



## Robyn N. Paulekas

rpaulekas@merid.org • Office +1.970.296.3073 • Mobile +1.970.368.0655  
PO Box 1829 • 105 Village Place • Dillon, Colorado 80435, United States

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### Summary

A Mediator and Program Manager at Meridian Institute with more than ten years of experience in collaborative problem solving, process design, consensus building, mediation, and facilitation. Possesses expertise in agriculture and food security, climate change policy, water, and natural resource management. Has designed and facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues, public engagement processes, and strategic planning processes at the local, national, and international scales. Holds a Master's degree in geography and water conflict management from Oregon State University and Bachelors' degrees in international studies and environment and natural resources. Previously, supported collaborative decision-making and taught courses at the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

2010–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.

#### Mediator and Program Manager

Manages and facilitates policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conducts convening assessments, designs collaborative processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Facilitated a diverse set of public land managers, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and conservation advocates focused on improving collaboration between the conservation and outdoor recreation committees. The group developed and vetted a set of commonly held principles—the Principles for Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Conservation. Facilitates the annual SHIFT Summit, which brings together more than 150 stakeholders focused on the intersection of outdoor recreation and conservation.

- Serves as a core team member for a strategic planning process for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to develop a programme focused on climate change and agriculture in Africa. Conducted interviews and convened stakeholders and donors to assess how NEPAD can best support an agriculture system resilient to the impacts of climate change in Africa.
- Served on Meridian's Climate Change and Agriculture Team, facilitating a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and independent objective assessments on the topics of agriculture in the context of climate change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/rpaulekas> for a full list of projects completed.

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## Previous Experience

### Sustainable Northwest and Upper Klamath Basin Water Users Association

Beatty, Oregon 2009–2010

#### *GIS Intern*

Used GIS to create a series of maps to help stakeholders visualize contested irrigation water rights and restoration projects throughout the Upper Klamath Basin. Maps were used to inform discussions about the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, a collaborative vision for basin-wide water management.

### Oregon State University

Corvallis, Oregon 2008–2010

#### *Graduate Research Assistant*

Evaluated the National Riparian Service Team's Creeks and Communities Strategy in the Upper Klamath Basin. Research contributed to M.S. thesis.

#### *Graduate Teaching Assistant*

Instructed discussion sections of a course called Geography of the Western World. Awarded Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year in 2010.

### Ruckelshaus Institute and Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming

Laramie, Wyoming 2007–2008

#### *Project Coordinator and Academic Advisor*

Coordinated conferences and workshops, assisted in grant and report writing, co-instructed courses, advised students, assisted with curriculum development, and managed scholarship selection.

### Center for Volunteer Service, University of Wyoming

Laramie, Wyoming 2005–2007

#### *Program Coordinator*

Developed and implemented programs to connect students with volunteer opportunities. Assisted faculty in the development of service learning classes. Coordinated one-day service events and volunteer fairs. Started and managed all components of an Alternative Spring Break Program and an AmeriCorps Connecting Campus and Community Program. Developed leadership training for students and volunteer management training sessions for local nonprofits.

## **Education**

### **Oregon State University**

M.S., Geography

Minor: Water Conflict Management and Transformation

2010

### **University of Wyoming**

B.A., International Studies

B.A., Environment and Natural Resources

Minor: German

2005