

2024 CRC Watershed Forum Speaker Bios

(in presentation order)



Day 1, March 5

Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager, Carson Water Subconservancy District – brenda@cwsd.org

Brenda began working with the CWSD in 2011. She has more than 30 years of environmental employment experience with nonprofits and local & regional governmental organizations in the U.S. and Australia. Past employment experience includes working as the Land Steward with The Nature Conservancy in upstate New York; as an Open Space and Conservation Planner with the City of Hume near Melbourne, Australia; and as an Environmental Planner with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Brenda lives in Carson City with her husband, son and two rescue cats. She earned her B.S. in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. in environmental science from Australia's Monash University. Brenda, a native Minnesotan, has lived in Nevada for more than 20 years. She enjoys a good book, hiking, biking, playing ultimate frisbee, skiing, camping, paddleboarding and traveling with her friends and family. Brenda recently purchased an inflatable kayak and is looking forward to exploring more of our local rivers!

Debbie Neddenriep, CFM, Water Resource Specialist II, Carson Water Subconservancy District – debbie@cwsd.org

Debbie Neddenriep began her career for Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) in 2007 after a rewarding career of a stay-at-home wife and mom. While working at CWSD, Debbie attended college while learning about the various aspects of water resources as part of a regional watershed agency. She earned her B.S.B.A. degree in marketing management in 2016. Not only did she transfer her knowledge, skills, and abilities into what would become a career as a water resource specialist and Certified Floodplain Manager, but Debbie also thrives on learning about the many facets of science from passionate and intelligent people.

An extrovert by nature, Debbie enjoys working with folks who give their all whether they are elected officials, community staff members, water resource professionals, scientists, educators, residents, or their children. Given a preference, Debbie loves to be outside with her family. She loves to ride her mountain bike, hike in the Sierra Nevada, swim in area lakes and rivers, or explore the Nevada wilderness with her husband, Chris, and yellow Labrador Golden, Poppy.

Courtney Walker, Stormwater Program Manager, Douglas County – cwalker@douglasnv.us

Courtney Walker has been the Stormwater Program Manager for Douglas County since February 2016. The primary functions of the Stormwater Program Manager are: to manage the County Stormwater Maintenance program and staff; manage Douglas County's obligations to the Lake Tahoe water-clarity crediting program; facilitate the county MS4 permits for stormwater runoff; maintain and improve the county's rating in FEMA's Community Rating System program, in which property owners in a special flood-hazard area receive a discounted rate on flood insurance; assist with current and proposed development in the floodplain; and provide drainage and flood advice to property owners in Douglas County.

Courtney came to Douglas County with more than 10 years of experience with stormwater and watershed management. She has a bachelor's degree in earth and environmental science from the University of California, Irvine. Courtney is also a Certified Floodplain Manager through the State Association of Floodplain Managers. With much of her experience in the Tahoe and Carson River Watershed area, Courtney is well versed in local stormwater and watershed coordination. She has worked previously with local, state, and regional governmental organizations such as the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the Carson Water Subconservancy District. Courtney is a Carson Valley native and enjoys hiking, skiing, camping, and traveling with her family.

Lindsay Marsh, Water Resource Specialist I, Carson Water Subconservancy District – lindsay@cwsd.org

Lindsay Marsh's adoration for nature led her to obtain a B.S. in environmental engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. She most recently worked in the residential water-treatment industry. Her passion for the community steered her toward a career that supports the region's well-being.

Water is the lifeblood of all her favorite things: people, plants, and bugs. Her favorite bugs are honeybees, but she enjoys praying mantises too. She used to maintain backyard beehives, and her parents had an extensive garden that made it easy to admire the creatures. Outside of work she volunteers as an assistant coach for a high-school girls wrestling team and with one of Reno's most historic cemeteries. She is the proud mom of a plethora of plants and likes to get out on local trails or watch new sci-fi movies with her family or her partner, Marco. She also loves to visit historic cemeteries when she can, to remember all those who have laid the foundation for where we are now. A seventh-generation Nevadan, Lindsay appreciates all Northern Nevada has to offer. She's delighted to live and work for values that protect our watershed's health for the enjoyment of the people who call it home, and looks forward to all the new projects, lessons, scenery, and faces her new position brings.

Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space – LBoyer@carson.org

Lyndsey Boyer has a Bachelor of Science in wildlife ecology & conservation from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is an avid nature lover and has a passion for botany, wildlife conservation and recreation. Lyndsey brings this passion and interest to her position as Open Space Manager and is so proud of Carson City's foresight in passing 1996's Quality-of-Life Initiative, which led to the preservation of almost 7,000 acres of Carson City natural areas. In her free time, Lyndsey enjoys exploring the natural world on foot or bike, taking pictures of her adventures, or relaxing in camp on a hot summer day.

