

Rachel Aronson

Project Associate

Rachel Aronson is a versatile facilitator, project associate, and conflict resolution professional. Since joining the Triangle team in 2015, Rachel has supported a variety of mediation, facilitation, and public involvement projects, including Oregon wetlands mitigation policy and a Civil Rights Act mediation.

Rachel has a background in environmental policy and climate change adaptation and experience working with multistakeholder groups of state and federal agencies, tribes and communities. She provides overall project management in addition to facilitation, communication, document preparation, and analytical services for projects. She is known for her keen eye for detail and clear communications with clients.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

M.M.A., Marine and Environmental Policy, University of Washington, 2013

B.A., Biology & Spanish University of Pennsylvania, 2007

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Spanish
Public Speaking
Facilitation & Mediation
Communications
Organizational Support
Logistical Management
Writing & Editing
Research

PUBLICATIONS

"Adapting to climate change in Unalakleet, Alaska," 2013. Master's thesis.

Selected Project Experience

Puget Sound Partnership Local Integrating Organization (LIO) and Education, Communication and Outreach Network (ECO Net) integration, 2015 – 2016:

Rachel was the project manager for this facilitative effort to lead the integration of nine LIOs and twelve ECO Nets around the Puget Sound basin. She organized a regional meeting of all LIOs and ECO Nets, including agenda and materials development.

King County Bridges and Roads Task Force, 2015 – 2016:

Rachel supported the work of the King County Bridges and Roads Task Force, which includes agriculture, transportation, conservation interests, unincorporated areas and state, county and city representatives. Rachel communicated regularly with stakeholders and the contract managers; writes and revises agendas, meeting summaries, and other products to support the process; and provides logistical support to Task Force meetings.

Lower Duwamish Waterway Community Involvement Plan, 2015 – Ongoing:

Rachel supports the EPA in the creation of a Community Involvement Plan for the Lower Duwamish Superfund Site. Rachel communicates with client and all stakeholders, arranges and attends interviews, translates interview materials into Spanish, writes and revises documents such as meeting summaries, interview summaries, and community profiles.

Oregon Wetlands Mitigation, 2015 - Ongoing:

Rachel provides logistical and facilitative support for the EPA, Oregon Department of State Lands, and the US Army Corps of Engineers as they transition the wetlands mitigation rules under the Clean Water Act. She communicates with the client, develops agendas, meeting summaries, meeting plans, and outreach plans, and provides ongoing support to the agencies in their public involvement of key stakeholders.

National Parks Overflight Policy Groups, 2016 – Ongoing:

Rachel works with two groups of advisors to the National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration. These groups, the National Parks Overflight Advisory Group and the Air Tour Advisory Group, comprise environmental, business, and tribal representatives and National Park superintendents respectively. Rachel interviews group members to incorporate different perspectives and experiences into shared group documents, and supports the live facilitation of the meetings of these groups.



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Selected Projects, continued

Civil Rights Act Title VI Mediation, 2015 – Ongoing: Rachel supports a mediation process between parties under the Civil Rights Act. The confidential mediation process address concerns of permitting and environmental justice. Rachel prepares budgets, supports the logistical needs of the project, and researches relevant precedents to support the lead mediator.

Quilcene Wastewater Feasibility Study, 2016 – Ongoing: Rachel works closely with wastewater engineers and the Port of Port Townsend to conduct a feasibility study of a potential community wastewater management system in the Rural Village Center of Quilcene, WA. Rachel interviews residents, organizes public meetings, and constructs a public comment recording system for public employees and engineering consultants to use in order to consistently track public comments.

Glen Canyon Dam Long Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS)

Public Meetings, 2015 – 2016: Rachel supported the planning process for the NEPA public meetings of the LTEMP EIS for the Glen Canyon Dam. The LTEMP EIS determines how the Glen Canyon Dam will release water to meet several different regulatory and stakeholder needs, including the preservation of the endangered humpback chub, protection of sacred sites along the Grand Canyon, recreational business interests, and power generation.

Past Work Experience

Hershman Marine Policy Fellow, Washington State Department of Ecology, 2013 – 2014:

- Founded and coordinated the Coastal Hazards Resilience Network (CHRN), an inter-agency learning network for climate and coastal hazard resilience in Pacific and Grays Harbor counties. Through the CHRN, Rachel facilitated stakeholder/agency collaboration on earthquake, tsunami, flooding, sea level rise, and erosion preparedness.
- Facilitated Spanish-language stakeholder meetings for the Emergency Management Division to workshop new Spanish-language tsunami informational materials.
- Tested new forms of stakeholder engagement for FEMA with a team from the University of Washington, Makah Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, and the Department of Ecology.
- Co-developed and co-taught Sea Level Rise for Planners with the Washington Coastal Training Program.

Graduate Student Researcher, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2011 - 2013:

- Researched coastal resilience and climate change adaptation in a small Native Alaskan Arctic village.
- Washington Sea Grant Science Writing Fellow.
- Joined NOAA Office of Response and Restoration as a facilitation assistant at oil spill meeting in Barrow, AK.

Assistant Aquarist, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Tacoma, WA 2010 - 2011:

- Animal husbandry of endemic Puget Sound species and tropical species.
- Formal and informal public presentations on animal behavior and sustainable fish consumption.