

GREENPRINTING AND STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR OPEN SPACE, NATURAL RESOURCES, CULTURAL RESOURCES AND SCENIC VIEWS PRESERVATION (PRL-41)

Background on The Nature Conservancy and biographies of representatives

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a global non-profit dedicated to conserving the lands and waters upon which all life depends. There are Conservancy chapters in all 50 U.S. states and international programs throughout the Asia-Pacific region, China, Central and South America, Africa, and the Caribbean. The Nature Conservancy and its partners at The Trust for Public Land and The Conservation Fund have developed Greenprints around the United States and published the Greenprint Hub (www.greenprintheub.org) as a resource. Greenprints are plans and tools to help planners, policymakers, and the public identify strategic conservation opportunities in their communities. The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i Program (www.nature.org/hawaii) is the Hawai'i state chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Established in 1980, the Hawai'i Program manages a statewide network of 14 nature preserves—7 of which are in Maui County—totaling more than 40,000 acres. The Conservancy works with 19 coastal communities—including 7 in Maui County—to help protect the coral reefs and near-shore waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. The Conservancy works closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative forest and marine conservation management projects statewide and at Palmyra Atoll south of the Hawaiian Islands.

Alison Cohan, Director, Maui Nui Forest Program

Alison Cohan is the Director for The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i's Maui Nui Forest Program. She has a Master of Applied Science degree in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver with a focus on Natural Resource Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Animal Behavior from Southwestern University. Alison's Master's thesis focused on climate change adaptation of East Maui's montane wet forests. Alison has been involved in conservation activities on Maui for almost 20 years, working for the preservation and conservation of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. She is currently focused on threat abatement across 100,000 acres on East Maui and 50,000 acres on West Maui, leveraging resources through Watershed Partnerships and other strategic collaborations. Originally from Texas but drawn to the ocean at an early age, Alison is happy in nature whether 100' below the surface or 10,000' above.

Mark Fox, External Affairs Director, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program

Raised in Hilo and Waimea on Hawai'i island, Mark received his undergraduate and law degrees from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. Mark practiced law from 1989 to 1993 with the Carlsmith law firm in Honolulu. He joined the Washington staff of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye in 1994 handling issues related to agriculture and the environment. In 2000, Mark joined The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i Program. Mark's work with the Conservancy includes government and agency relations, public policy and advocacy, and communications.

Elizabeth O'Donoghue, Director of Infrastructure and Land Use, The Nature Conservancy, California Chapter

Liz O'Donoghue is Director of Infrastructure and Land Use for the Nature Conservancy's California Chapter focusing on innovative mitigation approaches, sustainable land use patterns and transportation policy. She serves on Caltrans' Policy Advisory Committee, the Bay Area Open Space Council's Advisory Council and ClimatePlan's Steering Committee. Prior to joining the Nature Conservancy, Liz was Public Affairs Director at Amtrak West; before that she was a legislative assistant for transportation and natural resources policy for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg; and prior to that, a policy associate at a consulting firm in New Jersey focusing on environmental, health care and transportation issues. She holds a B.A from Oberlin College and a certificate in Business Administration from U.C. Berkeley Extension.

Carrie Schloss, Spatial Data Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, California Program

Carrie Schloss is a Spatial Data Scientist in The Nature Conservancy's California Program. She focuses on multi-benefit conservation planning and climate change adaptation. She uses data analytics and creates decision support tools to encourage the integration of conservation values across sectors. She explores how natural resource and social science information can be combined to reveal new opportunities to advance the conservation of natural lands in an urbanizing landscape. She also conducts statewide assessments that identify how the landscape can enhance resilience and adaptation to climate change to support climate-smart conservation decisions.

Before the Conservancy, she contracted with the United States Geological Survey to apply spatial conservation prioritization tools to offset siting for mitigation. She holds a M.S. from the University of Washington where she analyzed the ability for mammals to keep pace with climate change and explored methods for incorporating climate change adaptation and resilience into conservation planning.