

The National Nature-based Solutions Policy Forum 2024

Panel Summary: Fireside Chat

Speakers:

- Jainey Bavishi, Assistant Secretary, Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary, Army for Civil Works
- Sarah Greenberger, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior

Facilitator:

- Dr. Todd Bridges, Professor of Practice, Resilient and Sustainable Systems, University of Georgia

The Fireside Chat with Federal Agency Leadership highlighted challenges and opportunities in advancing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) across various agencies. The Department of the Interior (DOI) emphasized the need for policy implementation and training to support NBS adoption. USACE discussed cultural and institutional changes to align with community preferences, along with efforts to provide engineering guidance for NBS. NOAA focused on building capacity and networking to support historically under-resourced communities. The importance of relationships in driving progress was emphasized, and the role of permitting in facilitating NBS initiatives was highlighted. While FEMA and DOT were absent from the chat, NOAA emphasized partnerships with multiple agencies for NBS opportunities. The chat underscored the impact of individual efforts in driving cultural shifts and highlighted the resilience of community-based NBS implementations amid political changes.