

2026 CRC Watershed Forum Presenters List

Day 1 – Apr. 1

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

Brenda began working with 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 a 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, two rescue cats and a rescue dog; her son attends UNLV studying landscape architecture. 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 and tennis, skiing, camping, paddleboarding, traveling with her friends and family, and exploring local rivers in her inflatable kayak.

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

Lindsay Budija is currently a Water Resource Specialist 1 for Carson Water Subconservancy District and has been in her position for more than two years. A born-and-raised Nevadan, local to Reno, Nevada, she received her Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering. Her most recent achievements include re-election to the Nevada Water Resources Association's Board of Trustees and her marriage to her best friend, Marco. Water is the lifeline in the desert, and her focus is water supply and communication.

Fun Fact: She and Marco enjoy exploring and protecting all of Nevada's watersheds (their puppy's favorite is the Carson River Watershed)!

Harold Jones, Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey – haroldjones@usgs.gov

Harold has been working with the Nevada Water Science Center as a hydrologist since 2022, is the current program lead for NWQN (National Water Quality Network) in Nevada, and program lead for the Carson River Basin Groundwater Monitoring Project. More generally, his current work focuses on water quality investigations and surface-groundwater interactions. He has additional experience and interest in stream restoration and monitoring, specifically process-based restoration practices involving beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures.

Isabella Kurtz, Headwaters Coordinator, Alpine Watershed Group – isabella@alpinewatershedgroup.org

Isabella served Alpine County as a Climate Resiliency Fellow through the California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) program from September 2023 until July 2025, when she joined Alpine Watershed Group's staff as their Headwaters Coordinator. Isabella now leads the programs that she learned so much about during her fellowship, including vegetation and water-quality monitoring, as well as volunteer coordination, which was a key component of the CCAC program. After graduating from University of California, Irvine with a B.S. in pharmaceutical sciences, she decided to embark on a new journey, and through the fellowship she gained basic GIS skills and became a certified California Naturalist. While growing up on her family's fish hatchery in Pennsylvania, she learned about agriculture and aquatic science; she was also a board member for her school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter.

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director, Alpine Watershed Group – kimra@alpinewatershedgroup.org

Kimra McAfee joined Alpine Watershed Group as Executive Director in June 2018. For the prior nine years, Kimra was Executive Director of Friends of Sausal Creek in Oakland, Calif., providing oversight for the organization's restoration, education, and monitoring programs. She holds a B.A. in English from University of California, Berkeley, and an M.A. in geography and human environmental studies from San Francisco State University, where her thesis was a post-audit of the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River. She loves living in Minden, Nev. and working in Alpine County because she gets to see and serve both reaches of the stunning Carson River Watershed.

Dr. Gina Gilson, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno – ggilson@unr.edu

Gina Gilson, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral researcher in political science at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her work focuses on environmental governance, with an emphasis on water policy and politics. Gina uses qualitative and mixed methods to examine water governance challenges. Her research interests are broadly related to the intersection between formal institutions (i.e., legal frameworks and policies) and informal institutions (i.e., social norms and trust). She has examined market-based strategies, collaborative processes, power dynamics, and trustworthiness across diverse contexts, including the western U.S. and Kenya.

During her Ph.D., Gina was an Early Stage Research Fellow with the NEWAVE Next Water Governance Innovative Training Network, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed academic journals including [*Environmental Research Letters*](#), the [*Journal of Development Studies*](#), and [*Conservation & Society*](#).

She received her Ph.D. and M.S. from the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment, where she was affiliated with the Smith School for Enterprise and the Environment.

Jill Sutherland, PE, Principal, Resource Concepts, Inc. – jill@rci-nv.com

Jill has been a member of RCI's engineering and environmental team since 1991 and on its Leadership Team 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.

