

Dale Becker
Tribal Wildlife Program Manager,
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Northwest Montana

Dale Becker grew up on a farm in western Iowa and has worked in rural farm and ranch country throughout his nearly 40-year career. He has served the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in the position of Tribal Wildlife Program Manager since June of 1989. His duties include program oversight and direction, fiscal management, wildlife and habitat policy consultation, personnel supervision and management, program and project planning and public outreach regarding wildlife issues. He is also involved with day-to-day decision-making on a wide variety of program issues. He directs the Tribes' Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Project. He has been active in mitigation planning for hydroelectric facilities, U. S. Highway 93 mitigation planning and a wide variety of projects located on the Flathead Indian Reservation and throughout aboriginal territory.

Prior to becoming the Tribal Wildlife Program Manager, he was employed as a Wildlife Research Specialist with the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Montana, where he conducted research on the impacts of the operations of Kerr Dam upon bald eagles and ospreys. He also has worked for the U. S. Forest Service and private ecological consulting firms. He holds a B. S. and an M. S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana, is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and he was selected as the recipient of the Wildlife Biologist of the Year in 2004 by the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society for his work on highway mitigation, hydroelectric mitigation planning and extirpated species restoration.

Jeff Reed, Landowner, Outfitter
Emigrant, MT

Dr. Jeff Reed (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jefftreed/>) grew up in and resides in Paradise Valley Montana. He has a 30 year career as a technology executive. He produces alfalfa for local ranching operations and commercial hops sold to local micro-breweries. He also runs a long-standing guiding and lodging operation north of Yellowstone (Reedfly). He is on the steering committee of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Conservation District where he leverages his technology background, primarily working with the MSU-Extension, to enhance create co-existence strategies with wildlife while helping ranchers improve profitability by reducing labor costs; for example, leveraging thermal imaging drones for mitigating elk/grizzlies/wolves, leveraging Smart AI Camera Traps to monitor predator conflict, and using Smart Collars and AI to detect stress in livestock. Secondly, he helps local water users navigate next generation technology used for monitoring and controlling water quantity, quality and soil/plant quality.

Paul R. McKenzie C.F.
Lands & Resource Manager
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.
Northwest Montana

As the Lands & Resource Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co., Paul is tasked with oversight of three professional foresters and is responsible for all aspects of land management on the company's 39,000 acre tree farm as well as sourcing the fiber for their sawmill and co-generation facility. A 1992 graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a BS in Forest Management, Paul has practiced forestry for a variety of private, industry and agency organizations in locations ranging from New England to Alaska. Paul is an active participant in a variety of collaborative efforts, including serving as a board member of the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders, member of the Whitefish Range Partnership and Whitefish Face Working Group along with others. As Paul puts it, "the trees are the easy part".

Erik Kalsta
Kalsta Ranch and Big Hole Watershed Committee
Glen, MT

Erik Kalsta is a fourth generation rancher from Glen, Montana where he and his family run a sheep and a cow-calf operation. After college Erik and his wife Jami supported their ranching habit by working in commercial fishing in Alaska. That experience impacted their approach to ranching, water, and predator management. Erik

Leo Barthelmess
Barthelmess Ranch, President Ranchers Stewardship Alliance,
Malta, MT

Leo Barthelmess is President of Ranchers Stewardship Alliance. He is a past Director of the MT Stockgrowers Association, served as a president for the Highline wool pool, past president of the Phillips County Livestock Association, and serves as a Trustee for the state chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The third generation family ranch is a cow/calf operation that also produces sheep, hay and grass seed. The ranch has also been recognized as the region 5 recipient of the NCBA environmental stewardship award program in 2005.

Bart Morris
Oxbow Cattle Company
Missoula, MT

Bart grew up working on local ranches in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Cattle and the ranching lifestyle is deeply engrained in his roots. He and spouse Wendy Morris operate Oxbow Cattle Company just south of Missoula, MT. In Bart's words, "We love nature--seeing natural landscapes, walking in and connecting with the land, tending to the soil, plants, and animals to create a healthy ecosystem--nature is not only part of our life but our way of life."

Druska Kinkie
Landowner and Rancher, Emigrant MT
Member of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group

Druska and her husband Rich run a third generation cow calf operation in Paradise Valley. Druska received B.S. in Animal Science from Colorado State University and Masters from Montana State University in Animal Reproduction. Druska and Rich have two children, one back working on the ranch. Druska is co-chair of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group and is part of the citizens group working on Montana's state-wide elk management plan.