

**GNLCC Rocky Mountain Partner Forum**  
Climate Change Planning Workshop • June 4-5, 2013

**Short Bios for Workshop Participants**

**Robert Al-Chokhachy**

Fisheries Biologist/Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow  
Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey  
[ral-chokhachy@usgs.gov](mailto:ral-chokhachy@usgs.gov)

Robert is a research fisheries biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and an adjunct faculty in the Ecology Department at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. He is an applied biologist with goals of providing robust information to inform the management and conservation of aquatic ecosystems. His specific research focuses on improving our understanding of how natural and anthropogenic disturbances influence aquatic ecosystems, the interactions between native and non-native species, and how the life-history patterns and template of aquatic systems will be altered under anticipated changes in global and regional climates. Within this framework his research program consists of a combination of field studies and analytical studies to advance conservation and management and at the same time develop new paradigms in aquatic ecology. His research is built upon a premise of strong collaboration and interaction to facilitate effective research.

**Scott Barndt**

Ecosystem Staff Officer, co-Climate Change Coordinator  
USFS-Gallatin and Custer National Forests  
[sbarndt@fs.fed.us](mailto:sbarndt@fs.fed.us)

Scott is Ecosystem Staff Officer and co-Climate Change Coordinator for the Custer and Gallatin National Forests. The Ecosystem staff area includes fire, fuels, fisheries, wildlife, soils, hydrology, air quality, timber and range management. The Custer and Gallatin National Forests encompass about 3.2 million acres of Montana and South Dakota, ranging from the Hebgen Lake basin in SW MT to the Slim Buttes in NW South Dakota. This diverse landscape provides many management opportunities and challenges, not least of which is devising climate change response strategies. Prior to becoming Ecosystem Staff Officer, Scott was Forest Fisheries Program Manager for the Gallatin National Forest, a zone district fisheries biologist for the Hebgen Lake and Bozeman Ranger Districts, and fisheries biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Travis Belote**

Research Ecologist  
The Wilderness Society  
[travis\\_belote@twc.org](mailto:travis_belote@twc.org)

Travis Belote has served as a research ecologist in the Northern Rockies Office of The Wilderness Society in Bozeman, MT since 2009. His research focuses on understanding the basic science of ecosystems to inform conservation and restoration under increasing pressures of global change (including land use, climate change, increasing CO<sub>2</sub>, invasive species, etc.). He has studied the effects of climate change on invasive species, the impacts of alternative timber harvesting disturbances on forest resilience, ecological thresholds in rangelands, and local and regional drivers of biodiversity, species

composition, and ecosystem functions. In recent years, his work has focused on relationships between forest composition, structure, and function from stand to landscape scales with an emphasis on understanding fire regimes to apply to forest restoration and climate adaptation projects. His research has appeared in *Ecology*, *Ecological Applications*, and *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, among other journals. He completed his M.S. at the University of Tennessee, Ph.D. at Virginia Tech, and conducted postdoctoral research with the USGS in Flagstaff, AZ.

### **Mark Bostrom**

Montana Watershed Coordination Council, Chair

Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Planning Bureau Chief

[mbostrom@mt.gov](mailto:mbostrom@mt.gov)

Mark Bostrom was raised in the idyllic ski resort town of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He attended Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1987. His early professional work was in analytical laboratories where he began as a lab technician at ACZ Laboratories in Steamboat Springs, CO and ended as Senior Project Manager for Mountain States Analytical in Salt Lake City, UT. Mark moved to Helena Montana in 2003 and quickly found a new calling, serving the people of Montana; first as Quality Assurance Officer in the Water Quality Planning Bureau and later as Bureau Chief of that bureau. Mark is rarely satisfied with the way things are as evidenced by the three houses he has remodeled or through his professional work creating more efficient business systems and work cultures founded in the philosophy of continuous improvement.

