

Melissa R. Wendt, M.B.A
NEPA Program Manager

Professional Experience

Ms. Wendt has over 22 years of the environmental consulting and industry experience focused on permitting sustainable development projects and hazardous waste management. Ms. Wendt specializes in managing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects on Federal lands in addition to State and local agency environmental permitting. She is a subject matter expert in overseeing the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and Environmental Assessments (EAs) for large resource development and infrastructure projects in the mining, energy, and industrial sectors. Ms. Wendt is also experienced in preparing mine and exploration plans of operations, plans of development for rights-of-way, various regulatory permit applications, including a broad range of required environmental studies and supporting documents. As a contract consultant, Ms. Wendt has acted on behalf of various corporations to manage all aspects of their permitting programs, including the development and management of budgets and schedules, hiring and management of subcontractors, coordinating with other company departments, and the preparation and oversight of all permitting documents and processes. Ms. Wendt prides herself on the relationships she has built over the years with permitting agency staff and management, project proponents, and other consultants throughout Nevada and the Western U.S and understands the challenges, expectations, and intricacies of permitting a project responsibly while remaining operationally effective.

Education

B.A., Geography/Environmental Studies, University of California at Los Angeles, CA, 2000

M.B.A., Business Administration, University of Phoenix, Reno, NV, 2014

Certifications and Registrations

Certified Environmental Manager, Nevada, CEM # 1981 (renewal in process)

38-hour ACOE Wetland Delineation and Management Training

24-Hour MSHA Surface Training

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Training

Weed Warriors, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

ChevronTexaco Decision Execution Quality Assessment Training

Loss Prevention System Trainer, LPS, Inc.

Selected Project Experience

- **Hycroft Mine Expansion Project EIS, Humboldt and Pershing Counties, NV** - Served as the acting project manager for the EIS, which included the coordination of the internal project team and subcontractors, conducted regular teleconferences with the BLM, and day-to-day tracking of the progress of the document. Prepared the vegetation, wildlife, migratory bird, and special status species sections of the EIS, and compiled, reviewed, and formatted the EIS document, which included the preparation of the Administrative Draft through Final EIS document and proof copies. Worked closely with Winnemucca District BLM specialists to resolve resource specific issues and develop mitigation measures for bats, sensitive plants,

golden eagle, and other biological resources. The EIS was completed in an 18-month timeframe from the kickoff meeting to the issuance of the Record of Decision.

- **Hycroft Mine Phase II Expansion Project EIS, Humboldt and Pershing Counties, NV** - Contracted through the prime EIS contractor, Ms. Wendt served as the EIS Project Manager for a complex NEPA project with a multi-faceted Proposed Action, including mine facility expansions, a new tailings impoundment, a 345kV powerline with four alternate routes, and a golden eagle nest removal take permit. Ms. Wendt was responsible for overall project management including scheduling, coordination with multiple regulatory agencies, leading conference calls and meetings, reviewing all deliverables, and facilitating the NEPA process with the Winnemucca District BLM.
- **Cove-Helen Underground Mine Project EA, Lander County, NV** - As the project manager, provided the client with permitting and planning services including the preparation of a 3809 Plan of Operations, supporting baseline studies, and the EA for the Project. Worked closely with the Battle Mountain District BLM on the preparation of the EA.
- **Fire Creek Mine Project EA, Lander County, NV** – Ms. Wendt prepared a Mine Expansion Plan of Operations and Nevada Reclamation Permit Application for full-production mining, and coordinated baseline data collection to support NEPA. She was the lead EA author working closely with the Battle Mountain BLM and also prepared a Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation Plan and supplemental EA.
- **Red Canyon Exploration Project EA, Eureka County, NV** – As the EA project manager, Ms. Wendt worked closely with the Battle Mountain District BLM on the mineral exploration project EA and was the primary author of the document. She conducted the biological baseline surveys to support the preparation of an EA for the project, which included general wildlife, greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, baseline vegetation, noxious weeds, golden eagle and raptor habitat, and migratory bird surveys.
- **Long Canyon Exploration Project EA, Elko County, NV** – As the EA project manager and author of the EA for the mineral exploration project, Ms. Wendt worked closely with the Elko District BLM and the client to develop project environmental protection measures for wintering mule deer and a BLM sensitive butterfly species. She conducted a Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory for the BLM.
- **Monte Cristo Diatomaceous Earth Mine Project EA, Esmeralda County, NV** - As project manager, oversaw the completion of a 3809 Plan of Operations and the EA for the project. Conducted an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) “waters of the U.S.,” determination for the project and gained ACOE concurrence.
- **West Pequop Exploration Project EA, Elko County, NV** – Ms. Wendt was the project manager and preparer of the EA for the mineral exploration project located in the Pequop Mountains. She worked closely with the BLM Elko District and the client to develop project-specific environmental protection measures for wintering mule deer and a BLM sensitive butterfly species and a phased permitting and bonding approach due to the large size of the project area. She also conducted a wildlife survey of the Phase I block of the project area, and provided senior review of the biological survey report.

