

#### SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

GEORGIA BASSO

National Recreation Special Uses Program Manager
Forest Service
Washington, DC

Georgia Basso serves as the Forest Service's National Recreation Special Uses Program Manager. In this role she provides support to National Forests and Regional Recreation Program Managers across the country as well as coordination on permitting policy. Prior this role she worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency in a variety of roles including Performance Manager for the National Wildlife Refuge System, Acting Deputy Chief of Migratory Bird Management, Acting Assistant Regional Director for the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program in the Mountain-Prairie Region and Regional Program Manager for the National Estuary Program in the Northeast Region. Prior to moving to the public sector, Georgia worked as a corporate sustainability consultant for multinational companies, helping them develop sustainability strategies around product design and business operations. She has a background in environmental science, business and art.

DANTÉ BELLINO Safety & Risk Professional InterWest Insurance Services, LLC

Danté is a Safety & Risk Professional for InterWest Insurance Services, LLC. He provides clients with a hands-on approach to employee safety, prevention, and risk management. He has developed a successful process approach leading to a sustainable safety program. He is well versed in Federal OSHA and other specific state OSHA plan requirements such as Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, to name a few; other compliance agencies and regulations such as EPA, EEOC, Fair Employment and Housing, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), etc. His approach to safety is one through the use of industry best practices and working with each employer to find unique opportunities to enhance employee engagement in the safety process. He is dedicated to assisting employers to sustain essential safety programs by working in partnership with each employer and development of an effective implementation process for each.

His background is diverse, however, over the last fifteen years he has specialized in the outdoor recreation arena. This industry holds unique hazards that require a specialized approach and knowledge. He has worked with lodging, marinas and campgrounds in the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, State Agencies and Public Utility Companies. He has experience with the public-private partnership contract agreements relative to safety of the property and for guests, visitors, vendors and employees.

NFRA Conference 2021



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JASON BRANDT
Branch Chief for the Equipment & Services Branch
Incident Procurement Operations Dictorate of the Procurement, Property and Services Group
Forest Service
Boise, Idaho

Jason Brandt – Currently the Branch Chief for the Equipment & Services Branch in the Incident Procurement Operations Directorate of the Procurement, Property, and Services group. Jason has been in acquisition/procurement field with the Forest Service for over 10 years and prior to his current position he was the Branch Chief for the Fire and Aviation Business Branch, Acquisition Management; Acquisition Director, Rocky Mountain research Station; and has worked extensively as an operational contracting officer with a primary focus on incident support contracting.

DERRICK CRANDALL
Counselor
National Park Hospitality Association
CEO
Outdoor Solutions USA

CS Derrick is Counselor to the National Park Hospitality Association and CEO of Outdoor Solutions USA. He recently retired from the American Recreation Coalition/Outdoor Recreation Roundtable after 37 years as its President. He Co-Chairs the Coalition for Recreational Trails and was Vice Chair of Interior's Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. He received Presidential appointments to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (1985 to 1987) and the President's Commission on Environmental Quality (1991 to 1993). He served on key Brand USA and Western Governors Association advisory panels and was Chairman of the Take Pride in America Advisory Board, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. He was a Founding Director of the National Forest Foundation, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. He was appointed to Interior's Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee in 2017 and elected its Vice Chair. Among the dozens of publicpolicy efforts in which he has played a central role are Great Outdoor Month, the National Scenic Byways Program, Recreation Fee Demonstration Program and its successor Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Recreational Trails Program, Wallop-Breaux Program, unification of federal campground reservations, the NPS Centennial and the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission. He has received numerous national awards, including Chevron's Conservation Award, induction into the RV Hall of Fame, a Centennial Award from the Forest Service, and Interior's Spirit of Take Pride Award. USA Today references him as "the outdoor guru." Mr. Crandall attained Certified Association Executive and Fellow designations from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and served on its board for seven years, including two terms as Vice Chairman. He now enjoys connecting his five grandkids, ages 10 to 4, with the Great Outdoors.

LINDSEY DAVIS
Vice President
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Salt Lake City, Utah

Lindsey is the Vice President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations and businesses. She serves on the board of directors for the <a href="Outdoor Alliance">Outdoor Alliance</a>, is a founding board member of the <a href="Utah Wildlife Federation">Utah Wildlife Federation</a>, and a member of the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation's Advisory Committee.



### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **RICK DELAPPE**

<u>Program Manager – Recreation One Stop/Recreation.gov (National Park Service)</u>
National Park Service
Denver, Colorado

Rick oversees all operations for the interagency Recreation One Stop program. From day to day operations and financial management to strategic planning, acquisition, and contract management, Rick provides management coordination for this national platform which includes the Recreation.gov website and Recreation Information Database.

Rick grew up in California and graduated from Humboldt State University in 1986 with a degree in Botany. He began working for the National Park Service in 1989 as a fee collector in Rocky Mountain National Park. Passionate about the great outdoors, Rick has worked as a ranger across the county in Rocky Mountain, Haleakala, Jean Lafitte, Yellowstone and Zion National Parks. Rick began working with the Recreation One Stop program in 2003 and now resides in Denver, CO.

# BARRY DUTTON L.W. Bristol Classics Bristol, Tennessee

LW Bristol is a family owned and operated company that offers a variety of custom products including lapel pins, baseball trading pins, hiking/walking staff medallions, (USGS bench mark reproductions), magnets, key chains, zipper pulls, dog collar tags, patches (perfect for Junior Ranger programs) and several other custom items.

ALMA FINNELL
Auditor, Resource Audit & Assurance
Albuquerque Service Center
Forest Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Alma Finnell currently serves as an Auditor for the Resource Audit Branch (RAB), Audit & Assurance, Office of the Chief Financial Officer based out of the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC), Albuquerque, New Mexico. She joined the Resource Audit Branch in 2011. Alma conducts Special Use Fee reviews, Financial Ability Determination reviews, Negotiated Indirect Costs Rate reviews, and Job Center reviews. Alma also conducts special project audits.



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

KEVIN R. GARDEN
Managing Director
The Garden Law Firm, P.C.
Alexandria, Virginia

Kevin Garden is the Managing Director of The Garden Law Firm, P.C., which has its offices in Alexandria, VA. Kevin has been working with Forest Service permittees for thirty years regarding all aspects of their permits. He has a background in government contracts law, environmental law and administrative procedure, which brings together the three key facets of law related to Forest Service permit activities.

Kevin represents clients nationwide in proceedings before the Forest Service, including appeals and litigation of adverse decisions concerning their permits. In addition to his work with Forest Service permittees, Kevin is counsel to the National Forest Recreation Association, the Back Country Horsemen of America, the National Forest Homeowners, the National Park Hospitality Association and actively involved in the cause of ensuring adequate access for all user groups in the National Forests.

Kevin received his JD from The American University in 1989 where he was a member of the Law Review, and his BA from the University of Notre Dame in 1986.

## JARED HAGUE Attorney Sutton Hague Law Corporation

Jared Hague is an attorney of Sutton Hague Law Corporation (<a href="www.suttonhague.com">www.suttonhague.com</a>), which has offices in both Nevada and California. He has been practicing law for over 14 years and is licensed in both states. Jared represents employers with dozens to thousands of employees in state and federal court in matters ranging from complex wage and hour class action litigation to single employee wrongful termination cases. Together with Brett Sutton he conducts bi-monthly webinars on employment law topics for employers as well as podcasts available on ITunes as CalNevaLaw Podcasts. Jared also serves on the board of Southern Nevada Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and the Clark County Bar Association Community Service Committee and has testified before the Nevada Legislature on matters related to wage and hour legislation. He is fluent in Spanish and actively participates in his community through religious and civic organizations. Jared graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 2007.



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WILL HEALY Vice President Booz Allen Hamilton Denver, Colorado

Will Healy is Booz Allen's Program Manager for Recreation.gov. He has been with Booz Allen since 2001 and has served as a program manager for a variety of Federal clients in a variety of mission areas. An engineer by schooling, Will also has a PMP and Scrum Master certification. Will has been working on Booz Allen's vision for Recreation.gov since 2012 and works directly with Government program leaders to implement the new system.

Will is a recent transplant to Denver after 10 years in Kansas City, 20 in DC, and a childhood in New York. He spends his free time playing in the outdoors with his wife and two teenage daughters.