### **Jeff Burrell**

Northern Rockies Program Coordinator

Wildlife Conservation Society

[jburrell@wcs.org](mailto:jburrell@wcs.org)

As Northern Rockies Program Coordinator, Jeff provides management support for WCS projects from southern Arizona to northern Montana. For the Northern Rockies program, Jeff leads WCS efforts to improve wildlife conservation on private lands. Jeff serves on steering committees of the Heart of the Rockies, a coalition of land trusts in southeastern Idaho and southwestern Montana, and on the High Divide group, a coalition of NGOs focused on advancing wildlife habitat and habitat linkage conservation in the broad region between the Greater Yellowstone, Salmon-Selway, and Crown of the Continent ecosystems. Jeff joined WCS in 2003. Jeff has a Master's of Science degree in Range and Wildlife Management and a Master's of Science degree in Geology and Geophysics from Texas Tech University

### **Patrick Byorth**

Staff Attorney

Trout Unlimited

[pbyorth@tu.org](mailto:pbyorth@tu.org)

Patrick is a staff attorney with the Montana Water Project of Trout Unlimited. He worked as a fisheries biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for nearly 17 years restoring Arctic grayling, Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout in their native waters and managed renowned sport fisheries in the Madison and Gallatin River basins. He earned a J.D. with a certificate in Environmental Natural Resources Law at the University of Montana School of Law in 2009. He received a B.A. in biology and

chemistry from Carroll College and earned an M.S. in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University. Patrick served as President of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and was recognized as the Chapter's Fisheries Professional of the Year in 2006. He published articles in scientific, legal, and popular journals.

### **Anne Carlson**

Climate Associate  
The Wilderness Society  
[anne\\_carlson@twc.org](mailto:anne_carlson@twc.org)

Anne works on climate change related issues in the Northern Rockies through a combination of collaborative, landscape-level adaptation projects and an intensive regional outreach campaign on the impacts of climate change, what it means for Montanans in their everyday lives, and the role of large landscape conservation and restoration in supporting ecosystem resilience. Both programs seek to identify the destructive impacts of climate change in the Northern Rockies and focus additional scientific analysis on TWS' priority landscape in Montana, the Crown of the Continent. Prior to joining The Wilderness Society in 2009, Anne developed and carried out research and conservation projects on large carnivores, ungulates, primates, and elephants throughout Africa and Asia after completing her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2000.

### **Nina Chambers**

Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative  
[nchambers@bresnan.net](mailto:nchambers@bresnan.net)

Nina's experience in large landscape conservation includes facilitating interagency partnerships across the West and conservation planning for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. She is a fellow with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation and a Research Associate at the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative. Nina is a science writer and editor for the National Park Service Inventory & Monitoring Program making science more accessible to decision makers and the public.

### **Kathy Chase**

Hydrologist  
Montana Water Science Center Office, U.S. Geological Survey  
[kchase@usgs.gov](mailto:kchase@usgs.gov)

### **Sue Consolo-Murphy**

Chief of Science and Resource Management  
National Park Service-Grand Teton National Park  
[sue\\_consolo-murphy@nps.gov](mailto:sue_consolo-murphy@nps.gov)

Sue Consolo Murphy is Chief of Science and Resource Management at Grand Teton National Park, where she has launched new research on the Teton glaciers and the effects of Jackson Lake Dam on the Snake River system; initiated a major review and upgrade of the park's bear management program; and increased staff and funding for vegetation management, including major restoration work on park land formerly used for cattle grazing. She worked with Trout Unlimited to remove the Spread Creek and Newbold diversion dams to restore native fish passage, and prepared a new 15-year agreement with the University of Wyoming to operate the UWNPS Grand Teton Research Center. In her 34-year career with the National Park Service, she started swift fox restoration at South Dakota's Badlands NP,

and, at Yellowstone, spearheaded removal of Fishing Bridge campground to restore grizzly bear habitat, experienced the 1988 fires and subsequent research, and for five years edited the quarterly magazine, Yellowstone Science. She has published papers on grizzly bear management, beaver surveys, and information transfer, and (along with her husband, Dr. Kerry M. Murphy) co-authored a popular book on Wildlife @ Yellowstone (KC Publications, 1999). She earned a B.S. in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Wyoming and an M.S. in Forest Resource Conservation from the University of Montana.

