

Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Conference July 19-22, 2011

Tricia R. Sears, Speaker Biography for the July 20, 2011 session on “Disaster Resilience” at the downtown Portland Hilton, Portland, OR.

Provided to Brandon Hardenbrook at PNWER via email 6/28/11.

Tricia Sears has over 16 years of professional experience in environmental planning in the Portland metropolitan area. She has worked for both urban and rural jurisdictions, with the majority of her experience at the City of Portland. She has also done some consulting work for private firms.

Her focus and passion has been to act as a liaison between science and policy, bringing together the fascinating interrelationships of environmental, political, economic, and social elements. Recognizing that science should be the basis for sound policy, and that integration of disciplines is key, Tricia works collaboratively with diverse stakeholders. She loves to foster understanding of the links between disciplines so that people thrive in livable, functional communities.

Her experience involves technical knowledge in the fields of land use planning, natural resource management, site development, stormwater management, sustainable development, invasive plant management, and natural hazard management. Tricia believes that understanding and being knowledgeable about multiple disciplines provides a holistic view while being familiar with the individual parts.

Tricia currently works as the Project Manager of the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP). The position is within the Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM). The Portland LEAP is funded by an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant; it extends through March 2012. A more detailed explanation of the Portland LEAP will be provided during the “Disaster Resilience” session.

Previous to her current position, Tricia managed the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project for the City of Portland’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). The multi-faceted project included completely revising the existing *Portland Plant List*; establishing new regulations for the use of native, non-native, and non-native invasive plants; and crafting new relationships between the bureaus for managing invasive plants.

Tricia also represented BPS on the 2009-2010 committee headed by the Portland Office of Emergency Management working to revise the City’s existing Hazard Management Plan. Additionally, Tricia provided natural hazards analysis and recommendations to BPS staff working on the Portland Plan (the update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan). In 2005, Tricia worked on the City’s first Hazard Mitigation Plan; this was the initial plan crafted for the City’s compliance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

In addition to her passion for her work, Tricia enjoys life in other ways such as studying, being an active member of the community, and pursuing outdoor activities. She has a Post Graduate Certificate in the Study and Management of Geological Risks from the University of Geneva, Switzerland; a Masters in Environmental Management from Portland State University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas.