National Association of Wetland Managers
Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

Building an Evergreen Future with Wetlands

April 8-11, 2025

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Greg Masten is an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe and a descendant of the Hupa and Karuk Tribes. He grew up both on and off reservations throughout his life in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Masten's background is rooted in education with a Master's degree in Education (M.Ed.) with a special focus on Indigenous education. With nearly 30 years of experience in advocating for Tribal Nations and Native communities, Mr. Masten has led regional, state, and national initiatives in education, environmental work and philanthropy. These endeavors have led to groundbreaking investments in Tribal Nations, focusing on areas such as tribally-led environmental issues, education, and racial equity both domestically and internationally.

Mr. Masten has served as the President of the NCAI Foundation, the VP of Tribal Nations Engagement at Native Americans in Philanthropy, Executive Director of the Northwest Indian College Foundation, and Education Director for the Hoopa Valley Tribe. In addition, Mr. Masten has served on several national and regional boards, such as the President of the Tribal Education Department's National Assembly, Steering Committee Member of the America the Beautiful for All Coalition, and member of the University of Washington's Native Advisory Board.

Mr. Masten believes in the time tested knowledge, values and ways of Indigenous People's, and based on Indigenous knowledge, collaborations and partnerships are not only needed, but necessary, particularly in these uncertain times.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(Please note, not all speakers have submitted biographies.)

Michelle Bahnick, PWS, is the Wetland Biologist for the Tulalip Tribes of Washington Natural and Cultural Resources Division. They manage the Tribes' Wetland Program in order to preserve, protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and their functions for the benefit of the Tulalip Tribes now and into the future. Prior to their work with the Tulalip Tribes, Michelle worked in environmental consulting conducting field assessments, evaluating projects for consistency with relevant local, state, and federal codes, and preparing materials for permitting. Michelle holds a M.Sc. in Biology from Western Washington University, a B.A. in Biology from Earlham College, and a certificate in Wetland Science and Management from the University of Washington.

Mark Biddle is a lead wetland scientist with more than 30 years of experience working for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Located within the Watershed Assessment Section, Mark manages the Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program, the Watershed Management Program, Stream Habitat and Biology Program, and the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Program. Mark has been involved in Delaware's regulatory and permitting responsibilities for tidal wetlands, subaqueous lands, 401 water quality certification, and drafting legislation and regulations for non-tidal wetlands. His work has involved the Delaware Wetlands Conservation Strategy, wetland restoration, compensatory mitigation and wetland banking, assessing restored wetlands for nutrient assimilation, serving as team leader for Delaware Whole Basin Management, and on various ecological and green infrastructure initiatives. Mark has participated on statewide and regional planning groups and represents Delaware on national wetland mapping and mitigation issues. Mark continues to produce reports on status and changes of Delaware wetlands using updated statewide wetland mapping efforts in partnership with the National Wetlands Inventory. Mark holds degrees in Natural Resource Management and Soil and Water Management and attended both Delaware State University and the University of Delaware.

Jared Busen is a Wetland Technician for the Tulalip Tribes of Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington Certificate in Wetland Science and Management program. He has experience with wetland delineations and assessments, riparian habitat and restoration, and agroforestry.

Sarah Drahovzal is a Lead Wetland Scientist at Kleinschmidt Associates in Strasburg, PA with more than 15 years of experience, specializing in wetland and terrestrial habitat assessments. She is responsible for leading field efforts to support various studies including wetland delineations, vernal pool surveys, invasive species surveys, RTE species surveys and botanical community characterization. Her studies inform conservation efforts and ensure a balance between renewable energy projects and a sustainable future. Sarah is experienced with ArcGIS Pro for data analysis and mapping. She has supported numerous hydropower and solar regulatory projects by developing and implementing field studies; preparing federal, state, and municipal permit applications; and authoring relicensing and compliance documents. Sarah is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist and holds an M.S. in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine, Orono.

