



The Montana Water Summit

Water in a Changing West

Conference Proceedings

March 6-7, 2018

Radisson Colonial Hotel

Helena, Montana

Thank you to the people who made this event possible

The Montana Water Summit Planning Team

Sara Meloy, Water Planner, MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Ann Schwend, Water Planner, MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Whitney Lonsdale, Assistant Director, Montana Water Center
Zach Brown, State Representative, Legislative Water Policy Interim Committee
Todd Myse, Hydrogeologist, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Stephen Begley, Water Conservation Specialist, MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Chace Bell, Monitoring and Assessment Specialist, MT Dept. of Environmental Quality



Other Key Contributors to Water Summit Planning, Implementation and Wrap-up

Nikki Sandve, Cindy Forgey, Paul Azevedo, Aaron Fiaschetti, John Grassy, Martha Hodder and Cindi Dillon - DNRC
Shawn Johnson, Emily Harkness and Chelsea Leven - University of Montana Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy
Darrin Kron, Devon Bathon and Tim Davis - DEQ
Erin Farris-Olsen - Montana Watershed Coordination Council
Jon Catton - Future West
Kate Arpin - Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana
Wyatt Cross - Montana Water Center
Molly Cross - Wildlife Conservation Society
Sarah Bates - National Wildlife Federation

Thank you to all Montana Water Summit volunteers, speakers and moderators

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MONDAY, MARCH 5

WELCOME TO HELENA! Catch up with colleagues over hors d'oeuvres (provided) and no-host microbrew.

5 - 8 **WELCOME RECEPTION** - Ten Mile Creek Brewing (48 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

7:30 *Check-in - No same-day registration*

8:30 **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Sara Meloy -- Water Planner, Montana DNRC

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney

Chief Earl Old Person -- Blackfeet Tribe

WATER IN THE WEST: Setting the stage of western water issues and examining impacts to Montana's water quantity and quality from a changing climate, population growth, and a shifting economy.

9:10 **WATER IN THE WEST**

Leon Szeptycki -- Professor, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment; Executive Director, Water in the West

9:30 **WATER AND CLIMATE IN MONTANA**

Marco Maneta -- Associate Professor of Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling, University of Montana

9:50 *Break*

10:10 **MONTANA AND A CHANGING ECONOMY**

Patty Gude -- Associate Director, Headwaters Economics

10:30 **MONTANA WATER USE AND DEVELOPMENT: A RECENT HISTORY**

John Tubbs -- Director, Montana DNRC

10:50 **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

Moderator: **Shawn Johnson**, *Managing Director, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, University of Montana*

11:40 *Break for lunch set-up*

12:00 **GREAT WATER CONVERSATIONS LUNCH**

A special topics lunch, all about water! (Grand Ballroom, buffet provided) Cruise through the buffet line, then head to the table you selected in advance. Look for the numbered table that matches the number on your nametag.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

WATER POLICY DEEP DIVE: Analyzing Montana water policy history and future as told by former legislators; examining statewide challenges and regional water policy innovation at the water quality/quantity nexus.

1:30 **PANEL: PAST AND PRESENT POLICY-MAKERS RECOUNT THEIR ROLE IN SHAPING MONTANA WATER POLICY**, share their thoughts on where we're headed, as well as recommendations for current legislators, water managers and water users.

Dorothy Bradley -- Former Montana legislator, Clyde Park

Steve Doherty -- Former Montana legislator, Missoula

Lorents Grosfield -- Former Montana legislator, Big Timber

Chas Vincent - Montana legislator, Libby

 Moderator: **Holly Franz** -- Attorney, Franz & Driscoll, PLLP

2:20 **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

 Moderator: **Holly Franz**

2:50 **PANEL: BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY** - Challenges in Montana and innovation from across the West.

Adam Schempp -- Senior Attorney and Director of the Western Water Program, Environmental Law Institute, Washington D.C.

