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**BOARD ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Speaker Biosketches

Cristina Eisenberg is a community ecologist at Oregon State University (OSU) in the College of Forestry, who has spent 20 years studying community ecology in grassland and forest ecosystems, including the effects of fire, grazing by large herbivores, and predation. She is Native American and Latinx, holds a PhD in Forestry and Wildlife from OSU, and is the former chief scientist at Earthwatch Institute. She currently leads native seed collection programs with Tribal Nations focusing on how ecological restoration that incorporates Traditional Ecological Knowledge benefits whole ecosystems and human communities.

Bart Johnsen-Harris leads Defenders of Wildlife's congressional advocacy around federal multiple-use lands. He worked to secure \$200 million to implement the National Seed Strategy as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021. Bart previously served as director of federal government affairs at Environment America, as a legislative clerk in the U.S. Senate, and as a researcher at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. He began his career working with small environmental nonprofits in the Middle East, completing research and policy work on ecosystems in Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank. Bart is a native of Rhode Island and holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown University.

Josh Osher is the Public Policy Director for Western Watersheds Project (WWP) and formerly served as WWP's Montana Director focusing on project level work in Montana and Eastern Washington. For nearly 20 years, Josh has been advocating for native wildlife and healthy ecosystems on federal public lands in the West. Much of this work has focused on the restoration of native ecosystems that have been impacted by permitted domestic livestock grazing and related management decisions that have led to degradation of the land and negative impacts on native fish and wildlife. For the past several years, Josh has specifically been advocating for additional funding, resources and policy direction to support increased capacity and direction for the use of native seed and plant materials in restoration projects as well as policies to protect native plants in situ on western public lands.

Vera Smith currently serves as the Acting Director of the Federal Lands Team at Defenders of Wildlife where she works to defend, strengthen, and expand federal law, policy and practice to improve wildlife conservation and recovery on federal lands. Vera has also served as the National Forest Planning and Policy Director at The Wilderness Society and the Director of Conservation for the Colorado Mountain Club. She began her public lands career as a ranger and geologist with the National Park Service where she specialized in land and water restoration. Vera earned a B.A. in geology and environmental studies at the University of Pennsylvania and a M.S. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

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Laura Welp worked seasonally for the National Park Service and the Forest Service in her home state of Alaska before getting her master's degree in botany at the University of Wyoming. She worked on range issues on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, realized the need for systemic policy changes, and joined WWP to advocate for healthier range management.