Jodie Murray Burns, PWS, MEd, MS

Wetland Scientist and Stream Ecologist

CATTAILS ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC
wetlands & environmental consulting

SERVICE AREAS

Wetland Delineations and Determinations
CWA Sec 401/404 Permit Coordination
Wetland & Stream Mitigation
Stream Bioassessments & Monitoring
Natural Resource Inventories
Suitable Habitat Assessments
American Burying Beetle Surveys
Red-cockaded Woodpecker Surveys
NEPA Report Writing
Trail Assessments & Inventories
Environmental Regulations Seminars

EDUCATION

M.S. Biological Sciences, 2001, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas
M.Ed. School Supervision, 1993, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas
B.S. Biology, 1988, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas

PERMITS / CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), SWSPCP Certified, Exp Feb 2031.
USFWS Federal Permit #ES76960D (ABB), Exp 3/12/26. Renewal submitted.
State of OK Scientific Collector's Permit, ID 5237055. Exp 12/31/26.
State of AR Scientific Collector's Permit, AGFC #031320263. Exp 3/13/27.
State of MO, MDC 2024 Wildlife Collector Permit, #65382
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Scientific Permit 1559. Exp 12/31/26.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS): Board's Education & Outreach Committee chair (2026-present); South Central Chapter's Oklahoma Education and Outreach Coordinator (2022-present); SWS Webinar Series Committee (2021-present); active Central Chapter member
Society of Freshwater Science, Member
National Association of Wetland Managers, Member

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

USGS Wetland Field Assistant, White River National Wildlife Refuge, AR, LA, and MS. Studying the lat/long effects of climate change. August 2017-2021.

QUALIFICATIONS

Jodie Murray Burns has over 18 years of experience working nationwide with environmental regulations associated with the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 401/404 permits), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for commercial and residential developments, transportation projects, oil & gas projects, conservation/restoration projects, renewable energy projects, and climate change projects. Ms. Burns has worked with the implementation of federal and state environmental regulations within the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Indiana, Utah, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Ms. Burns regularly presents seminars covering regulation changes, judicial decisions, and legislative actions regarding the CWA and ESA.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Reference Wetlands Project, MO. June 2024-Oct 2025. Documented vegetation via Floristic Quality Assessment methodology and collected biological samples and data at 30 reference wetland sites during spring & fall to ground-truth computer software developed to model identification of reference wetlands.

Proposed Sabine National Forest Brookeland Thinning Project, Brookeland, TX. U.S. Forest Service. Oct 2023-Jan 2025. Performed desktop and field surveys of suitable habitat or presence/absence on 48 T-E species or FS sensitive species on a 4,200-acre project to meet NEPA regs. Drafted BE.

8th Street & Gateway Park, City of Bentonville, AR. Oct 2023-Dec 2025. WOTUS delineation and determination, along with acquiring a CWA 404 permit, for a proposed 86-acre park. Park design revised to avoid-minimize impacts to WOTUS areas. Suitable bat habitat and karst features identified to avoid impacts to T/E species.

Proposed Prospect Village Project, Joplin, MO. Nov 2023-ongoing. WOTUS delineation and determination conducted on 80.5-acre multiuse development site. Full suite of services provided to obtain CWA 404 permit.

Proposed Landfill Expansion Project, City of Sallisaw, OK. Nov 2022-ongoing. Full suite of WOTUS permit-related services being provided to obtain a CWA Sec. 404 permit, along with design of a required PRM site.

Wastewater System Rehabilitation Project, Cities of Greenland & Fayetteville, AR. Mar 2022 – May 2023. WOTUS delineation and determination was performed on this 2.25-mile-long project to improve the cities' wastewater system. Twenty-seven drains and eight wetland areas were identified. Full suite of services was provided, including obtaining state WQC and CWA 404 permit.

I-49 Relocation, Federal Highway Administration & Arkansas Dept. of Transportation, Barling to Alma, AR. Mar 2021-Feb 2023. Provided T/E section of the EIS Re-Evaluation document, habitat assessment, and a Biological Assessment for a 1,546-acre project site (14-mile length) between AR Highway 22 and I-40. ESRI AGOL project map created for biological data collection and coordination of environmental specialists.