Erin Smith, CPESC, Environmental & Resource Specialist II, Resource Concepts, Inc. – erin@rci-nv.com

Erin has been part of RCI's Resources and Environmental team since 2021. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a B.S. in ecohydrology and an M.S. in animal and rangeland sciences, and has a strong interdisciplinary background in hydrology, soils, ecology, and remote sensing. At RCI, she is involved in environmental permitting, vegetation and hydrologic surveys & assessments, community engagement, and source-water protection initiatives. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time outdoors backcountry skiing or paddling down a river.

Keynote: Reed Cozens, PE, General Manager, Carson Water Subconservancy District – reed@cwsd.org

Reed Cozens is a water-resources engineer with experience in Nevada and the Intermountain West. He specializes in water rights, hydrology, and engineering support for watershed-scale planning, water-portfolio administration, and multi-jurisdiction coordination. Reed helps translate technical analysis into policy-aligned decisions that serve municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs. He brings a practical, detail-oriented approach to regulatory tracking, compliance reporting, and fiscal stewardship. Supporting transparent implementation and stronger operational accountability. Reed has contributed to regional water operations through local, state, and federal teams, and he regularly facilitates collaboration among cities, general improvement districts, conservation districts, Tribes, and private water users.

Reed holds a civil engineering degree from the University of Nevada, is a licensed Nevada Water Rights Surveyor, and is active in the Nevada Water Resources Association.

David Skuodas, PE, CFM, LEED AP, Education and Outreach Director, Mile High Flood District – dskuodas@mhfd.org

David Skuodas is an engineer, educator, and storyteller who has worked for the past 25 years to improve the way we design, construct, and manage urban waterways. His career began in the engineering and design trenches – most recently as Director of Design, Construction, and Maintenance at the Mile High Flood District in Denver, where he oversaw more than \$100M in yearly infrastructure investments. In his new role as Director of Education and Outreach, he leads the District's efforts to inform and educate the public, policymakers, and practitioners on smarter waterway design, effective project delivery, and sound floodplain management. Prior to working at the District, Dave was an engineering consultant for nine years in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado. He has a civil engineering degree from the University of Florida and is the author of the book *[The Effective Client: Why Being a Good Client is Smart Business in the AEC Industry](#)*.

Dr. Andrew Waaswa, UNR Extension Agriculture Educator – awaaswa@unr.edu

Dr. Waaswa serves as a statewide Extension Agriculture Educator with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Extension and as coordinator of Nevada's [Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) professional development program. He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural and rural innovation from Makerere University in Uganda, a master's degree in agricultural extension from Egerton University in Kenya, and a doctorate in agricultural and extension education from North Carolina State University. He began his professional career as a farm manager and agronomist with Allgreen Agro Africa Limited and later contributed to climate-smart agriculture and farmer training initiatives in Kenya as a technology scaling assistant. During his doctoral studies, he worked with NC State Cooperative Extension's Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Leadership Development Program. Since joining UNR Extension in August 2024, Dr. Waaswa has provided leadership in outreach, needs assessments, workshops, and on-farm demonstrations that strengthen agricultural resilience and expand research-based education for farmers, ranchers, and urban growers across Nevada. He is married to Sylvia, and together they have one daughter, Maria.

Erik M. Henzl, Staff Research Scientist, Desert Research Institute – Erik.Henzl@dri.edu

Erik M. Henzl is a staff research scientist in the Division of Hydrologic Sciences at the Desert Research Institute (DRI). He holds an undergraduate degree in environmental economics from Colgate University. Before joining DRI, he worked as a research associate at the University of Nevada, Reno, contributing to research on the Humboldt River Basin. Henzl joined DRI in January 2025. Based at DRI's Reno office, he currently researches data center water and energy consumption.

