Cole Soldo

Conservation Biology Institute
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Cole Soldo is a conservationist who is grounded in the fact that conservation is, ultimately, about people. He comes from The Ohio State University with experience in risk analysis and decision science, measuring the drivers of conservation program participation rates, and farmer conservation identity. His primary research targeted the use of constructed wetlands to address water quality challenges and farmer willingness to adopt edge-of-field conservation measures in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Mr. Soldo brings additional ecosystem stewardship and urban sustainability experience to CBI, emphasizing clear communications and finding workable, focused solutions to pressing environmental issues. He adds his unique perspective to help CBI's spatial analysis tools to become accepted and adopted by a wide audience.

EDUCATION

2021   M.S. Risk Analysis and Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University
2017   B.A. Environmental Studies, Hiram College

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Stakeholder outreach and engagement, risk analysis, science communications, information dissemination, demographic survey analysis, written and multi-media communications, conflict mediation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – Pres.   Conservation Outreach Coordinator, Conservation Biology Institute

2019 - 2021   Research and Teaching Assistant, The Ohio State University

2017 - 2019   Produce and Botanical Sales Associate, Pipkin's Market and Nursery

2015 - 2017   Teaching Assistant and Tutor, Hiram College

2015 - 2015   Sustainability Intern, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

2014 - 2014   Environmental Stewardship Intern, James H. Barrow Field Station

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE:

Outreach and Engagement, Mapping Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands in Washington, Colorado, and Kansas with Remote Sensing and Machine Learning

Conservation Biology Institute

In this project, CBI is partnering with USDA to examine and update the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). As Conservation Outreach Coordinator, I am working with farmers and landowners to implement conservation management practices on enrolled lands, with paid contracts ranging from 10 to 15 years in length. CBI has created a spatial analysis tool for prioritizing lands for the program using a rich suite of enviro-climatic data, multiple sources of satellite imagery, and machine learning techniques to predict land cover for study areas in Washington, Colorado, and Kansas, where CRP Grasslands holdings are most prevalent. Next steps are to expand this work into Nebraska and the Dakotas, focus on the implementation and adoption of the tool by landowners, and to collect information about the program's effectiveness.

Non-Point Source Pollution In the Western Lake Erie Basin

The Ohio State University and The Nature Conservancy

This project gauged farmer willingness and interest in adopting constructed wetlands as a best management practice (BMP) to reduce non-point source pollution In the Western Lake Erie Basin. The effort, modeled off of a qualitative study in Sweden, consisted of a large-scale survey and subsequent analysis to determine the drivers of adoption and demographic features to consider when targeting specific populations.

PUBLICATIONS

Soldo, C., Wilson, R., Walpole, H., Dale Shaffer-Morrison, C. (2022). Farmer willingness to implement constructed wetlands in the Western Lake Erie Basin. *Journal of Environmental Management*. *115928*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2022.115928.