### **Yvette Converse**

Co-Coordinator

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

[Yvette\\_Converse@fws.gov](mailto:Yvette_Converse@fws.gov)

Yvette is the Co-Coordinator of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC), where she helps to lead a partnership among state, provincial, and federal agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities that have come together to collaboratively develop conservation planning and design for sage/steppe ecosystems, high elevation mountain habitats, diverse wetland ecosystems, and important river basins (e.g., Columbia, Upper Missouri, Yellowstone), stretching from Southwest Wyoming to northern British Columbia. Yvette has more than 15 years professional experience in conservation with an emphasis in aquatic ecology, ESA, river management and research coordination. She received her Masters degree in Aquatic Ecology and Watershed Science from Utah State University studying endangered humpback chub habitat in the Grand Canyon. She worked for the State of Utah as a native aquatic biologist for 3 years and also worked as geomorphologist and fish biologist in for Bio-West Inc. Yvette has been with US Fish and Wildlife Service since 1999 as an endangered species biologist and later as senior fish biologist working on sensitive, threatened and endangered fish listing, recovery, consultation and conservation. Between 2004-2009, Yvette Converse was the Assistant Director at the Bozeman Fish Technology Center. During her career, she helped develop and lead fish recovery programs for cutthroat trout, Virgin River fishes, June sucker and pallid sturgeon.

### **Molly Cross**

Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator

Wildlife Conservation Society

[mcross@wcs.org](mailto:mcross@wcs.org)

Molly is the Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator for the North America Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Her work focuses on bringing together experts in the fields of climate change, ecology, conservation-planning and land management to translate broad-brush climate change adaptation strategies into on-the-ground conservation actions. Molly is leading climate change planning efforts involving government agencies and diverse stakeholders at several landscapes across North America, focused on a range of targets from individual species to more complex ecosystems. She has been researching, writing reports, and coordinating outreach with stakeholder groups on the potential ecological and socioeconomic impacts of climate change in North America for over a decade. Molly got her Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied ecosystem responses to climate warming and plant diversity loss in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

**Mike Durglo**

Division Manager  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
[Miked@cskt.org](mailto:Miked@cskt.org)

**Pam Fletcher**

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
U.S. Forest Service  
[pamfletcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:pamfletcher@fs.fed.us)

**Robert Gresswell**

Research Biologist  
Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey  
[bgresswell@usgs.gov](mailto:bgresswell@usgs.gov)

Bob Gresswell has been studying habitat relationships and life-history organization of cutthroat trout for more than 39 years. He is currently a research biologist with the US Geological Survey, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman, Montana, and he serves as an affiliate assistant professor in the Department of Ecology at Montana State University. Bob's interest in the role of disturbance in shaping the aquatic systems has led to research concerning the effects of fire, timber harvest, invasive species, and climate change.

**Lara Hansen**

Chief Scientist and Executive Director  
EcoAdapt  
[lara@ecoadapt.org](mailto:lara@ecoadapt.org)

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. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the chief climate change scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, creating their international Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, from 2001-2008, and a Research Ecologist with the Environmental Protection Agency from 1998-2001. 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.

**Matt Heller**

Information System Administrator  
Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative  
[matthew\\_heller@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_heller@fws.gov)

**Daniel Isaak**

Boise Aquatic Sciences Lab  
U.S. Forest Service  
[disaak@fs.fed.us](mailto:disaak@fs.fed.us)

Dan Isaak is a Research Fisheries Scientist with the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Boise Aquatic Sciences Laboratory in Idaho. He holds a B.S. degree from South Dakota State

University, a M.S. degree from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming. His research focuses on understanding the effects of climate change and natural disturbance on stream habitats and fish populations, monitoring and modeling of stream temperature and fish populations, development and application of spatial statistical models for stream networks, and use of digital and social media to connect people, information, and landscapes.

