

SARAH COTTRELL PROPST

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department, Santa Fe, NM **January 2019 – Present**
Cabinet Secretary

Interwest Energy Alliance, Santa Fe, NM **May 2012 – December 2018**
Executive Director

- Executive Director of non-profit trade association that represents the nation's leading companies in the renewable energy industry, bringing them together with nongovernmental organizations in the West (AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT & WY)
- Managed team of lawyers, lobbyists, and consultants in a six-state region to expand markets for renewables through legislative, regulatory, and policy initiatives
- Reported to and managed relationship with 20-member board of directors
- Coordinated with charitable foundations and other partners on clean energy coalition priorities

Propst Consulting, LLC, Santa Fe, NM **January 2011 – May 2012**
Founded energy and environmental consulting practice, serving clients in Washington, D.C. and the Western U.S.

New Mexico Environment Department, Santa Fe, NM **March 2010 to December 31, 2010**
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

- Worked with Cabinet Secretary to oversee departmental organization, staffing, budgeting, and policies for agency with over 650 full-time employees
- Chaired the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
- Served as Acting Tribal Liaison between the department and 22 tribes and pueblos in New Mexico
- Served as Governor's Staff Council representative to the Western Governors' Association
- Appointed by Governor as State Liaison Officer to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Governor Bill Richardson, Santa Fe, NM **July 2006 to March 2010**
Energy & Environmental Policy Advisor

- Developed and implemented state and regional policy initiatives
 - Led State of New Mexico delegation in founding and developing the Western Climate Initiative
 - Served as Governor's Staff Council representative to Western Governors' Association
- Negotiated & lobbied state legislature on Governor's legislative energy & environmental proposals
 - Instrumental in passage of Renewable Portfolio Standard Increase, Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, Energy Efficiency Requirements, several Clean Energy Tax Incentives, Green Building Tax Incentives, and Natural Heritage Conservation Act
- Advised Governor on state, regional, and national energy & environment issues
- Staffed policy meetings for the Governor, including in-state and out-of-state travel
- Served as primary liaison between Governor's Office and executive branch agencies: New Mexico Environment Department; Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department; Department of Game & Fish; General Services Department; Economic Development Department, et al.
- Wrote speeches, talking points, press releases, and communications documents for the Governor

David Gardiner & Associates (DGA), Arlington, VA **Spring 2006**
Part-time consultancy during graduate school. Assisted DGA to draft and finalize a Climate Risk Disclosure Initiative (CRDI) for Ceres and a group of international investors.

Policy Workshop on Managing Mineral Resources in Fragile States, Princeton and Ghana **Fall 2005**

Graduate research project assessing the potential for public-private partnerships to address sources of conflict related to extractive industry operations, using Ghana's gold mining sector as a case study.

- Conceptualized research project with eight colleagues and conducted field interviews in Accra, Ghana and AngloGold Ashanti's Obuasi, Ghana gold mine to examine environmental, security, and human rights aspects of operations
- Delivered report & oral presentation to United Nations Bureau for Crisis Prevention & Recovery (BCPR)

Grand Canyon Trust, Flagstaff, AZ

Summer 2005

Air & Energy Intern

- Revised and updated strategic plan for Air & Energy Program
- Analyzed strategic options in the pending closure of Mohave Generating Station
- Initiated and completed comments on Arizona Draft Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Arlington, VA

2001-2004

Research Fellow **2002 – 2004**

Research Associate **2001 – 2002**

- Supervised editing and production of seven policy reports, reporting to Director of Policy Analysis and communicating with expert authors and peer reviewers
- Drafted and published Pew Center energy and technology policy briefs
- Coordinated with Pew Center staff to plan workshops, Capitol Hill briefings, and press conferences

Davidson College Dean Rusk Program – Research Grant

Summer 2001

- Researched and wrote teaching case studies on global climate change policy, collaborating with Dr. Lou Ortmyer, Professor of Political Science, Davidson College
- Attended and conducted interviews at Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6 bis) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany, July 2001

White House Climate Change Task Force (WHCCTF), Washington, D.C.

Summer 2000

Summer internship providing research and communications support to task force that coordinated climate change policies for the Executive Office of the President (EOP)

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton, NJ

Master in Public Affairs – Domestic Policy; Certificate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (STEP), June 2006

Davidson College, Davidson, NC

A.B., Political Science, May 2001

Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in Political Science

National University of Ireland – Dublin (University College Dublin), Dublin, Ireland, Spring 2000

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

City of Santa Fe Planning Commission, Commissioner, July 2015 – January 2019

Grand Canyon Trust, Board Member, Summer 2017 - Present