



National Forest Recreation Association
72nd Annual Recreation Seminar & Conference
March 8-10, 2022
Online

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

KRISTI BRAY
Public Affairs Specialist
[Recreation One-Stop, USFS](#)
South Lake Tahoe, California

- ☞ Kristi serves as a Public Affairs Specialist for the Recreation One Stop Strategic Communications Team and leads internal communications while supporting a variety of communication needs across the Recreation.gov platform.

Kristi's Forest Service career began as a visitor center information specialist, wilderness ranger, and writer/editor. She has spent most of her 20+ year career with the Forest Service as a Natural Resource Specialist working in recreation, and now in communications and outreach. Previously, she worked in the ski industry in marketing and communications.

Kristi enjoys spending time outdoors – trail running, mountain biking, paddle boarding, and hiking with her dog. Other interests include art (as observer and painter), travel and soaking up the sun on the beautiful beaches of Lake Tahoe where she resides with her family.

DERRICK CRANDALL
President
Outdoor Solutions USA

- ☞ Derrick is the President 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 public-policy 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.



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RICK DELAPPE

[Program Manager – Recreation One Stop/Recreation.gov \(National Park Service\)](#)
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.

CHRIS FRENCH

Deputy Chief – National Forest System
[USDA Forest Service](#)

☞ Chris was appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service January 10 of 2016 as Director of Ecosystem Management of the USDA Forest Service. He began his USDA career in 1991 on the Coronado National Forest in Arizona as volunteer in recreation. From there, he has worked in planning, NEPA, fire, fuels, wildlife, and recreation/wilderness. Since that time, he served in several agency leadership positions. As the Associate Deputy Chief for NFS Chris provided leadership for the National Forest System programs of Water, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants, Forest Management, Range Management and Vegetation Ecology, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC). As the Director of the EMC Staff he oversaw national policy and oversight for the agency's implementation of land management planning, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), administrative reviews, land management litigation, monitoring, and mitigation programs.

As the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System (NFS) Chris is responsible for national policy and oversight of the natural resource programs managing 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands.

Chris is a graduate of Arizona State University, enjoys painting, and is an avid outdoor enthusiast. He serves as a coach and mentor to several of the agency's leadership programs and volunteers with several youth conservation programs. He and his wife Jenny live in Northern Virginia and have three children.



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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 (www.suttonhague.com), 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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JOHN HERNANDEZ
Branch Chief, Resource Audit & Assurance
[Albuquerque Service Center](#)
Forest Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico

☞ John Hernandez currently serves at the Branch Chief 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. Born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, John left home to serve in the US Army for 10 years returning to earn a Master of Business Administration with a Finance concentration.

After having served as a Supervisory Accountant for the Property/WCF Branch at the ASC, John joined the Resource Audit Branch in 2007 as a Supervisory Auditor and has been the branch chief since the fall of 2016. As Branch Chief, John leads and manages 13 GS11/12 Auditors and has overall responsibility for providing external oversight on behalf of the Forest Service.

John enjoys spending time outdoors with friends and family with a special emphasis on golf.

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.



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WARREN MEYER
President
[Vista Recreation](#)
Phoenix, Arizona

☞ Warren Meyer is President of Vista Recreation, (a newly formed company). 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.

SCOTT PITMAN
Executive Risk Management
[InterWest Insurance Services, LLC](#)

☞ Scott Pitman joined InterWest Insurance Services in April 2011 as a Risk Manager. He began his career in the grocery business in 1983. While working for Food-4-Less, he was promoted to Store Director, eventually transferring to the Risk Management department. Scott has held positions as Operations Manager, Risk Manager, and Human Resources & Safety Director.

Scott's extensive industry knowledge includes retail, food service, commercial transportation, construction, and warehousing operations. He possesses an in-depth understanding of OSHA, Cal/OSHA, Food Safety, HACCP, NFPA, Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, and Mining Safety Health Administration (MSHA) requirements.

Scott is a member of InterWest's Innovation & Technology team, which focuses on developing digital efficiency tools for clients. His practical approach to safety aligns with the team's core principle of keeping things simple.

Scott is certified in First Aid and CPR/AED and is an active member of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). He earned a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health with a minor in Fire & Safety Engineering Technology from Eastern Kentucky University, where he graduated with Honors. Scott also holds a Certified Safety Professional designation, which is honored by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

Scott resides in Chico, CA with his wife, Lynn and his Labrador retriever, Scout.



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JENNIFER ROESER

Owner

Roeser Livestock & Equipment Rental

[Inyo County, 4th District Supervisor](#)

Independence, California

☞ Jennifer has spent her entire life in the equine industry. In 2021, she was elected to be Inyo County's 4th District Supervisor, and began her new duties. 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.

BRIAN SEAMANS

Vice President

[InterWest Insurance Services, LLC](#)

☞ Brian Seamans joined InterWest in January of 2004. Prior to joining InterWest, Brian worked as a District Manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Currently, Brian manages commercial business clients with a need for specialized claims and risk management services.

Brian is a graduate of UC Davis with a Business Management major. Brian continues to develop and expand his knowledge by pursuing a professional designation within the insurance industry.

A native of Redding, California, Brian and his wife Robyn recently moved back to Redding with their three year old twin boys, Andrew and Nathan.

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.



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BRETT SUTTON

Partner

[Sutton Hague Law Corporation](#)

☞ Brett Sutton is an attorney and managing partner of Sutton Hague Law Corporation (www.suttonhague.com), 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

Owner

[Swan Mountain Consulting](#)

Whitefish, 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.

JEFFREY VAIL

Director

[Great American Outdoors Team](#)

Forest Service

☞ Jeff Vail has been tasked to lead a 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 Department 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.



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SUSAN (SUE) VALENTE
Forest Service - National Program Manager
Recreation One-Stop
[Recreation.gov \(US Forest Service\)](https://www.recreation.gov)

☞ 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 (!!) 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!

STEVE WERNER
President
[American Land & Leisure](https://www.americanlandandleisure.com)

☞ Steve has been in the recreation business as a Forest Service employee, and as a campground concessionaire for several companies. He is currently the President of American Land & Leisure, a successful company operating on national forests from coast to coast. They also operate recreation facilities at numerous state parks and utility company sites.

Steve graduated from Southern Illinois University, and received his Masters in Recreation Resource Management from Texas A&M. He is a member of the California Parks Hospitality Association, and has served on the NFRA Board of Directors for many years, including a term as President.

STEVEN WILLIAMS
Executive Vice President
[InterWest Insurance Services, LLC](https://www.interwestinsuranceservices.com)

☞ 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.



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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.