Tom Dallaire, P.E., CFM, Director of Community Development, Douglas County – tdallaire@douglasnv.us

Mr. Dallaire has been Douglas County Director of Community Development for the past six years, providing public-facing services for building, planning, engineering, code enforcement, vacation home rental (short term rentals), and stormwater. He also serves as the county's floodplain administrator. Mr. Dallaire earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering technology from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Ore. and is a licensed engineer in Nevada and California. He worked as a civil engineer in various firms in Minden and Carson City, including his own, for 20 years until he was hired as the Town of Gardnerville Engineer in 2009. Shortly after his hiring date he was promoted to the Town of Gardnerville Manager, where he managed the town's \$3M+ budget, proved project review, and acquired grant funds for various town projects, namely Gardnerville Station.

Tom was born in Paso Robles, Calif. In 1984 his family moved to the Carson Valley, where he finished middle school and graduated from Douglas High School. He married his wife of 31 years, Tara, in Klamath Falls, and stayed in the Carson Valley, where they raised their three children. Tom enjoys off-roading and volunteers with Legacy Racing Association, which hosts off-road racing events for motorcycles, quads, UTVs, trucks and buggies all over Nevada and Parker, Ariz. He also enjoys working on projects around the house, one of which is a 1966 Bronco, and his other vehicles.

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

Courtney Walker has been Stormwater Program Manager for Douglas County since February 2016. Her primary functions 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.

Sarah Fichtner, Floodplain Manager, Nevada Division of Water Resources – sfichtner@water.nv.gov

Sarah has a B.S. in geology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an M.S. in geology from San Jose State University. After moving from California to work in the ski industry for a couple of seasons, Sarah started her career with the Nevada Division of Water Resources as a technician, splitting time between updating water rights ownership and mapping TCID water rights. After moving within the Division a few times, Sarah started her current position in the Water Planning and Drought Resiliency section in 2020. Sarah is married with two young kids. In her free time (ha ha), she enjoys skiing, gardening, baking, camping, sleeping, and family road trips.

Day 2 – Apr. 2

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

Tim is the Senior Service Hydrologist at the NWS Reno office. In short, he is the water nerd in an office full of meteorologists. In his 10-year tenure he has experienced two once-in-a-career winters and extreme droughts. Tim works closely with internal and external partners to improve NWS services related to flooding, post-fire hydrology, drought, and water supply. 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. Tim enjoys spending his free time exploring mountains, canyons, rivers, and lakes via a variety of human-powered activities.

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. In this position, she is the primary liaison between the NWS and core partners in emergency services, tribal entities, media, and the public for a roughly 36,000-sq-mi area encompassing northwest Nevada, northeast California, and the eastern Sierra. Dawn has been with the agency since 2004 and in Reno since 2009, focusing on public information, outreach, and providing decision-support services for partners in key public safety roles to aid in making better-informed decisions. Dawn holds a bachelor's degree in atmospheric science and mathematics from the University of Arizona. Outside of work, Dawn enjoys cooking and partaking in outdoor recreation with her husband and three highly active children.

Dr. Ankita Shukla, Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering Department, University of Nevada Reno – ankitas@unr.edu

Dr. Ankita Shukla is an assistant professor of computer science and engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno. Before joining the university, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Arizona State University. She received her Ph.D. and master's degree from IIT Delhi, where she was awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Award and the Best Master's Thesis Award respectively. Her research focuses on AI for Good: New Frontiers in Natural Resource Monitoring, specifically targeting wildlife conservation, science, and human health. She was part of the Limelight Rainforest team that won the \$10M XPRIZE Rainforest competition for AI-driven biodiversity monitoring in one of the world's most complex ecosystems. Her work has been recognized with the 2025 Faculty Research Achievement Award from ASU and the 2023 Rising Star in Computational and Data Sciences Award from the Oden Institute.

