Speaker Bibliographies

Wendy Ross
Wendy, a 23 year veteran of the National Park Service, has been the Superintendent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park since July 2015. She grew up in national parks as the daughter of a park ranger and began her career at Yellowstone National Park. She has a degree in Arctic and Alpine Biology with a double minor in Anthropology and Comparative Religions from Middlebury College in Vermont. She has served as a Resource Management Specialist at Shiloh National Military Park, North Cascades National Park Complex, and Glacier National Park. In 2011, she became the Superintendent of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in Stanton, North Dakota.
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Carmen Waldo
Carmen is a Natural Resources Management Specialist with the Medora Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands in Dickinson, North Dakota. She has held this position since 2007. She is a native of Fryburg, North Dakota and is a veteran of the US Army. Carmen is a graduate of Dickinson State University where she earned a B.S. in Biology.
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Shasta Steinweden
Shasta graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor’s degree in Ecology and Zoology. She has worked for Montana DEQ for ten years with close to five of those years with the Enforcement Division. Her prior experience at DEQ was with the Public Water Supply Section, and the Underground Storage Tank Section. Shasta is also Montana DEQ’s disaster and emergency services coordinator, and is part of the leadership team for DEQ’s emergency response. Some of her current duties with the Enforcement Division include overseeing spill cleanup and closure of spill sites.
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Brenda Schladweiler
Brenda is the president of BKS Environmental Associates, Inc. She holds many certifications related to soils, range, and oil and gas industry and has given presentations at a variety of industry conferences regarding reclamation and has published many reports regarding reclamation and soils in Wyoming. Brenda has instructed a variety of reclamation classes around Wyoming for regulators at the BLM, USFS, WDEQ, and energy personnel in oil and gas and mining. She is also a liaison for the University of Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center, is an adjunct professor at the University of Wyoming and Central Wyoming College, and teaches reclamation classes at Chadron State in Nebraska and Dickinson State in North Dakota. In 2014 Brenda was the recipient of the Wyoming Women of Influence Award in the Energy &amp; Utilities category and in 2015 received the Reclamationist of the Year Award from the American Society of Mining and where she is currently serving as President of that organization. Educational background includes a PhD in Soil Science, University of Wyoming, Laramie, MS in Soil Science University of Wyoming, and Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management (Land Rehabilitation), Colorado State University. She is a certified Professional Soil Scientist in North Dakota.
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Paul Blenkhorn
Paul is a senior partner at Vertex Resource Group where there are approximately 400 consulting professionals in Canada and the US. He is a professional engineer and leads the Environmental Consulting Division. Paul has worked within the Environmental sector for 15 years with diverse experience ranging from environmental assessment and permitting for new developments, through the operations of resource industry assets, ending with the decommissioning and restoration of projects both large and small. As a member of Vertex, Paul’s team has lead projects both in Canada and North Dakota. The Vertex operation focuses equally on the importance and potential project cost implications of environmental systems and services at the development phase that have a positive impact on end of life and restoration projects. Vertex is an industry leader in restoration and reclamation sciences, combining construction knowledge with practical science specializing in difficult native prairie and Boreal Forest environments.
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Peter O'Brien
Peter grew up in Springfield, Illinois before attending Grinnell College in central Iowa, where he received a BA in Religious Studies. For the follow 4 years, he worked with Americorps members in Nevada and California on various conservation projects. He moved to Fargo in 2012 to attend graduate school at NDSU where completed an MS in Natural Resource Management in 2014. Peter is currently pursuing his PhD in Soil Science at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. His research revolves around an active oil spill remediation site in western North Dakota that is utilizing thermal desorption. This research will characterize the effects of thermal desorption on soil properties and determine how useful this technology can be for remediation in agricultural regions.