**Kevin Kappenman**

Fish Ecologist

Fish Tech Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[Kevin\\_Kappenman@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_Kappenman@fws.gov)

**Virginia Kelly**

Executive Coordinator

Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

[vkelly@fs.fed.us](mailto:vkelly@fs.fed.us)

Virginia Kelly is staff to the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, a four-agency federal land management cooperative encompassing 15 million acres of public land. Key duties include supporting interagency coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area and advancing the agencies ecosystem priorities, which includes climate change adaptation. Virginia came to the GYCC in 2007, after 15 years as the Planning Team Leader for the US Forest Service at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area where she was involved in all-lands regional planning (federal, state, county and private lands), landscape restoration, new recreation sites, and land acquisition prioritization. A native of Polson, Montana, Virginia obtained her BA in Biology from Oberlin College and a Masters in Landscape Architecture / Environmental Planning from U.C. Berkeley.

**Todd Koel**

Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Program Leader

National Park Service-Yellowstone National Park

[todd\\_koel@nps.gov](mailto:todd_koel@nps.gov)

**Stephen Legault**

Coordinator

Crown of the Continent Conservation Initiative

[stephen@crowncconservation.net](mailto:stephen@crowncconservation.net)

With more than twenty years of conservation experience, Stephen is working with non-profit and community partners in the Crown of the Continent to help complete an ambitious conservation agenda for the region, helping secure a critical climate change refuge. In the past Stephen was the founder and Executive Director of Wildcanada.net, Vice-President of the Alberta Wilderness Association and a board member of Conservation Voters of BC. Stephen's conservation achievements include helping to pass Canada's first Species at Risk Act and its new National Parks Act, as well as working on dozens of protected areas campaigns, including the creation of new park lands in Alberta's Kananaskis Country, Bow Valley and southern foothills.

**Kristin Legg**

Program Manager

National Park Service-Greater Yellowstone Inventory & Monitoring Network

[Kristin\\_Legg@nps.gov](mailto:Kristin_Legg@nps.gov)

**Rebecca Lloyd**

U.S. Director of Conservation, Science and Action

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

[rebeccay2y@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccay2y@gmail.com)

Rebecca is an ecohydrologist completing her doctorate at the University Montana. Rebecca is researching the science of ecosystem restoration, investigating whether large-scale watershed restoration restores ecosystem function and resilience. She has over 10 years of experience designing and implementing large-scale watershed restoration focused on salmon recovery in northern Idaho with the Nez Perce Tribe and USFS. She is expanding Yellowstone to Yukon's Conservation Initiative's capacity to develop on the ground projects.

**Darren Long**

Climate Adaptation Fund Program Coordinator

Wildlife Conservation Society

[dlong@wcs.org](mailto:dlong@wcs.org)

As program officer with the Wildlife Conservation Society, Darren is responsible for all management, administration and grantmaking activities of the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund, which will make \$4 million in grants available to organizations working to implement applied climate adaptation projects for wildlife over the next two years. Darren spent four years at WCS directing giving and strategy for the Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund, that awarded more than \$7.5 million in support for nonprofit conservation organizations working to implement priorities of strategic habitat conservation plans in all 50 states and six U.S. territories. Both programs have been made possible by the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. He received a master's degree in Political Science at Montana State University, is a graduate of The George Washington University and studied history and environmental policy at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

**Bart Melton**

Senior Manager, Landscape Conservation

National Parks Conservation Association

[bmelton@npca.org](mailto:bmelton@npca.org)

**Derek Milner**

Soil Scientist

Flathead National Forest

[dmilner@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmilner@fs.fed.us)

**Regan Nelson**

PhD Student

Montana State University

[nelsonregan@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonregan@gmail.com)

Regan Nelson is currently a PhD student in the Landscape Biodiversity Lab at Montana State University. She is studying the ways in which institutions operationalize climate change adaptation across large landscapes. Prior to her current work at MSU, Regan spent over a decade working with various conservation NGOs, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, The Aspen Institute and Conservation Northwest. She has a Masters of Science in forestry and conservation planning from the University of Washington, and a BA in environmental policy from UC-Santa Cruz.

**Tom Olliff**

Co-Coordinator

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

[Tom\\_Olliff@nps.gov](mailto:Tom_Olliff@nps.gov)

As co-coordinator for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, an area extending across 260 million acres, Tom Olliff is taking a broad view of land management and conservation, increasing dialogue across an international landscape, including federal, state, tribal, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Canadian organization, to inform management of land, water, fish, wildlife, and cultural heritage resources in response to climate change and other landscape-level stressors. Tom previously lived and worked in Yellowstone National Park for 32 years, where he served as a backcountry ranger, wildland firefighter, wilderness coordinator, district resource manager, park resource operations coordinator, and finally as the chief of the resources. At Yellowstone, he managed grizzly bear and bald eagle recovery, wolf restoration, northern range elk management, bison management, and native fisheries programs, as well as the park's historic structures and archeological programs. Tom has a M.S. in resource conservation from the University of Montana; B.S. in forest management from Auburn University.

**Scott Opitz**

Fisheries Biologist

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

[sopitz@mt.gov](mailto:sopitz@mt.gov)

**Megan Parker**

Co-Founder and Director of Research

Working Dogs for Conservation

[megan@workingdogsforconservation.org](mailto:megan@workingdogsforconservation.org)

Megan grew up in Montana, where she was inspired to a career in conservation. She received her B.A. from Middlebury College in Vermont and her M.S. from Boise State University in raptor ecology and her PhD from University of Montana in Wildlife Biology on the scent marking behavior and territoriality of African wild dogs in Botswana. She has worked in many states in the U.S., Canada, Central America, Asia and Africa. She helped develop the methods for detection dogs in conservation beginning in 1996 while working with wolves in Idaho. Megan has been involved in dog training since childhood in obedience and search and rescue disciplines. She is interested in the international application of working dogs in conservation to help developing countries and under funded projects acquire excellent data, reduce costs and conserve endangered species.

**Gregory Pederson**

Ecologist

Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey

[gpederson@usgs.gov](mailto:gpederson@usgs.gov)

Greg's research is focused primarily on climate variability and its role in driving biological and physical components of mountainous ecosystems of western North America. In addressing these issues he uses instrumental and tree-ring-based records of climate to assess the time intervals and spatial scales over which these processes operate. Of particular interest is the influence of interdecadal climate regimes, long-term temperature trends, and ocean-atmosphere teleconnections in driving observed changes in mountain snowpack, streamflow, glaciers, and forest disturbance events. Recent studies have addressed the susceptibility of natural resources within national parks and protected areas to climate variability and change, and sought to apply both the modern and paleoclimatic records to present day resource management problems.

**Mike Philbin**

Hydrologist and Riparian Program Lead

Bureau of Land Management

[mphilbin@blm.gov](mailto:mphilbin@blm.gov)

Mike is a hydrologist whose primary focus is on water quality, fluvial geomorphology, riparian management, and watershed restoration. He's been with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s Montana/Dakotas State Office for the past eight years and is currently the Supervisory Physical Scientist in the Branch of Planning and Biological Resources. In this capacity he manages the Bureau's Soil, Water, Air, Climate, Riparian, AML, HAZMAT, Fire Rehabilitation, and GIS programs. Prior to his time with the BLM, Mike spent fourteen years with the Forest Service managing hydrology and fisheries programs in both Idaho and Washington states. Mike obtained degrees in Business Economics (SUNY – Oneonta), Geography: Watershed Emphasis (University of Montana), and Forestry: Watershed Emphasis (University of Idaho). He began working on cooperative watershed planning back in 1993 focusing on the Potlatch River watershed in North Idaho.

**Ray Rasker**

Executive Director

Headwaters Economics

[ray@headwaterseconomics.org](mailto:ray@headwaterseconomics.org)

Ray has written widely on rural development and the role of environmental quality in economic prosperity, and is well known in policy circles in the U.S. and Canada. He has a Ph.D. from the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, M.A. from Colorado State University, and B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Washington.

