

**Ron Recker**, (916) 978-6065  
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*Fire Management Officer.*

Ron began his career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at the Warm Springs Agency (Oregon) in 1978. He served in various positions including Presale Forester, Prescribed Burn Manager, Inventory Forester, Timber Sale Supervisory Forester, and Assistant Forest Manager (in charge of fire, timber sales & scaling). During that time Ron served as a Safety Officer for four years on a Regional Incident Management Team; then for six years on a National Incident Management Team. Ron moved to the Pacific Regional Office in 1994 as the Assistant Regional Forester. In 2003, Ron accepted his current position as the Fire Management Officer. Ron also worked for the United States Forest Service for four seasons in the mid 70's on the Plumas National Forest. Ron graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelors Degree in Forest Management in 1975; then went on to complete Continuous Education in Forestry, Ecology and Silviculture program in 1988. Ron meets all of the Interagency Fire Program Management Standards and Qualifications for a Geographic Fire Program Manager and is also a Registered Professional Forester with a current license in the State of California. Ron received the Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Individual Achievement Award in 2003.

**Gerald Jones**, (916) 978-6076  
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*Assistant Regional Forester,*

Gerald has been with the Bureau of Indian Affairs since 1999. He coordinates the Integrated Resources Management Program for the Region. Prior to working for the BIA, Gerald worked 11 years for the Forest Service and 4 years for Simpson Forest Industries. Gerald has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Forest Production from Humboldt State University.

**Julie White**, (916) 978-6146  
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*Administrative Officer*

Julie began her career with BIA in 1999. She worked in Indian Self-Determination as a secretary before joining the Branch of Forestry in 2002. She received her Associates Degree in Computer Business from Heald Business College in 1998.

**John Baskette**, (916) 978-6080  
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*Regional Timber Sales Officer*

John began his career with the BIA in 1994 as a Forester at the Central California Agency before moving to the Regional Office in 1996, taking the Assistant Regional FMO position. In 1998, John became the Regional FMO, and then in 2002 accepted his current position as the Regional Timber Sales Officer. Prior to working for the BIA, John was employed by the US Forest Service for 6 years. John has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University.

**Yvonne Jones**, (916) 978-6066  
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*Assistant Fire Management Officer*

Yvonne has been in her current position since 2003. She has also held the Fuels Specialist and Assistance Fuels Specialist positions at the Regional Office from 2001 to 2003. Before joining the BIA, she was employed by the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University in 1989.

**Jose Merjil**, (916) 978-6117  
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*Fire Operations Specialist*

Jose has been with the Pacific Region since 2004. He is currently the Fire Operations Specialist, assisting the Regional Fire Management Officer on BIA's mission of serving all California Tribes in Wildland Fire Management. Jose started his firefighting career with CDF, King City Ranger Unit in 1970, after completing three years of active duty U.S. Army. He worked for Bureau of Land Management in the Bakersfield District as a seasonal firefighter, while attending Bakersfield Jr. College. He received his Associates of Arts Degree in 1973, and transferred to Northern Arizona University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry in 1975. Jose has been on numerous fire assignments as a firefighter, Chainsaw Operator, Strike Team Leader Crew, STL Dozer, Field Observer, and Staging Area Manager.

He first started working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Northern California Agency in 1996, as Agency Fire Management Officer

**Jim Nanamkin**, (916) 978-6148  
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*Regional Wildland Fire Prevention Officer*

Jim started his career with BIA 33 years ago on the Colville Indian Reservation. He worked for 20 years as a Forestry Technician in the Presales Department and fought wildland fires during the fire season. In 1994 he became the Fire Prevention Officer, becoming active in education, prevention and Wildland Fire Investigation, then 2001 he became the Regional Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist for the Pacific Regional Office. In 2006 Jim completed the 401-training (Biological Sciences for Federal Land managers). His duties are assisting California Tribes to develop fire prevention plans. He is on the Cadre teaching the FI-110, FI-210, and FI-310 Wildland Fire Investigation classes, and as well as being a member of the NWCG working team that has developed the National Standard Wildland Fire Investigation classes.

**Josh Simmons**, (916) 978-6177  
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*Fuels Management Specialist*

Josh oversees the Fuels Reduction program for the Pacific Regional Office. Josh accepted his current position in January 2007 as the Regional Fuels Management Specialist. He started his career in 1999 with the Mescalero Hotshots, as well as working as a student intern through the BIA Co-op program for various BIA agencies; working as a Timber Sales Forester and an Environmental Specialist. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies, emphasizing in Fire Science and Planning from Utah State University in 2003.

**Soledad Holguin**, (916) 978-6020  
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*Wildland Fire Prevention Specialist*

Soledad Holguin was hired in 2003 as a Wildland Fire Prevention Technician. She has completed the 401-training (Biological Sciences for Federal Land Managers) and is a certified Wildland Fire Investigator. Soledad began her career in the Fire Service in the private sector from 1989-1997 as an Administrative Secretary/Firefighter for the City of Shelton Fire Department in Washington State. Her fire prevention knowledge covers both structural and wildland. From 1987 to 2001 she was employed by the Colville Indian Reservation, assigned to fire prevention/suppression duties.