BEN JOHNSON

National Recreation Special Uses Program Lead

Forest Service

Washington, DC

Since 2017 Ben Johnson has served as a program manager for the Forest Service's national recreation special uses program. In this role he provides oversight and coordination to recreation permitting and concession policy and provides support to National Forests around the country. Prior Forest Service roles include Acting National Assistant Director of Recreation, Organization Development Specialist and Strategic Recreation Planner with the Forest Service's Enterprise Program and completion of the Presidential Management Fellowship on the Coronado National Forest and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. Before joining the Forest Service Ben worked as a professional climbing/backcountry guide in North Carolina, Texas, Minnesota and Utah and spent time with Peace Corps' Office of Program and Training Support in Washington, DC. Ben received a Master of Science in Environmental Justice and Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Spanish Language and Composition from Southwestern University. Ben currently lives in Bellingham, Washington.

RANDY MOORE
Pacific Southwest Regional Forester
Forest Service, Region 5
Vallejo, California

Randy Moore became Pacific Southwest Regional Forester in October 2007, giving him overall responsibility for 18 National Forests in California, covering one-fifth of the state or 20 million acres of land, as well as responsibility for State & Private Forestry programs in Hawaii and the affiliated Pacific Islands. He was previously the Regional Forester for the Eastern Region headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a position he took in 2002. Moore has held positions at all levels of the organization. He also served as a Legislative Fellow working with former U.S. Senator Johnston (D-LA).



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

WARREN MEYER
President
RRM - CLM Services
Phoenix, Arizona

Warren Meyer is President of RRM – CLM Services, (a newly formed company joining Recreation Resource Management and California Land Management). The company is a private operator of public parks, campgrounds, and recreation facilities in 14 states. He is currently President of the National Forest Recreation Association, and a board member of the California Parks Hospitality Association.

Prior to RRM, Warren held a series of senior marketing and planning roles at AlliedSignal, Honeywell, and Emerson Electric. He also ran several Internet companies during the late 1990's Internet boom.

Warren has an MBA from the Harvard Business School and a mechanical engineering degree from Princeton University. In his spare time he is a writer and has a weekly column at Forbes.com as well as three different blogs, including Coyotebog.com. He is a frequent speaker on public-private partnerships in public recreation as well as on climate change topics. He has written a novel called "BMOC" and has a second book in the works.

#### **JENNIFER ROESER**

Owner

McGee Creek Pack Station and Roeser Livestock Company

Independence, California

Jennifer has spent her entire life in the equine industry, and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation owner of McGee Creek Pack Station. She was recently elected to be Inyo County's 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, and began her new duties on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. She has served on numerous tourism committees on the East Side of the Sierra, as well as serving on the Mule Days Board of Directors for many years. She helped coordinate the '100 Mule Walk' taking 100 mules from the Owens Valley to Los Angeles to highlight the important role mules played in the construction of the aqueduct to transfer water to LA. She and her husband have also participated in providing wagons for Forest Service, BLM and other dignitaries to ride in the Rose Parade, including taking Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen in the 2019 parade. Jennifer has served on the NFRA Board for many years, including a term as President. She is currently NFRA's Vice President for Government Affairs.



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

MICHELLE SALAZ
Audit Team Lead, Resource Audit & Assurance
Albuquerque Service Center
Forest Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Michelle Salaz currently serves as a Team Lead for the Resource Audit Branch (RAB), Audit & Assurance, Office of the Chief Financial Officer based out of the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC), Albuquerque, NM. She was born in Los Angeles, CA and raised in Albuquerque, NM and attended the College of Santa Fe, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration with an Accounting concentration. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Michelle started her career as an Auditor with the Department of Interior, Office Inspector General. She also has non-federal experience in the areas of budget, internal audit, accounting controls, regulatory compliance, reviewing/analyzing financial information, cost accounting and International accounting/finance. She joined the Resource Audit Branch in 2018 as an Audit Team Lead. As an Audit Team Lead, Michelle assists in leading and managing the branch's program of work which includes Special Use Fee reviews, Financial Ability Determinations and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates.

