

Session 3. Innovation Round Up: New Initiatives and Projects

Notes submitted by Jasmine Khatri, Duke University

Presenters:

- Christi Electris, *Croatan Institute*
- Rodger Krussman, *Trust for Public Land*
- Carolyn duPont, *Upstream Tech*
- Alex Echols, *Campbell Foundation*
- Mary Adelzadeh, *First Nations Development Institute*
- Ajulo Othow, *EnerWealth Solutions*

Presentation from Christi Electris, Croatan Institute: Incentivizing Conservation Adoption through Food Quality Marketplaces

- Croatan received a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant for a project incentivising conservation adoption through food quality marketplace. Goal is to facilitate and give recommendations on market transactions that reflect benefits of regenerative agriculture.
- Identified 6 on-farm determinants of food quality via research – variety, soil health, farm ecosystem, management practices, post-harvest crop management, compounds harmful to health.
- Identified 13 value propositions – health quality of food size + shape, etc. of food, climate change, biodiversity value etc – working with investors to see how value propositions influence investing.
- Project part of innovative data generation
 - Bionutrient Food Association is looking at nutrient density; nutrient variation.
 - BeeOdiversity – biodiversity data
 - Management
- Innovative Financial Mechanisms – soil wealth report outlined 60+ potential financial mechanisms.
- Now looking to apply research and attract more finance to regenerative agriculture.

Presentation from Rodger Krussman, Trust for Public Land: Enhanced Carbon Easements

- TPL is developing an [Enhanced Carbon Conservation Easement](#) to create additional resiliency. Idea is to enhance current or create future conservation easements that extend the harvesting rotation to longer periods that currently in operation for timber + monetise that additional carbon stored.
 - Not a term easement – building into existing easements.
- Three main components of the work: valuation, working out how to do this legally and in perpetuity, and working to create an additionality assessment process.

- Effort is a partnership with USFS, private funding, and DOD.
- Timeline: Started Fall 2022, soon will launch pilot projects.

Presentation from Carolyn duPont, Upstream Tech: New Applications for Forest Carbon and Water Quality Monitoring

- Upstream tech is focused on ‘tech for conservation’s sake’ and has developed tools to enable outcomes like monitoring forest carbon, streamflows, land use change, and more.
- HYDROFORECAST is a tool that can predict floods and gauge streamflows
- LENS – remote monitoring platform to gather project data. LENS maps time series to see protection/restoration/cover over time; auto-scans images to detect change in forest cover. LENS can also aid transparency, check to be sure there are no unintended issues.
- Perspectives and trends Carolyn is seeing; there is a proliferation of data, automated monitoring (over large geographies), and transparency of data (this is both good and bad). Upstream is developing tools to help people make use of data.

Presentation from Alex Echols, Campbell Foundation: Using Retail Ag Suppliers to Get Wholesale Conservation Adoption

- Campbell Foundation has launched a project with agriculture retailers to improve nutrient management, because they have a relationship with their client base and data on the farms.
 - How do we de-risk the retailer?
 - How do we offer a different product to sell?
- In their 5-year pilot program, have seen significant (5-20%) reductions in nutrient application (5-20%) and reduced nutrient runoff in downstream waters.

Presentation from Mary Adelzadeh, First Nations Development Institute: Stewarding Native Lands Initiative

- Stewarding Native Lands programme has multiple goals:
 - Helping tribes to access conservation funding and opportunities.
 - Woven lands initiative is looking at land access, direct land transfers, conservation easements, and financing land access opportunities.
 - They are interested in ecosystem service models that preserve tribal sovereignty and maintain tribal control over decision-making. Working with Plan Vivo to develop a carbon credit rooted in reciprocity, and also are looking at biodiversity credits
 - Biggest areas of focus: co-stewardship

- There is a lack of visibility around tribes and the work they're doing, lack of investment, bigger NGOs co-opt funding that could be directed to tribes.

Presentation from Ajulo Othow, EnerWealth Solutions: Growing Solar in Rural Communities

- Please watch this video, [Growing solar options in rural communities | State of Change: Seeds of Hope.](#)
- Communities technical support to implement projects, BOSS (Black Owned Solar Systems) aims to close this gap.
- Most small landowners worked with want to diversify their income and solar can be held in perpetuity.

Presentation by Jeff Ware, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama: Land Between the Rivers

- Patagonia's Hold Fast Collective approached TNC to purchase a key piece of land, 8,000 acres of land called the Land between the Rivers. The property is largely a wetland that floods cyclically during the year, key to landscape resilience and connectivity efforts.
- Tract was \$18 million
 - \$10 million from an anonymous funder – loan from revolving loan fund
 - \$5.2 million gift from Patagonia Hold Fast Collective
 - \$3 million from TNC