

Ecosystem Marketplace Creates Central Clearinghouse for Species Banking

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Contact: Nathaniel Carroll, Ecosystem Marketplace, 202.298.3000

With all the activity in the emerging market of species banking, it's hard to believe that until now, there has been no centralized information source to serve buyers, sellers, and other market participants. Basic information such as number of banks, distribution, species covered, availability of credits, and contact details have not been readily available. And what information is available, is often scattered across different websites, unavailable in electronic format, or in quickly-outdated news and journal articles.

“If you're in the United States and you're looking to mitigate an impact on species, your permitting agency may point you to a species bank. But how do you know what your other options are? Who else is selling? What is a fair price?-,” says Becca Madsen, Biodiversity Program Manager for Ecosystem Marketplace. “Then you have to call around, talk to as many people as possible, see if they will share information with you... It's a very time-consuming process.”

For more than a year, Nathaniel Carroll, Project Director of the Ecosystem Marketplace, and his colleagues have been designing and developing a solution. The process has included pulling together a blue ribbon advisory panel of industry leaders as well as scouring web sites, contacting regional US Fish & Wildlife Service offices, interviewing individual species banks, and pouring all the information into a new web portal called SpeciesBanking.com, the first-ever centralized data base for species banks in the world.

The goal is to create a real-time, interactive data base and information exchange to serve as a registry for all known species banks and their credits, an archive of transactions, as well as relevant ecological and regulatory information. The site will feature daily news and original articles on underserved aspects of the industry, as well as databases for key industry documents and institutions and their contact information.

“There is relatively little information about species conservation banks that is publicly available - and what is available is often scattered in different publications and often out-dated. There is little transparency into who bought, who sold, how many credits, and for how much,” says Carroll. “This is

The screenshot shows the 'SPECIES BANKING DATABASE' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'BANKS', 'TRANSACTIONS', 'SPECIES', 'STATES', 'NEWS & ARTICLES', and 'DIRECTORY'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there are several sections:

- FEATURED ARTICLES:** A featured article titled 'Endangered Salamander Habitat Protected (CA)' with a sub-headline 'SANTA CRUZ, CA, 6/3/04'. The article text describes the purchase and protection of a 285-acre habitat in Santa Cruz, California.
- Market Snapshot:** A table providing key statistics:

Number of Banks	77 Banks
States with Banks	10 States, 1 County (mostly in CA)
Species Available	64 Species
Transactions Volume	898 Transactions
Land Area Protected or Restored	64,021 Hectares (110,292 acres)
- U.S. Species Banks:** A map of the United States showing the locations of species banks, primarily concentrated in California.
- Find Banks:** A search form with dropdown menus for 'Select a State' and 'Select a Species', and a 'GO' button.
- Search Transactions:** A search form with dropdown menus for 'Select a Bank', 'Select a Species', and 'Select a State', and a 'GO' button.
- View Species Profiles:** A search form with dropdown menus for 'Select a Species' and 'Select a State', and a 'GO' button.
- View State Profiles:** A search form with a dropdown menu for 'Select a State', and a 'GO' button.
- LATEST NEWS:** A list of recent news items with titles like 'At Vero Eos et Accusamus et Intra Depressimus'.
- NOTeworthy:** A list of notable events or reports, such as 'US Conservation Banking Market Summary'.
- FREEMAIL NEWSLETTER:** A sign-up form for a newsletter.
- INVESTORS' CIRCLE:** A section for investors, including a logo and text about 'Patient Capital for a Sustainable Future'.

important information for credit buyers, other bankers, as well as investors and conservation organizations. Our goal is to provide information that will allow market participants to make informed decisions, and to ensure the market is equitable and ecologically effective.”

SpeciesBanking.com will be debuted this fall, with an official launch event set for December. The initial focus will be on the \$370 million-per-year US conservation banking market, with plans for expansion to US wetland mitigation, Australian biodiversity banking, worldwide voluntary biodiversity offsetting, and new mitigation programs emerging around the globe.

Who We Are

Speciesbanking.com is a project of the Ecosystem Marketplace, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information on markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services (services such as water quality, carbon sequestration and biodiversity). The Ecosystem Marketplace believes that by providing reliable information on costs, regulation, science, and other market-relevant factors, markets for ecosystem services will one day become a fundamental part of our economic system, helping give value to environmental services that, for too long, have been taken for granted. In providing this information, the Ecosystem Marketplace hopes not only to facilitate transactions, but also to catalyze new thinking, spur the development of new markets, and achieve effective and equitable nature conservation.

We believe that, if implemented correctly, species credit banking for compensatory mitigation - and its variations in other countries and in its various forms, such as biodiversity offsets – can help create value for biodiversity, transforming endangered species from a liability into an asset, and thereby furthering endangered species recovery.