Donna Downing is the Senior Legal Policy Advisor at the National Association of Wetland Managers. Donna was the Jurisdiction Team Leader in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds from 2007-2020. Donna worked on a variety of issues at EPA, with a focus in recent years on the geographic scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions. She also served as EPA's staff lead for CWA section 401 water quality certification, and on wetland-related legal issues. Prior to joining EPA in 1998, Donna worked for the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment and in private law practice. She has a BA magna cum laude from Harvard University, an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley, a JD cum laude from Georgetown University Law School, and an LLM in Environmental Law summa cum laude from George Washington University Law School. Donna has been an adjunct professor at George Washington University Law School since 1996, teaching environmental law.

Daniel Evans has worked in wetland ecology and habitat restoration since 1999. Daniel is the Wetland Ecologist Specialist at the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), serving as the agency's technical expert in wetland delineations. His work includes working daily with the public, planners, DSL staff, and consultants on questions of identification and jurisdiction. Daniel is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists and a River Restoration Professional by Portland State University. He has restored interdunal swale wetlands (an ARSC type) impacted by shipwrecks, mountaintop herbaceous meadows contaminated by fuel spills, and calls Portland, Oregon home. Daniel is a graduate of The Evergreen State College (B.A.) in Washington State.

Laura Farwell is the Conservation Coordinator for Coastal Wetlands at Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture and focuses on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and birds across the continental Pacific Coast, from northern California to the North Slope of Alaska. She is based in Port Townsend, Washington, but works across the Pacific region to build regional partnerships, bridge the gap between science and implementation, and connect partners with the resources and funding they need to effectively conserve coastal wetland habitats. Laura is an ecologist with 18 years' experience in applied research and habitat conservation. She holds an MSc in Forest Resources from the University of Washington, and a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University.

Alex Funk is the Director of Water Resources and Senior Counsel with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). The TRCP works to rally the sporting and conservation organization communities around federal and state policies benefiting fish and wildlife. Alex, as the Director of Water Resources, leads TRCP's national and state water policy efforts with a focus on scaling nature-based solutions to address the impacts of a changing climate and protecting vital wetland and river ecosystems. Alex has over a decade of experience of working on federal and state water policy with a track record of success. Recent highlights include testifying before Congress on the importance of the Farm Bill in addressing western water challenges, leading a coalition of partners to advance legislation creating a state wetland protection program in Colorado, and helping to secure millions in federal funding to increase the pace and scale of beaver-assisted restoration efforts on public lands.

Melissa Gobin is a Tulalip tribal member and the Tulalip Tribes' Natural Resource Outreach Education Coordinator. She has dedicated her life to the preservation of our Natural Resources for the last 8 years. Learning and teaching about the ecosystems of the Salish Sea is Melissa's passion. She grew up on the Tulalip Reservation and most of her family is involved in Natural Resources. The hatchery is named after her grandfather Bernie Kiakia Gobin and he instilled in her the love for our natural environment. Tulalip has a rich connection to the Salish Sea and Melissa is one of many Tulalip tribal members committed to protecting it. Education and Outreach has given Melissa an outlet to teach kids, adults, and community about the different wetlands and the world we live in and tribe's longstanding cultural connection to it.
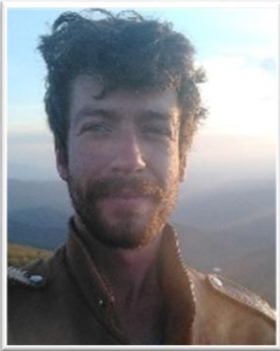

Hannah Gorin has over six years of experience in GIS and remote sensing and hydropower consulting, currently leading the GIS and Remote Sensing discipline at Kleinschmidt Associates. Her work focuses on exploring and expanding technologies to drive forward-thinking solutions in environmental and hydropower projects. Hannah is a strong advocate for the role of technology in ecological preservation and specializes in leveraging GIS to deliver data-driven insights for sustainable management of natural resources. Her recent efforts have focused on developing GIS-based methodologies to support wetland conservation, positioning technology at the forefront of environmental solutions. In addition to technical growth, Hannah is passionate about team development. She actively works to create opportunities for the growth of her peers, ensuring equitable access to professional resources, and leading initiatives to standardize best practices across her organization. Hannah holds a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Millersville University and is pursuing a M.S. in Geographic Information Systems at Pennsylvania State University. Hannah earned her post-baccalaureate certificate in Remote Sensing from Penn State in 2023.