GRIFFIN (GRIFF) SCHIREMAN
Forest Service Agency Program Manager
Recreation One-Stop
Recreation.gov (US Forest Service)
Lakewood, Colorado

Griff Schireman is a national program manager for Recreation One Stop in the U.S. Forest Service. He started with the team in October of 2020 and enjoys the challenge the job brings on a daily basis. Griff started his career with the Forest Service in college by working as a Range and Recreation Technician on the Wallowa-Whitman and Willamette National Forests. After graduating college in 2014 from Oregon State University (GO BEAVS!) with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management, he transitioned to a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Park Ranger. He later worked for the Bureau of Reclamation overseeing recreation and since has come full circle back to the Forest Service, where it all began.

In his spare time, Griff enjoys long walks on the beach, pretty sunsets, and pretty flowers. No. Really, he enjoys attempting to play the game of golf, snow skiing, fishing, and cold beer.



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

BRETT SUTTON
Partner
Sutton Hague Law Corporation

Brett Sutton is an attorney and managing partner of Sutton Hague Law Corporation (<a href="www.suttonhague.com">www.suttonhague.com</a>), which has offices in both Nevada and California. He has over thirty years of legal practice experience and is licensed to practice law in both states. He has trained thousands in all aspects of employment law. His firm conducts bi-monthly webinars on employment law topics for employers as well as podcasts available on ITunes as CalNevaLaw Podcasts. In 2016, he was inducted as a Fellow of the prestigious national College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and has the highest possible rating as a practicing attorney from Martindale-Hubbell. He has served for many years as a Contributing Editor of the leading treatise on California Employment Law published by the Rutter Group. He is a Board Director Emeritus of the Nevada Restaurant Association and serves on the Government Affairs Committee. Brett also serves on the Nevada Leadership Council of the National Federation of Independent Business where he provides guidance on policy, regulatory and legislative issues. Brett has testified before the Nevada Legislature including the current session. Brett graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law with honors in 1989, where he was a member of the Law Review and the Moot Court Honors Board.

PATRICK M. TABOR
Swan Group of Companies
Northwest Montana

Pat Tabor recently retired from the Swan Group of Companies, which operates a full spectrum of outfitting and recreation services in Northwest Montana entirely on public land within USFA and Glacier National Park. Prior to forming the Swan Group, Pat was an executive with an International Accounting firm for over 25 years. Currently, Pat consults with companies on strategic planning, performance improvement, buy/sell, leadership development and other specialized areas of consulting focused on the outdoor recreation industry. Pat currently serves as a Commissioner for the Montana Fish & Game. Over his 18-year outfitting career, Pat specialized in advocating for the outdoor recreation industry both in Montana and nationally on public land agency matters. He has BS and MBA degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno.

TRACY J. TOPHOOVEN

<u>Assistant Director, Recreation, Heritage & Volunteer Resources</u>

Forest Service
Washington, DC

Tracy J. Tophooven is the Assistant Director for Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources for the National Office managing a portfolio of programs including special uses, winter sports and ski areas, trails and travel management, dispersed recreation, recreation planning, landscape architecture, travel and tourism, and interpretation. Tracy has 30 years of public service and land management experience working for the USDA Forest Service. Her formal education is wildlife biology and natural resource management, and she began her career as a seasonal park ranger for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She has served in a variety positions of staff and leadership positions across the country at all levels of the agency including Wildlife Biologist, Assistant Forest Planner, Public Affairs Officer, District Ranger, Branch Chief for the Budget Presentations on the Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability staff in the Washington Office, Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, Deputy Forest Supervisor, and most recently, Regional Director of Recreation, Lands & Minerals for the Pacific Northwest Region.



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

GABRIEL URIOSTE
Auditor, Resource Audit & Assurance
Albuquerque Service Center
Forest Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Gabriel Urioste currently serves as an Auditor for the Resource Audit Branch (RAB), Audit & Assurance, Office of the Chief Financial Officer based out of the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC), Albuquerque, NM. He joined the Resource Audit Branch in 2011 as an Auditor. Gabriel has experience with all of RAB's programs of work, including: special audits, graduated rate fee system (GRFS) audits, ski acts audits, GT audits, Job Corp Audits, financial ability determinations and negotiated indirect cost rates (NICRA). As an auditor, Gabriel has worked on numerous audits including audits of the largest ski areas and GT resorts. Gabriel has also led the Job Corps Audit program for several years.