Tim Davis -- Water Quality Division Administrator, Montana DEQ

 Moderator: **Sarah Bates** -- Regional Deputy Director and Senior Director, Western Water Program, National Wildlife Federation

4:10 **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

 Moderator: Sarah Bates

[INSERT FUN HERE]: EVENING EVENT WITH LIVE MUSIC!

6:00 Heavy hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar, lively conversation and music by Helena's Dogjam!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- 8:00 **MORNING WELCOME AND DAY ONE HIGHLIGHTS**
Shawn Johnson -- *Managing Director, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana*
- ADAPTATION AND THE WAY FORWARD**: An interactive workshop focused on adaptation in your own work; inspirational stories of local and regional adaptation; and a multidisciplinary look at water efficiency vs. water conservation.
- 8:15 **ADAPTATION: MAKING IT HAPPEN IN YOUR OWN WORK**
Lara J. Hansen, Ph.D. -- *Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt*
- 8:45 **MONTANA ADAPTATION VIGNETTES**: Stories from fellow Montanans of water resource challenges brought on by climate change and growth - and the innovative ways they're dealing with those challenges.
Mike Gaffke -- President, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
Kevin Hyde -- Mesonet Coordinator, Montana Climate Office
Germaine White -- Information and Education Specialist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Frank Greenhill -- Stormwater Program Specialist, City of Bozeman
Danika Holmes -- Hydrologist/Water Resource Specialist, Montana DNRC
Brant Oswald -- Board President, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
Moderator: **Lara Hansen**
- 10:00 **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**
Moderator: **Lara Hansen**
- 10:30 *Break*
- 10:50 **ALLEVIATING WESTERN WATER WOES: AN ADAPTATION WORKSHOP** - Moderated discussion about adaptation, barriers, and moving closer to actionable solutions across water use sectors and at multiple scales.
Moderator: **Lara J. Hansen** -- Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt
- 12:00 *Lunch*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- 1:00 **PANEL: DOES WATER EFFICIENCY EQUAL WATER CONSERVATION? IT'S COMPLICATED.** A multidisciplinary examination of a common adaptation strategy through hydrology, policy, management, ecology and on-the-ground lenses.
Allen Martinell -- Irrigator, President, Lima Water Users
Mike Roberts -- Hydrologist, DNRC
Travis Horton -- Region 3 Fisheries Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Bryan Gartland -- Deputy Regional Manager, Helena Regional Office, DNRC
Moderator: **Ann Schwend**, Water Resource Planner, DNRC
- 2:00 **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**
Moderator: Ann Schwend
- 2:30 **REAL-TIME WRAP-UP:** Your thoughts on bringing it all together and moving toward Montana's water future.
Shawn Johnson -- Managing Director, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, University of Montana
- 2:45 **CLOSING REMARKS**
Bill Yellowtail, Retired Rancher, former Montana Senator

Montana Water Summit

Presenters and Moderators

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney

Lieutenant Governor, Montana

Mike Cooney became Montana's 32nd Lieutenant Governor in January 2016 when appointed by Governor Steve Bullock. Mike is a long time public servant and elected official, having served in both houses of the Montana legislative branch and three terms as Secretary of State prior to being selected as Lieutenant Governor.

A committed public leader for Montana, Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney is Governor Bullock's trusted partner as they work to advance the administration's agenda of better jobs, better education and a more effective government. As Lieutenant Governor, Mike chairs the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, which responsibly manages natural resources and supports constituents affected by drought.



Chief Earl Old Person

Former Chairman, Blackfeet Tribe

Chief Earl Old Person is former chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe and was first elected to the tribal council in 1954. He served as chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council for several decades and received the honorary title of Chief in 1978.

Chief Old Person served as past president of the National Congress of American Indians. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana and is a recipient of the Jeanette Rankin Civil Liberties Award. He resides in Browning, MT.



Leon F. Szeptycki

Professor of the Practice and Executive Director, Water in the West
Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

Leon Szeptycki is a Professor of the Practice and Executive Director of Water in the West at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Water in the West is an interdisciplinary research program that engages Stanford in developing solutions to water scarcity and water management challenges in the American West.

