



W.C. (Bill) Aney is a native Oregonian, born in Corvallis and raised in the Willamette Valley. He graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, then Oregon State University (B.S. Wildlife Science 1982) and the University of Montana (M.S. Forestry 2004). He began working for the Forest Service while in college, starting in 1978 on a Brush Disposal Crew on the Umatilla NF and then on the Wallowa-Whitman NF as a fire lookout, Fire Prevention Guard, and fuels technician in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Bill worked as a wildlife biologist for the La Grande Ranger District after college, then in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he picked up responsibilities in NEPA and as a Fire Management Officer. From 1998-2005 he was the District Ranger on Paisley RD of the Fremont NF, as well as the “Designated Federal Official” for the local Title II resource Advisory Committee. He then moved to Pendleton in 2005 to serve as the Fire and Aviation Staff Officer, and after four fire seasons he accepted the Regional Fuels Specialist position, with a virtual duty station of Pendleton. This spring, he accepted his “dream job” as the eastside Forest Restoration Coordinator, working to start up an accelerated forest restoration program on the 6 million acres of National Forest in the Blue Mountains – the place where his grandfather taught him to fly-fish 45 years ago!



Ayn J. Shlisky graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Ph.D in Ecosystem Science (2001), M.S. in Range Management (1989), and a B.S. in Forestry (1985). She grew up on the central coast of California, where she worked summers on an YCC crew building trails and bridges in a local state park. She worked seasonally in timber sale administration on the Plumas NF until being hired permanently as a Range Conservationist on the Sierra NF in 1989. Since then, Ayn has worked as an Assistant Area Ecologist across four forests in the Central Sierras; Assistant Area Ecologist on the Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood NFs; and Ecologist on the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project EIS team. From 2000-2007, she was the National Landscape Ecologist and then Global Fire Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. She returned to federal service as Associate Field Manager for the BLM in Prineville, OR, and then became a NEPA planner on the Ouachita NF before returning to Region 6 as the Regional Analyst. In April 2013, Ayn took advantage of the opportunity to leverage her experience to tangibly increase ecosystem restoration and community vitality in the Blue Mountains by accepting the position of team lead for the Eastside Restoration Initiative.



Michael Brown graduated from Kansas State University with an M.S. in Geology (2004). Mike earned undergraduate degrees in Natural Resource Management and Geology (2002), with emphases in geomorphology and water quality. A love of the outdoors and a close connection with natural resources developed early on while growing up in Alaska. As a third generation Forest Service employee, Mike started his career as a timber marker and cruiser in Idaho in 1997 before finding a passion for wildfire management. He worked on a hotshot crew, fire engines and helicopters for the Forest Service and the National Park Service until 2006, when he came to Southwest Oregon to work as a Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist. In 2010, Mike moved into the staff Hydrologist position on the North Umpqua Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest. This turn in his career provided a suite of new opportunities to learn and influence the direction of whole watershed restoration activities. Since then, he’s taken temporary assignments as the Watershed and Soils Program Manager on the Umpqua National Forest and as the District Ranger for the Zigzag Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest. Mike is very excited to contribute his experiences and work through new challenges with his team members, the community and project partners.



Paul Boehne graduated from Humboldt State University with a MS in Fisheries, and a BS in Fisheries from Oregon State University. Paul grew up in Albany, Oregon where he developed a great respect for the outdoors and a love of waterfowl hunting. Paul started his career as a Fish Biologist for the Salem District BLM and then moved on to positions with the Mt Hood National Forest, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, and the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis. He also spent a few years with a private consulting firm in Portland. Upon completion of his Master’s thesis work on Snake River Steelhead and their habitat requirements, he went to work for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in La Grande as the District Fisheries Biologist. In 1995, Paul worked on the Interior Columbia Basin

Project and was the lead Fish Biologist for the Forest Service in consulting on the project with NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2005, Paul became the Forest Fisheries Program Manager for the Wallowa-Whitman and in 2009 took on additional duties as the Forest Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator. Paul has a strong background in aquatic and riparian area restoration within a watershed context. Paul is looking forward to the exciting opportunity to focus on restoration in the Blue Mountains.



