

Engaging the Government on Federal Actions

Target audience

Local government personnel, elected officials and their staffs, and citizens who have responsibility for, or a desire to be involved with, Federal agency actions that affect local regions.

Course Goal

Participants will learn how to directly access the Federal government as a local government seeking to influence Federal agency actions and decisions.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the Federal and State issues which will benefit from local government participation.
2. Determine the appropriate statutory process used by the identified Federal or State agency.
3. Demonstrate nuts and bolts of developing a local land use policy or plan.
4. Demonstrate the coordination meeting preparation process.
5. Demonstrate the cooperating agency status process.
6. Demonstrate the joint planning process.
7. Demonstrate the consistency review process.
8. Discuss New Mexico state statutes and requirements for local government participation in the planning process.
9. Identify other federal statutes that influence federal agency decisions.

BIOGRAPHY OF KAREN BUDD-FALEN

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Karen Budd-Falen, with her husband Frank Falen, is the owner of the Budd-Falen Law Offices, L.L.C. located in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Before moving back to Wyoming, Karen served for three years in the Reagan Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. She later served as a law clerk to the Assistant Solicitor for Water and Power. Karen has also worked as an attorney at Mountain States Legal Foundation, a conservative public interest legal foundation in Denver, Colorado.

Karen represents private property owners, ranching and farming organizations, and local governments. Karen has assisted local governments in asserting their rights of cooperation and coordination in federal agency decisions; private property owners in protecting their Constitutionally guaranteed property rights, other multiple users in supporting grazing and multiple use on federal/public lands; exposing radical environmental groups' abuse of the legal system and has worked to expose the abuse of attorney fee shifting statutes.

Some of Karen's publications include *The Right to Graze Livestock on the Federal Lands: The Historical Development of Western Grazing Rights*, Idaho Law Review, Spring, 1994; *Protecting Community Stability and Local Economies: Opportunities for County Government Influence in Federal Decision and Policy Making Processes*, Whitman College, 1996; and *Counterpoint: Opportunities Lost and Opportunities Gained: Separating Truth from Myth in the Western Ranching Debate*, Karen Budd-Falen editor, Lewis and Clark Law School Environmental Law, 2006.

Karen was featured in Newsweek Magazine's "Who's Who: 20 for the Future" for her work on property rights issues (September 30, 1991). Karen was awarded Wyoming's Outstanding Ag Citizen in 2001; the "Always There Helping" award from the New Mexico Stock Growers Association in 2003; the "Bud's Contract" award from the New Mexico Public Lands Council in 2006 and the Individual of the Year award from the Arizona/New Mexico Counties for Stable Economic Growth in 2011.

Karen has presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Forest Health, Washington, D.C., April 8, 1997, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources, October 26, 1998, and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources relating to the National Environmental Policy Act, August 1, 2005; and the U.S. House of Representatives Full Committee on Natural Resources Oversight Hearing on "The Endangered Species Act; How Litigation is Costing Jobs and Impeding True Recovery Efforts," December 6, 2011. Karen has also testified before committees of the Wyoming Legislature.

Karen has been appointed by Wyoming Governor Matt Mead and confirmed by the Senate to serve as Commissioner on the Wyoming Water Development Commission. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Natural Resources Foundation.

Karen is an active volunteer and mentor for Future Farmers of America ("FFA"). Karen grew up as a fifth generation rancher on a family-owned ranch in Big Piney, Wyoming. She received her undergraduate degrees and her law degree from the University of Wyoming. Karen and Frank have two children, Isaac and Sarah.

A. Blair Dunn is a farm and ranch raised practitioner from Southern New Mexico. His practice includes transactional matters and litigation based in the areas of agriculture, natural resources and civil rights. Blair has a degree in geology and began his legal career as in-house counsel for water rights brokerage firm in Albuquerque, NM handling administrative and regulatory issues as well as litigation and transactional work. He served as the General Counsel/Director of Agriculture Policy for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture from 2009 to 2012. Since that time he has been in private practice working both for and against financial institutions, and for the agriculture and extraction industries on NEPA, ESA, APA and other federal issues. His practice includes state regulatory work. He is admitted to practice in New Mexico and South Dakota as well as the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Federal Court of Claims.

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Andrea Buzzard Bio

Graduated from Oklahoma University in 1969, earning a BA degree. Majored in Spanish and minored in French and English.

Graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1972, earning a law degree.

Became licensed as a lawyer in 1973, obtaining law licenses from both the Texas Bar and the New Mexico Bar. Both licenses are and have remained current and active since 1973.

I worked as a lawyer for the New Mexico Attorney General's office for over 30 years. During that time, I represented and advised numerous State boards and State agencies, and I represented the State in various legal actions during that time of employment. I particularly enjoyed representing the New Mexico Livestock Board. The work of ranchers is vital to the well-being of our Country.

I ceased employment with the New Mexico Attorney General in January of 2014 and now work for Budd-Falen Law Offices.