Leon is an attorney who specializes in water quality, water use and watershed restoration. His work includes issues related to stream flow restoration in the context of the western appropriative rights system and increasing human demands on water. Over his career, Leon has worked on a broad range of matters related to the restoration of river health and water quality on a landscape scale.



From 2006 until 2012, Leon taught at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he ran the Environmental Law and Conservation Clinic and helped create an interdisciplinary course in conservation for students in the environmental sciences department and the law school. Prior to that, he spent 10 years with Trout Unlimited. While at Trout Unlimited, Leon helped develop innovative legal and policy tools for voluntary watershed restoration by a variety of means, include dam removal and reclamation of abandoned mine sites. He has also worked in private law practice and at the U.S. Department of Justice. Leon received his B.A. from the University of Kansas and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

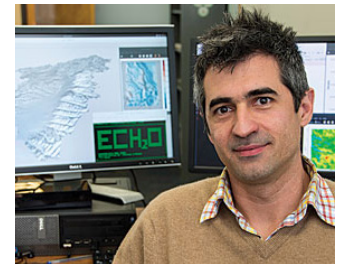
In 2016, Leon was appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to the Board of Directors of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, an organization formed in 2016 whose sole purpose is to oversee the removal of four dams on the Upper Klamath River.

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Marco P. Maneta

Associate Professor of Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
Department of Geosciences, University of Montana

Dr Maneta's research focuses on water and energy flows in the landscape at the watershed and regional scales. Specifically, he is interested on how vegetation and agriculture drive the apportionment of available water and energy and are thus a primary control on hydrologic processes.



After finishing his Ph.D. (University of Extremadura, Spain) on integrated physics-based hydrologic modeling for semiarid rangelands, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at UC Davis on the interactions between hydrology and agriculture in tropical regions. During this period he developed hydro-economic models understand how climate, agricultural markets, and water policy differently affect industrial, small scale, and subsistence farmers. Currently he is an Associate Professor of hydrology and hydrologic modeling in the Geosciences Dept. at the University of Montana. He is currently collaborating with DNRC, the MCO and MSU on the development of state-of-the-art models and analyses to investigate the impact of droughts on Montana's water resources and agriculture.

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John E. Tubbs

Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

A native of Helena, Montana, John is currently serving his second appointment by Governor Steve Bullock as Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). His first appointment was in January 2013. Prior to his appointment at DNRC, John served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior from June 2009 through December 2012. John started his career for the State of Montana in 1985 and worked for 25 years in both policy and financial programs at DNRC before leaving to D.C. John holds an M.A. in Economics and B.S. in Forestry, both from the University of Montana.



Patty Gude

Associate Director, Headwaters Economics

Patty is the Associate Director at Headwaters Economics and specializes in the economics of land use and management. She has expertise in applied research and communication. Patty works closely with community leaders, land managers, and elected officials to understand needs, establish partnerships, and employ the knowledge and skills at Headwaters Economics to assist them. Patty holds a M.S. in Ecology from Montana State University.



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Shawn Johnson

Managing Director of the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, University of Montana

Shawn Johnson is Managing Director of the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy at the University of Montana and co-director of the Center's graduate certificate program in Natural Resources Conflict Resolution. Shawn organizes and leads strategic planning and capacity building workshops for a wide variety of organizations focused on natural resource policy and management and has served as a facilitator and mediator on issues ranging from land use planning and forest management to conservation priority setting and regional collaboration.



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Dorothy Bradley

Former Montana legislator, Clyde Park, MT

Dorothy Bradley grew up in Bozeman, MT, and at age 23 was elected to the MT House of Representatives on an environmental platform, campaigning by handing out litter bags that said "Dorothy is for the Birds." She served 8 terms ending in 1991, narrowly losing her race for Governor after riding her horse across the state. Dorothy worked extensively on natural resources and water issues, particularly in the 1970s, and also in administrative positions with the University System Water Center, and Court Administrator for the 18th Judicial District.



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Lorents Grosfield

Former Montana legislator, Big Timber, MT

Lorents has been around for more than three and a half score years. He's been a cattle rancher (and irrigator) near Big Timber for more than two and a half score years. He served on a number of state water-related committees in the 80s through the early 2000s including the Water Development Advisory Council, the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, the State Water Plan Advisory Council, the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, the legislative Water Policy Committee, the Environmental Quality Council, and was Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources



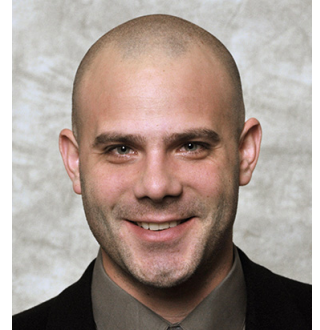
Committee during his 12 years in the Montana Senate in the 90s-plus. He tries to catch fish, roots for the Colorado Rockies, loves to travel and to be a granddad.

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Chas Vincent

Legislator, Libby, MT

Chas Vincent was raised in the mountains of northwestern Montana and has spent much of his life involved in his family's logging business. He attended OSU's School of Forestry in Corvallis, OR and the University of Montana where he received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a minor in Communication Studies. Chas represents Lincoln County within the Montana State Senate. During his 12 year tenure at the legislature Chas has focused on Natural Resource, Energy, Tax, and Fish & Game policy and is currently chair of Senate Natural Resources and the Environmental Quality Council Interim Committee. He has worked with Provider Pals©, a non-profit natural resource educational program extensively since the summer of 2003, and is a consultant employed by Environomics Inc.



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Steve Doherty

Former Montana legislator, Missoula, MT

Steve Doherty was appointed to the Montana Tax Appeal Board by Governor Steve Bullock in January, 2015. His legal career was in private practice and he has been a member of the Montana and Oregon State Bars for over twenty five years, as well as membership in numerous Tribal Bars, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States Claims Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. He served three terms in the Montana State Senate from Great Falls. As a legislator, he served on the Senate Taxation and numerous other committees and in leadership positions. He was appointed by the Governor and then served as Chairman of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. He has also served as the Senior Advisor for the Northwest for the United States Secretary of the Interior. He was born and raised in Great Falls, his undergraduate degree is from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree is from Lewis and Clark in Oregon.



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Holly Franz

Attorney, Franz & Driscoll, PLLP

Holly Franz is a water right lawyer at Franz & Driscoll, PLLP in Helena, MT. She has been involved with water policy issues over the last thirty years through her practice before the Water Court, DNRC, and district courts, and her lobbying before the Montana Legislature.

Adam Schempp

Senior Attorney and Director of the Western Water Program
Environmental Law Institute, Washington DC

Adam Schempp leads the Environmental Law Institute's work on water rights, allocation, and use and works extensively on water quality issues. Much of his research focuses on identifying opportunities to meet sustainability objectives through existing laws and potential legal developments. Among other reports and articles, Mr. Schempp authored *At the Confluence of the Clean Water Act and Prior Appropriation: The Challenge and Ways Forward*, *Western Water in the 21st Century: Policies and Programs that Stretch Supplies in a Prior Appropriation World*, and *Five Things to Consider When Developing and Adapting Water Policies and Programs in the West*. Prior to joining ELI, Mr. Schempp clerked in the legal department of the Denver Water Board and for the Native American Rights Fund. He holds a B.A. in Ethics, Politics, and Economics from Yale and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.



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Tim Davis

Water Quality Division Administrator, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Tim Davis is the Administrator of the Water Quality Division at Montana Department of Environmental Quality. He had previously served as the Water Resources Division Administrator at the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for six years. Tim has worked on water and land resource management and community development issues for over 20 years in Seattle, Ukraine, and Montana. Tim grew up in Lander, Wyoming. Tim is fortunate enough to spend most of his free time outdoors with his wife, Adrienne, his daughter, Nora, and their two dogs.



