



The Rocky Mountain  
Compiler

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Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, serving Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico

## Bio Sketches -- Nominees for 2019 RMR Officer Election

### President:

Geographer Jeffrey M. Young was born near the physiographic boundary of the Endless, Moosic and Pocono Mountains, 3.2 kilometers northeast of the confluence of Roaring Brook and the Lackawanna River in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Over the last ten years, Jeff has been with LizardTech (now re-branded as Extensis) and has been responsible for expanding third-party relationships. He represents Extensis at ASPRS, UAS initiatives in Colorado, and also serves as a Friend of the Geospatial Data Acquisition Technologies AFB80 Committee for the Transportation Research Board. Prior to joining Extensis, he held positions in program management, business development, consulting, and sales with several geospatial companies, including Leica Geosystems, Space Imaging, and Bentley Systems.

Jeff earned a B.S. in Geography (cum laude) from Lock Haven State College in Pennsylvania and a National Science Foundation funded M.A. in Geography, specializing in land use analysis and environmental hazards, from Arizona State University (ASU). His master's thesis is titled Land Use Management in Geological Hazard Areas: Durango East Quadrangle, Colorado. Jeff's interest in research persists, with most current studies related to hazardous mountain environments, Pueblo communities in New Mexico, geospatial data archiving and preservation, close-up photogrammetry, and toponymy. Jeff and his wife Pamela of 29 years live in Centennial, Colorado with their mid-20's daughter and son living nearby most of the time. Jeff enjoys deep sea fishing, biking, and golf when time allows, as well as traveling with his family. Jeff most recently served the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region as President.

### Vice

Michael Tuffly, Ph.D. is the Principal for Environmental Resource Inventory and Analysis LLC (ERIA Consultants, LLC) based in Boulder, Colorado. He is also a Certified Mapping Scientist, Remote Sensing from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), a Certified Forester from the Society of American Foresters (SAF), a Certified Senior Ecologist from Ecological Society of America (ESA), and a GIS Professional (GISP) from the Geographic Information System Certification Institute (GISCI). Mike holds a B.S. in Forestry, an M.S. in Natural Resource Management from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in Forest Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, specializing in spatial temporal modeling. Dr. Tuffly has over 30 years experience in applied GIS and spatial modeling for federal, state, private, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, he has spent over 35 years addressing various fire, natural resource, and forest management issues in the United States and abroad. He is also an adjunct Professor in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and at the University of Denver.

### President:

### Treasurer:

Peter Cornish, CMS-GIS/LIS, GISP, has been providing geospatial consulting for 20 years and has been a member of ASPRS since 1998. He has worked in the private sector for several companies, including GPS Technology Corporation, Tobin International, PBS&J, and Atkins North America in positions of progressive responsibility for mapping and GIS. Peter formed his own company, Alpine Geomatics, LLC in Conifer, Colorado in 2017, and has since then been providing geospatial consulting services. Peter's work has primarily involved support for education research, environmental, and infrastructure projects. He enjoys working with

clients on complex problems and developing creative approaches using his expertise in GIS and knowledge of mapping science to deliver solutions and successful outcomes. Peter's management experience with various companies and running his own business has contributed the organizational skills needed for Treasurer. He has supported the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region in this capacity for the past year. In addition to ASPRS, Peter is a member of GISCI and the Society for Conservation GIS. He is a Certified Mapping Scientist GIS/LIS and a Geographic Information Systems Professional, and holds an Honors Bachelor's degree in Geography.

### Secretary:

(Open) Please contact us at [www.asprs-rmr.org](http://www.asprs-rmr.org) → Officers page if you have an interest in this position.

### Regional Director ("GIS in the Rockies" Committee):

Aron Langley, M.A., GISP is a GIT Technical Specialist II and GIS manager in the Michael Baker International (MBI) Lakewood office. He develops, implements, and presents solutions to geospatial problems using the latest technologies. He serves as a multi-office technical resource and consistently provides leadership and project support across company offices and a variety of Michael Baker International clientele. Aron is a Certified GIS Professional. He also earned his CFR Part 107 (UAS) Remote Pilot's License in 2017 and is currently lead pilot and GIT manager for the MBI Lakewood office. Aron has served as a GIT lead and manager for multi-million-dollar transportation projects, including Michael Baker International's recent I-69 Section 5 Tier II EIS for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He has successfully deployed automated site assessment tools for multiple clients, including tools to evaluate site vulnerability to natural hazards, socio-economic risk, stream restoration site prioritization, and tools to assist communities with prioritizing transportation improvement projects. He has presented at several community project scoping meetings and multiple local and regional conferences, including GIS in the Rockies (GISITR) and the Association of Montana Flood Plain Managers conferences. Throughout his career in GIT, Aron has become an expert in geospatial analysis, LiDAR processing, terrain modeling, terrain development, raster analysis and modeling, ModelBuilder tool development, workflow

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modeling and automation, impact analysis and modeling, riverine and coastal flood mapping, future scenario modeling, Python scripting, development of online mapping applications and dashboards, data interoperability, database design and management, transportation plan analysis, remote sensing, natural resource management, and QA/QC processes.

