

The National Nature-based Solutions Policy Forum 2024

Panel Summary: Innovations in Permitting: Coordination Efficiencies

Speakers:

- Luisa Valiela, Environmental Protection Specialist, San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team
- Martin Mayer, Regulatory Division Chief, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Todd Miller, Founder and Executive Director, North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Dr. Timothy Male, Executive Director, Environmental Policy Innovation Center
- Peter Murchie, Manager, Geographic Programs, Environmental Protection Agency

Facilitator:

- Dr. Jordan R. Fischbach, Director, Planning and Policy Research, The Water Institute

Summary:

The Innovations in Permitting Panel at the NBS Policy Forum showcased groundbreaking approaches to streamline permitting processes and promote Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) implementation. Martin Mayer highlighted specific Nationwide Permits (NWP) and Programmatic General Permits (PGPs) facilitating NBS projects, emphasizing the importance of pre-application meetings. Luisa Valiela discussed California's SB 272 and the formation of BRRIT to enhance permitting for tidal restoration projects. Todd Miller emphasized the role of environmental advocacy and partnerships in driving NBS demonstration projects and advocating for permitting reform. The panel also addressed the need for updated regulatory guidance to address climate change challenges. The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force underscored the importance of collaborative governance and outlined initiatives like the Multi-Agency Regulatory Review Team (MARRT) to streamline permitting processes and engage with First Nations. International perspectives highlighted the Netherlands' innovative permitting decisions lasting 50 years, enabling rapid adaptive management. The panel concluded with a call to accelerate NBS adoption through leap-ahead opportunities in regulation and permitting.