



WHY PUBLIC LANDS MATTER

Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Jordan Ballroom, Boise State University

PERKINScoie
COUNSEL TO GREAT COMPANIES



PRESENTERS

Luis Benitez

Director, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry

Luis Benitez is one of the most experienced and respected outdoor guides in the country. He has summited the top of the famed “Seven Summits” a cumulative 32 times, including six-times of Mt. Everest. He is a motivational speaker and leads an annual critical thinking and leadership development seminar in Ecuador and Chile for the Wharton School of Business. In June of 2015, Benitez became the first Director of Colorado’s Outdoor Recreation Industry. According to The Outdoor Industry Association in Boulder, CO, the industry stirs \$13.2 billion in annual consumer spending and generates \$994 million in local and state taxes. His objectives are to highlight and enhance this economic muscle through investments and incentives. He also wants to bolster workforce education and training, identify industry challenges and opportunities, and promote conservation to inspire a new generation.

Steve Bullock

Governor, Montana

Steve Bullock was born and raised in Montana. As Attorney General, and now as Governor, Bullock works to make Montana stronger for future generations, ensuring that his own three kids, and all young Montanans, are able to enjoy the same opportunities afforded to all who grew up in Big Sky Country. Over the past four years, Governor Bullock has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to make responsible decisions about the state’s finances, balancing the budget and maintaining a \$300 million rainy day fund. He is a strong advocate of Montana’s public lands and fought to preserve public access to Montana’s rivers, streams, and wild places. He believes public education is the great equalizer and the state has made historic investments in public education during his tenure.

Gordon L. Cruickshank

Valley County Commissioner

Gordon Cruickshank has lived in Valley County his entire life. After leaving his family farm Gordon worked ten years in private construction and 16 years for the Valley County Road Department. In 2007 he was appointed to fill a vacant Valley County Commissioner seat. Since that time Cruickshank has been elected to the commissioner seat three times. As a commissioner he works hard to ensure Valley County, and the State of Idaho, have a strong voice on issues that impact our region. Cruickshank serves as the Past President of the National Association of Counties, Western Interstate Region, and serves on both the Idaho Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties Board of Directors. Gordon has testified to Congressional Committees on EPA Regulations and National Forest Management. Responsible and sustainable management of public lands is a goal Gordon works on in many ways, including speaking on forest management and the impact this creates on small rural counties in Idaho.

Bill Higgins

Resource Manager, Idaho Forest Group

Bill Higgins is a native Idahoan, born and raised in Benewah County and graduated from St. Maries High School, home of the Lumberjacks. His family background is in timber, farming, and ranching. Before attending the University of Idaho to study forestry, he worked in logging and served five years in the U.S. Navy with multiple deployments to the Persian Gulf and Western Pacific. Since graduating college, Higgins has worked as a forester and logging manager in Washington State and returned to Idaho in 2006 as a Resource Manager for Idaho Forest Group (IFG), LLC. In his current position

he is responsible for procurement of nearly 300 million board feet of timber annually to provide logs to IFG’s Grangeville and Lewiston sawmills. IFG has five sawmills in Idaho and is a top-ten lumber producer in the United States and a major purchaser of federal timber in the inland region. Higgins has an MBA from Washington State University.

Terry Kramer

Twin Falls County Commissioner

Terry Kramer is a fourth generation farmer in Castleford, ID. His public service began early as Castleford High School’s Student Body President. Since 2007 he has been a Twin Falls County Commissioner and in that capacity currently serves as chairman of the board of county commissioners. Past elected positions include Director for American Falls Reservoir District 1 for 17 years and a ten year stint as Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District (SCD) Supervisor. Kramer was named the 2016 Doyle L. Scott Award winner at the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District’s annual convention last November. Water, both in terms of quality and quantity, has been the resource conservation concern closest to his heart. He helped guide the Balanced Rock SCD to collaborate with the Twin Falls Canal Company to develop numerous water quality projects including several large constructed wetlands.