Aron earned a B.S. degree in physical geography from the University of Wyoming. His deep attraction to outdoor adventure, wandering the Colorado high country, maps, and mapping were in large part what led him to Wyoming. He studied geology, weather and climate, insect biology, and natural resources before gravitating to the physical form and landscapes he loved. The University of Wyoming provided Aron with an educational foundation that would eventually lead him to his career in GIS. In 2002 Aron enrolled in graduate studies in Missoula, MT to continue his educational development. At the University of Montana, he earned a M.A. in Geography with an emphasis in GIS. He was elected Vice President of the Montana Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon and finished his degree with a 4.0 GPA. After graduating, Aron took a job as an analyst with Michael Baker International's Lakewood office, where he used his talents and dedication to success to develop a career in GIS. Mr. Langley has been a proud member of the Colorado GIS community for 13 years and is eager to pursue new leadership roles and foster GIT growth throughout the region. He currently lives in Lakewood with his wife, Christina and two children, Lucas (age 4) and Elise (age 2).

### Regional Director (At Large / New Mexico):

Christopher D. Lippitt, Ph.D., CMS-RS is an Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of New Mexico. His research is focused on remote sensing and spatial analysis, with a particular emphasis on non-traditional applications and methodologies. He has been an ASPRS member since 2004, is a Robert N. Colwell Memorial Fellow, an ASPRS Certified Mapping Scientist in Remote Sensing, and founded the Student Chapter of ASPRS at San Diego State University. He has been a board member of the Rio Grande Chapter since 2012 and currently serves as Vice President. In addition, he is Faculty Advisor of the ASPRS Student Chapter at the University of New Mexico. He is passionate about enabling the next generation of remote sensing technologies through development of technology, a culture of

best practice, and guiding the next generation of remote sensing professionals.

Chris' research includes methodological and theoretical development in remote sensing and spans a wide range of applications with collaborators from a variety of disciplines (e.g., Biology, Archeology, Civil and Computer Engineering); the common thread is the development of remote sensing technologies and methodologies that enables remote sensing to inform novel decision processes, particularly in the time-sensitive decision domain. Current application areas include infrastructure damage assessment and regional disturbance monitoring. Students from all levels and from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds are directly involved in this research, which is his preferred way of teaching (i.e., learning by doing). He also teaches a variety of remote sensing, GIS, and graduate research courses. Chris lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his wife Caitlin, sons Ben and Liam, and daughter Emily. When not working, he spends most of his time outdoors exploring the Southwest.

### Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter):

Sheila Pelczarski, M.S. is excited at the opportunity to contribute to ASPRS and enrich the organization as a primary resource for the Geospatial Sciences and Technologies by helping to bring together students and professionals at all stages of their careers. Sheila has over 30 years of work experience in Denver and Washington, DC in the fields of GIS and remote sensing/image processing for environmental applications, including positions with SPOT Image Corporation, EPA's Environmental Photo Interpretation Center (EPIC), Kodak's KRS Remote Sensing, Satellite Hydrology, Inc., and Environmental Science & Technology, Inc. Sheila was most recently employed for 23 years as a GIS & Remote Sensing Analyst with the Water Resources Analysis team in the Planning/Water Resources Division at Denver Water. There she managed a variety of water resources projects requiring mapping, GIS analysis and GIS database development. One of her key involvements was the Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project (DRAPP) (coordinated by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)), helping to design project specifications, reviewing proposals, and interviewing prospective contractors for this massive, multi-year project since its inception in 2002.

Sheila was born and raised near Springfield, Massachusetts. She attended the University of Vermont, where she majored in Environmental Studies and Mass Communications. She then earned a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Studies and an M.S. degree in Geography/Remote Sensing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has been an ASPRS member since 1985. She is a former President, Vice-President, and Regional Director of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region, and worked on the GIS in the Rockies Conference Planning Committee to compile the technical program. Since then, she has for many years served as Communications Coordinator, managing the award-winning Region Website and helping produce the award-winning Rocky Mountain Compiler Newsletter. Sheila is now taking a break from working to renovate her 1929 brick house and to figure out what will be next. In her spare time, she enjoys skiing, cycling, hiking, gardening, and riding motorcycles.

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Note:

Your officer election ballot will be sent as a link in a separate email message from ASPRS Headquarters.

Thank you for participating in our annual Rocky Mountain Region elections!

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### Student Rebate Offer

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region will reimburse \$25 of the \$50 cost of student membership, so your net cost is only \$25 for all the benefits of membership in the Society!

Download the Student Membership Rebate Form at <http://www.asprs-rmr.org> (on the Student Chapters page). Here's the best part: This offer from the Region is good for every year you are a full-time student!

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