Mareanna Lovejoy, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space –

MLovejoy@carson.org

Mareanna Lovejoy has a Bachelor of Science in wildlife ecology & conservation from the University of Nevada, Reno and is currently pursuing a Master of Natural Resource Stewardship through Colorado State University online. Mareanna's background is in noxious weed management, and she's excited to be working on a wider variety of natural resource projects in her role with Carson City. In her free time, Mareanna likes to hike, kayak, and crochet.

Mark Gookin, PE, CFM, QSD, Senior Principal Engineer, Terraphase Engineering – mark.gookin@terraphase.com

Mark Gookin has 36 years of stormwater quality, hydrology, and hydraulic experience. He has managed large water resources and environmental teams and has served as project manager or principal for numerous water resources efforts in California and Nevada. These included more than \$120M in constructed Tahoe Basin EIP facilities, which resulted in award-winning efforts. Mark has prepared numerous FEMA Conditional Letters of Map Revision and Letters of Map Revision for rivers and streams throughout the western U.S. He has authored and presented more than 30 technical papers related to stormwater quality, flood control, drainage, and resource protection. Mark is Past Chair of the Floodplain Management Association. He has three grandchildren and in his free time enjoys competitive running as well as backpacking.

Amy Miecznikowski, Senior Staff Hydrologist, Terraphase Engineering - Amy.Miecznikowski@terraphase.com

Amy Miecznikowski holds a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. Ms. Miecznikowski started her career with Nevada's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, where she reviewed design plans for water projects in the state. She has worked at Terraphase for three years, focus on hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs), wetland delineations, and stormwater monitoring. In addition to the Lompa / Fellows Creek project, significant project efforts have included Conditional LOMRs & LOMRs for the Lemmon Valley Wash, an unnamed tributary to the Lemmon Valley Playa and Vicee Canyon, as well as regional detention planning for Carson City's Sutro Basin project. She is proficient in several modeling- and design-software systems and is a certified wetland delineator. Amy is adored by her dog, Lucy, and in her free time is an avid caver and hot spring explorer.

Adam Sullivan, State Engineer, Nevada Division of Water Resources – asullivan@water.nv.gov

Adam Sullivan was appointed Nevada State Engineer in December 2020 and previously held positions as Deputy State Engineer, Hydrology Section Chief and Professional Engineer over the last 14 years with the Division of Water Resources. Prior to working for the Division, Mr. Sullivan worked for civil engineering firms in Northern Nevada for 10 years and in the water resource profession since 1992. He holds a master's degree in hydrology from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Mo Loden, Environmental Scientist, Nonpoint Source Unit, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region – Mo.Loden@Waterboards.ca.gov

Mo grew up in East Tennessee and graduated from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. After college, she moved to California and spent the next seven years working at a variety of watershed-focused nonprofits, primarily coordinating water-quality data collections and managing small- and large-scale restoration projects. She joined the Lahontan Water Board team in October 2021. Her primary duties include working on grazing-related projects and their potential water-quality impacts, as well as grant management for the 319(h) funds in coordination with the State Water Board and USEPA for the Lahontan Region. In Mo's free time, you'll likely find her biking, boating, or boarding with her dear friend, Chute (a 100-lb Rottweiler!).

Danny McClure, P.E., Water Resource Control Engineer, Planning and Assessment Unit, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region – Daniel.McClure@Waterboards.ca.gov

Danny has more than 25 years' experience with the California Water Boards assessing water quality and developing and implementing water-quality standards and plans that improve water quality by reducing impacts from a variety of point and nonpoint sources. He has worked at the Lahontan Water Board since October 2021. Previously he worked at the Colorado River Basin Region from 1998 to 2001 and at the Central Valley Region from 2001 to 2021. Danny was born in Los Angeles County, obtained a B.S. in environmental resources engineering from Humboldt State University in 1997 (now Cal Poly - Humboldt), and now lives in South Lake Tahoe. Danny's personal interests include spending time with his children, biking, hiking, snowboarding, native plant gardening, craft beer, photography, drawing, painting, and shooting pool.