Dave Friedman, Nevada Division of Environmental Quality, Bureau of Corrective Actions – dfriedman@ndep.nv.gov

David Friedman works as an environmental scientist in the Superfund branch of the Bureau of Corrective Actions at the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, where he has been the case officer of the Carson River Mercury Site since 2009. David also currently manages the Nevada Brownfields program, the Leviathan Mine site, and several other environmental action cases. David has more than 25 years of experience in engineering and environmental geology. He has been with NDEP since 1998. Prior to that he worked for Woodward-Clyde Consultants, an engineering and environmental consulting firm, on a wide range of environmental and geotechnical engineering projects. He earned his B.S. in geology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Eric Morway, Research Hydrologist, Nevada Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey –

emorway@usgs.gov

Originally from Vermont, Eric completed an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Vermont in 2000. Roughly a year later he moved west to pursue a graduate degree in civil and environmental engineering from Colorado State University. Considering how much greater life was after moving 2,000 miles west to Colorado State, logic compelled him to move another 1,000 miles west and sure enough, life got even better! Convinced life couldn't get much better - any further west would land him in California, where his fortunes would probably be reversed - he and his family settled in Carson City in early 2011. Eric was fortunate enough to land a hydrologist position at the USGS, where he continues to work today. He is an aspiring hydrologist who focuses primarily on black magic, more commonly referred to as groundwater modeling. However, when his supervisor leaves town he dabbles in real science, like data analysis, which he will be talking a bit about on Thursday.

Bunny Bishop, Chief, Water Planning & Drought Resiliency, Nevada Division of Water Resources –

bbishop@water.nv.gov

Bunny Bishop is Water Planning and Drought Resiliency Section Chief at the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR). This section administers NDWR activities that support water planning, conservation, drought resilience, and floodplain management. Ms. Bishop began her water resources career at NDWR in 2013 in the hydrology section digitizing points and polygons. In 2015, she began working in floodplain management as NDWR State Floodplain Mapping Coordinator. She then became the NDWR State Floodplain Manager/National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator in 2017. Currently, she leads a team of water resource specialists and flood program staff focused on planning, mitigation, response, outreach, and education for water planning, drought, and floodplain management.

Kelsey Denning, Environmental Specialist, Washoe Environmental Protection Department –

Kelsey.Denning@washoetribe.us

Kelsey is currently an environmental specialist for the Washoe Tribe Environmental Department working under their water quality program. She is involved with surface-water sampling on Tribal lands, BMI sampling, occasional outreach, and non-point source tasks. She has worked for the Tribe for almost four months and is learning many skills that are brand new to her. Kelsey is an alumnus of the University of Nevada, Reno with a B.S. in wildlife ecology and conservation. Prior to starting with the Tribe Kelsey worked in various wildlife roles for federal and state agencies, conducting wildlife surveys for species ranging from amphibians and small mammals to fish and birds. In her off time, she enjoys fly-fishing, backpacking, camping, reading, and cooking. She loves to travel and has visited Australia, New Zealand, the Bahamas, and more than 20 states; one of her life goals is to see every national park.

Cale Pete, Environmental Director, Washoe Environmental Protection Department – Cale.Pete@washoetribe.us

Cale graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. with a B.S. in natural resource management in 2015. He has worked with the Washoe Environmental Protection Department for more than nine years. His current focus is building meaningful connections with agencies to promote, protect and restore the Tribe's natural resources in their ancestral homelands.

Tracy Shane, Extension Livestock Specialist, State Specialist, University of Nevada, Reno – tshane@unr.edu

Tracy Shane has worked as an educator and rangeland management specialist in academic, governmental, and private-sector settings. Her study focus is the use of remote sensing applications for evaluating fall-season targeted grazing effectiveness on cheatgrass-invaded rangelands, pushing the research envelope in evaluating livestock use patterns and forage utilization. Her team has completed two years of research in using virtual fencing to achieve livestock grazing management goals. As a master's student, she evaluated several pinyon-juniper thinning and grass-seeding treatments on tree-encroached sagebrush/grasslands. Her interests include livestock health and biosecurity planning; using drones and remote sensing to improve management for livestock, rangeland, pasture, and invasive species; and agriculture program curriculum design.

