

Jodie Murray Burns, PWS, MEd, MS

Wetland Scientist and Stream Ecologist



SERVICE AREAS

Wetland Delineations and Determinations
CWA Sec 401/404 Permit Coordination
Wetland & Stream Mitigation
Stream Bioassessments & Monitoring
Natural Resource Inventories
Habitat Assessments
Watershed Inventories
NEPA Report Writing
Environmental Regulations Seminars

EDUCATION

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

PERMITS / CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), SWS Certified, Exp. Feb 2026
USFWS Federal Permit #ES76960D, Exp. 3/12/26, American burying beetle
State of OK Scientific Collector's Permit, ID 5237055, Exp. 12/31/21, renewing
State of AR Scientific Collector's Permit, #010320221, Exp. 1/3/23
State of KS Scientific Wildlife Permit, #SC-072-2021, Exp. 12/31/21, renewing

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS): South Central Chapter President (2021-2023) & Arkansas Education and Outreach Coordinator (2017-present); Central Chapter Member; SWS Webinar Series Committee, co-chair (2021-present)
Society of Freshwater Science, South-Central Chapter Member
National Association of Wetland Managers, Member

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

AGFC National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) Spring Breeding Bird Surveys/Fall Covey Counts, Pea Ridge National Park Monitoring Site, Arkansas, May 2016-present (seasonal)
USGS Wetland Research Field Assistant, White River National Wildlife Refuge, AR, LA, and MS. Studying the longitudinal and latitudinal effects of climate change on select wetland ecosystems in the U.S., August 2017-present (seasonal)

QUALIFICATIONS

Jodie Murray Burns has over 13 years of experience working nationwide with environmental regulations associated with the Clean Water Act (Section 401/404 permits), Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act 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 Clean Water Act (i.e. Waters of the U.S. or WOTUS) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Federal Highway Administration & Arkansas Dept. of Transportation, I-49 Relocation, Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Mar 2021-ongoing. Providing an Environmental Impact Statement Re-Evaluation document investigating T/E Species, Water Body Modifications/Impacts to Wildlife, and a Biological Assessment report for the 1,357-acre project site (nearly 14 miles in length) between Arkansas Highway 22 and I-40. Fieldwork performed using online project map with ESRI Field Maps app and a submeter GNSS receiver.

Industrial Drive Extension, City of Fayetteville, AR. Feb 2020 to Sept 2021. Assisted in writing an environmental narrative for the city's Econ. Dev. Admin. grant application for a proposed 60-acre project site. Wetland desktop analysis and USFWS IPaC process performed. Once grant awarded, completed WOTUS delineation/determination and an AJD was obtained for the 8-acre project footprint.

Timber Ridge Subdivision, Centerton, AR. Feb/Mar 2021. The proposed 23-acre development site was assessed for WOTUS. No WOTUS (as currently defined) were found, but the ephemeral features were well documented in a report to support the findings that the site features were outside the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction.

Spring Meadow Residential Development, Prairie Grove, AR. Dec 2020/Jan 2021. Evaluated a 43-acre proposed development site for WOTUS and advised client on likely required USACE regulatory permits and expected permitting schedule.

Grain Belt Express Transmission Line, KS & MO. Sept/Oct 2020. Lead wetland scientist for a 2-person field team that evaluated 40 miles of a proposed 800+ mile, multi-state overhead renewable energy electric transmission line for WOTUS. Sixty-one features (49 streams and 12 wetlands) mapped to submeter accuracy using ESRI Collector app and submeter GNSS receiver. T/E habitat assessed concurrently.

Diamond Spring Wind Farm, Johnston County, OK. March 2020. Monitored construction of the 112-wind turbine farm as per the USFWS permit requirements for the federally-listed endangered American burying beetle.

FHWA, Mark Twain National Forest, Audubon Trail & Low Water Crossing Projects, Missouri. July 2019. WOTUS delineations were performed and reports written about two project sites. Eleven WOTUS features (two wetlands and nine streams) were found within the 13 acres evaluated.

Multiple Wind Farm Developments, Oklahoma, American Burying Beetle Surveys, 2014-2019. Presence/Absence surveys were performed per the USFWS guidelines to assist clients in meeting ESA regulations and permitting requirements. A total of 122 assigned trap locations were surveyed.

Lone Star Express & West Texas II Transmission Line, West Texas, April-May 2019. Delineation of WOTUS on a proposed linear project (60+ miles of the team's 180-mile assignment) in West Texas - Rio Grande & Colorado River watersheds. Approximately 30+ features were documented and mapped to sub-meter accuracy using a Trimble Geo 7X.

Glen Road Townhomes Residential Development, Bentonville, Arkansas, July 2018-Oct 2019. Full suite of environmental services was provided on a proposed 2-acre project to obtain a CWA Sec. 404 permit – preliminary WOTUS determination & report, permit coordination, and coordinated meeting mitigation requirements.

Shoal Creek Stream Inventory, southwest Missouri, Fall 2017- Winter 2018. Project Manager: Coordination of a 55+ mile stream survey of bank stability areas and environmental features of interest to document current conditions. GIS database developed to assist in conservation and watershed-scale restoration planning efforts on the stream, a state COA.

Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Line, Oklahoma & Arkansas, American Burying Beetle Surveys, Summer 2016. Presence/Absence surveys were performed per the USFWS guidelines on approximately 80 miles of the total 250 miles evaluated for ABB presence/absence of the proposed 720-mile transmission line.

City of Hulbert, Oklahoma, Environmental Assessment, Nov 2014-Feb 2015. NEPA report writer as a wetland scientist and assisted client in obtaining required USACE Nationwide Permit for project.

Northwest Arkansas Water Transmission Line (Two Ton Loop), 1995. Benton and Washington Counties, AR. 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

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.

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR. Agricultural Economics Class. April 6, 2020. Presentation Title: Keeping Up with the Current WOTUS Definition and Its Impacts on Agricultural Interests.

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 & US Corps Of Engineers (COE).

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 US EPA and US 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)

Burns, J.M., Barnes J.M., and Mastrostefano D. 1994 Stream Enhancement/Mitigation Project for Kentucky Water Quality Certification, Middlesboro, KY. 19+ pages. (Technical Report)

Burns, J.M. 1994. Mitigation Plan for A.B. Shopping Center Properties, Inc., Lebanon, TN. Sheets 1-3. (Technical Report)

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