JEFFREY VAIL
Director
Great American Outdoors Team
Forest Service

Use Jeff Vail has been tasked to lead a small team focused on implementing the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), signed into law in August 2020. Jeff has had a 30 year career with the US Dept. of Agriculture, the first 16 as an attorney in the General Counsel's Office at USDA, the last 14 in various positions at forest, region, and headquarters levels, including: Forest Supervisor, Angeles NF, Director of Lands & Minerals, Southern Region, and most recently Deputy Director for Recreation, Heritage, & Volunteer Resources.

SUSAN (SUE) VALENTE
Forest Service - National Program Manager
Recreation One-Stop
Recreation.gov (US Forest Service)

Sue Valente is a national program manager for Recreation One Stop in the US Forest Service. She has been with the Recreation.gov program since July of 2015 and is considered an expert on the national reservation system.

Sue earned her degree in Recreation and Tourism, Parks and Protected Area Management from Colorado State University. She has gone on to study Data Management, Program Management, Public Communication, and Bicycle Repair (what the ?) from several different sources. Her strong background in leadership, data, and recreation makes her the perfect fit for managing the vast world of the USFS Recreation.gov program.

Sue and her husband are excited to get outside and explore all that public lands have to offer in the post-pandemic world!



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

STEVEN WILLIAMS
Executive Vice President
InterWest Insurance Services, LLC

A 1982 Business Administration graduate of CSU, Chico, and Steve immediately began his career in the firm his grandfather founded in 1931 and that his father helped grow. Steve continued in this direction when he helped merge the firm with others to form InterWest Insurance Services in 1992. From his years in the industry, Steve has acquired a solid background in commercial insurance and risk management. He has kept abreast of changes in the industry by obtaining the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and the Certified Risk Manager (CRM) professional designations, both of which enable Steve to not only stay current through annual courses, but also to constantly hone his specialized risk management skills for multiple industries.

Currently, a large number of contractors, parks & recreation concessionaires, manufacturers, distributors, financial institutions, and health care providers depend on Steve to provide them with his knowledge and expertise. In addition, public and private schools as well as public colleges and universities also rely on Steve to represent them. Steve and his team enjoy working with clients to assess their exposures and develop creative risk management solutions for their unique business risks. Keeping the best interest of his clients first and foremost, Steve works in partnership with each client to help them lower their cost of risk and increase profits.

A strong believer in community involvement and philanthropy, Steve has always been active in the business, as well as the larger, community. He is a past president of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association and served on the CNA Pacer Counsel. For over ten years, Steve enjoyed coaching and managing youth baseball in the region. He also served on the Board of Directors for Turtle Bay Exploration Park for six years. Steve currently serves as a board member for the following organizations: Lassen Park Foundation, Turtle Bay Board of Regents, Shasta County Economic Development Corporation, Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce, and the Shasta Builders Exchange. In addition, Steve is an active member of Redding Rotary. A fifth-generation Shasta County resident, Steve is often sought out for his opinion on various business and community issues by clients, community leaders, and colleagues. Steve continues to help guide InterWest in a positive, dynamic direction, serving as a mentor to new brokers in the firm and as a member of the InterWest Board of Directors.

Married for over thirty years, Steve and his wife Nancy have two adult children.



#### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

LESLEY YEN
Inyo National Forest Supervisor
Forest Service
Bishop, California

Originally from Massachusetts, Lesley moved west to start her Forest Service career on the Inyo National Forest in 2010, working in various capacities on all four ranger districts over a four-year period.

Lesley returned to the Inyo in 2020 from the Coconino National Forest in northern Arizona, where she was the Deputy Forest Supervisor. Prior to that, she served as the District Ranger on the Shasta Lake Ranger District and National Recreation Area on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California. She also has experience working on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Klamath National Forest.

Before coming to work for the Forest Service, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Dominica, a tiny island in the Caribbean that's about 1/10th the size of the Inyo. She holds a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and dual master's degrees from Yale University in environmental management and international relations.

Lesley and her husband Eric, a former employee with BLM's Bishop Field Office, met and married in the Eastern Sierra; a place they both consider home. Together, they enjoy any activity that takes them outdoors with their energetic border collie mix, Sage. This includes hiking, backpacking, trail running and mountain biking.