

## Evaluation Results: Climate-Smart Riparian Restoration, For Restoration Practitioners on California's Central Coast.

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

### Summary

This report summarizes the results from a post-event evaluation of the workshop “Climate-Smart Riparian Restoration, For Restoration Practitioners on California's Central Coast.”

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 successful, scoring well in all metrics. Many people rated the workshop content and format very highly satisfactory. A significant number of respondents also stressed the value of the small group exercise component of the workshop.

There were two multi-respondent suggestions for improvement, indicating that the vast majority of participants would not wish the course to change. First, three participants wanted to gain more skill/familiarity in using the tools introduced during the workshop. Second, a couple of participants would have liked for more time to be spent on details of successful projects that have incorporated the information provided during the workshop (i.e., case studies).

### 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 summarized the evaluation data in this report.

### Results

Twenty-seven of the 28 participants provided evaluation data, almost a 100% 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. 82% (22) marked “strongly agree” and 18% (5) marked “agree” with the statement ‘Participating in this event was a good use of my time.’ Seven people entered more detailed comments inserted under this question:

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- *Larger font on name tags*
- *Appreciated the time to learn from others on how to improve restoration projects*
- *Good to just be considering these issues in an interactive group format*
- *Excellent workshop, facilitation & participation!*
- *Good to hear about new emerging tools to help build resiliency into restoration planning and design. Good to meet other professionals to expand climate collaboration/conversation.*
- *I think it revealed that this topic is of great interest to the profession - I am not sure I learned a ton -I am very convinced physical process/hydrology/species is important*
- *2nd course in climate change here at Elkhorn Slough. Both have been excellent*
- 

***Question 2: How much did this training increase your knowledge about applying tools to improve riparian restoration to account for anticipated climate change?***

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. 59% (16) marked 'a great deal,' 22% (6) marked- 'a lot,' and 19% (5) marked 'some.'

***Question 3: How much did this training increase your skill at applying tools to improve riparian restoration to account for anticipated climate change?***

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.

One of the respondents skipped this question (N=26). 46% (12) marked 'a great deal,' 19% (5) marked- 'a lot,' and 27% (7) marked 'some,' and 8% (2) marked 'a little.'

One person added a more detailed comment for this section:

- *Plant palette tool is very cool !!! - let's build physical process / hydrology*

***Question 4: 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.

One respondent skipped this question (N=26). 88% (23) answered 'yes' and 12% (3) answered 'maybe.'

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**Question 5: Please rate the effectiveness of the presenters**

Participants rated all presenters nearly equally, just shy of ‘excellent.’ There were various additional comments that did not add anything substantive.

**Question 6: Please describe your feelings about the following aspects of the workshop ...**

- 1) Level of detail provided
- 2) Case study examples
- 3) Content
- 4) Format (presentations, discussion, small group exercises)
- 5) Length
- 6) Skills-based exercises
- 7) Facilitation/organization/emails, etc
- 8) Topic/scope

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.

Two respondents skipped this question (N=25). Respondents ranked all items very highly in satisfaction, though ‘level of detail provided’ was ranked less highly than the other aspects of the workshop (Figure 1). A few people entered additional comments, with no substantive additional information.

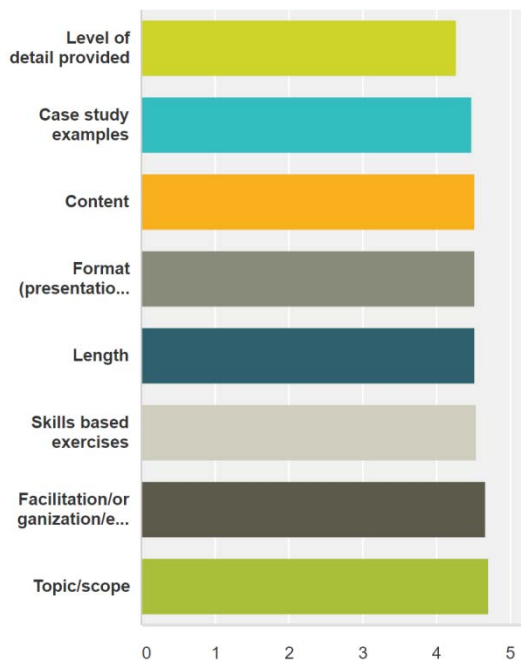


Figure 1: Ratings of various aspects of the workshop, from Question #6

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**Question 7: How much did the workshop help increase your skill at applying the following climate smart riparian restoration principles to restoration design:**

- 1) Incorporating ecological redundancy and diversity
- 2) Creating forward-looking goals
- 3) Incorporating anticipated climate change in riparian restoration design and management

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.

