

Martha Williams



Professional Experience

Director, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Helena, Montana, 2017- present

- Carry out the policies of the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Parks and Recreation Board, and work with the Governor's office to set overall agency direction.
- Ensure the stewardship of Montana's fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources.
- Provide leadership that embraces the diversity of Montana's outdoor recreational values and incorporates these public expectations into agency direction.
- Ensure accountability and responsible use of agency resources to the Legislature and the people of Montana.
- Work with various boards and advisory councils to set direction on policy, planning, program development, guidelines, and decision making for key resource activities.
- Chair Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee
- Member of Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy
- Vice President of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Legal Committee
- Member of Advisory Board for the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and the University of Montana
- Board member of National Conservation Leadership Institute

Assistant Professor of Law

University of Montana School of Law, Missoula Montana, 2013-2017

- Co-directed Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic
- Taught classes fundamental to environmental program, including Public Land and Resources Law, Introduction to Environmental Law, Wildlife Law, Law of Climate Change, and Property Law
- Co-supervised Public Land and Resources Law Review
- Co-supervised Environmental Law Group

Deputy Solicitor Parks and Wildlife

United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 2011-2013

- Served as an alternate to and acted for the Solicitor as counsel to the Secretary of the Interior for issues arising in parks and recreation, fish and wildlife, environmental protection, natural resources assessment and restoration, and land and water conservation law.
- Served as solicitor and advisor to the National Park Service and the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Collaborated with the United States Attorney General and other officials at the Department of Justice and other government agency officials involved in litigation affecting or arising from programs of the Department of Interior, including personally representing the Department of the Interior on high profile, controversial, complex or precedent setting litigation and administrative appeals.
- Developed, set, and applied overall legal policies, strategies, program objectives and initiatives for the Department of the Interior, including exercising final decision authority as delegated by the Solicitor.
- Represented the Department of the Interior before stakeholder groups, Congressional committees, White House officials, and other government officials.
- Served as the Solicitor's and the Department of the Interior's point of contact for partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribal governments, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, and colleges and universities and convey the missions, functions, programs, and goals of the Department of the Interior.
- Shared in the management and direction of over 300 attorneys and additional support personnel headquartered in Washington, DC and in the regional and field offices throughout the country.

Agency Legal Counsel

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana, 1998-2011

- Advised and represented agency on real estate transactions including structuring and negotiating land transactions, drafting conveyance documents, outlining federal aid requirements, and closing transactions. Drafted conveyance documents for fee title, conservation easements, rights-of-way, and leases. Served as liaison to other governmental and nongovernmental entities, landowners, and attorneys. Taught continuing legal education classes on real property law.
- Advised and represented the agency on the Endangered Species Act policy and litigation. Stayed abreast of current legal issues regarding the Endangered Species Act.
- Advised and represented the agency on state and national environmental policy acts and taught class on public participation in government.

- Represented agency in litigation in federal and state court proceedings regarding real property, constitutional issues, licensing, Endangered species Act, and river conflicts.
- Served as hearing officer for public hearings and contested cases hearings.

Legislative Environmental Policy Analyst

Environmental Quality Council, Helena, Montana 1995-1997

- Developed and recommended to the governor and legislature state policies to foster and promote the improvement of environmental quality.
- Taught Montana Environmental Policy Act classes to state agencies.
- Reviewed MEPA and NEPA documents for compliance with the acts.
- Provided analytical overviews of environmental and natural resource issues. For example, analyzed water policy issues for legislative subcommittee on water policy and conducted comprehensive study of growth issues in Montana.
- Drafted and amended legislation for legislative services.
- Staffed standing legislative committees on natural resources and local government.
- Worked in nonpartisan manner with persons representing diverse interests in natural resource management.

Judicial Clerk

The Honorable James C. Nelson, Montana Supreme Court, Helena, Montana, 6/95-9/96

- Reviewed briefs and court records and conducted independent research to draft proposed opinions and orders.
- Developed expertise in and tremendous respect for Montana constitutional law, specifically Montana's right to a clean and healthful environment.

Special Project Coordinator

Valleys Planning Council, Towson, Maryland, 8/94-1/95

- Coordinated citizen initiatives to preserve historic farms.
- Represented organization in local government hearings and in negotiations with landowners.

Legal Intern

National Wildlife Federation, Missoula, Montana, 9/93-9/94.

- Researched and drafted Forest Service appeals and Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Researched and drafted complaints, motions, and supporting briefs on oil and gas leases, range management, wildlife management, natural resource damage laws, and the Endangered Species Act.

Education

University of Montana School of Law, Missoula, Montana

J.D. with honors (b) (6)

Journal Editor Public Land Law Review

Order of the Barristers

Teaching Assistant for Legal Writing and Appellate Advocacy

Student Comment: Martha Colhoun and Timothy Hamill, Environmental

Standing in the Ninth Circuit: Wading through the Quagmire, 15 Public Land Law Review 249

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

B.A., Philosophy, (b) (6)

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Mastering Negotiations,

(b) (6)

Board and Community Involvement

(b) (6)