

Contact

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Top Skills

Grant Writing
Organizational Development
Institutional

Languages

Russian

Charles Sams

U.S. National Park Service Director
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Summary

I have had the honor and privilege of serving in the U.S. Navy from 1988 to 1992 active duty as an Intelligence Specialist with Attack Squadron 155 and in the Naval Reserves from 1992 to 1996 with the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific and Defense Intelligence Agency. For the past 30 years I've worked primarily in the environmental field both in on the ground restoration and executive management. I've worked in major metropolitan areas such as New York City, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. I've worked on salmon restoration issues with nine Pacific Northwest Tribes, I have helped in securing land for conservation purposes with over 72 Tribes on numerous projects across Indian Country. As a private consultant I've worked with over 250 Tribes developing environmental programming, youth development, fundraising development, and government to government relations. I am once again serving my Nation as the U.S. National Park Service Director.

Experience

National Park Service
National Park Service Director
December 2021 - Present (1 year 11 months)
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Cayuse Consulting
Independent Consultant / Principal
January 1995 - December 2021 (27 years)
Serve as a contract consultant for four agencies. Provide training and technical assistance on a diverse set of issues, to include: environmental program development, organizational development, grant writing/fundraising development, youth development, education reform, tribal government-to-government relationships, financial and economic development and conference facilitation. Served over three hundred clients, public/private organizations, institutions, and companies.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Council Member

April 2021 - November 2021 (8 months)

Pendleton, Oregon, United States

The 1980 Northwest Power Act authorized Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to develop a regional power plan and fish and wildlife program to balance the Northwest's environment and energy needs. The heart of the Council's mission is to preserve the benefits of the Columbia River for future generations. Our mission is to ensure, with public participation, an affordable and reliable energy system while enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin.

Appointed by Governor Kate Brown and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate this Council Member serves to promote and protect the interests of the citizens and State related to energy production, use in addition to overseeing Fish and Wildlife programming throughout the Columbia River Basin and services areas of Bonneville Power Administration. Member of the Fish & Wildlife Committee, Co-Chair of the Public Affairs Committee and Chair of the Operations and Maintenance sub-Committee.

Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service

Adjunct Professor

February 2021 - May 2021 (4 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Treaties between Sovereigns: An Overview of American Indian and US Relations

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

8 years 11 months

Interim Executive Director

November 2020 - March 2021 (5 months)

Mission, Oregon

Deputy Executive Director

July 2020 - November 2020 (5 months)

Mission, Oregon

Plan, organize, coordinate and manage programs, as well as facilitate and assist in the development of departmental goals, objectives, and budgets in support of the Office of Executive Director and the Tribes. Directly or indirectly

manage Directors and Managers, and supports tribal programs to ensure timely, consistent and effective execution of departmental functions.

Responsible for providing executive leadership and direction to the Departments of Communications, Information Technology, Enrollment, Public Safety, Children and Family Services, Economic and Community Development, Housing, Planning and Tamastslikt Cultural Institute.

Communications Director

June 2013 - July 2020 (7 years 2 months)

Mission, Oregon

Responsible for supervision and operations of the CTUIR Public and Legislative Affairs, including public information, legislative affairs, Confederated Umatilla Journal newspaper, KCUW radio station and educational marketing opportunities for the Tribes. Serves as the primary contact person for the dissemination of information about and promotion of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and is responsible for developing, implementing, and directing a comprehensive communications office to foster public understanding about the mission, goals, programs and activities of the CTUIR. In addition to ensuring compliance with established CTUIR rules and regulations; and grant and contract conditions or requirements, departmental planning and implementation; budgeting; staff supervision. Serves in a leadership role as a member of the CTUIR Management Team.

Interim Executive Director

December 2017 - March 2018 (4 months)

Mission, Oregon

As directed by the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director has the authority and responsibility to implement the legislative actions of the Board of Trustees and to provide for the delivery of programs and services to Tribal Members and Reservation residents on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director provides management oversight and supervision for all aspects of Tribal government and administration.

Interim Deputy Executive Director

March 2017 - May 2017 (3 months)

Mission, Oregon

Responsible for providing executive leadership and direction to the Departments of Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Natural Resources, Education and to Tamastslikt Cultural Institute and the Office of Legal Counsel.

Environmental Health & Safety Officer / Planner

May 2012 - May 2013 (1 year 1 month)

Nixyaawii Governance Center

Protect human life, water, land, air and wildlife by the exercise of professional planning skills and abilities to ensure compliance with the CTUIR Environmental Health & Safety Code, Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. Responsible for issuing permits, coordinating reviews with other departments, scheduling inspections the maintenance of development permit records and construction plans. Provide guidance and recommendation to policies related to environmental health and land development.

Cayuse Holdings

Board Of Directors

October 2018 - March 2021 (2 years 6 months)

Pendleton, Oregon, United States

Whitman College

Adjunct Faculty

January 2020 - May 2020 (5 months)

Walla Walla, Washington, United States

Indigenous Politics 225 - Spring 2020

Our History is Repeating Itself: Pandemic, Indigenous Peoples and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation - Spring 2020

Indian Country Conservancy

Chief Executive Officer / President

April 2010 - April 2012 (2 years 1 month)

The Indian Country Conservancy is a national Native organization dedicated to reacquiring conservation lands for Native American tribes, missions, pueblos, rancherias and communities. Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of ICC. Serves the lead role in representing the organization, carrying out ICC's program activities, managing staff, preparing the budget and other key administrative documents, coordinating with the board of directors, and fund-raising.

Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation

Executive Director

September 2010 - January 2012 (1 year 5 months)

The UTCF is a newly organized, but fast growing tax-exempt public charity created by and for people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and surrounding area. The mission is: Honoring Tamanwit, the UTCF gathers, shares, and fosters growth of resources to restore balance and to inspire profound change for the vitality of our families, communities, and homelands. The UTCF will be concentrating on building an endowment that can make grants to the community to address social, economic, cultural, and natural resource programming.

The Trust for Public Land
National Director Tribal & Native Lands Program
April 2006 - March 2010 (4 years)

The Trust for Public Land is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people. The Tribal & Native Lands Program expands partnerships with tribes and native communities to assist them in reversing a history of dispossession. Develop strategies to reclaim over 100 million acres of Native lands. Manage a staff of eight. Responsible for working with native and tribal nations across the U.S. on land acquisition issues, education, training, development and strategies. Raise and manage an annual operating budget of \$500,000. Manage over \$20 million in land acquisition transactions annually.

Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Executive Director
July 2004 - May 2006 (1 year 11 months)

The Council is a watershed based non-profit organization with the mission to foster action to protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the Columbia Slough and its watershed. Created in 1994, the Council is governed by a 41-member board of directors representing environmental, business, government, and citizen interests. The Council works to protect the home of over 300 wildlife species as well as over 158,000 human residents in an 18-mile-long mosaic of sloughs, wetlands and lakes located on the southern floodplain of the Columbia River. Responsible for management and operations of the Council's programs: Slough School, Community Stewardship, and Community Outreach. Managed a professional staff of five and two hundred and fifty volunteers. Raised and managed an annual budget of \$500,000.

Community Energy Project, Inc.
Executive Director
July 2003 - July 2004 (1 year 1 month)

CEP is a city wide non-profit serving the Portland community by educating citizens on home energy use and conservation, water conservation, and lead hazard prevention. CEP educates 1,500 community members and weatherizes 200 senior, disabled, and low income homes annually. Responsible for management and operations of CEP programs and assets. Managed a professional staff of six and eight hundred and fifty volunteers. Raised and managed an annual budget of \$300,000 and \$250,000 in assets.

EARTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Executive Director, Vice President Programs, NW Director, Earth Conservation Corps

January 1995 - January 2003 (8 years 1 month)

ECC is a national non-profit dedicated to strengthening young people by improving their communities through critical environmental restoration and individual education. Responsible for the management and operations of ECC's programs and assets. Managed a professional staff of twenty four and one hundred and thirty corps members. Developed and maintained partnerships with over fifty federal, state, tribal, local, public and private organizations, institutions, and agencies. Restored critical fish habitat, watersheds, and upland forests in the District; and Idaho. Raised and managed an annual budget of \$4.5 million and \$4 million in assets.

City Volunteer Corps of New York

House Manager

March 1994 - August 1995 (1 year 6 months)

CVC was the largest urban youth service program in the United States. Managed a professional staff of eleven and directed one hundred and eighty-five corps members. Responsible for the professional development of field staff. Developed and managed the first AmeriCorps programs in New York City. Planned and implemented projects focused on environmental, public safety, health, educational, and human needs. Managed a \$1.8 million annual budget.

Community Action Program East and Central Oregon

Program Coordinator

June 1993 - December 1993 (7 months)

Pendleton, Oregon

Managed and developed the Tribal Youth Conservation Corps program for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. Managed a professional staff of

three and twenty corps members. Implemented environmental projects on and near the reservations. Provided individual academic development to corps members. Managed a \$180,000 annual budget.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Special Science - Data Analyst

June 1992 - September 1992 (4 months)

Pendleton, Oregon

Provided detailed analysis on the effects of cesium, tritium and other nuclear contaminants on salmon and other species on and near the Hanford Nuclear reservation. Produced the initial study regarding the U.S. Department of Energy's practices in discharging, maintaining, and storing nuclear by-products at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington State.

US Navy

Intelligence Specialist

June 1988 - June 1992 (4 years 1 month)

(active) Responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of critical intelligence to fleet forces afloat and ashore. 1992 to 1995 Served with Medium Attack Squadrons 128 and 155, Air Wing 2 attached to USS Ranger CV 61(active duty), (reserve) Joint Intelligence Center Pacific 1489 and Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters 055 (reserve duty).

Cleared for Top Secret / Special Compartmentalized Intelligence/ Code Word Access by the Naval Security Group.

Education

University of Oklahoma

Master of Legal Studies, Indigenous Peoples Law - Federal Indian Law · (2019 - 2020)

Concordia University-Portland

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration · (2000 - 2003)

Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center

Intelligence Specialist 3910 Photographic Interpreter, Soviet Studies · (1989 - 1989)

Pendleton High School

· (1985 - 1988)