**Travis Britton**, (916) 978-6167  
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*Range Management Specialist*

Travis has been employed with the BIA for ten years. He began as a student intern, working in Forestry, then worked as the Regional Timber Sales forester for two years. He has worked as the Regional Range Management Specialist since 2002. Travis has a degree in Forest Management

**Jay Hinshaw**, (916) 978-6021  
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*Environmental Compliance Coordinator*

Jay joined the Forestry Branch in 2001. He coordinates NEPA reviews for forestry and fire projects, as well as consulted with California tribal governments for 17 years. Jay earned degrees in Rangeland Ecology, Natural Resources Management, and Anthropology (archaeology). He worked 10 years as an Ecologist and Cultural Resources Manager at and near the Naval Petroleum Reserves. Jay has worked in the corporate, non-profit, state, and federal sectors.

**Dan Hall**, (916) 978-6041  
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*Regional Archeologist*

Dan came to the BIA in 2000 as the Regional Archeologist. In his current position, he is now responsible for Bureau Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and also serves as a Fire Archeologist on the DOI interagency BAER team. He began his professional career as a Seasonal Archeologist in 1975 for the Bureau of Land Management in Casper, Wyoming. He has since worked throughout the Western U.S. and Hawaii in both the private and public sectors. Dan was a Lecturer in Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology at Colorado State University from 1987-1990. From 1991-1999 Dan managed the Resource Inventory and Analysis Program, which included Forest Management Plans, Understory Ecology, Soils, and GIS on the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington State. Dan received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology in 1976 and a Master of Arts in Anthropology in 1983, both from Colorado State University.

**Thomas Dang**, (916) 978-6164

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*Regional Engineer*

In his current position, Tom oversees the Irrigation, Power, Safety of Dams, and FERC programs for the Region. He joined the BIA in 2001 after 13 years with the Bureau of Reclamation where he worked as an Electrical Engineer developing hydropower system computer models. As a General Engineer, he worked mainly in the areas of operation of Reservoirs and maintenance of Dams. Tom graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

**Jamie Schubert**, (916) 978-6053

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*GIS Specialist*

Jamie has been with the BIA since 2005. She first worked for the Realty Division, concentrating on providing accurate land-base maps of Indian Lands in California. She now works with the Natural Resources Division; and supports the regional programs of Fire, Forestry, Water, and Environmental with accurate GIS data and analysis. Jamie came to the BIA after 25 years with the USGS where she made topographic maps and other map products. She studied Geography at UC Berkeley.

**Vanessia Jordan**, (916) 978-6078

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*Office Assistant*

Vanessia joined the Division of Natural Resources in 2008. She works with the fire and Forestry Branch to help assist coworkers at their needs. She also is attending school at American River College to pursue her educational goals.

**Krysta Keef**, (916) 978-6075

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*Office Assistant*

Krysta joined the Division of Natural Resources in 2009 as a summer worker, then again in 2010. She works with the Forestry Branch, assisting coworkers with their daily needs. She attends American River College to pursue her educational goals.

This Pacific Region's Division of Natural Resources is responsible for providing coordination, management, planning, oversight, and monitoring for all activities related to development and protection of Indian trust natural resources on nearly 500 thousand acres of Indian trust lands in California. The Division exercise program oversight and provides planning and scheduling natural resources activities at the state level to ensure that regulatory and policy requirements are followed and that technical standards of sound natural resources management are upheld.

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Pacific Regional Office  
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*To Protect and Enhance Natural Resources  
guided by Tribal Values*

## **Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Regional Office**

## **Division Of Natural Resources**



**Douglas Garcia**, (916) 978-6052

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*Water Rights Specialist*

Douglas began his career with the BIA Central California Agency (CCA) in January 1992 as the Agency Range Conservationist. In 1995, he was promoted to the Natural Resources Officer, CCA, where he worked on Forestry/Fire Management Plans, Irrigation and Range Management, Water Resources & Rights, FERC and GIS projects. In 2005, he transferred into his present position at the Pacific Region. Prior to working for the BIA, he held the following positions: Natural Resource Manager- Round Valley Reservation, Biological Technician-USFS, Redwood Science Laboratory, from positions: - Seasonal Wildland Firefighter II, USFS, Los Padres National Forest. Douglas has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources Management Wildlife/Fisheries from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA; an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Studies, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA. Humboldt State and an Agriculture Degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

**Chuck Jachens**, (916) 978-6049

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*Regional Hydrologist*

Chuck oversees the Pacific Region Water Program. Chuck has over 22 years of experience with various federal agencies; positions include Managing, Performing or Participating in water resource planning, management, and conservation studies throughout the Western United States. He is new to the BIA; previously working with the Bureau of Reclamation for 15 years. Chuck holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from California Polytechnic State University- San Luis Obispo.

**Vacant,**

*Endangered Species Coordinator*

**Vacant,**

Chief, Regional Division of Natural Resources