Christopher Eddy, Recreation Management Specialist – Developed/Dispersed, USDA Forest Service, Sierra Zone, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest – Christopher.Eddy@usda.gov

Chris Eddy grew up on the boundary of the Everglades, spending much of his youth exploring the wild places near his home. That childhood sense of exploration at one point had Chris wanting to run away and join the circus. He never made a career under the big top, but his passion for nature and adventure did lead him to a career in public lands management. Chris comes from Forest Service Region 4, where he works as a Recreation Management Specialist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. He transferred to the Forest Service from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he worked as a Generalist Park Ranger at Lake Mendocino. He has also worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger within Everglades, Yellowstone, and Yosemite National Parks and in the private sector as an Environmental Educator and Naturalist Guide. Chris is an avid runner and has run every day for nearly six years. He enjoys rock climbing, cycling, paddling, and gardening. For Chris, fulfillment is all about perspective. He lives by a Henry David Thoreau statement: "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

Dan Miller, Community Planner, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance, National Park Service – Dan_Miller@nps.gov

When Dan Miller was young, he wanted to be Davy Crockett. One day when he was five he put on the coonskin hat he had gotten from Disneyworld the summer before, packed up a lunch and blanket, and decided **(continued)** to follow the creek behind his house. He knew the creek would eventually lead to the ocean and he could sail his way down to the "Great Frontier." Dan didn't get too far that day – maybe a mile or so – when a nice older gentleman convinced him to call his mother to pick him up. But Dan's drive for adventure and love of the **(continued)**

outdoors grew throughout his years. This drive led him to work as a Wilderness Ranger with the Rogue River National Forest and as a Natural Resources Planner with the Bureau of Land Management's Coos Bay District.

Dan has also done nature-based tourism planning in the Marshall Islands and coral-reef restoration planning in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Dan is currently a Community Planner focused on collaboration-based natural resource and outdoor recreation planning with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. Dan holds B.A.s in geography and public policy from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. and an M.A. in community & regional planning from the University of Oregon. When Dan isn't working, he still looks for adventure on his mountain bike, raft or backcountry skis and still hopes to find the "Great Frontier" – but don't tell his mom!

Brandon Bishop, Program Manager, Conserve Nevada – brandon.bishop@dcnr.nv.gov

Brandon Bishop serves as the Conserve Nevada Program Manager for the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In this role Bishop works with nonprofits and community partners on a wide range of projects that support the conservation and enhancement of Nevada's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Bishop's prior experience included roles advancing institutional sustainability, natural resource management, energy and water conservation, and economic development. Bishop holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Nevada. In his free time, he can typically be found hiking, skiing, or exploring the outdoors.

Jake Dick, Noxious Weed Coordinator, Nevada Department of Agriculture – jdick@agri.nv.gov

As Noxious Weed Coordinator, Jake's job duties include overseeing the state noxious weed program, initiating regulatory actions on noxious weed species throughout the state, coordinating with partnering agencies to address invasive plants, and providing outreach & education on Nevada-listed noxious weed species.

Day 2, March 6

Tim Bardsley, Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service, Reno – tim.bardsley@noaa.gov

Tim Bardsley is the Senior Service Hydrologist for the Reno National Weather Service (NWS) office. In this capacity, he works closely with the California Nevada River Forecast Center, other NWS offices, and community partners to carry out the NWS mission as it relates to flooding, drought, and water resources. Tim is active in many NWS teams, including the national post-wildfire hydrology working group. Tim holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Colorado-Boulder and a master's in hydrology from the University of Nevada-Reno. He has spent his career specializing in hydrology and natural sciences in the western United States.

Prior to joining the NWS, Tim worked as the Utah Liaison and Research Integration Specialist for Western Water Assessment and as a Hydrologist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Utah Snow Survey Office, as well as a Research Technician for the Niwot Ridge Long-term Ecological Research program.

Dawn Johnson, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Reno – Dawn.Johnson@noaa.gov

Dawn Johnson is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Reno, Nev. She is the main liaison for public information & outreach and provides decision-support services for partners in key public safety roles. Dawn has been with the agency since 2004 and in Reno since 2009, focusing on how to improve forecast messaging so that users are ultimately able to make better-informed decisions. Dawn holds a bachelor's degree in atmospheric science and mathematics from the University of Arizona. Outside of work, she enjoys partaking in outdoor recreation and has three very active children: Her oldest daughter is nine and her boy/girl twins are seven.

Ed James, General Manager, Carson Water Subconservancy District – edjames@cwsd.org

Ed James has a B.S. in soil and water science from University of California, Davis, an M.S. in civil engineering from University of Colorado, Boulder, and an M.B.A. from University of Phoenix. Ed started his professional **(continued)** career working for the Denver Water Department negotiating and purchasing water rights. He then worked for the Chino Basin Municipal Water District in Southern California managing the Chino Groundwater Basin and was responsible for imported water deliveries from the Metropolitan Water District. In 1994, Ed became General Manager for the Jurupa Community Service District in Southern California. Ed has been General Manager for the Carson Water Subconservancy District since August 1998. Ed is married to his high school sweetheart, Christie, and has three grown kids. In his free time, he enjoys rafting, golfing, softball, table tennis, and snowboarding.