Ashley Korenblat

Managing Director, Public Land Solutions

Ashley Korenblat is a managing director at Public Land Solutions (PLS), a non-profit focused on promoting the recreation economy in communities previously dependent on resource extraction. PLS coordinates local and national stakeholders to create healthy landscapes which lead to healthy economies. Ashley is also CEO of Western Spirit Cycling, a mountain bike outfitter that holds over 50 permits on the public land system in 12 states. She holds an MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth and has served on public land advisory committees for the State of Utah, the Bureau of Land Management, the Outdoor Industry Association, and the Western Governor’s Association. She is a previous Chairman of the International Mountain Bicycling Association and an inductee in the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame.

Tom Lamar

Latah County Commissioner

Tom Lamar was elected to the Latah County Commission, District 2 in November 2014 and reelected in November 2016. He became Chair of the County Commission in January 2017. Lamar previously served on the Moscow City Council from June 2007 to January 2015. He currently serves as the co-chair for the Palouse Knowledge Corridor, and the Vice Chair of the Region II Behavioral Health Board. In November 2016 he was elected District II Secretary/Treasurer of the Idaho Association of Counties. Since 1990, Lamar has been the executive director of Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, a broad-based conservation organization and Nature Center based in Moscow. In that role he has worked with many Latah County landowners on stream restoration projects on their properties. Lamar was a founding member of the Latah Trail Foundation, and taught Conservation Leadership for six years at the University of Idaho. He was appointed by Governor Kempthorne to serve on the Idaho Carbon Sequestration Commission, and was named Environmental Leader of the Year by United Vision for Idaho. Lamar holds a master’s degree from Washington State University and a bachelor’s from the University of Delaware.

Peter Metcalf

Founder, Black Diamond Equipment

Peter R. Metcalf was the founder, and for over 25 years the CEO, of Black Diamond Equipment – a global leader in technical gear and equipment for mountain and canyon sports. Today he serves as its Brand Advocate. Metcalf is also credited with having brought to Utah, nearly 20 years ago, the twice yearly Outdoor Retailer tradeshow. During his CEO tenure he was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Small Business Association's small business person of the year for Utah, the state's Entrepreneur of the Year, and Utah Valley University's Ethical Business Person of the Year. Metcalf currently serves on the boards of the Salt Lake City Branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Zions Bank, Utah's Mountain Accord Wasatch Mountain Planning group, the outdoor industry's Conservation Alliance, the user advocacy umbrella organization Outdoor Alliance, the Conservation Lands Foundation, and the American Alpine Club as incoming president. For over 20 years, Metcalf has been an active advocate and leader, statewide and nationally, in public policy formulation relative to our public lands, business recruitment and retention, recreation, and quality of life issues. Metcalf is a graduate of the University of Colorado, with a major in Political Science. He holds a Certificate in Management from the Peter Drucker Center of Management.

Amanda Peacher

Reporter and Producer, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)

Amanda Peacher is a multimedia reporter and producer covering Central Oregon based in Bend. Peacher hails from Idaho, where she worked as a freelance journalist, wilderness ranger and as an outreach specialist for a statewide nonprofit. She started at OPB in 2011 as the Public Insight Network journalist. She is a fellow with the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources and has reported in Mexico as a Savage International Peace Fellow. In 2013, she reported for NPR Berlin on a two-month Arthur F. Burns fellowship. In 2014 she received the national Equal Voice Journalism Award funded by the Marguerite Casey Foundation to report on hunger and SNAP in Oregon. Amanda has master's degrees in literary nonfiction journalism and environmental studies from the University of Oregon.

Congressman Mike Simpson

US House of Representatives, Idaho Second Congressional District

Mike Simpson is serving his tenth term in the House of Representatives. Simpson serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is the Chairman for the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. He also serves on the Interior and Environment Subcommittee and the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. These committees have jurisdiction over funding for a number of programs critical to Idaho, including the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, our National Parks, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Smithsonian Institute. Simpson is one of the House's leading advocates for a new energy policy and a renewed commitment to research and development of improved nuclear energy technologies. He has also gained national attention for his bill to split the massive, overburdened 9th Circuit Court of Appeals as well as his Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act. This act addresses the concerns of economic growth and stability for rural Idaho and resolves a long time wilderness debate over the Boulder-White Clouds and was signed into law in August of 2015.