Jenifer Ferriel fell in love with all things botanical while living in Bend Oregon trying to make it as a novelist. Her first botany job was on the Deschutes NF in 1991 as a seasonal botany technician. She taught herself plant taxonomy and began taking botany and forestry classes during winters when she wasn't working, skiing or traveling to warmer climates. In 1995 she began collecting data and lichen tissue for a regional Air Quality Monitoring with Lichens project. Jenifer eventually enrolled as a grad student at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she studied riparian ecology and lichenology. During grad school, she supplemented her income by working as a contractor surveying for rare plants, fungi, bryophytes, and lichens. She graduated with a MS in Plant Ecology in 2001. Since 2001, she has worked for the PNW Forestry Science Lab as a botanist and ecologist in southern and northern California and western Oregon (2001-2003), as zone botanist for the coastal portion of the Rogue-Siskiyou NF (2003-2005), and most recently as an ecologist for the Blue Mountain area NFs (2005-2013). Jenifer is intrigued by the idea of accelerated restoration in the Blue Mountains and views it as part of her learning continuum. She looks forward to bringing her experience and knowledge to the Blue Mountain Restoration Team. When she isn't thinking about plants, Jenifer practices yoga, hikes, bikes, skis, cooks, and occasionally writes for fun.



Amy (Esping) Gowan is a 5th generation-plus native Oregon. Raised in Portland, Amy graduated from Beaverton High School in 1974, leaving home the same year to attend the University of Oregon where she graduated in 1979 with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Geology. Amy began her career with the Forest Service straight out of college as a seasonal archaeologist for the Mt Shasta and McCloud Districts, Shasta-Trinity NF. After 3 seasons with the Shasta-T, she left the lower 48 and traveled, via the Alcan Highway, to Alaska to work for a contract archaeology firm surveying and conducting data recovery on the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island and the North Slope of the Beaufort Sea. Returning to Oregon from Alaska in 1984, Amy then began a 3 year, term Zone Archaeologist appointment for the Rager and Big Summit Ranger Districts, Ochoco NF. In 1990 Amy accepted a permanent position as Monument Archaeologist, Gifford Pinchot NF followed by positions as Heritage Program Manager for the Winema NF (Chiloquin RD, 1993-1996) and the Salmon-Challis NF (1996-1998). Beginning at the end of Amy 's early career her interests shifted from the study of ancient cultures to working with the living cultures of American Indian Tribes; leading to her assignment as Intermountain Region (R4) Tribal Government Relations Staff (1998-2001) and as Team Leader for the Medicine Lake Highlands Historic Properties Management Program (Klamath, Modoc and Shasta- Trinity NFs, 2001-2006). Amy arrives from the Fremont-Winema NF where she was the Forest Partnership Coordinator, Tribal Government Relations Staff and Secure Rural Schools T2 Program manager and Designated Federal Official for the Fremont-Winema Resource Advisory Committee for Lake and Klamath County.



Neil McCusker is a native Arizonan and grew up in the heart of the Sonoran Desert. He spent many of his summers as a youth in the forests of the Southwest where his appreciation of trees and forests was nurtured. He attended Northern Arizona University from 1978-1982, finishing with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. After college he spent nine field seasons working in Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon and Wyoming doing forest inventory and timber sale preparation work. Neil attained a permanent forester position with the Forest Service in 1991 and served as a silviculture forester for eleven years on the Boise NF managing the district's reforestation, TSI and stand exam programs. From 2002 thru 2009 he worked as a silviculturist with TEAMS Enterprise Unit involved in project planning for vegetation management, fuels reduction and post fire recovery projects in FS Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. Neil then moved to Flagstaff, AZ to serve as the silviculturist on the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) planning team where he developed restoration treatments designed to shift the ponderosa pine landscape to within the natural range of variation of reference conditions on

thousands of acres. Neil is pleased to have the opportunity to bring his skills in large-scale forest restoration planning to the Blue Mountains as part of the Blue Mountain Restoration Team.



Brian J. Spradlin was born and raised in Central Montana where he worked in construction before attending the University of Washington - College of Forest Resources, earning his B.S. in Forest Management (2005) and a Masters of Forest Resources (2006). Beginning in 2001, Brian worked as a forestry intern for the Forest Service in a series of positions, including timber sale preparation, recreation, and fire effects monitoring on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. After graduation he moved to the Umatilla NF, Heppner

Ranger District where he served as the district fuels planner (2007-2010) and then the Environmental Coordinator for the South Zone of the Umatilla (2010-present). On the Umatilla, Brian has had a strong interest in developing thought and theory around spatial fire pattern and ecology at a landscape scale. He has detailed with the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team as the vegetation specialist, and has been active with project scale appeals and litigation at the district and forest level. Brian serves as the facilitator for the Region 6 partnership council (management-union), and is currently completing his R6 Silvicultural Certification. Brian lives in Walla Walla, Washington and is looking forward to the opportunities offered by his new position in Vegetation Management, specializing in disturbance ecology (fires, insects, disease) and silviculture.



Barbara Wales was formerly a wildlife biologist for the PNW region, stationed in La Grande. Barb will stay in La Grande, and will focus on large scale habitat modeling.