



Rich Innes

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Summary

A Senior Fellow at Meridian Institute since 2006. In close coordination with senior Meridian staff, develops and implements high-profile projects in the areas of ocean and coastal policy, energy, climate, forest management, and other critical public policy issues. Works with Meridian Board Chair William D. Ruckelshaus on diverse issues including coastal protection, agricultural stewardship and water quality, salmon recovery, and climate change, among others. Directs the Association of National Estuary Programs and assists organizations including the state of Washington, the National Environmental Education Association, and the Garden Club of America. Previously, served as a senior staff member for the late Senator John H. Chafee on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, at Browning Ferris Industries under then-CEO William D. Ruckelshaus as Director of Government Affairs, and in the Office of Policy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At the EPA, awarded the bronze medal for commendable service. Earned an M.P.A. at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has led Habitat for Humanity groups to Guatemala, and is a returned Peace Corps volunteer.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

1997–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Senior Fellow

Works closely with Meridian staff to design, coordinate, and implement key high-profile projects. For example:

- With Meridian Partner Laura Cantral and other Meridian staff, assist with the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, a collaborative effort by the members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission to advance the pace of ocean policy reform.
- With senior Meridian staff, helped to facilitate and coordinate a major White House conference on conservation.

- With Meridian Partner Tim Mealey, coordinated an initiative on the climate change implications of carbon accounting among U.S. industries.
- Co-authored a paper on solutions to forest fragmentation.
- Assisted in establishing the Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming, with Meridian Senior Partner John Ehrmann.

Other Experience

Conservation Strategies, LLC

Washington, DC 1998–Present

President

Direct and manage this government affairs firm, dedicated to providing organizations with strategic advice and hands-on assistance in achieving public policy outcomes. Client organizations have included the state of Washington, Browning Ferris Industries, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the National Estuary Programs, the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, the World Resources Institute, Restore America's Estuaries, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming.

Browning Ferris Industries

Washington, DC 1993–1998

Director, Federal Government Affairs

Worked directly with then-CEO William D. Ruckelshaus on projects designed to create an improved regulatory climate for civic-minded corporations. Led an effort with Ruckelshaus to develop consensus recommendations on achieving a more desirable environmental and conservation future for the country. The dialogue included the EPA Administrator and three former Administrators, CEOs of major corporations, and conservation organizations.

U.S. Senate Staff

Washington, DC 1987–1993

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Held lead responsibility for developing major legislative proposals and advising committee members on a wide range of environmental issues, including international treaties, solid waste, clean water, climate, and air. Senior staff to Republican members on a number of proposals that ultimately became law, including: The Oil Pollution Act, the Medical Waste Tracking Act, legislation implementing MARPOL Annex V addressing ocean pollution, Clean Water provisions, and the Environmental Education Act.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC 1984–1987

Senior Program Analyst

Worked directly with the Deputy Administrator of the EPA on management of the agency and helped lead the effort to design and implement the agency's primary management tool. Responsible for assisting with oversight of major pollution programs.

U.S. Peace Corps

Kenya 1979–1982

Volunteer, Project Coordinator

Established agricultural nurseries in several locations, providing locals with access to citrus trees for nutrition and income, as well as fast-growing forest trees, and helped to coordinate a national research effort to combat deforestation. Trained incoming volunteers.

Greensboro Daily News and Record

Greensboro, North Carolina 1978–1979

Reporter

Responsible for covering politics, the police beat, the judiciary, the arts, and entertainment.

Education**Harvard University**

M.P.A., Public Administration

1984

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

B.A., English and Journalism

1979