

Grant Werschull, Co-Executive Director, Smith River Alliance

Grant began working on Smith River watershed issues in 1977 as a consultant to the California Department of Fish and Game's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. Since then, Grant has worked as staff and consultant for a wide range public and private sector clients throughout California including the Nature Conservancy, Redwood National Park, and the interest-based Water Forum negotiations in the Sacramento region. Grant received his M.S. in Ecosystems Management from Antioch University West and his B.S. in Resource Recreation Management from Oregon State University's School of Forestry.

Grant was also the President of Conservation Solutions, Inc. a consulting service dedicated to assisting private and public sector clients with projects which model sustainable and socially responsible principles. During the last 40 years, he has been a project manager and environmental planner on land use and resource planning projects involving natural resources, development, parks, recreation, natural areas, and resource recycling. He has been involved as a catalyst and liaison in the planning and implementation of several public/private sector-coordinated projects and strategic planning efforts.

Grant is trained in resource management and is experienced in facilitating large controversial projects. He has project experience in riparian, coastal, riverine, desert, coniferous forest, and California Central Valley habitats. Grant is particularly experienced with managing public agency and public interest concerns, the coordination of multi-agency planning projects, and in providing responsible representation for private sector clients on projects involving sensitive natural resources.

Earlier in Grant's career, he served as Project Director for the Nature Conservancy's Coachella Valley Preserve, which established a 14,000-acre preserve through extensive coordination and participation by land developers, Riverside County, nine Coachella Valley cities, and numerous public agencies. This project involved preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan as required by the Endangered Species Act for a federally listed "endangered" species. He also served as Executive Director of the Marin Conservation Corps and was the founding Executive Director of the Smith River Alliance in 1980, representing sport and commercial fishing organizations and conservation and civic groups throughout California and the United States on Smith River conservation and watershed management issues.

Regarding appointments, affiliations, personal interests, and awards: Grant was appointed by the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game to the California Significant Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee in 1980 where he served for several years. He is a member of several organizations including the Audubon Society, Crescent City - Del Norte Chamber of Commerce, American Whitewater, California Trout, and The Native Fish Society. Grant enjoys paddling, bicycling, birdwatching, and spending time with his wife, Patty McCleary. In 2012, the U.S. Forest Service recognized the Smith River Alliance with the National Outstanding Stewardship Award for Wild and Scenic River Resources.