

## Evaluation Results: Helping to Make Riparian Restoration “Climate Smart” A Workshop for Funders, Regulators, and Public Trust Agency Staff.

*Grey Hayes, PhD. Director, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training*

### Summary

This report summarizes the results from a post-event evaluation of the workshop “Helping to Make Riparian Restoration “Climate Smart” A Workshop for Funders, Regulators, and Public Trust Agency Staff.”

This was the first time that we offered the workshop and so evaluation results are a valuable way of ascertaining how to improve the workshop, and other similar workshops in the future. Overall the workshop was moderately successful. Many people rated the workshop content and format as above a median score, but not as highly as the prior workshop on this subject, for practitioners. Respondents the need for more detail, though it wasn’t clear what areas they were hoping for that detail about.

### Methods

Grey offered print evaluations at the workshop and asked that participants provide the organizers feedback either via that print form or via an online survey tool. Grey circulated the online survey tool via email after the workshop and reminded participants a few days before the deadline, 2 weeks later.

A copy of the evaluation is attached in Appendix 1.

Grey entered print evaluation data onto the online forms and then summarized all of the evaluation data in this report.

### Results

Twenty-eight of the 32 participants provided evaluation data, an 88% response rate

The following are detailed answers to the questions.

#### ***Question 1: Participating in this event was a good use of my time***

We asked participants to mark their choice on a 5 point likert scale of “Strongly agree...Agree...Neutral...Disagree...Strongly disagree.” We also included a “Prefer not to answer/not applicable” choice.

None of the respondents skipped this question. 21% (6) marked “strongly agree,” 71% (20) marked “agree,” and 7% (2) were neutral with the statement ‘Participating in this event was a good use of my time.’ Five people entered more detailed comments inserted under this question:

- *It was useful to hear the challenges, approaches, and solutions that other practitioners are dealing with, while also hearing the approaches the funders are taking.*
- *I would have preferred a more practical training on design. But I learned some interesting things and ideas.*

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- *Absolutely great use of my time. I'm excited about the things I learned!*
- *Seems like it is more directed towards agencies and planners and less for practitioners.*
- *Suggest walking through an example of considerations in planning a climate-smart project.*

***Question 2: How much did this training increase your knowledge about designing and implementing restoration projects that will persist and thrive in the face of climate change (climate-smart restoration)?***

We asked participants to mark their choice on a 5 point likert scale of ‘a great deal...a lot...some...a little...not at all.’ We also included a “prefer not to answer/not applicable” choice.

None of the respondents skipped this question. 18% (5) marked ‘a great deal,’ 29% (8) marked ‘a lot,’ 50% (14) marked ‘some,’ and 4% (1) marked ‘a little.’ Two people entered additional comments to elaborate on their answers.

- *coastal focus, would like a more Sacramento watershed-centric training*

This commentator was the one who commented for the prior question “*Seems like it is more directed towards agencies and planners and less for practitioners.*” This person marked that they learned ‘some’ at this training.

- *I showed up late and missed quite a bit*

This person also noted that they learned ‘some’ at this training.

***Question 3: Did you learn something new that you will apply in your work or future decisions?***

This was a yes, no, or maybe question. We also included a “Prefer not to answer/not applicable” choice.

No one skipped this question, either (N=28). 68% (19) answered ‘yes’ and 32% (9) answered ‘maybe.’

Five respondents took the effort to write \detailed comments related to this question:

- *Loved the slides! So very useful for education folks!*
- *Clearly identify goals to work with regulatory agencies.*
- *There really needs to be work done for the Central Valley restoration planning. I understand the lack of funding in the CV, and the majority of the funding is on the coast. The State as a whole needs to be addressed.*
- *clarification of climate resiliency in RFPs*
- *Define Goals and take risks!*

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***Question 4: Please rate the effectiveness of the instructor.***

Overall, participants rated Tom Gardali, the sole presenter, a score of 4.6/5.0...just shy of ‘excellent.’ Two people added additional commentary:

- *Awesome instructors! Kudos!*
- *Presentation could have gone more in depth/had more specific examples.* (participant rated him just shy of excellent, though)

***Question 5: Please describe your feelings about the following aspects of the workshop ...***

- 1) Level of detail provided
- 2) Length
- 3) Presentation content
- 4) Pace
- 5) Format (presentations, discussion, small group exercises)
- 6) Facilitation/organization/emails, etc

We asked people to rank Unsatisfied => Very Satisfied (5 likert scale steps) the following: level of detail provided; case study examples; content, format (presentations, discussion, small group exercises); length, skills based exercises; facilitation/organization/emails, etc, and; topic/scope.

No respondents skipped this question (N=28). Respondents ranked most items very highly in satisfaction, though ‘level of detail provided’ was ranked much less highly than the other aspects of the workshop (Figure 1). Seven people entered additional comments:

- *It was a very 'big picture' approach. It would be nice to break into smaller groups w/ similar interests to discuss finer details.*
- *Loved the workshop! Thanks!*
- *Would be nice to explore resiliency for other types of wetland restoration.*
- *would have appreciated more detail*
- *would have liked more specific examples*
- *make it a longer class*
- *I would have liked more details in the presentation: specifically it would have been helpful to have gone over how to find an analog place by utilizing one of the methods- a short of 'how to' presentation would have been helpful. Also, being provide the list of resources for climate projections and going over them would be good.*

