



**Interagency Ecological Site Applications Workshop
Archbold Biological Station, Venus, Florida
15 - 17 November 2011**

Workshop Objectives:

- 1) Enhance foundational knowledge, skills and understanding of Ecological Site Concepts, state-and-transition models, and their interpretations through an Ecological Site Description (ESD) product.
- 2) Provide framework for moving from first to second generation Ecological Site Descriptions.
- 3) Showcase the utility of Ecological Site Descriptions as a working and dynamic tool used to document ecological knowledge and assist in applied conservation and management.

Tuesday, November 15th

- 7:00 AM BREAKFAST at Archbold Biological Station (ABS) Learning Center
- 8:00 AM Welcome (objectives of the workshop, format, and logistics)

Greg Hendricks, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Aleta Rudeen, Director of Outreach & Leadership, SRM
- 8:15 AM Introduction of attendees & instructors
- 8:30 AM Keynote presentation: History of Landscapes and Introduction to ecosystems of Florida's Lake Wales Ridge

Dr. Hilary Swain, Director of the Archbold Biological Station
- 9:30 AM General Concepts of Ecological Sites and State & Transition Models

Dr. Brandon Bestelmeyer, Research Scientist, Jornada Range Experimental Station, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- 10:00 -10:30 BREAK
- 10:30 AM Soil Processes and Properties

Tom Weber, State Soil Scientist, Gainesville, FL, USDA-NRCS

- 11:00 AM ESD Policy and Interagency Adoption
Bruce Wight, National Forester, USDA-NRCS, Washington DC
- 11:30 AM Hierarchy for Ecological Sites (MLRA, LRU, Soil-Landscape Properties)
Dr. Dave Cleland, Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin
- 12:00 Noon LUNCH
- 1:00 PM State-and-Transition Models, Their Concepts and Components (Characterizing the site to Reference Conditions)
Dr. Pat Shaver, Rangeland Management Specialist, West NTSC, Portland, OR., USDA-NRCS
- 1:30 PM Introduction of Ecological Site Descriptions and their Component Parts
Homer Sanchez, Rangeland Management Specialist, National Grazing Lands Team, Central NTSC, Fort Worth, TX., USDA-NRCS
- 2:00 PM The ESD Development Process (the science, knowledge, stakeholders, partners & resources)
Dr. Joel Brown, Ecologist, USDA-NRCS, Las Cruces, NM.
- 2:30 PM Using Local and Scientific Knowledge to Establish the Reference for Ecological Site Descriptions and State and Transition Models
Dr. Jeff Herrick, ARS Research Scientist, Jornada Range Experimental Station, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- 3:00 PM Uses & Applications of an Ecological Site Description
Chad Ellis, Rangeland Management Specialist, Central NTSC, Fort Worth, Texas (former State RMS, Florida NRCS), and Greg Hendricks, State Resource Conservationist, Gainesville, FL., USDA-NRCS
- 3:30 – 3:45 BREAK
- 3:45 PM Walk to Field Exercise – Identify an Ecological Site & Make a Soils Assessment
- 4:00 PM Break into Groups/General Discussions – (20 minutes per topic)
1. Defining the Physiographic, Climatic & Other Influencing Features
 2. Soil Features and Characterization
 3. Plant ID and General Ecology Discussion
- 5:00 PM SOCIAL at ABS Learning Center
- 6:00 PM DINNER at ABS Learning Center

Wednesday, November 16th

- 7:00 AM BREAKFAST at ABS Learning Center
- 8:00 AM Open Discussion and Comments from Participants
- 8:30 AM Ecology & Fire in Florida Scrub on the Lake Wales Ridge
Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold Biological Station
- 9:30 – 10:00 BREAK
- 10:00 AM Transport to Field Exercise on ABS
- 10:30 AM Break into Groups Site #1- High Sand Scrub Site on St. Lucie Sand
(30 minutes per Breakout Session)
1. Physiographic, Climatic & Other Influencing Features
 2. Soil Features and Characterization
 3. Natural Disturbances and Management
 4. Characterizing the Plant Community with Data
- 12:30 Noon LUNCH (in field box-lunch)
- 1:30 PM General Discussion Site #2 - High Sand Scrub Site on St Lucie Sand
- 2:00 PM Break into Groups Site #3 - High Sand Scrub Site (Disturbed) on Archbold Sand
1. Physiographic, Climatic & Other Influencing Features
 2. Soil Features and Characterization
 3. Natural Disturbances and Management
 4. Characterizing the Plant Community with Data
- 3:00 PM Walk to Site & Discuss Site #4 - Scrubby Flatwoods (Disturbed) on Satellite Sand
- 4:30 PM DEPART TO HEADQUARTERS
- 5:00 PM SOCIAL at ABS Learning Center
- 6:00 PM DINNER at ABS Learning Center

Thursday, November 17th

- 7:00 AM BREAKFAST at ABS Learning Center
- 8:00 AM Open Discussion and Comments from Participants
- 8:30 AM FNAI's Natural Communities of Florida & Ecological Site Information
Kim Gullede, Community Ecologist, Florida Natural Area's Inventory, Tallahassee, FL
- 9:30 – 10:00 BREAK AND LOAD FOR FIELD TRIP
- 10:00 AM Transport to Field Exercise on Westby Ranch
- 10:30 AM General Discussions
1. Scrubby Flatwoods on Duette Sand
 2. Scrubby Flatwoods on Pomello Sand
 3. Cutthroat Seep/Cutthroat Grass Flatwoods on Basinger, St Johns & Placid Soils
 4. South Florida Flatwoods (Wet Flatwoods) on EauGallie Fine Sand
 5. Slough (Wet Prairie)/Wetland Hardwood Hammock/Pasture on Felda Fine Sand
- 12:00 Noon LUNCH (Box-lunch in Field)
- 1:00 PM ESD's Used to Assist Wetland Reserve Program Restoration
- 1:30 PM En Route Back to Archbold Biological Station
- 2:00 PM How to Access ESDs from Different Sites or Locations
Homer Sanchez, Rangeland Management Specialist, National Grazing Lands Team, Central NTSC, Fort Worth, TX., USDA-NRCS
- 2:30 PM Wrap-up – Building Partnerships/Developing Ecological Sites Descriptions
Facilitator lead Question & Answer Period – Feedback Encouraged
(Instructors will be available to respond)
- 4:00 PM Workshop Adjourn