

Biographies for the House Resources Outdoor Recreation Presentations on 3.7.18

Thor Stacey

“I’m a lifelong Alaskan, born in 1978 in a cabin in Indian Alaska. Growing I was consumed by a passion for hunting, fishing and wilderness adventure. My family made their living operating a small placer mine in the arctic, 7 mile north of Wiseman. I first was employed in the guide industry as a “packer” in 1998 while I was still serving in the United State Marine Corps Reserve. Thanks to the understand and flexibility of my reserve unit, I become a licensed Assistant Guide in 2000 while still serving in the USMCR. I have also worked as a miner, commercial fisherman, trapper, and timber feller. 2018 will mark my 19th year guiding hunters in Alaska. I currently have a federal hunting guide concession in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where I guide hunts for sheep, grizzly bears, caribou and wolves. I have represented the Alaska Professional Hunters Association in the legislature since 2012.”

Cailin O’Brien-Feeney

State and Local Policy Manager

Outdoor Industry Association

Cailin joined the Outdoor Industry Association in August of 2015 to start a new program engaging the outdoor industry in state and local recreation advocacy. Previously he was the Policy Director at Winter Wildlands Alliance, worked on a range of recreation-conservation issues with Outdoor Alliance and ran the Idaho Outdoor Business Council. Prior to working "for the outdoors", he worked in the outdoors – spending the better part of a decade as an outdoor educator and guide across the West. All told, he has 15 years experience in the outdoor industry. He holds a master’s degree in Natural Resource Management from University of Idaho and a bachelor’s in environmental studies from Lewis & Clark College.

Chris Beck

Chris has more than thirty years of planning experience and is a principal and founding partner of Agnew::Beck Consulting. He specializes in the areas of community planning, economic development, and tourism and recreation. He first came to Alaska in 1979 where he worked with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and helped set up DNR's regional land planning process. In 1993, Chris started his own consulting businesses, focused on tourism in small Alaskan towns, including Girdwood, Cordova, Homer, and Talkeetna. In 2002, Chris joined with Thea Agnew to form Agnew::Beck Consulting. Since that time, the business has grown from two to over 20 employees, with projects around Alaska and the mountain west. Chris's recent and ongoing projects include helping the City of Aspen expand winter recreation and tourism activities to focus more on "uphill" skiing, master plans mixing recreation and residential development in Anchorage and the Mat-Su, and land use/economic development plans for the Denali and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs – locations where recreation and tourism are primary issues. Chris holds master's degrees in City and Regional Planning and in Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. His master thesis "Big Fun in Small Towns" focuses on the elements that create walkable, memorable and economically vital small town downtowns. When not in the office, he does his best to get off the couch and be outside skiing, kayaking and biking.

Dan Blanchard

We've all heard a tall tale or two, but when it comes to Captain Dan Blanchard—well, he's the real thing. He has always been around boat. Even as a kid, Dan worked alongside other family members restoring the family's 1912 wooden tug. And the reward of all that hard work paid off in a big way—exploring winding waterways, beachcombing on remote shores, oyster picking and clam digging, learning to skin dive, incredible wildlife and cultural encounters, and a lifetime on the water. At this point, it's just part of his genetic makeup.

Dan's unassailable career began early. As an accomplished Sea Scout, his leadership skills earned him honors of National Boatswain Mate when he was 16. At 18, he received his Ship Master's License. From there he's lived a storied-tale—owner and operator of Blanchard Marine; Captain of sightseeing vessels at Glacier Bay Lodge in Alaska; 14 years at Alaska Sightseeing/Cruise West working through the ranks from Captain to Vice President of Operations; and in 1999, he became a partner at American Safari Cruises. Dan acquired the company in 2008; in January 2013, the company changed its name to UnCruise Adventures. The company operates 8 small adventure ships in Alaska and on the West coast of the Americas.

A natural storyteller (2012 winner of "Stories of the Sea" contest), enthusiastic skier and cyclist, energetic hiker, world-explorer in off-the-chart places, accomplished offshore sailor, ocean lover, lover of the natural world, and lover of life are just a few of the tags and feverish passions you can pin on Dan. And in May 2013, he was adopted into a native Tlingit tribe. He's living the dream and wouldn't have it any other way. For Dan, it can't get much sweeter with his daughter, Captain Denee working beside him—it's safe to say it's in her genes too.

Dan resides in Juneau, Alaska.