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Troy Coons
Troy Coons in the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Northwest Landowners Association and has served on the Board of Directors since founding the organization in 2007. He is a graduate of North Dakota State University and hails from Donnybrook, ND. Before founding Northwest Landowners Association, Troy has been involved in a variety of different industries both in North Dakota and California, including leading a fitness facility, catering company, and building his family farm into a registered and certified seed farm. In addition to serving as the CEO of C&C Farms, he also serves on several regional, statewide, and international boards of directors, including Meridian Seeds, State Crop & Seed Association, Mountrail County Ag Improvement Board, Mountrail County Township Association, Loland Township Association, Dakota Select Seeds, High Country Land Association, NDSU Advisory Board, Kenmare Economic Development Board (past), and Ward County Ag Improvement Board (past).

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Derrick Braaten
Derrick moved to North Dakota to work with Sarah Vogel Law Partners, now Baumstark Braaten, in 2007. Prior to entering the legal profession, Derrick worked with the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture for two years, and has been very active working with sustainable agriculture and local food systems advocacy. He began his legal career working for Larry Leventhal, the renowned civil rights and American Indian law attorney, and member of the legal defense team for the founders of AIM following the Wounded Knee II standoff. During this time, he also served as an editor for the Journal of Law and Inequality at the University of Minnesota Law School. In recent years, Derrick has been involved as a volunteer and board member for several organizations in Minnesota and North Dakota working on agricultural issues, ranging from serving as President of the local open-air market in Bismarck called Urban Harvest to serving as a board member for Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society. His current law focus includes oil and gas work on behalf of mineral owners and surface owners. He holds Bar Admissions in North Dakota, Minnesota, United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, Fort Berthold District Court, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Court. His educational background includes a BA in 2002 University of Minnesota, Morris, and JD, Magna Cum Laude, 2007, University of Minnesota Law School,

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David Glatt
David joined the North Dakota Department of Health in 1983 as an environmental engineer. In 1989, he became manager of the Ground Water Protection Program and became assistant director for the Division of Water Quality shortly thereafter. In May 2000, David was named director of the Division of Waste Management and in 2002, he was named section chief of the Environmental Health Section. David earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental engineering from North Dakota State University. He is a member of the North Dakota Board of Water Well Contractors and the National Ground Water Association. Born in Valley City, N.D., David was raised in Milpitas, California.

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Clay Jenkinson
Clay Jenkinson is a North Dakotan, born in Minot, raised in Dickinson, who left to go to college. After 20 years away, he returned to North Dakota in 2005. Clay is an award winning historical performer and the voice of his alter-ego Thomas Jefferson on the weekly NPR program The Thomas Jefferson Hour. He has published half a dozen books, including the award winning edition of the writings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in North Dakota, A Vast and Open Plain. He writes a blog and travels extensively as a historical performer. Clay is the Distinguished Scholar of the Humanities at Bismarck State College; and the principal consultant of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University. He holds degrees in the humanities from the University of Minnesota and Oxford University.

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Field Tour

June 15, 2016

Stop 1: At this site is a reclaimed well pad. This site was reclaimed in 1996. The reclaimed area is readily visible but the site is well vegetated.

Quick Stops:

1. At this site there was a brine spill in October of 2015 that was treated using BioCal. Vegetation is growing fairly well in the spill area.
2. At this site there was an older brine that occurred in September 2008. This stop was also treated using BioCal. As in the previous site, vegetation is growing well.
3. From this stop a slump in the railroad is visible. This slump happened during 2013. The rail line was shut down for quite some time while the slump was repaired.

Stop 2: This site is where a fresh water spill occurred in November 2012 with reclamation beginning in July 2013. This site was reclaimed by partially removing and replacing some of the soil. This site was also treated using BioCal.

Stop 3: This site was reclaimed using newer procedures. The land has been reclaimed as close to original contour as possible. The reclamation plan was from 2006 and seeding was completed in 2007.

Quick Stop: A recent slump

Stop 4: Badlands Ministries Bible Camp was flooded during the spring and summer of 2011. Flood protection has been constructed to prevent future damage to the camp.