Title: The Stream Tiered Assessment Framework (STAF)

Abstract: This webinar shows users how to use the Stream Tiered Assessment Framework (STAF) to perform an ecosystem assessment. We will cover the 20 stream functions STAF evaluates, providing consistency across assessments. We will discuss how function scores roll up into physical, chemical, and biological outcomes, and finally into one Ecosystem Condition Index for comparable results. We will show how three tiers of assessment (screening, rapid, and detailed) let users match assessment effort to meet project needs. We will also discuss the STAF website and the tools for each tier of assessment provided there. We will introduce and provide access to the screening tier tool, the Ecosystem Assessment Screening Index (EASI), for viewers to use on their own. This webinar is part one of a three-part series. Rapid field assessment with SFARI follows on 9 September, and detailed assessment follows on 22 September.

Presenters:



Leanne Stepchinski, PhD
ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow
Environmental Laboratory
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Houston, TX

Bio: Leanne Stepchinski is an ORISE postdoctoral fellow with the U.S. Army Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC) Environmental Laboratory. She holds a B.S. in geosciences from Trinity University, and a Ph.D. in geology with a focus in ecohydrology from the University of South Florida. Her research focuses on wetland and stream hydrology, with applications in stream assessment.



Garrett Menichino, PhD, PE, CFM
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Bio: Garrett Menichino is a research civil engineer with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Environmental Laboratory (EL). His research focuses on linking the hydrologic and hydraulic processes in water resources infrastructure to ecological functions, with applications to river restoration, floodplain management, and flood risk management. Dr. Menichino is a licensed civil engineer in the State of Virginia and is a Certified Floodplain Manager with the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Dr. Menichino received his BS in civil engineering from the University of Virginia and his PhD in civil engineering from Virginia Tech.