Tracy earned a B.S. in animal science, her M.S. in rangeland rehabilitation, and is working on her doctorate, all from University of Nevada, Reno.

Austin Lemons, Manager, Dayton Valley Conservation District – alemons@daytonvalleyconservation.com

Austin Lemons has been Dayton Valley Conservation District Manager since November 2024. He earned a bachelor's degree in rangeland ecology and management from the University of Nevada, Reno. He previously worked as a rangeland management specialist with UNR, managing livestock for research programs. In addition to his work at DVCD, he is preparing to defend his master's thesis on animal science at UNR and serves as a Nevada Army National Guard officer. He's an avid outdoorsman, spending as much time outside as he can.

Mark Duda, Founder and Executive Director, Responsive Management – mark@responsivemanagement.com

Mark Damian Duda is the executive director of Responsive Management. Mark is a certified wildlife biologist and social scientist and holds a master's degree with an emphasis on natural resource policy and planning from Yale University, where he attended on two academic scholarships. During the past 35 years, Mark has conducted more than 1,000 studies on how people relate to natural resources and the outdoors. He has authored more than 150 journal and popular articles and four books on wildlife and outdoor recreation.

Kendal Scott, Outdoor Education Lead, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation – k.scott@ndor.nv.gov

Kendal Scott is the Outdoor Education Lead for the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, where she manages the Nevada Outdoor Education & Recreation grant program and works to uplift outdoor education opportunities across the state. She has more than a decade of experience developing outdoor environmental education programs and facilitating experiential learning for youth in California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. She received her M.S. in parks, recreation & tourism from the University of Utah and holds a B.S. in recreation management. Kendal enjoys backpacking trips in search of wildflowers, playing dress-up in thrift stores, snowboarding, and paddling Western waters.

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 Executive Director for River Wranglers since March 2022 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 coaches for University of Arizona. In her spare time Rebecca enjoys reading, hiking, football, and traveling with her husband.

Christy Sullivan, Manager, Lahontan and Stillwater Conservation District – Christy.Sullivan@nv.nacdnet.net

Christy is a Conservation District Specialist with nine years of experience supporting conservation through education, outreach, and collaboration with landowners, producers, municipalities, and partner agencies. Christy assists with district programs, including an equipment program, a youth conservation poster contest, and website-based outreach, with focuses on noxious weed management, chemical safety, and responsible equipment use. Currently, Christy is learning the Bench-Bottom Program, which helps participating farmers regain up to one-half acre of water rights. Outside of work, Christy enjoys rock hunting, gardening, and learning archery, reflecting a strong personal connection to the land and a commitment to conservation and stewardship.

Jaime Sammons, Instructor, Churchill County High School/Co-Owner of Two Ravens Farm – sammonsj@churchillcsd.com

Jamie is a Navy veteran, row cropper, Green Goddess Collective Board member, Churchill County High School Plant Systems teacher, and a Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge native seed farm tech through Great Basin Institute.

Marenda Lovejoy, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space – MLovejoy@carsoncity.gov

Marenda Lovejoy has a Bachelor of Science in wildlife ecology & conservation from the University of Nevada, Reno and is currently pursuing a masters in natural resource stewardship through Colorado State University Online. Marenda has been the senior natural resource specialist with Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space for more than two years and especially enjoys planning restoration projects in the challenging Great Basin cold desert. In her free time, Marenda enjoys hiking with her rescue dog Dori (short for *Salvia dorii*) and playing with her two cats who also have botanically inspired names: Lupine and Eriogonum.

Travis Navarro, Trailhead Caretaker/Intern, Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space -- TNavarro@carsoncity.gov

Travis began working for Carson City in August 2025 and is a Carson City native. He is a keen orienteer and angler and has greatly enjoyed all the natural resource and volunteer projects he has been a part of. He especially enjoys surveying the cottonwood galleries along the Carson River. In his spare time, he researches beaver ecology to help better inform his understanding of this species.