Rebecca Feldermann, Executive Director, River Wranglers – rebecca@riverwranglers.org

Rebecca Feldermann earned her degree in business management from Eastern Gateway Community College. Rebecca has spent her professional life immersed in helping others, managing nonprofits and events, and working with youth and children. Rebecca has been the Executive Director for River Wranglers for more than a year, and thoroughly enjoys working with students within the Carson River Watershed. Rebecca is married to her childhood friend, James, and has one grown son who currently attends the University of Arizona. In her spare time Rebecca enjoys reading, hiking, football, and traveling with her husband.

Sydney Wirkus, Program Outreach & Education Coordinator, River Wranglers – swirkus@riverwranglers.org

Sydney started out in Southern California, and briefly in Mexico, before settling in Nevada with her family in 2004. In 2018 Sydney spent time in Puerto Rico providing disaster relief after Hurricane Maria and ultimately fell in love with the outdoors. She brought that love back to Nevada with her when she returned home. Sydney was an AmeriCorps member with River Wranglers before transitioning to becoming an employee. In her spare time Sydney enjoys hiking, writing, and cuddling her cat.

Taylor Allison, Emergency/Communications Manager, Lyon County Office of Emergency Management – tallison@lyon-county.org

Taylor is the Lyon County Emergency Manager and currently serves as the Western Nevada Chapter Director for the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association (NEPA). She brings 15 years of local government and nonprofit leadership experience in public and behavioral health, healthcare preparedness, communications, and emergency response. Taylor has a Bachelor of Science degree in business marketing management and a master's in business administration - healthcare management from Western Governors University.

Jon Bakkedahl, Deputy Emergency Manager, Carson City Fire Department – JBakkedahl@carson.org

Jon Bakkedahl has a Bachelor of Science degree in radiologic technology from the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and a Master of Science degree in crisis and emergency management, also from UNLV. Jon is a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Master Exercise Practitioner Program, FEMA's Emergency Management Advanced Academy, and the FEMA Emergency Management Basic Academy.

Jon joined the CCFD in August 2023 from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM). In his seven years with DEM, he held three positions: Deputy Administrator; the Preparedness Manager responsible for overseeing the National Incident Management System preparedness efforts; and the State Training Officer supporting all-hazard emergency management training programs statewide. He was the State Emergency Operations Center Manager during numerous activations and exercises.

Jon is a Certified Nevada Emergency Manager and an International Association of Emergency Managers Certified Emergency Manager.

Jon enjoys mountain biking and other outdoor adventures. He is happily married to his wife of nearly 27 years and has two adult children.

Kara Easton, Emergency Management Director, Douglas County – keaston@douglasnv.us

Kara Easton is a native Nevadan, having spent most of her life in fabulous Las Vegas. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a dual Bachelors in French and German in 2011 and then completed her Executive Masters in crisis & emergency management in 2016. Kara was hired by the city of Las Vegas in October 2016 where her professional emergency management journey began. She spent six-and-a-half years **(continued)** with the City, where she was responsible for the Southern Nevada ICS training program as well as coordinating a cornucopia of other response-related courses benefiting the region. Kara was also responsible for maintaining functionality of the EOC and during activations she served as the Logistics Section Chief.

In her role as Emergency Management Director, Kara oversees the emergency management program, the emergency communications center, and the telecommunications & radio division. She hit the ground running in 2023 right after that year's atmospheric river incident. In this role, Kara has been a part of the revitalization of the Quad-County Multiagency Coordination Group, which promotes collaboration on a regional level through Carson, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties.

Ms. Easton has had a handful of deployments and activations in her time in emergency management. Some notable instances are deploying with the Red Cross to Hurricane Irma in 2017; working in the Family Assistance Center after the Route 91 shooting in 2017; serving as the Logistics Section Chief for the City during COVID in 2020; "deploying" to Clark County as a Resource Unit Leader for the Covid-19 vaccination effort in 2021; and working in the State EOC as the Logistics Section Chief for the March atmospheric river in 2023. Ms. Easton has also been a member of Nevada Task Force 1, a FEMA USAR team, since 2018. She serves as an Intelligence Officer within the Planning Section.

In her free time, Kara enjoys (in no particular order) rocking out to a variety of tunes, chocolate ice cream with rainbow sprinkles, snowboarding, and her sweet puppies, Watson and Rebel.