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Sarah Bates

Regional Deputy Director and Senior Director, Western Water Program, National Wildlife Federation

Sarah Bates is the deputy regional director and senior director of western water for the National Wildlife Federation, in Missoula. She started her water law career at the University of Colorado Law School, and has served in university research appointments, conservation advocacy positions, and consulting work with tribal and nonprofit clients. She served on the Clark Fork Coalition board of directors from 2005-2018 (president from 2012-16), and has been a member of the Carpe Diem West Healthy Headwaters leadership team since 2008.



Lara J. Hansen

Ph.D. Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt with a team of similarly inclined folks in 2008. She is co-author of two books on climate change adaptation, *Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems* and *Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World*. She also co-created an engaged stakeholder process to help individuals, organizations and communities create adaptation strategies applicable to their work, and the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKEx.org).



She served on the unfairly maligned, vitally important Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the chief climate change scientist for the World Wildlife Fund and a Research Ecologist with the Environmental Protection Agency. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Ecology and her B.A. in Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Because she's an optimist she assumes we'll get our acts together on climate change---who would want the alternative.

Mike Gaffke

President, Association of Gallatin Valley Area Irrigators (AGAI)

Mike Gaffke is from a fourth generation Gallatin Valley family. He grew up on the family ranch, raising cattle, growing hay and grains. The Gaffke Ranch sits in the middle of the rapidly growing Belgrade, Four Corners, and Bozeman area. Today, he manages his family's property and is the President of Lower Middle Creek Supply Ditch Company and the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators.



As president of the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators he works to accomplish its mission of being a guardian and advocate of the Gallatin River system and its historically decreed water rights. Mike recently received the Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committees award for the Service to Agriculture for his outstanding leadership, particularly in water right issues, and his innovative work "adapting farm programs to exist with neighboring developments."

Mike and his wife, Shelly, have two sons. All four of them are Montana State University graduates. Mike graduated with a chemical engineering degree. He then moved to Bremerton, WA to work on nuclear submarines at a naval shipyard. When his sons were 5 and 7 years old, Mike and Shelly decided to move back to Bozeman because "neither of the boys had ever caught a trout" and they wanted them to experience the quality of life the valley offers. After owning a Bozeman business for 20 years Mike has recently sold it and has taken up ranching and water issues full time.

Kevin Hyde

Montana Mesonet Coordinator, CoCoRaHS State Coordinator
Montana Climate Office

Kevin travels the state working with ranchers, farmers, tribal managers, and extension agents digging soil pits and installing climate stations to build a high density climate-soil-vegetation monitoring system. He coordinates with producers to develop decision support systems based on user needs and preferences. Trained in landscape hydrology, Kevin worked alongside landowners and US Forest Service managers and scientists to build support tools for forest fuel treatments and active wildfire response. His research interests led him to bushwhack burned areas to map post-fire erosion, use geophysics to track snowmelt infiltration, and study whether beetle-killed forests in Wyoming produced more water downstream. Cycling, hiking, and photography keep him exploring the wilds. Kevin has called Missoula home since 1999. "Wherever else I've lived, good fortune got me to Montana – and with continued good fortune and good sense I stay."



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Germaine White

Information and Education Specialist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Germaine White is the Information and Education Program Manager for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation. Germaine currently develops informational and educational materials on resource management and conservation issues for dissemination through printed materials and the media. Additionally, she develops and maintains working relationships with local civic organizations and schools to establish and implement environmental education programs. Formerly, she served as Cultural Resources Program Manager for the Salish-Pend d' Oreille Culture Committee. Germaine received her Masters of Education from Montana State University and her Bachelors of Arts from The University of Montana.



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Frank Greenhill

Stormwater Program Specialist, City of Bozeman

Frank Greenhill is the Stormwater Program Specialist for the City of Bozeman. He received a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Texas Tech University and a M.S. degree in Biology from Texas Christian University. Frank has been active in natural resources management for over 15 years, including municipal and stormwater management for the past 2.5 years. His current area of focus is the development and implementation of the City of Bozeman's stormwater sampling and evaluation plan. When not working, Frank can be found satisfying his healthy addictions to fishing, hunting, and skiing.



