



Chris Heider (L) with Charlie Gilgaayan (R), coordinator for EPA Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia (2008)

**Chris Heider – Ecosystem Ecologist**

**Current Position:** Managing Partner,  
Watershed Professionals Network (WPN), LLC

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Chris Heider is an ecologist with a background in analytical chemistry specializing in ecosystem-level processes, specifically forestry and other vegetation mechanisms for carbon offsets, climate change mitigation, water quality, the quantification of *ecosystem services*, and the effects of land uses on natural resources. Chris is known for his technical expertise in quantifying and the prediction of: C sequestration in a range of ecosystems, riparian habitat conditions & functions, water quality issues related to vegetative interactions (LWD, shade, nutrients), and disturbance-related interactions with landscapes (flooding, landslides, climate change, fire, forest insects & disease, and other linkages). Chris has extensive on-the-ground and project management experience with a keen focus in bringing *ecosystem services* -- or the benefits that ecosystem processes bring to the human and natural world -- to the business and environmental forefront in this new century economy. Chris has 15 years of experience working throughout the Pacific Northwest (USA), Latin America and the tropical Pacific on focus topics including:

### Experience Highlights

- **Carbon Sequestration, Assessment, & Climate change.** For over 10 years, Chris has worked in Latin America and the Pacific islands to quantify biomass, carbon and nutrient pools in a range of ecosystems, and has developed models to quantify the change in C and nutrient pools over time, particularly related to land uses. Chris worked on multi-national objectives with US-EPA, USDA Forest Service and NASA-Ames Earth Sciences to quantify the effects of land uses on C pools and C sequestration as well as to formulate mitigation strategies to counteract natural resource depletion due to sea level rise. Current projects in Micronesia are being considered for early model REDD projects with multinational groups (Reducing Emissions through Deforestation in Developing Countries).
- **Watershed Assessment, Project Design & NEPA Compliance.** Chris has served in the capacity of Project Manager, Technical Lead, and Ecologist to complete numerous watershed assessments in the Pacific Northwest, with a focus on quantifying the upland and riparian vegetation resources, disturbance patterns, and land-management goals. Specific areas include the mapping and characterization of private industrial timberlands, state agency timber resources, assessment of fire risk to local communities and resources, and the evaluation of sediment flow from vegetation treatments. Chris has developed site-specific silvicultural and prescribed fire treatments for meeting multiple goals (timber harvest, fire protection, resource enhancement) and provided technical prescriptions for riparian zones in stream restoration designs (minimize erosion, enhance fisheries habitats, and preserve capital assets). He has conducted the NEPA compliance to implement treatment strategies. Clients have included watershed councils, Oregon Department of Forestry, Washington DNR, USDA Forest Service (multiple R6 forests), Idaho DEQ, municipalities, and multiple Tribal agencies.

- ***Natural Resource (Ecosystem) Services: Carbon, Water Quality, Fisheries Habitat, Watershed Health.*** Chris has applied a range of technical and organizational methods to quantify and score a range of ecosystem services for forest, coastal, island, riverine, urban, pre-development, and targeted restoration sites. These have been applied at multiple spatial scales, including at the site, reach, watershed, regional and state levels. Projects have ranged from watershed-level assessments of current and potential future wood (LWD) inputs and shade to stream systems (multiple watersheds in the Pacific Northwest), to broad-based ranking criteria for determining limiting factors and ecological assets for greenspace acquisition in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Chris has become recently involved with a interagency stakeholder group to help to define frameworks for ecosystem service valuation to meet restoration goals for the state of Hawaii. Past clients have included Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), USDA Forest Service, Portland Metro, public and private timberland owners, and Tribes.

## **Education**

MS Ecology, Dept. Fisheries & Wildlife, Oregon State University

BS Environmental Chemistry (Analytical), BioResource Research, Oregon State University

## **Languages**

English (Native speaker)

Spanish (Professional fluency)

## **Certifications & Memberships**

Ecological Society of America

American Fisheries Society

American Water Resources Association

Oregon Winegrowers Association

SCUBA Open Water Certification