Jessica Wald

President/Public Involvement Lead

Education

University of Colorado: M.S. Civil Engineering, Water Resources, 1989

University of Minnesota: B.C.E. Civil Engineering (with High Distinction), Water Resources, 1986

Oregon State University: Undergraduate Study, Civil Engineering, 1985

Qualifications

Ms. Wald has 16 years of experience in environmental consulting. Her expertise includes project and technical management/coordination of large complex interdisciplinary projects and public involvement. Her technical expertise includes; surface and ground water modeling, water quality analyses, forest and urban hydrology, and fate and transport of contaminants. Her special skills include; technical familiarity with many environmental analyses such as; air quality, biodiversity, cultural resources, fisheries, forestry, geology, recreation, roadless areas, soils, threatened, endangered and sensitive species, vegetation, visuals, wetlands and wildlife.

Project Experience

USDA Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest, Northern Hills Ranger District, West Rim EIS, SD – Served as Technical Manager and Technical Writer for the West Rim EIS. This project had a combined US Forest Service and JW Associates technical team. We completed the project in less than one year with excellent cooperative work between the agency and JW Associates. The purpose of the project is to reduce the wildfire risk and potential of Mountain pine beetle infestation primarily in the Ponderosa pine forests of the Northern Hills Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. Treatments include thinning, prescribed fire and wildland urban interface treatments.

Modoc National Forests (USFS), Alturas and Eagle Field Offices (BLM), and Modoc County, Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Strategy EIS, Northeast CA – Technical manager, writer/editor and public involvement lead for a landscape scale EIS covering 6.5 million acres. This project will establish direction for restoration of areas that have been invaded by juniper over the last 100+ years. Management direction will include various treatments covering up to 50,000 acres per year for the next 20-30 years.

Colorado Division of Wildlife, Gray Wolf Draft Management Plan, State of Colorado – Public Involvement lead to a working group charged by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to develop a management plan for gray wolf in the State of Colorado. Directed the public scoping process, planned for and facilitated 6 public meetings around the state and collected notes and comments from the meetings. Completed content analysis of the public comments collected at meetings, via email or regular mail and provided a scoping report and presentation to the working group and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

USDA Forest Service; Denver Water Board, Colorado State Forest Service, Upper South Platte Watershed Environmental Assessment, Front Range, CO - Technical manager/NEPA compliance and writer/editor for an environmental assessment on the Upper South Platte Restoration Project. This project would restore over 17,000 acres of over-dense forest to more sustainable conditions, restore riparian and upland forest habitat in Buffalo Creek, reclaim 25 miles of unclassified road and improve trails in the Waterton/Deckers, Horse Creek and Buffalo Creek watersheds.

National Park Service, Arches National Park EA, Moab, UT – Writer/editor for an environmental assessment for Arches NP that would allow for replacement of the visitor center and realignment of the entrance road. Key issues are safety and visitor impacts.

Colorado State University, USDA Forest Service; Denver Water, EPA, Upper South Platte Watershed Landscape Assessment, Front Range, CO - Technical manager/writer for a landscape assessment on the Upper South Platte Watershed that was completed in 60 days. This watershed provides the majority of the drinking water for the City of Denver and is an area of increasing development. Assessed the ecological condition of the 640,000-acre watershed, compare it to historic (reference) conditions and make recommendations for restoration. Made recommendations to reduce tree density, create openings and more landscape oriented approaches to reducing fire risk. Over 110 wildlife species were examined. Extensive vegetation, soils and water analyses were completed on the 640,000-acre assessment area using GIS techniques.

USDA Forest Service, Routt National Forest; Deadman Gulch Environmental Assessment, Yampa Ranger District, CO - Project and technical manager, and public involvement lead for an EA that evaluated timber harvesting on the Yampa Ranger District in Colorado. This was a forest health project designed to improve the health of lodgepole pine stands and improve some trail crossings of wetlands.

USDA Forest Service; Idaho Panhandle National Forests; Mosquito-Fly Environmental Impact Statement, Avery, ID – Technical manager, writer/editor and public involvement for an EIS for a roadless area in Northern Idaho that evaluated an access request from Plum Creek Timber Company. The project area was checkerboard ownership with Plum Creek. Some of the alternatives included USDA Forest Service harvesting. The roadless area contained three of the few remaining unentered bull trout streams in the Upper St. Joe watershed.

USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests; Packsaddle Environmental Impact Statement, Sandpoint, ID - Project and technical manager,, writer/editor, and public involvement for an EIS for timber harvesting and road building in a large roadless area in northern Idaho. The project area covered 23,000 acres and contained a large roadless area. Key issues were water quality, impacts to bull trout habitat and ecosystem management. Jessica Wald was responsible for all phases of the NEPA project including development of a scope of work for 14 technical studies, managing extensive field studies, conducting the public involvement, and preparing and managing the development of the EIS.

USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests; Katka Peak Environmental Impact Statement, Bonners Ferry, ID - Project and technical manager, writer/editor, and public involvement for an EIS for timber harvesting and road building in a large roadless area in northern Idaho. This was controversial project in Northern Idaho that evaluated timber harvesting, road building and forest health activities. The project area covered 29,000 acres and contained a large roadless area. One of the alternatives included removing a road separating two roadless areas. The issues included hydrology/peakflow changes, water quality, impacts to grizzly bear habitat security and road building in roadless areas. Managed seven separate subcontractors that completed a large variety of field work and technical analyses.

USDA Forest Service, Lassen National Forest; Storrie Fire Restoration Environmental Assessment, Almanor Ranger District, CA – Served as writer/editor for an EA on fire recovery/salvage harvest alternatives for the restoration of 58,000 acres damaged/destroyed by the Storrie Fire.

USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Public Lands Partnership; Uncompahgre Plateau Landscape Assessment, Delta, CO – Technical coordinator/writer for a landscape assessment on the Uncompahgre Plateau in western Colorado. This project will direct management across the 1.6 million acre landscape. Collaborative project designed to restore sustainable ecosystem functions to a large landscape. Key issues are declining mule deer populations and increased wildfire risk.

Oregon State University - Elk River Drainage, Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon Coast Range, OR - Evaluation of the impact of logging practices on regional stream temperatures.

Syntex Chemicals Inc.; Evaluation of wildlife ponds, Boulder, CO - Completed a limnological evaluation of a wildlife pond suspected of being contaminated from ground water.

Colorado River Water Conservation District; Muddy Creek Reservoir EIS, Muddy Creek Reservoir, CO - Limnologist responsible for technical review of water quality issues identified during the EIS process.

Nevada Gold Fields - McCormick, SC - Environmental audit of all environmental permits for Barite Hill Gold Mine Project.

Denver Water Department; Water quality monitoring, South Platte and Colorado Rivers, CO - Hydrologist responsible for design and implementation of an extensive water quality monitoring program. The monitoring program covered the portions of the South Platte and Colorado Rivers (and many tributaries) in the Denver Water system. The monitoring covered all seasons of the years and all streamflow conditions.

Denver Water Department; Two Forks Water Quality Base Case Prediction, and the Systemwide EIS Reservoir Water Quality Review, Denver Water System, CO - Provided technical support for the water quality modeling and reservoir eutrophication prediction.

I-25/Prospect Properties - Ft. Collins, CO - Conducted hydrologic assessment of land development feasibility and adequacy of current flood controls.

US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; Bear Creek Lake Improvement Study, Denver, CO - Limnologist for limnological studies of Bear Creek Lake to assess the potential water quality improvement that would result from changing operations.

Water quality evaluation of Eagle Mine, Eagle River, CO - Provided water quality analyses on the impacts of the Eagle Mine on downstream water quality.

Sub-Regional Operating Group and City of Phoenix; NPDES permit evaluation for the 23rd and 91st Ave. WWTPs, Phoenix, AZ - Water quality hydrologist responsible for the evaluation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit water quality limits for two major wastewater treatment plants discharging to the Salt and Gila Rivers. The evaluation included extensive sampling and hypothesis testing and aquatic ecology impact assessments.

Barton Creek Development Company; Barton Creek golf course and residential development, Barton Creek, TX - Ground water hydrologist for the evaluation of the water quality impacts of a residential and golf course development on Barton Creek.

Freeport-Indonesia; Water quality evaluation of copper mine, Irian Jaya, Indonesia - Completed water quality evaluation of the impacts of copper tailings disposal to the Akjwa River.

North Penn/North Wales Water Authority; Diversion of Delaware River to North Branch Neshaminy Creek, PA - Provided water quality, hydrology and limnology expertise for evaluation of the Delaware River, North Branch Neshaminy Creek and Lake Galena for NPDES Permitting. Also completed aquatic ecology support including fish population estimates, electrofishing, etc.

Diamond Alaska Coal Company; Diamond Alaska Coal Mine, Chuitna River, AK - Hydrologist responsible for sediment and flood runoff analysis used for sediment pond design.

Publications

Piehl, B.T., and J.A. Wald. 1995 Conflicts between Water Quality, Private Land Access and Ecosystem Management on U.S. Forest Service land. American Institute of Hydrology, Proceedings of Water Resources at Risk. eds. W.R. Hotchkiss, J.S. Downey, E.D. Gutentag and J.E. Moore. May 1995. p. RA 40-46.

Wald, J.A. 1989. "Multiphase flow in porous media: formulation of theory and finite element model development for two phase flow." University of Colorado, 173 pp.