Doug Gresham has more than 35 years of experience in the wetland field. For the last 10 years he has worked as a wetland specialist at the Washington Department of Ecology. Prior to this he worked 25 years as a consultant doing wetland and fisheries studies throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. He has a bachelor's and master's in biology from Eastern Washington University where he studied fisheries and water quality in lakes. For the last five years he has also worked at the University of Washington teaching the Wetland Science and Management certificate program and enjoys mentoring students in wetland science. He is certified as a senior professional wetland scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists and currently is a board member of the Pacific Northwest chapter.

Ian Grosfelt is an Environmental Analyst with NAWM wearing a variety of hats and working on a variety of projects. He has a BS in Agriculture from Cornell University and a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment. Ian has a decade of experience working in environmental fields starting as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal and continuing with environmental education organizations throughout New England as a facilitator, school gardener, and trainer. He is also trained in data analysis and geospatial mapping and has a passion for using these tools to further effective conservation. For side projects you can find Ian trying (and hopefully keeping) his hand at woodworking, biking new routes in Maine and building up a kitchen repertoire.

Meghan Halabisky is a co-founder of TealWaters and a Research Scientist at the University of Washington, specializing in remote sensing and geospatial analysis for wetland conservation. She holds a PhD in Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis from the University of Washington, where her research focuses on understanding wetland dynamics in the face of climate change and enhancing conservation strategies through cutting-edge spatial tools. She leads the NASA Carbon Monitoring System Science Team WetCarbon working group and serves as a Senior Science Advisor for Digital Earth Africa, working to support countries to develop national wetland inventories. Dr. Halabisky works closely with tribal governments, policymakers, and natural resource managers to promote equitable, nature-based solutions.

Rue Hewett Hoover is the Wetland Specialist for the Nez Perce Tribe and serves as the Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWIG) lead for Region 10. The Nez Perce Tribe is federally recognized in Northwest Idaho. Since 2015, she has managed the Nez Perce Tribe Wetland Program, and she has held the TWIG Lead position since 2023. The Wetland Program focuses on the preservation, protection, enhancement, restoration, and management of wetlands and their associated ecological services within the Nez Perce Reservation and the broader traditional use areas of the tribe. Rue holds degrees in Zoology and Wildlife Ecology from Idaho State University, as well as Wetland Professional Certification from Portland State University and Clackamas Community College.

Etinosa Chris Igunbor is an accomplished environmental management professional with a proven track record in advancing sustainability and ecological restoration. He is currently a Graduate Research Assistant at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where he is pursuing his PhD and working on understanding restoration trajectories in wetlands under the supervision of Dr. Tylor. Previously, Etinosa contributed to cutting-edge research on remote sensing applications in wetland restoration, which improved land management practices. During his master's thesis, he collaborated with Dr. Jennie DeMarco to study the carbon sequestration potential of restored wetlands in the upper Gunnison Valley. In addition, as a Forestry Officer in Nigeria's Ministry of Environment, he spearheaded efforts to combat forest ecosystem degradation, successfully increasing revenue by 24% through sustainable management practices. Driven by a passion for environmental stewardship, Etinosa combines his technical skills with innovative approaches to develop sustainable solutions that address urgent ecological challenges.