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Industrial Drive Extension, City of Fayetteville, AR. Feb 2020 to Sept 2021. Assisted with the city's grant application for the proposed project. Completed preliminary WOTUS report and T/E species effects determinations for an AJD.
Grain Belt Express Transmission Line, KS & MO. Sept/Oct 2020. Lead scientist for a 2-person field team that evaluated 40 miles of a proposed 800+ mile, multi-state OH renewable energy electric transmission line for WOTUS and T/E habitat.
FHWA, Mark Twain National Forest, Audubon Trail & Low Water Crossing Projects, MO. July 2019. WOTUS delineations were conducted, and WOTUS reports written for two different projects. Eleven WOTUS features mapped.
Multiple Wind Farm Developments, Oklahoma, American Burying Beetle Surveys, 2014-2019. Presence/Absence surveys on 122 trap locations were performed per USFWS guidelines to assist client in meeting ESA regulations.
Lone Star Express & West Texas II Transmission Line, West Texas, April-May 2019. Delineation of WOTUS on proposed linear project (60+ mile assignment) in West Texas. Thirty+ WOTUS features mapped.
Shoal Creek Stream Inventory, southwest Missouri, Fall 2017- Winter 2018. Coordinated a 55+ mile stream survey of bank instability areas and environmental features. GIS database developed on this state Conservation Opportunity Area.
Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Line, Oklahoma & Arkansas, American Burying Beetle Surveys, Summer 2016. Presence/Absence surveys performed per USFWS guidelines on 80 miles of a proposed 720-mile line.
City of Hulbert, Oklahoma, Environmental Assessment, Nov 2014-Feb 2015. NEPA report writer as a wetland scientist and assisted client in obtaining required USACOE Nationwide Permit for project.
Northwest Arkansas Water Transmission Line (Two Ton Loop), Benton and Washington Counties, AR, 1995. Co-Project Manager: Responsible for coordinating endangered species surveys and documenting pre-impact stream habitat and wetlands impacts for the rural 70+ mile-long, two-county water transmission line.

Additional Qualifications

Publications / Presentations

SWS South Central Chapter Meeting, Fayetteville, AR, October 9-10, 2025. A Regional Perspective of the Complex Intersection of the Current WOTUS Definition, Karst Features, and Federally-Listed Karst Species Protections in Northwest Arkansas.

SWS South Central Chapter Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, October 17-18, 2024. Interactive Panel: WOTUS and Sackett – Does the Law Care about Hydrology or Wetlands Science?

SWS South Central Chapter Meeting, Cave City, KY, October 12-13, 2023. Presentation title: An Introduction and Review of the Beta Streamflow Duration Assessment Method (SDAM) for the Northeast and Southeast of the United States.

Society of Wetland Scientists Joint (South Central & Central) Chapter Meeting. Searcy, AR, October 6, 2022. Instructor - *Wetland Mapping & Emerging Technology* Workshop. Provided eight hours of training certified by the SWS PCP committee.

Public comments to the USEPA and US Corps of Engineers in a Public Web Conference about Re-Defining WOTUS, Aug 31, 2021.

KUAF 91.3/NPR National Correspondent Interview with Jacqueline Froelich about current WOTUS Regulations, Aug 26, 2021.

Society of Wetland Scientists - South Central Chapter Meeting, Galveston, TX. October 25, 2019. Presentation title: CWA Federal Policy Update – Recent Proposed Mitigation Rule and Section 401 Rule Changes by EPA & Corps Of Engineers.

Arkansas Water Resources Center's Annual Water Conference, Fayetteville, AR. July 31, 2019. Presentation Title: Status of WOTUS in Arkansas & A Case Study of Jurisdictional Issues Regarding Groundwater Protection.

Public Comments to the EPA and COE for the Society of Wetland Scientists' Policy & Regulation Section at the only Public Hearing for the 2019 Proposed Water of the U.S. Re-Definition, Kansas City, KS, Feb 28, 2019.

Society of Wetland Scientists South Central Chapter Meeting. North Little Rock, AR. Oct. 12, 2018. Presentation Title: The Clean Water Rule: A Review & Current Status, Keeping Up With Current Federal Policy.

Presented preliminary findings of a 55+ mile survey of Shoal Creek, Newton County, MO, at The Nature Conservancy's Western Ozark Waters Initiative forum. Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, March 15, 2017.

Smith A., **Burns J.M.**, and Burba E. (coauthors). January 27, 2015. Draft Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Hulbert, OK, Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Prepared by SEARCH LLC, Siloam Springs, AR. 228 pages. (Technical Report)

Burns, Jodie Janeen Murray. December 2001. THESIS: Changes in Watershed Land Use, Geomorphology, and Macroinvertebrate Assemblages in Clear Creek, NW Arkansas, From 1948-1999. University of Arkansas. 97 pages.

Burns J.M., and Barnes J.M. 1995. Environmental Assessment. Proposed Retail Development, West Lafayette, Indiana. Details mammal survey, bird sightings, plant inventory, wetlands, and cultural resources. 26+ pages. (Technical Report)

Awards

Society of Wetland Scientists President's Service Award, 2019 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, May 2019.