**Melly Reuling**

Center for Large Landscape Conservation

[mreuling@africanenvironments.com](mailto:mreuling@africanenvironments.com)

Melly Reuling has worked on a wide variety of conservation projects in both East Africa and the Northern Rockies. Her work in conservation started in Tanzania and Kenya where she conducted a research project on elephant migration routes around Lake Manyara National Park. Her research led to the initiation of community conservation projects around national parks to find solutions to the

elephant-human conflict. After living in East Africa for more than 20 years she relocated to Bozeman, Montana with her family. In Montana she has worked on white bark pine and climate change issues, as well as wildlife corridor and migration projects. Melly is currently working to promote coexistence between ranchers and carnivores in the Northern Rockies. She comes from a ranching and farming family and combines an understanding of the landscape with a love of wildlife.

**Mary Riddle**

Environmental Protection and Compliance Specialist  
Glacier National Park  
[mary\\_riddle@nps.gov](mailto:mary_riddle@nps.gov)

**Allan Rollo**

Coordinator  
Teton and Sun River Watershed Groups  
[arollo7@msn.com](mailto:arollo7@msn.com)

Allan leads the Sun River Watershed Group, a consensus driven, multi-stakeholder entity that strives to promote community based efforts that will preserve our quality of life and livelihoods while promoting and enhancing the natural resources of our watershed.

**Erika Rowland**

Climate Change Ecologist  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
[erowland@wcs.org](mailto:erowland@wcs.org)

Erika Rowland is part of the WCS North America Climate Change Adaptation team, where she facilitates climate change planning, conducts climate change vulnerabilities assessments, provides technical support on climate change to WCS staff and partners, and is the lead author of a guide to scenario planning as a tool for climate change adaptation. Erika has also been engaged in research focused on vegetation dynamics and their interaction with changing climate for several years. Past projects include work in Alaska and the Northeastern US, examining population and disturbance dynamics in forest ecosystems during recent centuries, as well as in longer-term paleoecological contexts. Before coming to WCS she worked at the University of Arizona applying multi-disciplinary approaches to address the climate change challenges facing natural resource managers in several regions in the Western US. Erika earned a PhD in Forest Resources from the University of Maine and a MS in Botany (ecology and Quaternary science) from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

**Erin Sexton**

Research Scientist  
University of Montana-Flathead Lake Biological Station  
[erin.sexton@umontana.edu](mailto:erin.sexton@umontana.edu)

Erin came to the Flathead Lake Biological Station in early 2007 to continue her research on the Transboundary (North Fork) of the Flathead River, within in the context of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The Transboundary Flathead River is an internationally renowned watershed shared by British Columbia and Montana. Erin began her work on the Transboundary Flathead in 2000 as a master's student at the University of Montana, focused on the terrestrial and aquatic impacts of coalbed methane development in the British Columbia portion of the Flathead River. Erin continues

her research on the Flathead River, and is working with the Great Northern LCC to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between British Columbia and Montana on the Flathead River, starting with a climate vulnerability assessment for aquatic species. In addition to conducting and coordinating research in the B.C. Flathead River, Erin serves on the Crown Manager's Partnership Steering Committee, and is coordinating their efforts towards multi-jurisdictional data synthesis, landscape-scale change analysis, and transboundary management of aquatic invasive species.

### **Brad Shepard**

Senior Aquatics Scientist  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
[bshepard@wcs.org](mailto:bshepard@wcs.org)

Brad leads research efforts collecting broad-scale and long-term information on effects of habitat fragmentation, climate change, and oil and gas development on native aquatic species in the Yellowstone area. He serves on the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's Peer Review Advisory Team and is helping WCS develop a freshwater aquatic conservation program. He received his B.Sci. and Ph.D. degrees in Fish and Wildlife from Montana State University and a M. Sci. degree in Fish Resources from the University of Idaho. Brad worked for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for 30 years conducting applied research, surveying and monitoring aquatic species, and developing and implementing conservation programs throughout Montana. These programs focused on conservation of native cutthroat trout, bull trout, and arctic grayling. Brad worked with the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit and Ecology Department at Montana State University in Bozeman since 1993 and remains affiliated with them. He also worked as a private fisheries consultant for 10 years. Brad has authored or co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed scientific and popular articles related to fish conservation and management.

