CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES:
(In alphabetical order)

LAURIE AMES (Nez Perce Tribe)

Professional: GIS Coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe – 18 years at the Nez Perce Tribe. Started as the Remote Sensing Analyst on a NASA BAA grant in 2002. My current position provides leadership and guidance to a team of geospatial and management-level professionals. Working with Wildlife program on reintroduction of condors to Hells Canyon to helping map roads and parcels for the Nez Perce Tribe keeps my job interesting. I am a member of the Imagery TWIG, URISA and ASPRS. Education: University of Idaho - B.S. Geography (Physical Science and Environment); University of Idaho - M.S. Geography Course work (Remote Sensing/GIS) "Agricultural Burn Scars using Landsat Imagery"; University of Idaho - GIS Certification. Personal: Wife, married 25 years, mother of two daughters and grandmother to six amazing grandkids, 3 girls, 3 boys. I love to read, knit and walk the Latah Trail. I also officiate at Track and Field events at the NCAA level. Fascinated with Geodesy and Physics.

BETTY CONCES (Kootenai County)

Betty Conces is the Land Records Manager for the Kootenai County Assessor's Office. She has been with Kootenai County for nearly 25 years and is an experienced and dedicated professional with over 20 years' experience in cadastral mapping. Betty obtained her GIS Certificate in 2004 from the University of Idaho's Dept. of Geography. She has served on the board for the Northern Rockies Chapter of URISA and on conference committees for the Intermountain GIS Users' Conference. Betty lives in Hayden, Idaho with her husband, Tim, and their 2 dogs and 2 cats.

JAN CUNNINGHAM (Esri)

Jan Cunningham is an Account Manager with Esri, focused on local government accounts. She is newly assigned to Idaho with responsibility for working with city, county and regional decision makers across government domains (IT, Planning, Land Records, Public Safety, Social Services, etc.). Jan's background includes 12 years with Esri in Southern California and 22 years in the lumber industry. Jan resides in Boise.

KELLY GREEN (Blaine County)

Kelly is a Senior GIS Analyst for the Blaine County GIS Department and has served on the IGC-EC since April 2018. Prior to moving to Idaho in January 2016, Kelly worked for the State of Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) for over 14 years; the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for 2+ years; and the Energy and Geoscience Institute (EGI) as an intern for 1 year. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Utah (go Utes!) in December 1998. Kelly also served on the Utah Geographic Information Council (UGIC) for 3 years and acted as UGIC's Volunteer Coordinator for the Salt Lake County GIS Day event in November 2015.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the IGC-EC and hope to have the opportunity to continue to do so. With over 21 years working in the GIS field, I feel that my experience will continue to enhance and support the Idaho GIS community."

MARY HUFF (Owyhee County Planning & Zoning)

Mary Huff, AICP has been the Planning Director for Owyhee County Community Development for the past 14 years. A position where she relies heavily on geospatial information and technology. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and previously served on the Idaho American Planning Association Executive Board. During her time with Owyhee County, Mary has served on various other boards and committees such as the Governor's Task Force on Education, Melba School Board, the Western Planner's Association, Code Enforcement Professionals of Idaho Board, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, and the Historic Silver City Foundation. She has served on planning committees for projects such as the Idaho Joint Land Use Study, the Snake River Water Trail, Eastern and Western Treasure Valley Electric Plans, the Idaho Leads Project, and stays involved with her community through many other community activities and associations.

GAIL JORGENSEN (Ada County Highway District)

Gail has been a GIS Analyst with the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) for over 6 years and has degrees from Boise State University (Geology with Hydrology emphasis) and Idaho State University (Geotechnical Studies). She served on the Treasure Valley SWIG Planning Committee for more than 5 years, is currently active in the local SIG and serves on the URISA Conference Planning Committee (2019 Common Ground and upcoming 2021 conference). She is a graduate from the 2019 URISA Leadership Academy, Boise State University's Leadership Development Program, and recently attended Idaho's Women in Leadership – A Day at the Capitol event. She is a current member of URISA. During her free time Gail enjoys being a Gigi to her grandson Jameson, studying genealogy, quilting, reading and binge-watching Outlander.

SYDNEY LEWIS (Idaho Transportation Department)

Sydney is a Senior GIS Analyst with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). She earned her Bachelors in Geoarchaeology from Boise State University in December 2011. She started her career with a position with the Bureau of Land Management as an Archaeologist, where she completed archaeological surveys while mapping site locations and maintaining the groups' GIS data. After that opportunity, she moved on to be a GIS Analyst with the Idaho Transportation Department. This was the beginning of her journey at the District 4 office in South Central Idaho. She led initiatives to begin standardizing data schemas statewide, and managed teams of field crews to assist in boots on the ground data collection efforts. In 2017 she then was promoted to Senior GIS Analyst for ITD's HQ office, where she's been assisting the team with their new Linear Referencing System implementation of ESRI Roads and Highways and supporting all aspects of ITD's enterprise GIS. This includes serving as technical support on committees that have created draft testing recommendations for autonomous vehicles for the state of Idaho and helping to support the department in their decision-making process as it relates to LiDAR data acquisition and data management.

Recently she's been involved with ITD's first ever 18-month long Emerging Leaders program. Participation in this program was done through an application process in which only 24 employees were selected. She will graduate from the program in June.

Outside Sydney's professional career she enjoys spending time with her family, adventuring outdoors and exploring new places while watching her children learn with each new experience. She hopes that the skills that she's gained from personal, collegiate, and professional opportunities will help her gain your vote to serve on the IGC Executive Committee.

CAROLINA VALDERRAMA-ECHAVARRIA (U.S. Census Bureau)

Carolina is a Partnership Specialist working for the U.S Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, whose passion lies at the intersection of data and community resources. Since September of 2018, Carolina has been connecting people to the fact that our Census data plays a critical role in the decision making at the state and local level. Prior to her role in the 2020 Decennial Census, she has worked for the past 6 years at Boise State University as an Adjunct instructor of Sociology. Carolina holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in History, both degrees from Boise State University, and a Certificate in Marketing Strategies from Cornell University. Carolina volunteers her time for nonprofits throughout the Treasure Valley helping to build community, connecting people to resources or opportunities.

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