Chantal Iosso has been with the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage (NDNH) as the Wetland Program Specialist since 2022. She works to build the state wetland program, by writing the 2023-2028 Nevada Wetland Program Plan, documenting rare and pristine wetlands, gathering data to inform conservation of wetland-dependent species, and coordinating amongst wetland partners. Before joining NDNH, she worked for Friends of Nevada Wilderness as the Springs Monitoring Coordinator, where she led technicians and hundreds of volunteers in a near-complete inventory of springs on public lands in southern Nevada. Chantal holds a B.S. in geology and environmental studies from Washington and Lee University. While obtaining her degree, she conducted research on stream changes after a dam removal and worked as a water monitoring technician.

Deborah January-Bevers has been involved with public policy around the Greater Houston region and the State of Texas for over 35 years, serving as President & CEO of Houston Wilderness for the last 11 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985 and her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center in 1992. She has been involved in the creation and implementation of a variety of regional environmental policy initiatives over the years, including the 4-part Quality of Life Coalition agenda in the Greater Houston Region that lead to the creation and implementation of 1) TxDOT-Houston District's *Green Ribbon Program* (also called *Freeway Forestation*) and 2) the extensive *Bayou Greenway Initiative*, providing miles of trails along Houston's riparian corridors. Currently at Houston Wilderness, she is lead collaborator on the 8-county *Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan* with 3 key goals for environmental resiliency, the 25-mile *Houston Ship Channel TREES* Program, and the *Riverine Targeted-Use-of-Buyouts* (TUBs) Program. She is co-author on Houston Wilderness' Ecosystem Services Primer, 2nd Edition, and co-author of the Wiley-published journal paper: *A Tree Planting Framework to Improve Climate, Air Pollution, Health, and Urban Heat in Vulnerable Locations*.

Alek Kreiger is a Geospatial Developer with Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. He has over 9 years of experience working on NWI and wetland mapping projects, consisting of both manual photointerpretation and automated methods. He specializes in developing custom geoprocessing tools and automating workflows, primarily using python programming language. He currently supports Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission by providing spatial data analyses and complex manipulation of data sets, methodology and application development, and creating cartographic visualizations for effective communication and to help inform management decisions or increase efficiencies. Prior to joining the GIS team at Ducks Unlimited, he worked as a restoration technician, primarily involved in invasive species removal and native plant propagation in both wetland and upland habitats. Alek holds a M.S. degree from the University of Michigan where he majored in Conservation Ecology as well as Environmental Informatics. While enrolled at UofM he served as a graduate student instructor for a 500-level GIS course.

Jeff Lapp is NAWM's Senior Science Policy Advisor. He previously spent over 32 years with the Environmental Protection Agency, primarily in the wetlands program. Starting out in the wetlands enforcement program in Region 3, he conducted many wetland inspections and has testified as both an expert and fact witness in civil and criminal federal cases. For the past 12 years, Jeff has been the Chief of the Wetlands Branch at EPA Region 3 overseeing both the regulatory and non-regulatory wetlands programs, the oceans disposal program and the Watershed Resource Registry. He has also had a host of acting positions including the Deputy Director for the Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division, the Deputy Director for the Office of Public Affairs, the Wetlands Regulatory Branch Chief at EPA Head Quarters and the Wetlands Technical Enforcement Lead at EPA Head Quarters. His technical skills include conducting wetlands identification training for both novice and experienced delineators from state and federal programs. In addition to teaching wetlands delineation, he has taught classes in hydric soils and plant identification and been a guest lecturer at Penn and Temple University on wetlands and horticultural issues.

Adrian Laufer (Sea & Shore Solutions) is the CEO and Co-Founder of Sea & Shore Solutions, an environmental consulting firm focused on creating and implementing innovative solutions to support meaningful coastal management and marine policy. In this role, Adrian works with researchers and practitioners in governmental and non-governmental sectors to address the complex problems that affect coastal and marine environments, particularly through the application of technological tools to aid decision-making. She approaches each project with a systems-based lens, with a keen interest in the intersections between the natural environment, society, and governance. For the past 3 years, Adrian has worked closely with the Pew Charitable Trusts on their state blue carbon work. She has helped develop several decision support tools using high quality blue carbon emissions data.