- **Dairy Syncline Project EIS, Soda Springs ID** – Prepared two categorical exclusions (CatEx) documents for the Soda Springs Ranger District of the United States Forest Service (USFS) to permit the installation of a meteorological station and groundwater monitoring wells. Conducted three Phase I ESAs for the BLM Land Sale Parcel, the USFS Land Exchange Parcel, and the Simplot Land Exchange Parcel to support the Dairy Syncline project. Technical reviewer of biological and wetlands baseline reports supporting the EIS.
- **Dixie Valley Retrograde Project, Churchill County, NV.** Developed and implemented a Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring plan for a road removal and restoration project, which included hot springs and wetland monitoring, revegetation success monitoring, coordination with the US Navy, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and construction contractors. Habitat restoration was focused on reestablishing habitat functionality for a sensitive toad species.
- **LaPozz Mine Project EA, Kern County, NV** - As project manager, she prepared the 3809 Mine Plan of Operations and oversaw the completion of and reviewed the Draft and Final EA for the project for a pozzolan mine operation in the Mojave Desert. In addition, she prepared a Desert Tortoise Biological Evaluation (BE) for submittal to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and prepared the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) application for Kern County.
- **Gibillini Mine Project, Eureka County, NV** - As the project manager for the client, coordinated baseline data collection for a proposed vanadium facility in Eureka County, Nevada. Ms. Wendt's primary role was to coordinate the baseline studies identified by the State of Nevada and the BLM to support the Plan of Operations and NEPA document for the Project. Served as the environmental specialist on the engineering design team to provide input on facility design and placement to ensure the least environmental impact and permitting strategy. Drafted the environmental sections of the feasibility study (43-101).
- **Leaking Underground Storage Tank Portfolio Management, San Diego County, CA** - Project manager of a portfolio of 30 gasoline service station sites with open regulatory release cases. Managerial duties included budgeting, invoicing, client interaction, overseeing field staff, permitting, and acting as a regulatory liaison. Projects included Phase I and Phase II ESAs, soil and groundwater assessments and reporting, underground storage tank removal and remediation, sensitive receptor surveys, health risk assessments, and risk- based release case closure reporting.
- **Operation Clean Sweep, Metlakatla Native Reservation, AK** - Participated in a three-year field operation on Annette Island, Alaska. The program consisted of a large soil and groundwater sampling program and assessment of WWII facilities. Duties included performing a comprehensive biological and ecological survey, researching and designing a phytoremediation study, conducting soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater sampling.
- **NV Energy Projects, NV and CA** – Various tasks including NEPA, Plans of Develop and rights-of-way applications, baseline studies, stormwater management plans, sensitive species surveys for the 634 Transmission Line Project, 141 Transmission Line, Grass Valley Transmission Line Project, Emerald Bay Cable Replacement,

Other Experience

- Renewable Energy Permitting Program and Project Management
- Biological Resource Surveys and Baseline Studies, Agency Specialist Reports
- Pre-construction Biological Clearance Surveys
- Surface and Groundwater Sampling and Analysis
- Water Pollution Control Permits – Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- BLM 3809 Exploration Notices, Exploration Plans of Operation, Mining Plans of Operation
- Rights-of Way Plans of Development and SF299 Permitting
- Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessments
- Due Diligence for Environmental and Permitting with Constraint and Risk Analyses
- Leaking Underground Storage Tank Release Case Closure
- County Special and Conditional Use Permits
- Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation and Determinations and 404 permitting
- Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plans
- Greater Sage Grouse Mitigation and Monitoring Plans
- Golden Eagle Conservation Plans and Management Plans
- Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Plans

Publications and Presentations

Fight or Flight: Complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act during Exploration Projects (Northwest Mining Association Conference, 2011)

The Business of Banking: An Overview of Mitigation Banking as a Viable Option to Offset Project Impacts to Greater Sage-grouse (Northwest Mining Association Conference, 2012)

Climate and the Environment, Panelist (International Woman's Entrepreneurship Symposium, 2020)