Danika Holmes

Hydrologist/Water Resource Specialist, Montana DNRC

Originally from Utah, Danika moved to Bozeman in 2014 to pursue a graduate education in the Earth Sciences at MSU. Her graduate research centered around exploring natural water storage as a climate change adaptation strategy to address human and environmental water needs in the Musselshell River Basin in the wake of major flooding in 2011. Danika currently works as a hydrologist/water resource specialist at the Montana DNRC's Missoula Regional Water Resources Office, where she was brought on to process instream flow water right change applications in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin.



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Brant Oswald

Board President, Flyfishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM)

Brant Oswald is a fly fishing outfitter and guide based in Livingston, Montana. Brant has worked in nearly every segment of the fly fishing industry—as a fishing school instructor/director, fishing travel consultant, fly shop manager, and casting instructor. He has guided in Montana since 1988 and has been a licensed outfitter since 1992. Brant has written extensively for fly fishing periodicals, and he now contributes regularly online.



Brant has been active with conservation groups, including CalTrout, the Joe Brooks (Livingston, MT) Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Park County Environmental Council, and he served on the Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force from 1997 to 2003. He currently serves on the boards of both the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) and the Invasive Species Action Network.

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Allen Martinell

Irrigator and President, Water Users Irrigation Co., Lima

Allen is an irrigated rancher and a lifelong resident of southwestern Montana in the Red Rock and Centennial valleys. He lives on the family ranch that was established in 1893. Currently there are three generations of family living on the ranch. Allen has served on the board of directors of Water Users Irrigation Co. (WUIC) and as president since 1985. WUIC operates Lima Dam with a service area of about 20,000 acres and a storage capacity of 84,000 acre-feet. Allen has served on the board of directors of Vigilante Electric Coop since 1981.



Mike Roberts

Hydrologist, Montana DNRC

Mike Roberts has been working on Montana water resource issues for 30 years, the past 19 as a hydrologist for DNRC. His focus is on basin water availability studies, working directly with water users in water-short basins, and providing training for water commissioners and anyone else interested in hydrology, water measurement, and water distribution in Montana.

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Travis Horton

Region 3 Fisheries Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Travis began working in fisheries in 1993 as a technician for Idaho Fish and Game. Following graduate school at Kansas State University, Travis briefly worked for the University of Idaho on Salmon and steelhead migrations in the Columbia River. In 2001, Travis was hired as the MFWP fisheries management biologist on the Missouri and Smith rivers out of Great Falls. In 2006, Travis moved to Helena and became the statewide native species biologist. Finally, in 2010, Travis was hired as the Regional Fisheries Manager for R3, southwest Montana.

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Bryan Gartland

Deputy Regional Manager, Helena Regional Office, Montana DNRC

Bryan Gartland has worked in water resource administration for 15 years. He began his career with the Montana Department of Natural Resources 10 years ago, serving as the Helena Deputy Regional Manager for the last 5 years. Prior to joining DNRC, Bryan worked for an environmental consulting firm in Colorado.



Ann Schwend

Water Resource Planner, Montana DNRC

Ann's circuitous career path includes plant research, landscape restoration, and land use and natural resource planning. She also spent many years as a Conservation District supervisor and watershed coordinator in the beautiful Ruby Valley. Since 2008, she has worked as a water resource planner for Montana DNRC in the Upper Missouri and Clark Fork River Basins. She is currently leading the state's efforts to build drought resilience in the Missouri Headwaters Basin as part of the National Drought Resilience Partnership. Ann is passionate about working with communities to bring science and people together to solve local resource challenges and building the connections to improve watershed resilience across broad landscapes.



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Bill Yellowtail

Retired rancher, former MT Senator

Bill Yellowtail grew up on a cattle ranch on the Crow Indian Reservation and holds a degree in geography from Dartmouth College. As a Montana State Senator, Yellowtail served on the committees on Judiciary, Natural Resources, Education, and Fish and Game. He was appointed in 1993 to be Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with responsibility for six western states and 27 Indian Tribes. Bill currently serves on the boards of directors of One Montana and the Burton K. Wheeler Center for Public Affairs. He lives and works on the family ranch on Upper Lodge Grass Creek.

