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Dr. Elizabeth Myers Toman, PhD

Faculty Lecturer

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Characterizing the Effects of Land Management on Ecosystem Health



Abstract: Anthropogenic changes to land cover from forestry and agricultural practices, oil and gas development, and urban growth can have detrimental impacts on the health of natural ecosystems including water quality/quantity, diversity of wildlife, and abundance of indicator species. In particular, the construction, maintenance and use of roads can impair streams and have cascading impacts throughout the ecosystem. This presentation summarizes various research efforts throughout Ohio that characterize the impacts that different land management practices have on surface water quality and other measures of ecosystem health.

Dr. Elizabeth Myers Toman is currently a Faculty Lecturer at OSU in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, Elizabeth earned her MS in Forest Hydrology and PhD in Forest Engineering and Civil Engineering from Oregon State University and has been at OSU since 2011, teaching classes in SENR and Civil Engineering and conducting research. She currently is registered as an Engineering Intern and serves on the Low-Volume Roads committee for the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Her research has focused on the impacts of land-use practices, specifically flow-volume roads, on water quality.