

Elizabeth H. Nielsen

Gazelle, CA | |

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated executive with extensive experience in water policy, natural resource management, and intergovernmental advocacy. Demonstrated success leading complex regulatory and legislative initiatives, securing multimillion-dollar funding, and building coalitions across local, state, and federal stakeholders. Recognized for advancing science-based policy solutions that support agricultural sustainability and resource management.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Klamath Water Users Association (Current)

- Lead organizational strategy and advocacy efforts to protect water and power rights for irrigators.
- Direct policy development, legislative engagement, and stakeholder coordination.
- Oversee operations including budgeting, personnel, and organizational performance.
- Represent organization in high-profile public, regulatory, and legal forums.

Deputy County Administrator, County of Siskiyou (2021-2025)

- Directed Natural Resources Program and regional water policy initiatives.
- Led development of legal strategies including amicus brief in major federal litigation.
- Managed participation in FERC proceedings related to Lower Klamath Dam Removal, managing outside counsel, technical consultants, and contracts.
- Established groundwater sustainability governance; secured \$3M in grants.
- Advised Board of Supervisors and coordinated with federal/state agencies.

Project Coordinator / Natural Resources Policy Specialist, County of Siskiyou (2016-2021)

- Provided policy analysis and technical guidance on environmental and regulatory issues.
- Coordinated county initiatives across departments and stakeholders.
- Supported implementation of strategic natural resource programs.

Environmental Planner, U.S. Forest Service (2015-2016)

- Led environmental planning and compliance for federal land management projects.
- Coordinated interdisciplinary teams and regulatory processes.

Natural Resources Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation (2010-2015)

- Supported water management operations, contracts, and environmental planning.
- Contributed to policy implementation within the Klamath Project.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business
Minor in Animal Science
California State University, Chico

CORE COMPETENCIES

Water Policy & Resource Management • Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy • Public Administration & Leadership • Strategic Communications • Legal & Policy Analysis • Grant Funding & Program Development
Procurement & Contract Management • Stakeholder Engagement