for Tribal Youth (Melissa Gobin and Teesha Osias, Tulalip Tribes)• Installation of Pre-Planted Pallets via Helicopter to Restore Inaccessible Reed Canary Grass-Dominated Wetlands (Michelle Bahnick, Tulalip Tribes)• Group Panel Discussion |

3:00pm – 3:30pm	BREAK
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Planning and Implementing Low-Tech, Process-Based Wetland and Floodplain Restoration on Kalispel Aboriginal Lands in Idaho (Molly Sherwood, Kalispel Tribe of Indians)
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Developing a Tribal Specific Wetland Rapid Assessment Method (Alek Kreiger, Ducks Unlimited; Raven Mingo and Nicklaus Shumake, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians)
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Pacific Birds Coastal Wetlands Strategic Plan: Wetland Planning Work in Hawai'i Brings Benefits to Endangered Birds, Communities and Indigenous Agro-Ecology (Laura Farwell and Helen Raine, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture)
5:30pm – 6:30pm	National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) Board Meeting

Dinner on Your Own

Day 1 Evening Activities:

7:00pm – 9:00pm	Movie Night: Pacific Northwest Dam Removal Projects (Stevenson A/B)
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Wednesday, April 9

Day 2 Morning: Protection, Restoration & Compensatory Mitigation

Breakfast is provided from 7:00am-8:30am

7:30am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome to Day 2 by Pew Charitable Trusts
9:10am – 9:30am	NAWM Awards
9:30am – 10:00am	NAWM Project Presentations (Portia Osborne and Ian Grosfelt, NAWM)
10:00am - 10:30am	GROUP PHOTO & BREAK (Break Sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts)
10:30am – 11:00am	Dredged Canals, Wetland Loss, Legacy and Restoration (R. Eugene Turner, Louisiana State University)
11:00am – 11:30am	Stream Mitigation: Oregon's Innovative Approach for Function-Based Accounting (Melody Rudenko, Oregon Department of State Lands)
11:30am – 12:00pm	Oregon's Approach to Identification and Protection of Aquatic Resources of Special Concern (Daniel Evans and Matt Unitis, Oregon Department of State Lands)
12:00pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH PROVIDED

Day 2 Afternoon: Wetlands, Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation

1:30pm – 2:15pm	Opportunities for Wetland Conservation and Restoration as a Wildfire Fighting Strategy (Alex Funk, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Jessie Moravek, University of Minnesota)
2:15pm – 3:00pm	Panel: Harnessing Coastal Wetlands for Climate Mitigation and Resilience: Case Studies from the Pacific Northwest (Moderator: Alexandra Moya, Pew Charitable Trusts. Panelists: Elizabeth Ruther, Oregon Department of Energy, and Adrian Laufer, Sea & Shore Solutions)
3:00pm – 3:30pm	BREAK (Sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts)
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Protecting Washington State’s Peatland Biodiversity (Joe Rocchio, Washington Department of Natural Resources)
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Development of a General Permit for Living Shorelines in Florida (Tim Rach, Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Targeted Nature-based Infrastructure for ES Enhancements on FEMA-Qualifying Buyout Properties to Improve Health in Vulnerable Urban/Industrial Locations in Greater Houston, TX (Deborah January-Bevers, Houston Wilderness)
5:00pm – 6:00pm	General Membership Meeting
6:00pm	Raffle and Silent Auction Close

Dinner on Your Own

Day 2 Evening Activities:

8:00pm – 11:00pm	Social Gathering at the Fire Pit (weather dependent)
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Thursday, April 10

Day 3 Morning: Tools & Geospatial Approaches

Breakfast is provided from 7:00am-8:30am

8:00am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome to Day 3 – Raffle Draw and Silent Auction Winners Announced
9:30am – 10:00am	Teal Carbon: Mapping Carbon in Washington State’s Inland Wetlands (Meghan Halabisky, University of Washington)
10:00am – 10:30am	BREAK (Sponsored by Westervelt)
10:30am – 11:00am	Mapping the Future: Using GIS to Guide Watershed Level Ecosystem Service Mitigation (Jane Rombouts, Oregon Department of State Lands)
11:00am – 11:30am	Geospatial Modeling of Soil Organic Carbon in Restored Wet Meadow and Sage Brush Ecosystems (Etinosa Igunbor, Old Dominion University)
11:30am – 12:00pm	Enhancing Wetland Biodiversity through Habitat Improvement Projects: A UAV-Based Approach (Sarah Drahovzal and Hannah Gorin, Kleinschmidt Associates)
12:00pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH PROVIDED

Day 3 Afternoon: Communications, Outreach, & Partnerships

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| 1:30pm – 2:00pm | How to Tell the Story of Sackett in Your Community (Jim Murphy, National Wildlife Federation) |
| 2:00pm – 2:30pm | Walking Hand in Hand with Wetland Allies: Observations on Successful Outreach (Karen Menetrey, Rio Grande Return and Andy Robertson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Geospatial Services) |
| 2:30pm – 3:00pm | BREAK (Sponsored by Society of Wetland Scientists & SWS Pacific NW Chapter) |
| 3:00pm – 4:00pm | Panel: The Mentorship Assistance & Resource Support Hub, aka MARSH: (Moderator: Ian Grosfelt, NAWM. Panelists: Doug Gresham, Washington State Department of Ecology; Melody Rudenko, Oregon Department of State Lands; Chantal Iosso, Nevada Division of Natural Heritage; Stacy Zeigler, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) |
| 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Meeting Wrap Up |

Dinner on Your Own

Day 3 Evening Activities

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| 8:00pm – 11:00pm | Trivia Night! (Hood River Hospitality Suite) |
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Friday, April 11

Day 4: Optional Field Trips

- 1) Waterfall Wander (Lauren Driscoll) 9am – 2pm

Join us for a wander to three waterfalls along the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. You'll get a view of the scenic gorge from both the Washington and Oregon sides as we travel to and from the waterfalls. We'll take a walk on a paved path, less than 2 miles round trip, to see three different waterfalls. We'll talk about the geology that formed the gorge resulting in the scores of waterfalls lining the steep hillsides of the gorge.

On the return to Skamania, we'll stop at a viewpoint on the Washington side to peer down the scenic Hood River valley to Mt. Hood.

- 2) Catherine Creek Recreation Area (Patricia Johnson) 9am – 2pm

One of the premier areas for early spring wildflower viewing in the eastern Columbia River Gorge. This area comprises open grass lands, vernal pools and oak woodlands and provides spectacular views of the Columbia River Gorge. The area is home to several plants species that are imperiled in the state.

- 3) Steigerwald Reconnection Project (Yvonne Vallette) 9am – 12:30pm

Nestled along the banks of the Columbia River near Washougal, Washington (located 25 miles from Skamania Lodge), the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge stands as a testament to nature's resilience and the power of collaborative conservation efforts. This refuge, managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service since 1987, lies at the Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, an iconic landscape revered for its stunning vistas and diverse ecosystems. The recent Steigerwald Reconnection Project has ushered in a new era for the refuge, blending ecological restoration with community engagement.

Safety and Prep Information:

- Wear comfortable but sturdy walking shoes that can get wet and/or muddy. Watch for ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. Please bring insect repellent, sunscreen, hats, or rain gear, as needed dependent on weather conditions.
- Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.
- All field trip participants are required to sign a liability waiver and provide an emergency contact.

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