### **Carole Stark**

Executive Director  
Water Matters  
[carole@water-matters.org](mailto:carole@water-matters.org)

Carole is the Executive Director of Water Matters, a Canadian charitable organization that works to improve watershed protection by informing progressive policy and supporting stewardship action on key water issues. Carole's career has spanned working with the Alberta Forest Service, the Banff Centre for Continuing Education environmental programs, educational consulting, and non-profit leadership in community-based conservation. She specializes in designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder, public engagement and community dialogue processes. In her past work with the Chinook Institute for Community Stewardship, Carole facilitated community and land use planning initiatives in rural Alberta and British Columbia communities, that engaged local people in protecting the natural and cultural values of place.

### **Gary Tabor**

Executive Director  
Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
[wildcatalyst@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatalyst@gmail.com)

Gary Tabor, BSC Cornell, VMD U Penn, MES Yale, is a conservation catalyst. He has championed large landscape conservation efforts throughout the world, notably the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y). His efforts have increased the conservation capacity of the Wildlife Conservation

Society, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Trust and numerous other conservation organizations. More recently, Gary established and directed the Wilburforce Foundation's Yellowstone to Yukon field office in Montana and in 1999 designed one of the first conservation science grant making programs in western North America. His conservation background includes eight years of international conservation work in East Africa and South America. Trained as a wildlife veterinarian and an ecologist, Gary also co-founded the Consortium for Conservation Medicine, an ecological health collaborative linking ecology, epidemiology, human and veterinary medicine, and public health. During his career, Gary has served as an adviser to six major private foundations and several bilateral and multilateral donor agencies in the area of biodiversity and wildland philanthropy. Gary recently completed his 6-year term on the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology.

### **Keith Tatsey**

Chairman Natural Resources Department and USDA Equity Project Director  
Blackfeet Community College

[keith\\_tatsey@bfcc.org](mailto:keith_tatsey@bfcc.org)

Keith Tatsey is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe and resides on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Since 2001, Mr. Tatsey has been employed at Blackfeet Community College (BCC) for 12 years now as a Natural Resource Management Instructor and Co-Department Chair. Keith also is the Director of USDA grants at BCC. Mr. Tatsey's previous employment includes foreman of the Tatsey Family Ranch for fifteen years and technician for the USDA Cattle Grub Pilot Research Project for four years. Tatsey worked in the Public Schools for 7 years on the Reservation. Mr. Tatsey has received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Great Falls, Great Falls, MT with Montana Teaching Certification; an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Blackfeet Community College, Browning, MT; and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Blackfeet Community College. He is currently in a Graduate Program at the University of Montana, studying Interdisciplinary Studies. Mr. Tatsey was raised by his grandfathers, who were fluent speakers of Blackfeet language and this has contributed to his understanding of the Blackfeet purpose of life. Mr. Tatsey annually visited the Badger-Two Medicine area within the Rocky Mountains since childhood and has played an active part in preserving the rights of the Blackfeet people in this area. Mr. Tatsey serves as the Chairperson for the Badger-Two Medicine Management Committee for the Blackfeet Tribe.

### **Amy Verbeten**

Executive Director  
Friends of the Teton River

[amy@tetonwater.org](mailto:amy@tetonwater.org)

Amy Verbeten has worked for Friends of the Teton River since 2007, serving as its Education Program Director until her appointment as Executive Director in 2012. She is credited with instituting the organization's popular Water Wise Community Education Series, facilitating numerous decision-making groups made up of diverse stakeholders, and is currently heading a county-wide drinking water protection effort. Prior to her service at FTR, Verbeten worked as the Youth Programs Director for the Gore Range Natural Science School in Avon, Colorado, and as an instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. Hailing originally from Walla Walla, Washington, Verbeten holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and a Master's degree from Prescott College. She began developing her understanding of western water

issues at an early age, learning some of her most important lessons while moving irrigation pipe on the strawberry farm where she worked for 8 years, and while accompanying her father on fly fishing adventures throughout the intermountain west.

