

Professional Biographies for Program Speakers

Dan Jirón is the regional forester for the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain region. Jiron has been the deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest region since August 2010. Before that he was forest supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico and has served in several other Forest Service posts. Daniel J. Jiron currently serves as the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest. He has over 20 years of experience in public service and natural resource management. Prior to his assignment on the Santa Fe National Forest, he worked in the Office of former US Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth, in Washington, DC. He also served as a District Ranger for the Forest Service in Fairplay, Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah, and was a Regional Director for the US Forest Service in Ogden, Utah. He served on the Washington, D.C. staff of former United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO).

Sallie Clark has served as an El Paso County Commissioner since 2004. She served as Board Chair of the Commission in 2006, also serving as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners and is currently in leadership as Third Commissioner. Sallie has owned her own business since 1986. She operates Holden House Bed & Breakfast Inn, located on the historic Westside of Colorado Springs. She is also an instructor and small-business consultant for aspiring bed and breakfast innkeepers. Sallie previously worked in the medical profession and the cancer field, prior to opening her own business.

Peter Brown founded the Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, a nonprofit research organization. He provides expertise in tree-ring collection, dating, and analysis to answer a variety of basic and applied questions in fire and forest history, climatology, and ecosystem ecology, restoration, and management.

Mike Battaglia is a research forester at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins. His research is focused on developing and assessing silvicultural treatments that increase the resiliency of forested ecosystems across the Interior West. Primarily he studies forest vegetation and surface fuel dynamics in the context of forest restoration, disturbance, and fire and fuels management. Mike is also chair-elect of the Longs Peak chapter.

Richard T. Reynolds is a research scientist at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins. Richard is an adjunct professor at Colorado State University with the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, and Department of Forestry. He has a Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. in wildlife ecology from Oregon State University. Richard's research focus is on relationships between the demographic performance of forest species and the composition and 3-dimensional structure of their habitats in order to identify key habitat elements that distinguish among high (source) and low quality (sink) habitats. He currently is conducting a 21-year investigation of distribution, density, population demography, diet, prey populations, and LiDAR-determined 3-dimensional forest habitat structure of the northern goshawk on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. His past projects have investigated the demography and habitats of Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, flammulated owl, spotted owl, and forest bird, mammal, and herpetofauna communities.

Sara Mayben started her career with the Forest Service in 1989 working as an Ecologist in eastern Oregon and Washington. She spent 10 years working as an Ecologist on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area in southern Nevada and is the co-author of the Spring Mountains Conservation

Agreement, an ecosystem wide agreement addressing conservation needs of 67 different plant and animal species of concern. In 2001, Sara became the district ranger for the South Park Ranger District, overseeing all management actions occurring on National Forest System lands west of Colorado Springs and Denver, CO. Since 2009, Sara has served as the renewable resource staff officer on the Pike and San Isabel National Forest, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, supporting watershed, vegetation management, and fire management.

Mike Lester is the Colorado state forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service. He leads the CSFS to provide for the protection of Colorado's forest resources; ensure forestry education, outreach and technical assistance to private landowners; and carry out the duties of the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Mike has over 30 years of professional experience in state and private forestry having served as assistant state forester for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry prior to returning to Colorado. He also worked for the Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company and the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and has served as past president of the Society of American Foresters. He has a B.S. from Colorado State University, an MBA from the State University of New York, and an M.S. in forestry from Duke University.

Bill Crapser is the Wyoming state forester in Cheyenne, WY. He and his wife Joni are both animal lovers and enjoy spending time with their dogs, cat and horses. In his spare time Bill enjoys hunting, motorcycling, reading, and anything to do with history – he is a history buff.

Jeff Underhill is the Forest Silviculturist and timber program manager for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. He served as the district silviculturist in Granby, CO 2007-2010 and worked for the USFS in OR and UT as well as private industry earlier in his career. Jeff has a B.S. in history from Virginia Tech, a M.S. in Forestry from the University of Tennessee, and a M.S. in GIS from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Alex Rudney received a B.S. in natural resources management from Colorado State University. He has worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 24 years in Forest Management. He began his career on Stanislaus NF in California working in timber sale preparation and then moved to White River NF in Colorado where he worked in timber sale preparation and administration. Alex currently works on the San Isabel NF as a pre-sale forester and silviculturist.

Chris Kuennen is a forester on the South Park RD in Fairplay, CO. He has helped reforest the area burned by the Hayman Fire over the last eight years.

Steven A. Sanchez received a B.S. in biology and M.S. in applied natural science from the University of Southern Colorado. He worked for Ecology and Environment conducting hazardous and nuclear and other waste material surface and subsurface soil / water investigations throughout the United States and served on the National Emergency Response Team (1988 -1996). Steven worked for the BLM in the San Luis Valley as the soil /water/air program lead (1998–2011) where he contributed to the Kerber Creek restoration with landowner partnerships on over 25 miles of stream channel. He is currently the soil and water program manger on the Pike and San Isabel National Forest and Comanche and Cimarron Grasslands where he worked on the Waldo BAER Team and restoration efforts.