Karen Menetrey is the Director of Ecological Opportunities for Rio Grande Return, a New Mexico non- profit (501c3) organization that specializes in low tech process-based restoration including beaver mimicry, erosion control, and post-fire restoration, as well as green stormwater infrastructure, re- wilding of former agricultural lands, and agrivoltaics. Karen previously worked for the New Mexico Environment Department for 30 years in various programs that protect and restore surface water and groundwater. She oversaw a state funding program that restored rivers, streams and riparian areas throughout the state, and worked in the Wetlands Program on wetland mapping, planning, protection and restoration. She also led ground water pollution prevention, remediation and brownfield programs. Karen graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a BA in Geological Sciences and completed graduate coursework in Hydrogeology at the University of Wyoming.

Raven Mingo is an Environmental Scientist/Outreach Coordinator at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian's Office of Environmental Protection. Raven graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelors in Sociology and a Minor in American Indian Studies. He is an avid fan of anything related to music or art, and also loves the outdoors, and anything related to STEM.

Jessie Moravek specializes in freshwater ecology, conservation policy, and river restoration strategies that support freshwater ecosystems and people that depend on them. She is especially interested in how beaver restoration in streams across North America can help us adapt to global climate change. She works on predicting where beavers will build dams and how those dams will impact the landscape.

Alex Moya works to incorporate conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon and peatland habitats in state and national climate policies for Pew's U.S. conservation project. She leads efforts to engage primarily with state agencies as they seek to incorporate wetlands into their climate change planning, helping to connect science and research to the policy choices of decision-makers. Before joining Pew, Moya worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on nonpoint source pollution and Columbia River salmon issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Jim Murphy is the Senior Director of Legal Advocacy with National Wildlife Federation (NWF) where he advances National Wildlife Federation's legal engagement with the judicial, administrative, and legislative branches of government in order to protect wildlife, with a focus on water, energy, and climate issues including advancing regulatory solutions to carbon pollution, protecting the nation's waters and wetlands, and promoting clean, wildlife-friendly renewable energy. He also serves on several boards, including the Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute, the Vermont Advisory Board for the Conservation Law Foundation which he currently chairs, and is Chair of the Montpelier Roxbury School District Board of Directors. In collaboration with NWF, he directed the Vermont Law School Environmental Advocacy Clinic from 2019-2022 and was an assistant professor at the law school. He has an LL.M., summa cum laude, in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, a J.D. from Boston College Law School, and B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of Vermont.

Portia Osborne is the Assistant Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM). Portia has been with NAWM since 2022, during which time she has worked on various projects to build the capacity of state and Tribal wetland programs across the country. Before coming to NAWM, Portia spent a decade working in environmental consulting, conducting natural resource assessments and wetland delineations and preparing state and federal-level permit applications for projects located across the country. Portia earned her MS in Ecology and BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

Teesha Osias is a Tulalip Tribal member dedicated to protecting and restoring wetlands by bridging Western science with Indigenous knowledge. A graduate of Northwest Indian College, she serves as a Wetland Technician at the Tulalip Natural Resource Department, where she contributes to wetland monitoring, delineation, and policy initiatives that support both ecological and cultural resilience. Rooted in traditional values, Teesha is passionate about engaging Indigenous youth in environmental stewardship. By integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern science, she helps foster a deeper connection between young people and the land, ensuring that conservation efforts reflect both cultural heritage and sustainable management practices. Through collaboration, mentorship, and advocacy, she is committed to strengthening tribal-led conservation and protecting natural resources for future generations.

Tim Rach has been with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for over 29 years in various management and supervisory positions. Currently he is the Program Administrator in the Submerged Lands & Environmental Resources Coordination Program within the Division of Water Resource Management. Most of his time has been in the Environmental Resources Permitting program regulating development in wetlands and surface waters. Tim is responsible for overseeing the statewide implementation of the ERP rules and regulations within the Department, Water Management Districts and local delegated counties. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from Troy University and a Master of Science degree in Ecology from Old Dominion University.