**Constanza von der Pahlen**

Critical Lands Program Director

Flathead Lakers

[constanza@flatheadlakers.org](mailto:constanza@flatheadlakers.org)

Constanza has been the Flathead Lakers Critical Lands Program Director since 2000. She has a BA from Wheaton College and MES from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Her work has focused on identifying critical lands for conservation in the Flathead Watershed, building partnerships and encouraging coordination, working with the Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners to identify conservation priorities, plan and implement conservation and restoration projects, and conduct outreach to landowners and other stakeholders to advance conservation of critical lands, including floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, and adjacent uplands. Previously worked for Winrock International, in Brazil on community development and resource protection, and The Nature Conservancy in western Massachusetts identifying critical areas.

**Greg Watson**

Chief, Office of Landscape Conservation

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region

[Greg.Watson@fws.gov](mailto:Greg.Watson@fws.gov)

**Molly Webb**

Fisheries biologist

USFWS-Bozeman Fish Technology Center

[molly\\_webb@fws.gov](mailto:molly_webb@fws.gov)

**Michael Whitfield**

Coordinator

Heart of the Rockies

[michael@heart-of-rockies.org](mailto:michael@heart-of-rockies.org)

Michael B. Whitfield, a long-time leader in the conservation field, is the Coordinator for the Heart of the Rockies Initiative. Michael served on the national Land Trust Accreditation commission with the Land Trust Alliance. He was the founding board president and long-term executive director of Idaho's Teton Regional Land Trust. He's also a conservation biologist and research associate for the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, through which he investigates the ecological needs of sensitive wildlife species, like the bald eagle and bighorn sheep, and partners with management agencies to conserve their habitats. He is a recipient of the Craighead Conservation Award.

**Lea Whitford**

Maistakii—Crow Woman  
Blackfeet Studies Chair/Instructor  
Blackfeet Community College  
[lea@bfcc.edu](mailto:lea@bfcc.edu)

Ms. Whitford is the chair of the Blackfeet Studies Department at Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana, where she teaches humanities, history and Blackfeet women. Ms. Whitford has authored articles and other materials to help promote Indian Education for All.

**Cathy Whitlock**

Director  
Institute on Ecosystems  
[whitlock@montana.edu](mailto:whitlock@montana.edu)

Cathy Whitlock is the MSU Director of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems and Professor of Earth Sciences. She is nationally and internationally recognized for her scholarly contributions and leadership activities in the field of past climatic and environmental change, and she has published over 140 reviewed journal articles and book chapters on this topic. Her current research sites extend from Yellowstone and the western U.S. to New Zealand, Tasmania, and Patagonia. Since her arrival at MSU in 2004, Cathy has built a successful research and teaching program, and the MSU Paleoecology Lab supports post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduates and visiting scientists from around the world. Her research has been funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, Joint Fire Sciences Program, National Park Service, Department of Energy, USDA Forest Service, and US Geological Survey. She is past President of the American Quaternary Association and serves on national and international advisory committees concerned with climate change.

**Michael Young**

Fisheries Biologist  
USFS-Rocky Mountain Research Station  
[mkyoung@fs.fed.us](mailto:mkyoung@fs.fed.us)

Mike's research focuses on aquatic ecology, fisheries, and watershed processes. Specific areas of interest include: 1) conservation biology of cutthroat trout, 2) defining units of conservation—ESUs, DPSs, stocks, or lineages—in aquatic species, 3) monitoring of stream fish populations, 4) dynamics of fish-stream-forest interactions, particularly the short- and long-term roles of fire, and 5) theory and application of eDNA for aquatic species monitoring. A recent overall emphasis is to use the geological history of rivers and evolutionary history of fishes, amphibians, mussels, and crayfish to inform conservation in the western U.S. in response to climate change and anthropogenic factors.