Four respondents skipped this question (N=23). Participants responding reported that they very much increased their understanding of all of these learning objectives.

One person added a substantive comment to illustrate their desire for more information about the first objective: “*Wanted more Incorporating ecological redundancy and diversity. Phenology was cool! Would like to explore more the passive versus active approaches.*”

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Score</i>
Incorporating ecological redundancy and diversity	4.1
Creating forward-looking goals	4.2
Incorporating anticipated climate change in riparian restoration design and management	4.8

**Question 8: How much did the workshop help increase your understanding of the following:**

- 1) How funders support riparian restoration projects that incorporate anticipated climate change
- 2) Concepts and principles for guiding riparian restoration design to incorporate anticipated climate change (a.k.a. ‘Climate Smart Riparian Restoration’)
- 3) How to incorporate Climate Smart Riparian Restoration concepts and principles into riparian restoration practices

We asked participants to mark their choice on a 5 point likert scale of “Very much...(no label) ...Somewhat...(no label)...None.” We also included a “Prefer not to answer/not applicable” choice.

Five participants skipped this question (N=22). Participants responding rated a high level of increased understanding of all of these objectives, though the funder objective was ranked somewhat lower. One person added a substantive comment: “*Might want to add an exercise with using the planting tool or the scenario tool.*”

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<b><i>Objective</i></b>	<b><i>Score</i></b>
How funders support riparian restoration projects that incorporate anticipated climate change	3.9
Concepts and principles for guiding riparian restoration design to incorporate anticipated climate change (a.k.a. 'Climate Smart Riparian Restoration')	4.2
How to incorporate Climate Smart Riparian Restoration concepts and principles into riparian restoration practices	4.2

***Question 9: What did you find most useful about the training... and why?***

Five people skipped this question (N=22). The respondents' open-ended comments had themes that suggest the most widely recognized valuable aspects of the workshop were:

- *Small group exercises (5)*
- *Information about additional resources (4)*
- *Group exercises (4)*
- *Discussion (4)*
- *Case studies (4)*

***Question 10: Do you have suggestions for how we might improve future climate smart riparian restoration workshops?***

Twelve people skipped this question (N=15). There were only two repeated suggestions for improvement:

- *Provide more opportunity to use the tools during the workshop (3)*
- *Provide more detail using completed projects (2)*

## Appendix 1: Post Event Evaluation Survey

### CSRR Participant Evaluation

#### Introduction

We appreciate that you are taking the time to fill out the following survey so that we can improve our future events. Your answers are confidential. There are only a few questions, so the survey should take you less than 10 minutes.

### CSRR Participant Evaluation

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

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

Comments?

\* 2. How much did this training increase your knowledge about applying tools to improve riparian restoration to account for anticipated climate change?

- A great deal
- A lot
- Some
- A little
- Not at all
- Prefer not to answer/not applicable

Comments?

### CSRR Participant Evaluation

3. How much did this training increase your skill at applying tools to improve riparian restoration to account for anticipated climate change?

- A great deal
- A lot
- Some
- A little
- Not at all
- Prefer not to answer/not applicable

Comments?

### CSRR Participant Evaluation

\* 4. Did you learn something new that you will apply in your work or future decisions?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Prefer not to answer/not applicable

**CSRR Participant Evaluation**

5. Where might we look in the future to see evidence of that application?

**CSRR Participant Evaluation**

6. Please rate the effectiveness of the instructors:

	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"/>
Sasha Gennet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joel Gerwein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donna Meyers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
John Parodi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nat Seavy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments?



Appendix 1: Post Event Evaluation Survey

7. Please describe your feelings about the following aspects of the workshop ...

	Unsatisfied		Satisfied		Very Satisfied	N/A
Content	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Format (presentations, discussion, small group exercises)	<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"/>
Skills based exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case study examples	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Topic/scope	<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?

8. How much did the workshop help increase your skill at applying the following climate smart riparian restoration principles to restoration design:

	Did not increase	Somewhat increased		Increased a great deal	Prefer not to answer/NA
Creating forward-looking goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incorporating ecological redundancy and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incorporating anticipated climate change in riparian restoration design and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments?