

Biographies

BOB ABBEY

Robert Abbey was confirmed by the U.S. Senate August 7, 2009 as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the Department of the Interior. As BLM Director, Abbey leads a workforce of more than 10,000 employees charged with managing 256 million acres of public lands for multiple uses and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate.

A veteran BLM career manager, Abbey spent 32 years working for state and federal resource management agencies before retiring from the BLM in 2005. From 1997 – 2005, he was the BLM's Nevada State Director where he provided direction and oversight for 48 million acres of public land, oversaw a staff of 700 employees in eight field offices and managed an annual operating budget of \$51 million.

Abbey chaired the Executive Committee for the implementation of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act from 1999 - 2005, overseeing the allocation of more than \$1.5 billion in funds for resource management and environmental projects within the state.

Prior to becoming BLM State Director, Abbey held a number of BLM management positions in Wyoming, Arizona, Mississippi, Colorado, and Nevada. He began his natural resource career in 1973 with the Mississippi State Park Commission, then moved to the Army Corps of Engineers before starting his career with the BLM in 1980. Abbey recalled, "I was intrigued by the BLM's congressional mandate to manage public lands for multiple uses but I was more impressed by the diversity of resources and landscapes managed by the agency."

Abbey earned numerous awards throughout his career, including the prestigious Secretary of the Interior's Executive Leadership Award in 2004.

From 2005 – 2009, Abbey was a partner in the private Nevada consultant firm, Abbey, Stubbs, & Ford, LLC, and served on the boards of several state and national organizations. He is a native of Clarksdale, Mississippi and a 1973 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

"I know from working in the field that we actually have much in common with many of our stakeholders. We all want public lands to provide for clean water and air and a healthy environment for plants, animals, and people. We want available energy resources, both renewable and non-renewable, to be developed responsibly to help reduce the impacts of climate change, carbon emissions, and reliance on foreign oil. We support opportunities to use public lands for recreational pursuits and in a manner that helps sustain communities and local economies. I believe we can achieve our common goals and better serve the public by working together while we continue our discussion on issues where we might disagree."

STEVE ABELE

Steve has worked with the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in Reno as a wildlife biologist for the past four years. He received his Master's of Science degree from the University of Idaho in Wildlife Resources and has worked in the field of bird ecology for the past 20 years. His experience for the past seven years has been in the Great Basin and his work with the Fish and Wildlife Service has largely involved greater sage-grouse.

SARAH MERSEREAU-ADLER

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Adler attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, graduating with a B.A. in Political Science in 1980. Feeling the need to serve her country, Adler became a VISTA Volunteer in September of 1980, serving the newly formed Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City, Nevada. She continued her education at the University of Nevada, Reno, earning her Masters in Public Administration and Policy in May of 1986.

Adler began her career in rural community development in 1984 as an intern in the CDBG program, a small business loan packager, and ultimately as Deputy Director of the Nevada Office of Community Services. She became the Director of the Rural Office of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development in 1986, serving in that position until June of 1993 when she was nominated by U.S. Senator Harry Reid and appointed by President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy to the position of State Director of the then Farmers Home Administration.

Adler championed the reinvention of Farmers Home into USDA Rural Development during the 1990's, bringing millions of dollars of federal funding, as well as expertise, to housing, infrastructure, and business projects throughout rural Nevada.

In 2000, seeking more opportunities to be with her children, Adler left USDA to pursue a teaching career, graduating from the Sierra Nevada College Teacher Certification program in 2002. She taught English and Speech and Debate at Carson High School from 2002 through 2007, also serving as a Dean at Eagle Valley Middle School as an administrative internship. From August 2008 to July 2009, Adler was the Grants and Special Projects Manager for the Carson City School District.

On August 17, 2009, again nominated by Senator Harry Reid, Adler rejoined USDA Rural Development as State Director.

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PETE ANDERSON

Graduated from University of Nevada, Reno in 1975 with a BS degree in Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources. I have worked in the private sector as a natural resource specialist and owner-operator of a landscape contracting and consulting business.

Began my state service in 1992 with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in the Mine Reclamation and moved to the Nevada Division of Forestry in 1995 as the Forest Stewardship Coordinator. I then advanced to the Resource Program Coordinator; Deputy State Forester; and was appointed State Forester Firewarden responsible for all Division programs and operations July 1, 2004 by Governor Kenny Guinn.

As State Forester our Division has focused on improving the natural resources of our state, reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and woodland health by working with private land owners, Nevada counties and communities, and federal land managers.

TANYA ANDERSON

Tanya Anderson is The Nature Conservancy's Southern Nevada Project Ecologist in Las Vegas, NV, where she has been for nearly 3 years. Tanya has a M.S. degree in Wildlife Science with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Tanya has extensive experience with landscape scale analyses using GIS applications to determine 1) current distribution of ecological systems and 2) delineating potential treatment areas for restoration actions identified during strategic planning efforts with federal agency, state agency, and other stakeholders in eastern Nevada and western California.

The Nature Conservancy: Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a nonprofit organization with the mission of preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. TNC works in all 50 United States and over 30 countries to apply multiple tools to facilitate a strategic, science-based approach to our conservation work, which helps us identify and work to protect the highest-priority places – landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, ensure the diversity of life on Earth.

MIKE L. BAUGHMAN, PH.D., CECD

Since 1993, Dr. Mike L. Baughman has served as Contract Executive Director of the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority (LCRDA). LCRDA was organized by the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners and the Caliente City Council and serves as the Lincoln County and City of Caliente focal point for local economic development activities within Lincoln County. Dr. Baughman is also President of Intertech Services Corporation. Founded in 1986, Carson City-based Intertech Services Corporation (ISC) assists public and private sector clients with project management, strategic planning, government relations, economic development, natural resources policy analysis and formulation, and facilitation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance initiatives for major projects on public lands. Dr. Baughman earned his doctorate degree with an emphasis in Environmental Policy from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. His masters and undergraduate degrees in agricultural and resource economics were awarded by the University of Nevada Reno. Dr. Baughman has also been recognized by the International Economic Development Council as a Certified Economic Developer. Since 1987, Dr. Baughman has served as a registered lobbyist at the Nevada Legislature primarily representing local government interests. Prior to founding ISC, Dr. Baughman was employed for eight years as a project manager at Resource Concepts, Inc. (Carson City) and one year as a project manager with the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission in Vancouver, Washington.

DAVID BOBZIEN

David was elected to represent Assembly District 24 in 2006 and won re-election in 2008 and 2010. Assemblyman Bobzien has served on the Government Affairs (Vice Chairman, 2009 session), Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining, Education, and Transportation committees. He is currently the Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee, serves on the Ways & Means Committee, and is a Chief Deputy Whip.

David's representation has been recognized through a variety of awards including as the 2010 and 2008 Best Local Candidate, Reno News & Review, the 2009 Assemblyman of the Year, Nevada Conservation League, and was the highest-rated freshman legislator of the 2007 session according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. David is a winner of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award, and Nevada EcoNet's Golden Pinecone Award for environmental excellence as a public servant.

During interim periods between sessions, David has served on the Council to Establish Academic Standards, the Legislative Committee to Oversee the Western Regional Water Commission (Chairman, 2009-10 interim), and the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. His legislative achievements in natural resources include authoring the state's first wind power incentives and expanding the practice of net metering, establishing a seat on the State Environmental Commission for a conservation advocate, combating illegal dumping, allowing water rights leasing for conservation, requiring the use of best science in reviewing water transfers, and creating Nevada's hunter apprentice program.

BILL CARLSON

Bill Carlson is the Principal of Carlson Small Power Consultants, a small primarily biomass power consulting firm with offices in Redding, California and Black Butte Ranch, Oregon. Bill was, for several years, the Chairman of the Biomass Power Association, a trade group representing the interests of the nation's biomass power plant owners and operators.

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Mr. Carlson is also a Board Member of the California Biomass Energy Alliance and 25X25, a former member of the Biomass R&D Advisory Committee of the US Departments of Energy and Agriculture, and a member of the Western Governors Association Biomass Task Force. Mr. Carlson has provided testimony to Congress on numerous occasions regarding matters relating to biomass energy production and its economics and potential.

Mr. Carlson has nearly 40 years experience in the power generation and forest products industries. He has operated power plants combusting wood, coal, natural gas, municipal solid waste, anthracite waste and tires for utilities, rural electric cooperatives and independent power producers. Mr. Carlson previously was Vice President of Wheelabrator Technologies, a major independent power producer.

Mr. Carlson is a mechanical engineering graduate of California Polytechnic State University and is a US Army veteran.

JIM CROCE

Jim Croce is the president and CEO of the Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization (NIREC).

After a successful 15 year career across a spectrum of engineering, managerial and executive roles in the traditional natural gas and electric utility industries, Jim has spent nearly a decade successfully launching early stage clean energy companies and supporting their commercialization efforts.

From 2003 to 2008, Jim served as the founding president and CEO of NextEnergy in Michigan, developing the company into one of the nation's leading clean energy technology commercialization catalysts. While at NextEnergy, Jim successfully launched a clean energy technology seed fund whose portfolio companies have gone on to raise tens of millions of both public and private capital from leading venture capitalists, such as CMEA Capital, GE, Khosla Ventures and Ridgewood Capital. In addition to his funding and commercialization support of early stage technology companies, Jim and his NextEnergy team successfully coached dozens of manufacturing companies to diversify into clean energy production, resulting in new orders exceeding \$100 Million from leading wind and solar OEMs. Jim also oversaw the creation of several successful technology commercialization consortia, including the U.S. DOE-funded National Biofuels Energy Laboratory and the U.S. DOD-funded Advance Mobile Microgrid Program, resulting in nearly \$50 million in government research and development funding.

At NIREC since mid-2009, Jim continues to advance clean energy commercialization by overseeing seed funding and advisory support to early stage companies. In addition, Jim provides guidance to a broad array of industry and government stakeholders to position the region and the nation to lead in clean energy innovation and project deployment.

Prior to accepting his current position at NIREC, Jim was president of the Lipten Energy Services, an engineering and energy project development firm located in Michigan. Prior to his leadership roles at NextEnergy and Lipten, he held positions at DTE Energy—one of the nation's leading electric utilities, MCN Corporation (subsequently purchased by DTE), ANR Pipeline Company (subsequently purchased by Transcanada Pipelines), and 3M. Jim is a member of the Board of Directors of Ultralife Corporation, a NASDAQ company providing energy storage, communications, and electronic systems to government, commercial and defense customers across the globe. He serves on the Nevada Energy Economic Strike Force, Wayne State University's Engineering College Board of Visitors and its Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Council. In 2004, he was inducted into the university's Engineering Hall of Fame and one year later he was awarded TechTown Developer of the Year. In 2007, Jim received The Grant Thornton Leader and Innovator of the Year Award.

Jim was appointed by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm to three-year terms on the state's Strategic Economic Investment and Commercialization Board in 2005 and the Renewable Fuels Commission in 2006. He is co-founder of the Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition, a renewable energy policy advocacy group, and has served on the board of directors of numerous nonprofit agencies.

Jim received a BS in electrical and computer engineering with honors from Wayne State University. His post graduate work was in business administration.

JEREMY DREW

Jeremy Drew is a Resource Specialist at Resource Concepts, Inc. Jeremy has been at RCI for five years after receiving degrees from the University of Nevada Reno in both Civil Engineering and Environmental Resource Sciences. In his time at RCI Jeremy has been active in public lands issues particularly in regards to multiple use management, recreation, energy development and wildlife. Jeremy has extensive knowledge of Nevada's rural communities, its public lands and the interaction between the two. He served as the Project Manager for RCI's tasked portion of this project.

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WALTER DUNN

Mr. Dunn manages the New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, which provides grants for collaborative forest restoration projects on federal, tribal, state, county and municipal land. He chairs an interagency Development Team that oversees federal funding for the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes at Colorado State University, the University of Northern Arizona, and New Mexico Highlands University. Mr. Dunn served on the New Mexico Biomass Evaluation Task Force which developed the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles. He developed continuing education workshops on conflict resolution and interest based negotiation for the University of Idaho and facilitated natural resource policy negotiations for the Inter-Tribal Timber Council. Mr. Dunn holds an M.S. in Watershed Management from the University of Arizona and a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Montana. He also served as a Brookings Legislative Fellow for Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM).

GERRY EMM

Gerry Emm is Fisheries Director for the Walker River Paiute Tribe in Shurz, NV. Gerry graduated from UNR with BS - Agriculture. He has worked for various Tribes in western Nevada in agriculture, environmental, resource and economic development areas. Gerry is a member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council board 1987-1994 and a member of Sierra Nevada RAC (BLM) 1996-2002. Gerry's experience includes working on various water, resource and land issues in western and central Nevada as a member of resource teams including the Walker, Carson, and Truckee River systems.

MIKE FORD

Mike Ford has over thirty six years of experience working in the public and private sector focusing on complex public land, water, natural resource, planning, and management issues at the local, state, and federal level. During his twenty-five year career with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) he served as Deputy State Director in Nevada, District Manager in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Chief of BLM's Land and Realty Branch in Washington, DC. He also formerly served as a Congressional Fellow and Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), where he was responsible for public land and environmental issues.

Mr. Ford currently works for The Conservation Fund, a national conservation organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. He is directly involved in acquisition and conservation work in Nevada and the west. He also works as a private consultant helping a number of local and regional municipalities, utilities, and private developers formulate effective land, water, and resource management strategies that balance economic development and conservation objectives.

Mr. Ford serves on numerous Advisory Boards and Committees supporting a host of personal and professional interests important to Nevada and the Southwest.

ED GEE

Past: Acting Assistant Director, Integrated Vegetation Management, National Forest System; Acting Director, National Partnership Office; past Chair, Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group; National Woody Biomass Utilization Team Leader and National Partnership Coordinator, USDA-Forest Service, Forest Management, National Forest System

Education:

MBA, International Business, University of Phoenix
Graduate Work in Silviculture and Fire Ecology, University of Washington
Certified Silviculturist, Oregon State University
BS Degree, Natural Resource Management, UC Berkeley

Work Experience:

Acting Assistant Director, Integrated Vegetation Management, USDA Forest Service
Woody Biomass Utilization Team (WBUT) Leader, USDA-Forest Service and National Partnership Coordinator, Forest and Rangelands, NFS
Acting Director, National Partnership Office, USDA Forest Service
Chair, Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group (WBUG)
Acting Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, USDA-Forest Service
Deputy Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, USDA-Forest Service
Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest, USDA Forest Service
Over 30 years experience 1/3 time as a technician in Fire/Fuels Management, 1/3 time as a professional District Silviculturist, Fire Management Officer and 1/3 time in management as a Line (District Ranger, Deputy Forest Supervisor) and Staff Officer
Has worked in Pacific Southwest Region on the Sequoia and Plumas National Forests and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit; while in the Pacific Northwest Region has worked on the Okanogan, Willamette and Siskiyou National Forests; worked in Washington D.C. for International Forestry and multi-cultural member of Chief and Staff

PETE GOICOECHEA

Pete Goicoechea is the Republican Assemblyman representing District 35 in the Nevada *Assembly (2003-2011)*. *Pete has professional affiliations with the following organizations:* Eureka Volunteer Fire Department, Rodeo Club, Eureka High School Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Water Resource Association. Pete's experiences and qualifications include previously serving a Sixteen-year term as a Eureka County Commissioner. In addition Pete has served on the Humboldt River Basin Authority; Nevada Rural Health Centers; Western States Coalition; Nevada Association of Counties; Land Use Planning Advisory Council;

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Nevada Grazing Board of District Nos. 4 and 6; Central Committee of Nevada State Grazing Boards; Director, Nevada Water Resource Association.

TIM GRIFFITHS

Tim Griffiths comes to us today as the National Coordinator for USDA NRCS's new and exciting Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) which in its inaugural year has become one of the largest and most successful conservation stories in the West. Tim grew up in Klamath Basin in southern Oregon, obtained his degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, and spent 3 years with California Waterfowl Association restoring wetlands before beginning his NRCS career. In Montana since 2004, he helped develop the programmatic CCAA for Arctic fluvial grayling. In 2009, Tim was the recipient of the Wetland Stewardship Award by the Montana Wetland Council in recognition for his excellence in conservation partnerships. He is excited to be with us today.

WILLIAM (BILL) F. HAGY III

As the Special Assistant for Alternative Energy Policy since August 2009, Mr. Hagy provides support to the Under Secretary for Rural Development and Secretary on policy matter relating to alternative energy development and provides organizational leadership for various boards and committees including the Biomass Research and Development Board and Technical Advisory Committee.

Up until July 2009, Mr. Hagy served as the Rural Development Business Programs, Deputy Administrator since July 1996 and administered a combined business loan and grant portfolio of over \$6.5 billion.

Mr. Hagy has received extensive financial management training and is a recipient of the Vice President Gore's National Performance Review Hammer Award for his efforts in streamlining the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program regulation, which reduced the number of application forms and automated the application process. Mr. Hagy was the recipient of the Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award in fiscal years 2003 and 2007 for Superior Service to the Department in the delivery of Business Programs. In addition, Mr. Hagy is the recipient of the 2007 National Rural Economic Developers Association President's Award for recognition of his dedication, time, talent and expertise in support of Rural Development.

Mr. Hagy has also served in the capacity of Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development from January 20 – April 17, 2009, and Acting RBS Administrator from April 17-May 16, 2009.

MORRIS HUFFMAN

Morris is the Biomass Coordinator for the Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership (WBUP) for Adams Valley, Boise, and Gem Counties in SW Idaho. He has been in that position for more than 3 years. Prior to coming to the WBUP he was a Rural Economic Development Specialist for Gem and Boise Counties for 6 years. In his 1st career he spent 34 years with the USFS in Regions 2, 4, and 10. He has a BS from Colorado State University in Forest Management in 68. During his career with the Forest Service he held positions as a certified silviculturist in all three Regions where he worked as well as being a certified sale administrator and a certified prescribed fire manager in Regions 10 and 4. His last 15 years of his career were spent as a District Ranger on the Boise NF at Lowman and Emmett.

SUSAN L. LEVAN-GREEN

Susan began her career with the Forest Service at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) in Madison, Wisconsin, and has worked for the Forest Service for 30 years. During that time, she has held positions in both Research and State & Private Forestry. Susan has a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin.

Since 1992, Susan has lead FPL's program on small-diameter timber and woody biomass. During this time, she developed first-hand knowledge about issues related to both economic diversification of forestry-dependent rural communities and the need to obtain the highest economic value for thinning material to offset forest management costs.

She has successfully helped numerous rural communities create forest products businesses utilizing small-diameter material, including biomass energy, roundwood engineered structures, wood shavings, wood/plastic composites, and lumber. She also manages the Forest Service's Woody Biomass Utilization Grant program. This grant program is intended to help improve the utilization and create markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities.

DOUG MARTIN

Doug is the District Manager for the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District. Doug earned a Bachelors of Science in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1976. He has held multiple technical and managerial positions within Nevada spanning a 35 year career. Career highlights include program development and management at the Nevada Division of Environmental Protect in the areas of hazardous and solid waste management; project management and permitting duties for an internationally based geotechnical engineering firm with solid waste and mining projects in Asia, South America and the Southwest US; managing principal for an international environmental and engineering company; and, District Manager for the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District. Representative projects include development of the hazardous and solid waste programs for the State of Nevada, environmental mitigation of soil and groundwater throughout Nevada, municipal solid waste landfilling, composting and material recovery project management and permitting, development of the battery reclamation processing plant for the US Navy in Hawthorne, Nevada and management of the largest conservation district in the State of Nevada with projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin addressing sediment and erosion treatment, healthy forests and watersheds and biomass utilization. Volunteer positions include serving on the Carson City Wildlife Advisory Board, the Nevada Firesafe Council Board of Directors and Chair of the Nevada Biomass Working Group. Doug currently is the co-chair of the Nevada Pinyon Juniper Partnership.

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JOHN MCLAIN

Mr. McLain is Co-founder and Principal at Resource Concepts, Inc. (RCI), a multidisciplinary resource based Engineering, Environmental, and Resource Management consulting firm with offices in Carson City, and Zephyr Cove Nevada. He served ten years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Montana and Nevada prior to entering the consulting field. He has over thirty five years of professional experience in the management of natural resources. Mr McLain has been periodically involved in work with the Pinyon - Juniper woodlands for more than 30 years. He is a Certified Range Management Consultant, and also a Certified Professional Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. Mr McLain served as President of the Society for Range Management in 2000.

ELWOOD MILLER

Dr. Elwood L. Miller has been a professional forester for over forty years. His career spans timber management and fire suppression positions with the US Forest Service and thirty years as a forestry professor and administrator with the University of Nevada, Reno. While at UNR, Dr. Miller provided leadership for numerous innovative developments including the reorganization of the College of Agriculture, the founding of the College of Human and Community Science, and the change in mission direction that transformed Nevada Cooperative Extension. His administrative assignments included Department Head of the Renewable Resources Department, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, Associate Director of the University's Cooperative Extension program and founding Dean of the College of Human and Community Science. He has received numerous recognitions and awards including the university's highest teacher award and selection as one of twenty-three outstanding graduates in the 75-year history of Northern Arizona University. During his tenure with the university, Dr. Miller was privileged to spend a year working with Mr. Dee Hock, the founder of VISA International, studying emerging organizational forms and structures. Dr. Miller retired from the University January 1, 2000. In January 2002 Dr. Miller became the founding Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, a position he held until March 2005. In this role he provided leadership for the Council's development and success in helping urban interface communities increase their survivability in the face of a growing threat from wildfire. Dr. Miller has long been interested in finding economical methods of harvesting and utilizing biomass generated by projects to improve forest and woodland health and reduce the volume of hazardous woody fuels. As a result, in 2004, State Senate Majority Leader William Raggio appointed Dr. Miller to a three-year term on the legislature's Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force. In his current role, and previous position with the Nevada Fire Safe Council he has spoken widely about the obstacle to effective fuel reduction posed by the lack of biomass utilization opportunities. At the present time Dr. Miller serves the communities of the Lake Tahoe Basin as the Operations Section Lead for the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. This multi-agency team works to complete the high priority fuels reduction projects as outlined in the Basin's Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

MCKINLEY-BEN MILLER

McKinley-Ben Miller, a former US Forest Service and Tribal forester, is currently the State Forester for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona. McKinley earned a technical A.A.S. degree from Paul Smiths College of the Adirondacks in New York followed by a Masters degree in forest management from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He has practiced forestry from the Monongahela National Forest in WVA, to the Pueblo of Laguna & BLM in New Mexico to the Grand Canyon State of Arizona. McKinley is here on a detail to D.C. as the Stewardship Contracting coordinator for the BLM.

DUSTY MOLLER

Dusty Moller is a forest industry utilization and marketing specialist currently working for the Small Business Development Center's Business Environment Program. In this capacity, Moller develops, transfers and implements forest products technology especially oriented to the use of forest biomass and small diameter trees. He brings more than 40 years of total enterprise experience to the Southwest, assisting community-based entrepreneurs as they build their restoration forestry businesses.

Moller holds a B.A from Idaho State University and a M. B. A from University of Arizona. His experience applications include tours as an industrial engineer for Weyerhaeuser, Plum Creek and Bohemia lumber companies. He served for more than 10 years as the Technical Products Director for Lucidyne Technologies developing and marketing machine vision products used in wood products manufacturing. Dusty managed, directed and controlled territorial sales activities for Lucidyne in North and South America, Australia and New Zealand.

His direct supervision experience includes stints as production foreman for plywood, sawmill and laminated timber operations. In the latter position, he developed an operating plan for, co-designed, and managed the construction and startup of the largest plant of its type in the world. As the technical services director for the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), Moller managed the NHLA Heat Treatment program directly supervising 15 auditors and managing nearly 300 corporate accounts.

As an authorized OSHA General Industry 10 and 30 hour safety trainer, Dusty adds a strong sense of safety awareness to the best forest industry management practices he imparts. His firm, Microforestry Resources, Inc., was an agency of American Lumber Standards Committee and provided phytosanitary audit services for international shipping material producers and users throughout the Southwest. Dusty and his wife Annette make their home in Las Vegas, Nevada and enjoy discovering the wonders of the Southwest desert area.

RANG NARAYANAN

Dr. Rang Narayanan is a Professor in the Department of Resource Economics, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. He has doctorate degree in Economis and specializes in water resources, public lands and other natural resources. He has

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served as associate dean of outreach for the last ten years and has helped link the college's research programs with the needs of Nevada agricultural and natural resources stakeholders and communities. He has been the coordinator of the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU), a partnership of 14 universities and 8 federal agencies that has brought almost \$70 million of research to the Great basin in the last 10 years.

JOSE NORIEGA

Jose Noriega is the District Ranger for the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Jose has worked for the Forest Service for 19 years and has been a District Ranger in both Ely and Winnemucca, Nevada for a total of 9 years. Jose was previously a wildlife biologist for a total of 10 years in Utah and Idaho. Jose Graduated from Utah State University in 1992 with a BS in Wildlife Management. Jose was born and raised in Ely, Nevada.

TYE PETERSON

I am currently the Fire Management Officer for the Ely District BLM in Eastern Nevada, where I live with my wife, two children and our dog. I am a graduate from UNR with degrees in Range and Forest management and have over twenty years of experience with the federal government in fire suppression, fire management, hazardous fuels reduction and emergency stabilization and burned area rehabilitation.

LARRY RACKLEY

Larry is a fourth generation native Nevadan and a retired Project Manager with 30+ years experience in the field of Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy uses. He is a Certified Energy Manager and a graduate of the University of Nevada Reno. He has managed the installation of PV installations including a 5kW system utilized at his residence as well as solar thermal installations.

Larry has worked with many agricultural operations to help make their operations more energy efficient with the change to energy saving equipment as well as sustainable energy installations. Larry's electrical; energy efficiency and alternative energy experience is an asset in providing technical advises to SEDA Associates.

Mr. Rackley is a highly motivated and recognized energy consultant throughout Northern Nevada as a team member that has practical operation and maintenance problem solving experience.

BOB RUMMER

Bob Rummer is the Project Leader for the US Forest Service, Forest Operations Research Unit in Auburn, Alabama. His research team studies many aspects of forest operations including productivity, costs and site impacts in order to find a better match between systems and modern forest management objectives. Much of his current work is focused on biomass harvesting, including studies of bundling and baling, understory and range harvesting, and the economic feasibility of different systems.

LAUREN SCOTT

During her distinguished military service, Lauren was responsible for mission-critical communications and data processing systems resources supporting F-117A stealth fighter operations at the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada. After receiving an honorable discharge and completing a B.A. in Business and Technology Management, Lauren continued to develop her skills as both a technical manager and entrepreneur.

In 2007, as the systems engineer at Biodiesel Solutions in Sparks, Nevada, she designed an automation system for a community-scale biodiesel processor. In 2008, as a consultant to Springboard Biodiesel in Chico, California, she co-developed the patent-pending INCOSEP process, which reduces biodiesel processing time from 10 hours to less than 30 minutes. As the founder and CEO of Apollo Bioenergy, she developed a process for converting woody biomass to fuel ethanol without the use of expensive, proprietary enzymes.

Lauren believes that through the combination of two renewable energy sources, pinyon-juniper biomass and geothermal heat, cellulosic ethanol can be produced in Nevada, at a cost much lower than conventional corn-based ethanol. Her business model suggests that this approach could contribute over \$100 million annually to the state economy by 2016, while significantly offsetting the cost associated with harvesting pinyon-juniper biomass.

RANDY SHARP

Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Science (1974) from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Thirty –four years working for the U.S. Forest Service in various duties dealing with resource management; planning and appeals; and program management. Currently, Forest Natural Resource Staff Officer on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, with program oversight responsibilities for watershed, range, vegetation/fuels, wildlife, fisheries , botany, ecology and archaeology.

HARRIS SHERMAN

Harris Sherman is the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA. As Under Secretary, he oversees the United States Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Before joining USDA, Sherman served from 2007 until 2009, as the Executive Director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources, under Governor Bill Ritter where he oversaw Colorado's water, energy, wildlife, parks, forestry, and state lands programs.

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Previously, at an earlier point in his career, he was Colorado's DNR Director under Governor Richard Lamm. Sherman has also served as Chairman of the Colorado Oil & Gas Commission, Commissioner of Mines, Chair of the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, and Chair of the Denver Regional Air Quality Council.

Between his two stints as Department of Natural Resources Director, Sherman was the Managing Partner of the Denver Office of Arnold & Porter, an international law firm, where he specialized in natural resources, water, energy, public lands, and American Indian law. He has served on a wide variety of public and non-profit boards including the Denver Water Board, the National Advisory Board for Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, and Colorado College.

Throughout his career, Sherman has dedicated himself to conserving and improving our Nation's natural resources. He received his B.A. degree from Colorado College and his law degree from Columbia University Law School.

TAMZEN STRINGHAM

Tamzen Stringham, a recognized leader in rangeland and riparian ecology, management and research has over 19 years of experience working in the research and education sector focusing on restoration of Great Basin rangelands and the development of non-linear successional concepts for application to state-and-transition models for management of the Nation's rangelands. During her 16 years with the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oregon State University she developed the concepts for the state-and-transition model currently utilized by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for understanding the ecological response of land to various disturbances. She mentored three Ph.D students and nine M.S. students through a variety of rangeland research projects from quantification of state-and-transition model components for juniper encroached rangelands to restoration of whitesage plant communities and a variety of riparian restoration projects. She and her graduate students are widely published, however her goal as a research scientist is to provide guidance on management and restoration of rangeland and riparian areas at a scale relevant to land managers.

Dr. Stringham currently works for the University of Nevada, Reno. She has developed a viable and dynamic research program through partnerships with the Agricultural Research Service, BLM, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and private land owners throughout the Great Basin. Her research is currently focused on development of state-and-transition models for Nevada rangelands and on the development of Nevada's first fully instrumented experimental watershed designed to quantify the vegetative and hydrologic response to various pinyon-juniper treatments.

GREGG TANNER

Gregg Tanner is a native Nevadan originally from Yerington. He graduated in 1974 from UNR with a BS degree in renewable natural resource management. He went to work for the Nevada Department of Wildlife upon graduation and during his tenure was assigned to duty stations around the state including Las Vegas, Yerington, Fallon, and Reno. While at NDOW he held positions as a field biologist, supervising biologist, and finally the Game Bureau Chief and worked primarily in the areas of avian and terrestrial game species management, research, habitat management, and program administration. He retired from NDOW in 2004 after a 32 year career. He has been employed by the Nevada Wilderness Project as a staff biologist since May, 2009, and works primarily on sage grouse conservation and habitat protection and enhancement projects. Gregg currently resides in Fallon, has been married to Joanne for 35 years, and has two grown children. When not working, Gregg enjoys training hunting dogs and hiking the remote mountain ranges of Nevada in pursuit of a variety of upland game birds.

ROBIN TAUSCH

Dr. Tausch has a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University, an M.S. degree in Range Management from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a Ph.D. in Range Ecology from Utah State University. Research experience in the Great Basin has centered on the ecology and paleoecology of pinyon-juniper woodlands and associated sagebrush ecosystems with a particular emphasis on how these ecosystems have changed in the past, are currently changing, and can be expected to change in the future. Research focus is currently on how these ongoing changes can affect ecosystem health, affect fire frequency and fire patterns, and determine potential short- and long-term responses to treatment. This information is also being used to better anticipate how potential future changes will be altered in response to climate change.

Research at the Reno Laboratory is focusing on two areas of changes occurring in sagebrush steppe ecosystems:

1. Pinyon and Juniper tree expansion into sagebrush steppe ecosystems
2. Invasion of annual grasses into sagebrush steppe ecosystems

Studies occurring within each of these two areas are assessing:

1. Effects of ongoing changes on native ecosystems and fire regimes
2. Effects on ecological processes
3. Identification of possible management alternatives

DALLAS TONSAGER

Dallas Tonsager was appointed by President Obama as Under Secretary for Rural Development and sworn into office in May of 2009. Tonsager has over 35 years of agricultural, business, cooperative and financial experience through his work as a farmer, businessman, and community, state and national leader.

Biographies

Prior to joining USDA, Tonsager served from 2004 to 2009 on the board of directors for the Farm Credit Administration. As one of three board members, Tonsager was responsible for regulatory oversight of the Farm Credit System, which provides approximately one-third of the agricultural credit in the United States. During his tenure as a board member of the Farm Credit Administration, Mr. Tonsager supported passage of a new authority, which allowed Farm Credit System institutions to invest in rural communities across America. Among the many benefits provided by this authority was that it also opened a way for the System to provide funding for critical access hospitals in rural America.

Tonsager served as the executive director of the South Dakota Value Added Agriculture Development Center from 2002 to 2004, leading efforts to develop farmer-owned agricultural facilities, such as ethanol, to increase economic value and consumer appeal of agricultural products. The center is composed of 18 farm and rural business organizations, and provides project management, feasibility assessment, business planning, education, funding access, research and networking assistance.

In 1993, then-President Bill Clinton selected Tonsager to serve as USDA South Dakota state director for Rural Development. In 1999, he was recognized as one of two outstanding state directors in the nation and received the national Hammer Award from then-Vice President Gore for his work as part of a team that reinvented USDA rural business guarantee loan program. Tonsager served as state director until 2001.

Tonsager served two terms as president of the South Dakota Farmers Union. He also served on the board of National Farmers Union Insurance from 1989 to 1993, and was a member of the advisory board of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission from 1990 to 1993.

Rural Development has a network of 6,100 employees and 500 offices, a portfolio of business, housing, and infrastructure loans totaling \$132 billion, and provides an estimated \$20 billion annually to support economic and community development in rural America.

DAVE TORELL

Dave Torell has worked for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for 15 years conducting fundraising, volunteer management, program development and administration. In his current position he serves as a Southern Idaho and Nevada Habitat Stewardship Services Program Manager. Dave is building public/private collaborative partnerships with county, state, and federal agencies, NGO's, ranchers, tribal units, and other interested publics to fundraise and coordinate restoration treatment across landowner boundaries. Dave is currently managing 6 landscape scale wildlife habitat restoration projects to control Juniper and other invasive species and develop strategies for utilizing biomass to create revenue streams to support conservation activities. These conservation efforts are built on a foundation of long term Stewardship Agreements with Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Districts. Under these agreements the Foundation solicits, manages, and coordinates stewardship contracts, fundraising activities, and partnership agreements. Dave was raised on a University of Nevada range research facility at Knoll Creek and has a life time of experience studying and working to ameliorate Great Basin natural resource issues through collaboration.

LEE TURNER

Lee Turner has a background in plant upland and riparian habitat restoration, collaborative restoration projects, ecology, vegetation sampling, biological and ecological assessments, endangered species management, plant community classification and delineation and applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to natural resource management. He has designed, managed and implemented habitat projects in the Great Basin states and Colorado and has conducted various studies and worked across much of the western US, arctic Canada and Alaska and Antarctica. Lee has experience with non native plant and animal species eradication and native plant revegetation plans. He has worked with The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, private landowners and coalitions of groups with diverse interests in outcomes of management on public and private lands to design and implement large scale restoration projects.

MARK WELTZ

Dr. Mark Weltz received his B.S. in 1980 from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA in range management, his M.S. in range/watershed management in 1983 from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, and his PhD in range/watershed management in 1986 from Texas A& M University, College Station, TX. In 1986, Dr. Weltz went to work for ARS in Tucson, AZ where he was a Core Team member on the USDA Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) and erosion indicator lead for Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) for western rangelands. From 1996 through 1999 he was the Research Leader of the Tucson, AZ Research Center and continued his research on rangeland watershed processes. In 1999, he transferred to Ft. Collins, CO where he led the development of the GPFARM decision support system to assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating best management plans for their whole farm/ranch enterprises in the Central Plains. In 2002, he transferred to Beltsville, MD to the ARS National Program Staff as leader of the Water Availability and Watershed Management National Program where he was responsible for leading the development of new and improved practices, technologies, and strategies to manage and enhance the Nation's water resources. In 2007, he transferred to Reno, NV where his current research is focused on developing and implementing approaches, methodologies, and databases to produce scientifically credible estimates of environmental impacts of prescribed grazing, invasive species control, and revegetation-reseeding practices on water quality and quantity, forage production, and wildlife habitat at both hillslope and watershed scales within the Great Basin. Dr. Weltz has received over \$10,000,000 in competitive funding from EPA, NRCS, and NASA to support research on improving watershed assessment and prediction tools and has authored or co-authored over 120 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and technical government publications. In 2008, Dr. Weltz received from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change an Award for Contributing to the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007.