Helen Raine is the Hawai'i Conservation Coordinator for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, and focuses on the protection and restoration of wetlands and waterbirds. She is based in Kaua'i but works across the state, building local partnerships to tackle wetland conservation challenges, and connecting partners with the resources and funding they need to carry out effective conservation work. Helen has worked in natural resource management for over 20 years and has an MSc in Conservation from University College London.
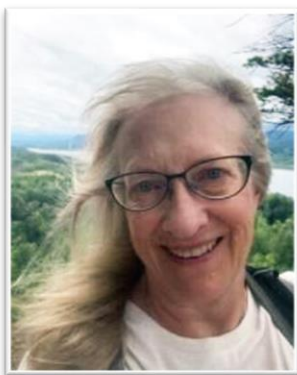

Andy Robertson is currently Executive Director of GeoSpatial Services at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. In this role, Andy is responsible for oversight and management of all GeoSpatial Services projects, activities and staff. GeoSpatial Services is engaged in a wide variety of projects across theLower 48 and Alaska including: wetland inventory and functional assessment, NHD updates; stakeholder consultation; and natural resource condition assessments. They have been a key partner of the USFWS and have been working for over 20 years to update legacy National Wetland Inventory data across the nation. Andy earned a Forest Technology Diploma from Sault College of Applied Technology in Ontario, Canada, a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of Waterloo and completed postgraduate work in forest management at the University of Toronto. He is a board member for the National Association of Wetland Managers, steering committee member for the NAWM Wetland Mapping Consortium and is past chair of the Alaska Wetland Technical Working Group.

Joe Rocchio is the Program Manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program. In that role, he provides guidance and leadership for the Program's science and conservation objectives. He served as the Program's Ecologist from 2007 to 2019 and focused his efforts on ecosystem classification, developing ecological integrity assessment tools, and identifying ecosystem conservation priorities. Wetlands are his area of expertise, and peatlands have been a particular emphasis of his work throughout his 25-year career in conservation. Previously, Joe spent eight years as a wetland ecologist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program where he conducted inventories for rare and high-quality wetlands, with an emphasis on montane fens. Joe is an invited member of the Ecological Society of America's Vegetation Classification Panel, a Regional Editor of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification, and Chair of the U.S. Section Council of NatureServe. Joe has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Indiana University and M.S. in Ecosystem Analysis from the University of Washington.

Jane Rombouts began a love of wetlands as a teen when she spent her free time in the nearby swamp. After finishing her undergraduate studies, she held a variety of jobs as a field biologist, including the role of Senior Field Biologist for the Loggerhead Shrike project on San Clemente Island. An interest in genetic consequences of habitat fragmentation led her to an MS examining genetic diversity among isolated populations of Dehesa Beargrass (*Nolina interrata*). Following a break for family, Jane re-entered the paid workforce focusing on GIS and her interest in wetlands. She completed her GIS Graduate Certificate at Portland State University and secured wetland focused GIS positions with The Wetlands Conservancy, with South Slough National Estuary Research Reserve mapping significant natural resources in and around the Coos Bay, including innovative methods to extrapolate native Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) habitat in Coos Bay, with the City of Portland mapping wetlands both through field work and digitally, and working on NWI. She joined Oregon Department of States Lands as Mitigation Coordinator in 2023. Jane holds a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Michigan State University and an MS in Evolutionary Biology with a focus on Population Genetics from San Diego State University. She holds a GIS certificate, UAS Certificate, and is a FAA licensed drone pilot. Jane is a member of NAWM, and the local chapters of Society of Wetland Scientist, Society for Conservation GIS, and Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Melody Rudenko has worked for 15 years in the Aquatic Resource Management Program at the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL). She is a second-generation wetland professional and loves living with her family in the Umpqua Valley in Southwest Oregon. She is currently a Mitigation Policy Specialist, and her work includes training resource professionals in assessing the functions and values of wetlands and streams, developing Oregon's function-based accounting protocols for wetlands and streams, reviewing compensatory mitigation designs, co-chairing Oregon's Interagency Review Team for mitigation bank approval and oversight, and managing the DSL-sponsored in-lieu fee mitigation programs. Melody studied at Oregon State University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology and a Master's Degree in Crop and Soil Science. She is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist from the Society of Wetland Scientists and has a River Restoration Professional Certificate from Portland State University.

