

Keynote Speakers

Todd C Esque, PhD

Presentation: From the ground up: developing effective strategies to inform regional ecological restoration



Todd is a Research Ecologist with the US Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center stationed in Henderson, Nevada. During his 30 years of research in arid environments, he has studied the ecology of disturbances, soil and vegetation recovery and restoration of native habitats for plants and animals in western North America. His research uses observational studies and field, lab and greenhouse experiments that explore topics ranging from soil to seeds to plants, pollinators and their predators. He and his collaborators initiated a Mojave Desert Restoration Program for the Bureau of Land Management by developing provisional seed transfer zones, writing priority species lists for plant materials

development, establishing a network of common gardens across the Mojave Desert for restoration research, and working to establish effectiveness measures for restoration projects in the hot desert areas of southern California. This work has developed rapidly during the past five years and lays the research foundations critical for effective local-ecotype restoration efforts region-wide.

Jan Schipper

Presentation: From local to global: ensuring wildlife connectivity and habitat conservation



Jan is a conservation biologist and wildlife ecologist with more than 20 years of research experience in Central and South America across a wide variety of mammalian species, including a status assessment of the world's mammals. Jan's work focuses on the importance of conservation corridors for mammal dispersal and movement, impacts of traditional hunting practices on wildlife, effectiveness of protected areas at conserving species and developing conservation tools for jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and other area sensitive species. Jan is currently pursuing research in Costa Rica, working on designing and implementing conservation corridors between national parks, and in Arizona, evaluating wildlife connectivity in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and

investigating the impacts of declining surface water on desert wildlife with an emphasis on finding solutions. Within these projects, Jan's work is focusing on investigating carnivore impacts on trophic cascades, canopy highways for arboreal mammals and developing and improving upon non-invasive survey techniques (for mammals but also for invasive species). Other past projects include 1) developing and implementing management for invasive ungulates in Hawaii – specifically Axis deer, 2) wildlife survey and monitoring in Costa Rica's Talamanca Mountains and 3) estimating populations of jaguar and other large mammal populations on private reserves and protected areas to explore best management practices.