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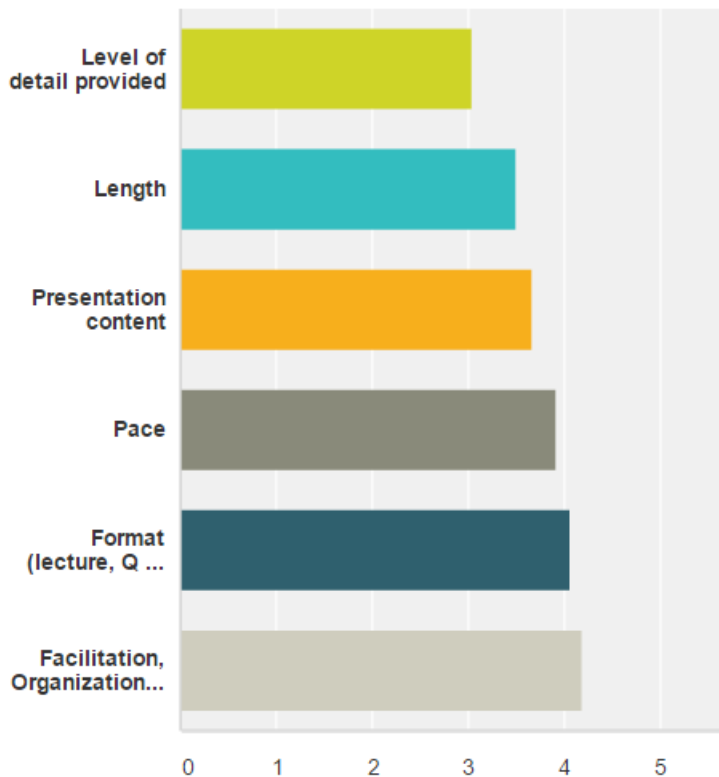


Figure 1: Ratings of various aspects of the workshop, from Question #6

***Question 6: How much did the workshop help increase your understanding of the following:***

- 1) Addressing questions of climate uncertainty in restoration design
- 2) How to set forward-looking restoration goals based on current climate predictions
- 3) The importance of building in ecological insurance in restoration design
- 4) Identifying some current barriers practitioners are facing

We asked participants to mark their choice on a 5 point likert scale of “Increased a great deal...(no label) ...Somewhat increased...(no label)...Did not increase.” We also included a “Prefer not to answer/not applicable” choice.

One respondent skipped this question (N=27). Participants responding reported that they moderately increased their understanding of all of these learning objectives (Table 1).

One person added a substantive comment to illustrate their desire for more information about the first objective: “

- *Really good workshop, but could be a little more in depth.*
- *Room was freezing.*

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- *I would have benefited from more examples of the types of projects and what climate factors should be considered and what adaptive management techniques were used.*

Table 1: How well did we reach our learning objectives?

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Score</i>
Addressing questions of climate uncertainty in restoration design	3.22
How to set forward-looking restoration goals based on current climate predictions	3.33
The importance of building in ecological insurance in restoration design	3.59
Identifying some current barriers practitioners are facing	3.63

***Question 7: What did you find most useful about the training... and why?***

Nine people skipped this question (N=19). The respondents’ open-ended comments had themes that suggest the most widely recognized valuable aspects of the workshop were:

- *Diversity of perspectives among participants (6)*
- *Group discussion about solutions (5)*
- *Presentation – esp. about resilience planning (4)*

***Question 8: Do you have suggestions for how we might improve future climate smart riparian restoration workshops?***

Twelve people skipped this question (N=16). The main theme with these answers was that participants wanted more detail (N=5).

Discussion

The workshop was in many ways, though participants would have liked more detail. It is not clear, however, what specifically the participants would have liked more detail about; this could be the subject of future needs assessments. Because the workshop was targeted at improving funding and regulatory/oversight schemes to be more ‘climate smart,’ it is probable that the participants would have liked more detail on how others have applied the concepts that Point Blue has developed. Workshop organizers have discussed this potential, but have been unable to produce such detail/examples.

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The one measure that the Coastal Training crew is disappointed in is the participant intention to apply the information to their work/decision making. Our target for that measure is 90%, whereas the workshop only reached 68% for this metric. With the momentum and overall interest in this topic with these audiences, we encourage further assessment of their needs should further resources become available to meet those needs.

**1. Participation in this event was a good use of my time:**

*Comments?*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Prefer not to answer/not applicable

**2. How much did this training increase your knowledge about designing and implementing restoration projects that will persist and thrive in the face of climate change (climate-smart restoration)?**

- A great deal**
- Some**
- Not at all**
- Prefer not to answer/NA**

**Comments?**

**3. Did you learn something new that you will apply in your work or future decisions?**

- Yes**
- No**
- Maybe**
- Prefer not to answer/NA**

**Comments?**

**\*Please turn over to continue the evaluation\***

Appendix 1: Post Event Evaluation Survey

4. Please rate the effectiveness of the instructor:

	Poor		Okay		Excellent	Prefer not to answer/NA
Tom Gardali	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments?

5. Please describe your feelings about the following aspects of the training...

	Unsatisfied		Satisfied		Very Satisfied	Prefer not to answer or NA
Presentation content	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Format (Lecture, Q/A group discussion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Level of detail provided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitation Organization Emails, etc	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments?



**6. How much did the workshop help increase your understanding of the following:**

	Did not increase		Somewhat increased		Increased a great deal		Prefer not to answer NA
<b>Addressing questions of climate uncertainty in restoration design</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>How to set forward-looking restoration goals based on current climate predictions</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>The importance of building in ecological insurance in restoration design</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Identifying some current barriers practitioners are facing</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Comments?**

**7. What did you find most useful about the training... and why?**

**8. Do you have suggestions for how we might improve future Climate Smart Riparian Restoration workshops?**