Elizabeth Ruther is the Senior Natural and Working Lands Policy Analyst at Oregon Department of Energy. She is responsible for coordinating the State's effort to produce its first Natural and Working Lands Inventory, which focuses on carbon emissions and removals in Oregon's land base and aims to track natural climate solutions over time to help meet Oregon's climate goals. Most recently she worked for The Pew Charitable Trusts where she worked to advance policy and management efforts to help sustain coastal watersheds and the services they provide for people, coastal economies, and nature in a changing climate. She began her career as a stream and wetland restoration ecologist in the Southwest and has background in environmental permitting processes, first with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and then the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Molly Sherwood is a Fisheries Habitat Biologist for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. She earned her Bachelor of Science in biology from Eastern Washington University where she focused her studies in botany. Molly spent over five years working in tribal fisheries doing work that ranged from coho spawning ground surveys with the Yakama Nation to non-native fish suppression with the Kalispel tribe where she ran a large-scale brook trout removal project. Recently she found herself back in the world of plants and now works to improve Bull and Cutthroat trout habitat in the Pend Oreille River Watershed. In her free time, she can usually be found traveling, listening to live music, or mountain biking (poorly) in the hills around her Spokane Washington home.

Marla Stelk is the Executive Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) where she has worked on wetland policy and management issues since 2013. Marla has over 25 years of experience working on wetland, water, and wildlife issues, climate change, environmental policy and research, land use planning, communications and organizational leadership. Marla has led research at NAWM on topics such as ecosystem service valuation for wetland restoration, the role of wetlands in floodplain and natural hazard management, wetlands and watershed health, wetland mapping and communications. Prior to coming to NAWM, Marla worked for a variety of environmental and social nonprofit organizations helping to build organizational capacity, manage projects and improve internal processes. Marla earned her MA in Community Planning and Development with a focus on Land Use and the Environment at the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service and her BA in Environmental Issues from Colorado College.

R. Eugene Turner is the 71st Louisiana State University Systems Boyd Professor (Emeritus) and resides in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences. He is active in the scientific aspects of coastal environmental management, including the low oxygen (hypoxic) zone of the Mississippi River and wetland conservation, restoration and management since he came to Louisiana in the preceding geological epoch. He is currently working in collaboration with the Lowlander Center, coastal Louisiana Tribes and the Haskell Indian Nations University.

Matt Unitis has worked with Wetlands in the Great Lakes and the Pacific Northwest for nearly 15 years. As a Wetland Ecologist for the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), Matt reviews wetland delineations and has provided ecological expertise in defining rare wetland types. During his time at the DSL, Matt has traveled across Oregon to survey and photograph examples of each proposed Aquatic Resource of Special Concern type. During this time, he has located high quality examples of rare wetland associations and has observed first state records of a moss and liverwort species. Matt is a graduate of Central Michigan University (B.S.), and Boise State University (M.S.), where his master's thesis was in remote sensing of wetland communities in Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

Stacy Zeigler is the Wetland Specialist and CWA Section 401 Team Lead for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in north central Minnesota. She is a passionate wetland scientist/hydrologist with a masters in Hydrology and Water Security from the University of Oklahoma. Stacy aims to protect generations of water, forest habitats, and peatlands through thoughtful wetland solutions. She is committed to fostering cross-discipline and cross-cultural conversations aimed at equitable water security and climate change-related solutions for all with a focus on Tribal sovereignty.

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