



Leading Harvest Independent Review Panel (IRP)

Current Membership



Will Stelle (IRP Chair)

President, Board of Directors and Senior Advisor at Washington Water Trust

Will Stelle is an experienced natural resource and endangered species expert with thirty years of Federal Service. He worked as staff counsel to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, general counsel for the House Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee and chief counsel for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Moving to the Executive Branch, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and Associate Director of the White House Environmental Office on Environmental Policy. He then switched Washingtons and served two tours of duty as NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator for the Pacific Northwest and West Coast regions where he was the chief architect of a major coastwide salmon recovery program under the ESA. Stelle trained as a marine resources lawyer with law degrees from U of Maine (JD) and U. of Washington (LLM). He is deeply experienced in Federal natural resource affairs, legislative affairs, and state, Tribal and local governmental relations.



Ann Bartuska

Former Chief Scientist of Department of Agriculture

Ann Bartuska served as the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics as well as chief scientist. Prior to USDA, Dr. Bartuska held a host of leadership positions, including Deputy Chief for Research and Development of the US Forest Service. She currently is a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Standing Committee on Science Communication and a member of the Board on Environmental Science and Toxicology as well as also a senior advisor at RFF. She was elected President of the Ecological Society of America for 2003 and was recently named an AAAS Fellow.



Kenny Johnson
Co-Founder, TopYield Ag

Kenny Johnson has over 6 years of commercial experience in the Agribusiness sector and 15 years of experience working in a variety of functions including sustainability strategy and implementation, product management, and marketing communications. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Science Degree from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. He earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal with Valor while serving in the U.S. Army.



Sally Ericsson
Natural resource conservation and climate policy consultant

Sally Ericsson is the former Associate Director for Natural Resources, Energy and Science at the White House Office of Management and Budget. Previously she was a climate change policy consultant working with The Pacific Forest Trust to promote climate change policy that incorporates private forests as a climate mitigation tool and Director of Outreach at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, where she worked with the Center's Business Environmental Leadership Council. During the Clinton administration, Ericsson served as Associate Director for Natural Resources at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She also was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Management and Associate Undersecretary for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce.



Carl Evers
Director of Sustainability, AgIS Capital

Carl Evers III is director of sustainability for AgIS Capital, where he is responsible for the company's sustainability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts.

Previously, Evers was vice president of water resources for Hancock Natural Resource Group, where he was responsible for the management of water policy at the state and national level for the company's agricultural investments in the western United States. Earlier, he led farming operations for the company's 38,000 acres in California and oversaw farm developments in Australia.

Evers is a 2020 graduate of the Foundation's Water Leaders program, and joined the Foundation's Board in 2021 as a representative of that class.

He holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, with a minor in sustainable agriculture.



T.C. Richmond
Partner, Van Ness Feldman LLP

Terese (T.C.) Richmond has over 30 years' experience representing state and local governmental agencies in Washington and Arizona. Her practice focuses on environmental law, land use, water law, and climate change. She served as the Vice Chair for the federal advisory committee that authored the Third U.S. National Climate Assessment, rolled out by the White House on May 6, 2014 as part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan. She was a lead author of the Assessment's chapter on water resources.

She has broad experience in natural resource policy, laws and regulations, the governance of large organizations, and public-private partnerships. She provides proactive support for organizations so that they are effective and efficient in realizing their missions.