

Staff Changes at Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

MT DES has made several staffing changes since last fall, including one staff member who made a lateral transfer, filling two positions left vacant following retirements, and two newly created positions.

Recovery Program Manager, Allison Taylor



Allison Taylor joined MT DES as the Recovery Manager, filling the position created by the retirement of Tim Thennis. Through Emergency Mutual Aid Compact (EMAC), Allison was deployed to Montana last summer to assist with the flood response. After accepting the

Recovery position last fall, Allison recently relocated to Montana from sunny Florida. Although she is new to the state of Montana, she comes from Florida with recovery experience under the FEMA Public Assistance Grant with a specialization in environmental and historic preservation compliance.

Allison earned her degree in chemistry from Valdosta State University. When she is not working, she enjoys being outside in nature or working in her stained-glass studio.

Accountant, Stacey Bradley

Stacey Bradley is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with 10 years professional experience in the areas of financial management, contract management, and grant management.



Her most recent employment was with the Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Management and Remediation Division. As the financial operations manager, she led a budget and accounting team that performed invoicing, budgeting, forecasting, and contract management. She has experience managing multiple funding sources including state special revenue, general fund, and federal grants.

Stacey enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter.

Mitigation Coordinator, Amanda Avard

Amanda Avard, has been working for MT DES for a little over three years. She started as a Preparedness Grants Coordinator, and she recently began working as a Mitigation Coordinator. Before starting her journey with MT DES, Amanda worked at MT DPHHS.



Prior to working for the State of Montana, she specialized in commercial interior design and ran her own design business. Amanda also taught several classes at Helena College where she was able to share her knowledge and experience with interior design program students. Her passion for art started from a very young age, and she has had the honor of having two pieces of work selected for display in Cairo, Egypt. In addition to Amanda's many experiences and achievements, she is also a veteran.

Amanda and her husband of 14 years have two brilliant kids. She enjoys hiking, gardening, trying new recipes, camping, and sitting by a warm campfire.

Anne Miller, District Field Officer, Eastern Region

Anne Miller is a new District Field Officer (DFO) in the Eastern Montana region replacing Charlie Hanson following his retirement. She previously served as the Garfield County Emergency Manager and has helped her community through many difficult times including the massive Lodgepole Fire that burned a large portion of Garfield County. Anne started at MT DES on September 19, 2022 and will be learning



and training with the other District Field Officers as she learns her position and role.

Raised on an Idaho farm, she graduated with a degree in Agribusiness from the University of Idaho. Anne celebrated the end of college by living much of a year in a tent as a Crew Leader for Montana Conservation Corps, an Americorps program. Her favorite projects included work with Yellowstone Helitak and deployment through FEMA to Florida after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, & Jeanne hit in 2004. She then served as Executive Director of Montana Pork Producers Council for 17 years. As a trade association director, she worked with a wide range of stakeholders ranging from pork producers and veterinarians to meat processors and trade ambassadors.

Anne was hired during the Lodgepole Fire of 2017 to serve Garfield County's DES program and assisted in the 2020 Huff Fire and 2021 Devil's Creek Fire events. She and her husband are both members of the Garfield County Rural Fire Department. Anne enjoys strong coffee, a great story, and exploring Montana.

Disaster Communications Officer, Anette Ordahl

Anette is a former communication specialist and digital media marketing strategist. Prior to that she taught Secondary English in both Michigan and North Dakota for a total of 18 years. Anette serves as MT DES' Public Information Officer (PIO) and is also responsible for internal and external communications, public relations media, and social media content.



Having grown up in the Badlands of North Dakota just south of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Anette states that her recent return to Montana feels like coming home again. She is a Minnesota State University Moorhead Graduate with a degree in English and a master's degree from Northern University in Marquette, Michigan.

In her spare time, Anette enjoys nature, hiking with her dog, spending time with family, and traveling to new places.