

ABSTRACT

Using VELMA to Quantify and Visualize the Effectiveness of Green Infrastructure Options for Protecting Water Quality

Robert B. McKane

USEPA/ORD/NHEERL, Western Ecology Division, Corvallis

This webinar describes the use of VELMA, a spatially-distributed ecohydrological model, to identify green infrastructure (GI) best management practices for protecting water quality in intensively managed watersheds. The seminar will include a brief description of VELMA and an example application for a Chesapeake Bay catchment. A new 3-D visualization tool for viewing and communicating simulated effects of GI on water quality will also be demonstrated. For example, this is proving useful for identifying biogeochemical hot spots and hot moments within watersheds, and the extent to which alternative GI practices can reduce nutrient export from such locations. The webinar is part of the 2014 Green Infrastructure Webinar Series organized by the EPA Office of Research and Development.