Rick Tholen

Owner, Granite Mountain Environmental Services

Rick Tholen retired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2010 where he worked as a field forester, managed BLM's forest health program and developed hazardous fuels policy. He concluded his 32 year federal career as a senior technical advisor on forestry and fire issues in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Lands and Minerals Management in Washington, D.C. Since leaving federal service, Tholen has been heavily involved in the Society of American Foresters, where he currently serves as the Chair for the Intermountain Society of American Foresters and was recently awarded Fellow status. In 2010, he was instrumental in founding the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership, which advocates for collaborative forest restoration throughout Idaho. Tholen has a Master's Degree in Forest Management from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University. He has lived in Idaho for the past 24 years.

Lawrence Wasden

Attorney General, Idaho

Lawrence Wasden is Idaho's 32nd Attorney General. He was elected to his fourth term on Nov. 4, 2014 and is the longest serving Attorney General in Idaho history. He has served in the Attorney General's Office for more than 25 years, starting in 1989 with his appointment as a Deputy assigned to the Idaho State Tax Commission. He was later promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff and then Chief of Staff before winning his first election to the Office in 2002. Wasden serves on the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners, and in that capacity has spent considerable time researching and understanding the federal/state public lands relationship. Through his Office's Natural Resources Division, Wasden represents the State of Idaho on matters related to its air, water, soil and wildlife. Wasden is a past Chairman of the Conference of Western Attorneys General and past President of the National Association of Attorneys General.

Will Whelan

Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy

Will Whelan has been director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy in Idaho since 2001. He has a bachelor's degree in History from Yale University, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Oregon. In addition to working at the Conservancy, Whelan has taught a course on environmental law and policy for students seeking a master's degree in public policy and administration at Boise State University. Whelan has had a lifelong passion for learning about nature and visiting wild places. At the age of 13, he spent eight days in the rainforest with his 15 year-old brother keeping a log of their bird observations. Although living in Florida, he started visiting the Northern Rockies at 16. His connection to the region inspired him to study environmental law and pursue a career in conservation.

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

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| 8:00 – 8:30 | Registration |
| 8:30 – 8:40 | Welcome
Governor Cecil D. Andrus |
| 8:40 – 9:15 | Opening Remarks
Congressman Mike Simpson |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Retrospective
Amanda Peacher, Oregon Public Broadcasting |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Local Perspectives on Our Public Lands
Gordon Cruikshank, Valley County Commissioner
Terry Kramer – Twin Falls County Commissioner
Tom Lamar – Latah County Commissioner |
| Noon – 1:00 | Lunch and Keynote Speaker
National Forest and Rangeland Management
MT Governor Steve Bullock |
| 1:15– 2:00 | Legal Theories For and Against Federal Land Ownership
ID Attorney General Lawrence Wasden |
| 2:15 – 3:15 | Collaborative Forest Restoration in Idaho
Bill Higgins, Idaho Forest Group
Rick Tholen, Society of American Foresters
Will Whelan, The Nature Conservancy |
| 3:30 – 4:30 | Conservation and Recreation
Luis Benitez, CO Office of the Outdoor Recreation Industry
Ashley Korenblat, Public Land Solutions
Peter Metcalf, Black Diamond |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | Looking Forward
John Freemuth, Andrus Center for Public Policy |
| 5:00 – 6:00 | Reception |

ABOUT THE ANDRUS CENTER

The Andrus Center for Public Policy advances the legacy issues of former Idaho Governor and Secretary of the Interior, Cecil D. Andrus — wise use of our environmental resources and public lands, proper funding of education for our children, and the cultivation of leadership from all segments of our society.

Executive Director John Freemuth, PhD, teaches in the Boise State University Master of Public Administration Program and Political Science Department. Freemuth's research and teaching emphasis is in natural resource and public land policy and administration. He is the author of an award-winning book, *Islands under Siege: National Parks and the Politics of External Threats*, numerous articles on aspects of natural resource policy, and eight Andrus Center white papers, all of which can be found at andruscenter.org