



Agenda

Exploratory Workshop on Private Conservation Instruments and Policy in a Changing Climate

February 23-24, 2009

Location: Except as otherwise shown, all sessions will be in Room 299 of the Jerry Yang & Akiko Yamazaki Environment & Energy Building (Y2E2), Stanford University Campus.

Sunday, February 22, 2009

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Dinner Reception**
Shuttle service available to and from the Stanford Guest House

Monday, February 23, 2009

8:00 **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcome, Introductions, Goals of Workshop**

9:00 **Relevant Science**

What do we know about the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystem processes, and conservation generally? How might climate change affect the goals of conservation easements and private conservation efforts?

Presenter: Rebecca Shaw

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **What Are the Implications of Climate Change for Private Conservation Instruments and Policy?**

How do the scientific changes discussed in the first session affect the viability of private conservation easements and policy? Are current conservation easements, for example, sufficiently broad to permit conservation organizations to take the actions needed to respond to climate change? Do conservation easements need to be more flexible in order to permit adaptation to climate change (e.g., by changing the land areas needed to be protected)? Conversely, will climate change put existing conservation easements at risk by giving land owners a new defense?

Provocateurs:
Meg Caldwell
Andy Dana
Bill Weeks

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

1:00

Drafting Conservation Easements in an Era of Climate Change

What do the concerns raised in the second session tell us about how we should be drafting conservation easements in the future? To what degree can the concerns be addressed by changes in the drafting of conservation easements without changes in the underlying law? What drafting guidelines could help conservation organizations in addressing the various concerns raised?

Provocateurs:
Jessica Lippmann
Leslie Ratley-Beach

2:30

Break

2:45

What Legal Changes Might Be Worth Pursuing?

Do any of the concerns raised in the second session require changes in the law, including tax law, underlying future conservation easements or other private conservation instruments? For example, should the law provide for greater flexibility or make it easier for conservation organizations to “swap” protected land? What are the pros and cons of potential legal changes?

Provocateurs:
Fred Cheever
Nancy McLaughlin

4:15

Break

4:30

Existing Conservation Easements

The last two sessions have dealt with changes in the drafting of, and law underlying, future conservation easements? Do the concerns raised in the morning call for modifications of existing conservation easements or the law underlying them? If so, what special issues do such modifications raise? How might those issues be addressed?

Provocateurs TBD

5:30

Adjourn

5:30 – 8:30

Reception and Dinner

Spalti Restaurant

417 California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA

Shuttle service available before dinner from Y2E2 to Spalti and after dinner from Spalti to the Stanford Guest House

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

8:00

Continental Breakfast

8:30

New Forms of Private Conservation Instruments

Could new forms for conservation instruments help address some or all of the concerns raised during the first day? For example, could we develop “shifting conservation easements” that automatically move as climate change affects the environment (like a conservation easement that automatically moves inland with changes in sea level)? What types of new conservation instruments should be considered? Are new laws required to create such instruments? What are the pros and cons of such instruments?

Provocateurs:

Peter Kareiva

Buzz Thompson

10:00

Break

10:15

Developing a Research and Action Agenda

What needs to be done to advance the ideas developed during the earlier sessions of the workshop – and to develop and advance additional proposals that could effectively address the concerns? What research would be valuable in further developing the ideas, answering potential questions, and developing new proposals? What political, legal, or institutional obstacles will change confront? How might those obstacles be addressed? Who needs to be involved in moving the ideas of the workshop forward? How can they best be engaged? What are the useful steps to take next and who should take them?

12:15

Synthesis

A summary of next steps and assignments.

12:30

Adjourn

Lunch available