



2015 Western Invasive Weed Summit Presenters

Dr. Chad Boyd

**Rangeland Scientist
US Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Boyd works with the Agricultural Research Center in Burns, Oregon. He joined the research group at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in July 1999. His research primarily focuses on improving the ecological underpinnings of perennial grass and sagebrush restoration in the sagebrush steppe.

He received his BS (1991) in Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management from Texas Tech University, his MS (1993) in Rangeland Science from Utah State University, and PhD (1999) in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Oklahoma State University

Alan Clark

**Watershed Program Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources**

Clark spent 23 years with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. He joined the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1996 as the wildlife planning manager. Over the next 16 years he held other positions with UDWR including Wildlife Chief and Assistant Director. In December of 2012, Alan transferred to the Department of Natural Resources as Director of the Watershed Restoration Program and also continued coordinating the development and implementation of the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.

Clark received his bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science at the University of Maine and a Master's in Wildlife Management Degree from Virginia Tech.

Dr. John Freemuth

**Andrus Center Senior Fellow, Environment and Public Lands
Boise State University**

John Freemuth's work gravitates towards puzzling out the relationship between science and public policy as it relates to issues surrounding the public lands. He chaired the Science Advisory Board of the Bureau of Land Management, after being appointed by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and is principal investigator on a grant from the United States Geological Survey working on improving the policy utility of GAP Analysis, Species Modelling and Protected Area data.

Freemuth earned his BA from Pomona College and his Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

Dr. Dean Kelch**Primary State Botanist
California Department of Food & Agriculture**

Dean Kelch is an Assistant Researcher with the University and Jepson Herbaria, where he conducts plant systematic research and teaches Introduction to California Plant Life. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, he received his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan. Moving west, he immediately became enamored of the rich and actively evolving flora of California.

Dr. Kelch received his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Systematic Botany from the University of California, Davis.

Ted Koch**Nevada State Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Koch supervises Nevada's ecological services programs, including offices in both Reno and Las Vegas. He has 23 years of experience with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, including: Bull Trout Coordinator in Boise ID, Assistant Regional Director for Budget and Administration in the Service's Southwest Regional Office; staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; acting Majority Staff Director for the Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate for Idaho's Senator Mike Crapo; and Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, Office of Economic Assistance in Portland, Oregon.

Koch has a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Southern Connecticut State University and an M.S. in Zoology from Idaho State University.

Jeremy Maestas**Sagebrush Ecosystem Specialist
National Resources Conservation Service**

Jeremy works with NRCS staff and partners to put science into practice through strategic habitat conservation delivery in sagebrush ecosystems across the West. Much of his career has focused on sustaining working landscapes in the Great Basin, where contributions have included implementation of large-scale strategic approaches to reducing conifer encroachment, wildfire and invasive species threats to sagebrush ecosystems.

Maestas earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.

Ken Mayer**Vice-Chair
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

Mayer began his professional wildlife career with the California Department of Forestry (CDF), as their first Wildlife and Range Ecologist. He then served 12 years at the California Department of Fish and Game as the Statewide Deer Management Coordinator and seven years as the Chief Scientist for the Office of Spill Prevention and Response. In 2007, Ken retired from the CDFG and accepted the Governor appointment as Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. As Director, Ken served as the first Chairman of the National Greater Sage-grouse Executive Oversight Committee for three years and as the Director Lead for the WAFWA Sage-grouse and Columbian Sharp-tail Technical Team. Since leaving NDOW in 2013, he started his own consulting business (K. E. Mayer & Associates, LLC), where he is continuing his work on Greater sage-grouse conservation as the Coordinator of the WAFWA Wildfire and Invasives Species Initiative.

Ken Mayer holds a BS and MS in Natural Resources Management from Humboldt State University.

Virgil Moore**Director
Idaho Fish and Game**

Virgil Moore has served as Director of Idaho Fish and Game since 2011. Virgil has 38 years of professional experience in fish and wildlife management. Before taking his current position he served as Deputy Director of Field Operations at Idaho Fish and Game and has held numerous executive positions including Fisheries Bureau Chief, Information and Education Bureau Chief, Fisheries Research Manager and other various leadership management positions in Idaho's Fisheries program. Virgil was Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife from 2006-2007 before returning to Idaho in 2007.

Virgil received a BS Biology and Education from Northwest Missouri State University in 1973 and taught high school in Missouri prior to moving to Idaho for graduate work on steelhead trout at Idaho State University where he received a MS Zoology degree in 1977.

Rex McKnight**State Fire Management Officer
Bureau of Land Management, Nevada**

Rex McKnight began his career with the BLM in 1977 as an engine crewmember on the Montrose District in Colorado, working in fire suppression and fire management. McKnight moved to Alaska in 1985 and began work at the Alaska Fire Service in a variety of fire management positions and participated on Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams. As a member of the Alaska Type 1 IMT, McKnight supported the planning and logistical efforts for the Fire Department of New York City after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

McKnight's current position is FIAT and Secretarial Order 3336 Implementation Director for the Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Fire and Aviation. McKnight's history with the BLM has afforded him the opportunity to see and do many things that others only dream about - traveling to various parts of the country and working in remote areas where few people have been. This has given him a greater understanding of providing protection to the natural resources in the Great Basin and other areas of the country.

Dr. Jamie K. Reaser**Director
National Invasive Species Council**

Jamie K. Reaser has worked around the world as an ecologist, environmental negotiator, professional trainer, and senior environmental and communications consultant. She is a certified Master Practitioner and Trainer in the field of communication psychology known as Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP). Dr. Reaser is a former Executive Director of the Global Invasive Species Programme (NISC) and former Assistant Director for International Policy, Science, and Cooperation at the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). She is a long-time member of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) and served on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) for six years. Two months ago she re-joined the federal government to serve as the Executive Director of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC).

Dr. Reaser graduated from William and Mary with a BS in Field Biology and went on to receive her PhD in Biology from Stanford.

Janice M. Schneider**Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior**

Janice M. Schneider serves as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior. President Obama nominated Schneider for the position in November 2013. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn into office on May 16, 2014. Schneider has more than 30 years of environmental and natural resources experience, including in the public and private sectors. Prior to becoming Assistant Secretary, Schneider was a partner in the Environment, Land and Resources Department of Latham & Watkins LLP, Global Co-chair of the firm's Energy and Infrastructure Project Siting and Defense Practice and local department chair of the Environment, Land & Resources Department.

Schneider received a B.S. from the University of Miami in Biology and Marine Science and a J.D. with a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College. Schneider was recently honored by the school with its Distinguished Environmental Law Graduate award (2013).

Dr. Roger Sheley**Ecologist
United States Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Roger Sheley has developed an international reputation as a weed ecologist. He was an Extension Specialist for Invasive plants at Montana State University for about 10 years and is currently a lead scientist for the Agricultural Research Service program in Burns, Oregon. During the past 10 to 12 years, Dr. Sheley has worked to provide a conceptual framework that would help integrate research, teaching and management associated with rangeland weed management.

Sheley received a BS and MS from Washington State University and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University.

Noreen Walsh**Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service**

As Deputy Regional Director, Walsh served as the chief operating officer for the Mountain-Prairie Region, working to conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. She coordinated activities of the region's senior leadership team to pursue priority resource conservation goals in conjunction with state, federal and non-governmental partners. Her responsibilities ranged from overseeing the streamlining of business processes, to furthering a culture of strategic habitat conservation, to planning for the future workforce needs of the agency. She leads the Service's role in a west-wide conservation initiative focused on greater sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat, and has supported the "working landscape" conservation model under the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Walsh holds a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.