

## Cascadia CoPes Hub Job Panel July 20, 2023

### **Dr. Kendall Valentine - Coastal Ecogeomorphologist, University of Washington**

Dr. Kendall Valentine is a coastal ecogeomorphologist who studies how geological, physical, and biological processes drive coastline change. Much of her work towards climate solutions and living with the coast through a combination of field work (the muddier the better), numerical modeling, and laboratory experiments. She is an Assistant Professor in the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington. Prior to her current role, Dr. Valentine earned her undergraduate degrees in Marine Science and Comparative Religions at Boston University, her master's degree in Geology and Geophysics at Boston College, and her PhD in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University. Dr. Valentine is a first-generation college graduate, mom, and woman in science whose outreach work aims to decrease barriers to inclusion in the sciences.

### **Dr. Erin Wirth - Research Geophysicist, United States Geological Survey**

Dr. Erin Wirth is a research geophysicist in the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Science Center in Seattle, Washington. Erin's research has most recently focused on large-scale computer simulations of ground shaking from hypothetical earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest. More generally, Erin's research seeks to constrain seismic hazard throughout the Cascadia Subduction Zone, by combining elements of observational seismology, numerical modeling, and earthquake engineering. She received her bachelors in physics from New York University and Ph.D. in Geology & Geophysics from Yale University. She completed her postdoctoral research at the University of Washington.

### **Elyssa Tappero - Tsunami Program Manager, Washington Emergency Management Division**

Elyssa Tappero serves as the Tsunami Program Manager for the Emergency Management Division (EMD) of the Washington State Military Department. She is a respected subject matter expert on tsunami mitigation, alerting, response, evacuation planning and vertical evacuation structures, and community education for local, tribal, state, federal, and international stakeholders. Through an annual NOAA/NWS grant, Elyssa coordinates a wide variety of state and national-level projects that aim to improve tsunami hazard resiliency in the United States. She is passionate about advocating for stronger diversity and equity initiatives and providing accessibility resources and training to stakeholders. Prior to her time with EMD, Elyssa provided disaster preparedness training through The American Red Cross and environmental public education through the King County Housing Authority, as well as managed federal research grants with The Geneva Foundation. She has bachelors' degrees in Geoscience and History from Pacific Lutheran University.

**Gus Gates - West Coast Regional Director, Surfrider Foundation**

Gus Gates is the West Coast Regional Director with the Surfrider Foundation, providing management and oversight for Surfrider's regional and policy staff within the states of Washington, Oregon, California, as well as the Hawaiian Islands. Prior to his current position, he served as a policy manager for Surfrider in both Oregon and Washington for 14 years. Gus was born and raised on the Siuslaw River on Oregon's central coast where he developed a passion for all things aquatic, spending many days swimming in the lakes, fishing in the rivers, and surfing in the ocean while growing up. He first got involved in conservation in High School, working at the Mapleton Ranger District with the USFS doing riparian restoration and fish habitat enhancement which then led him to Oregon State University. After graduating in 2003 from OSU with a bachelors in Fisheries and Wildlife Science and a specialty option in ecological restoration, he moved to Oregon's southern coast to take a position with ODFW in marine fisheries. Additional professional positions have included stints doing snorkel surveys, shellfish aquaculture, tropical ecology field work in Costa Rica, serving as the watershed conservationist with the Siuslaw SWCD, and community organizing to establish marine protected areas.

**Cristin Kenyon - Director of Development Services, City of Eureka**

Cristin Kenyon is the Director of Development Services (i.e., Planning & Building) for the City of Eureka where she has worked since 2021. She has been a resident of coastal Humboldt County since 2014, previously working as a Coastal Program Analyst for the California Coastal Commission's North Coast Office. She earned a bachelor's degree in environmental systems from UC San Diego and a master's in urban and regional planning from UCLA.