Adam Wilson, Director of Emergency Management, Storey County – awilson@storeycounty.org

Adam Wilson has a bachelor's in emergency management and homeland security from Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nev. Adam started his career in the U.S. Air Force, finishing his career supervising the Base Defense Operations Center. He later worked at the University Police Department – Northern Command supervising the rural district, training division, and special operations division. Adam has been the Director of Emergency Management in Storey County since June 2023. In his free time Adam spends his time with his family, at the gym, and playing the drums at his church.

Sonia Nieminen, Research Assistant and Engagement Coordinator, Desert Research Institute –

Sonia.Nieminen@dri.edu

Sonia Nieminen has a B.S. in physics from the University of Nevada, Reno with minors in mathematics and chemistry. She began working for the Desert Research Institute in early 2022 and has since contributed to multiple participatory science projects – research powered by community members' observations – of local and national scopes. In this role she shares science with the community by developing tools for data **(continued)** collection and visualization, providing volunteer support, and communicating scientific findings with researchers and community members. Sonia enjoys hiking in her free time and looks forward to marrying her fiancé, Michael, this upcoming May.

Kaitlyn Garber, CCAC Wildfire Restoration and Forest Resiliency Fellow, Alpine Watershed Group,

awg.kaitlyn@gmail.com

Kaitlyn is serving the watershed community of Alpine County as a Wildfire Restoration and Forest Resiliency Fellow through the California Climate Action Corps program from September 2023 to August 2024. She recently relocated from San Diego, where she was the copywriter intern for the San Diego River Park Foundation. Her background is in watershed habitat restoration, volunteer & community engagement, and digital **(continued)**

communications. She recently graduated from San Diego State with a B.A. in English and hopes to form a career sharing stories of successful environmental protection. In her free time, Kaitlyn likes kayaking, backpacking, and doing agility drills with her dog, Denna.

Bella Kurtz, CCAC Wildfire Restoration and Forest Resiliency Fellow, Alpine Watershed Group, awg.isabella@gmail.com

Bella is originally from Pennsylvania, where she grew up on her family's fish hatchery. After graduating from University of California, Irvine, with a B.S. in pharmaceutical sciences, she spent the next year traveling around to different states and decided to embark on a new journey. While exploring numerous National Forests during this travel period, she developed a new hobby of finding and identifying wildflowers, which led to a desire to work in conservation. She has always had an interest in environmentalism and is very excited to gain new knowledge and experience that pertains to the environment and climate change. She finds it extremely exciting and interesting to see the process of ecological succession through comparison of photographs taken throughout the duration of projects.

JoAnne Michael, CPESC, QSD, Environmental Project Manager, Resource Concepts, Inc. – joanne@rci-nv.com

JoAnne Michael has an undergraduate degree in biology and environmental affairs and a Master of Science in environmental science from Indiana University. JoAnne's professional career began working on wetland restoration projects and in native plant nurseries, and she has spent the last 20 years working at RCI specializing in wetland delineations, botanical surveys, and environmental permitting. JoAnne is also the project manager on many of the firm's NEPA and CEQA review projects. In her free time, JoAnne spends many days in the mountains skiing and biking, and loves going to see local live music.

Jill Sutherland, PE, Director of Environmental Services, Resource Concepts, Inc. – jill@rci-nv.com

Jill has been a member of RCI's engineering and environmental team since 1991 and on its Board of Directors since 2020. She graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering from Swarthmore College and an M.S. in environmental engineering from Oregon State. Biking, hiking, and floating along the Carson River are her family's favorite outdoor activities in Carson City. She has professional expertise in water-quality planning for safe drinking water and water-pollution control permitting. She enjoys collaborating with clients, communities, and regulators to develop practical and effective strategies for water management.

Ed Kleiner, Past President, Comstock Seed – ed@comstockseed.com

Ed earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics at the University of Nevada, Reno, and studied environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and law at Northwestern. His industry experience began in 1983 as a seed acquisition foreman for Wind River Seed. For three years he traveled the western United States purchasing seed and organizing collections of native seeds. Forty years ago, Ed opened his wholesale company, Seed Futures. He incorporated Comstock Seed in 1990 with his wife, Linda, and opened its Reno retail outlet two years later. As company president, Ed worked in most sectors of the reclamation industry, from traditional mining ventures to new-age solar projects. Focusing on supplying local genetic sources of seed for projects in the western Great Basin, he has supplied seed for the Carson City freeway, the I-580 corridor, the Southwest Intertie Project, the Tuscarora pipeline, as well as multiple projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin and the Truckee Meadows. For the last 23 years Ed has applied his experience to developing his 43-acre seed farm in Gardnerville, Nev.