



Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC000073

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF LANCE W. VAIL

CURRENT POSITION

Senior Research Engineer II
Environmental Technology Division
Battelle, Pacific Northwest Division
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Since joining Battelle in 1981, Mr. Vail has been involved in projects covering a diverse set of water related issues. His professional experience includes basic and applied research, and regulatory compliance assessments. His areas of expertise cover a broad spectrum of areas related to water resources.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Water resource management
Multiple objective tradeoff analysis in water resources
Uncertainty analysis in water resources
Advanced hydrologic process modeling
Impacts of climate on water resources
Neural networks, fuzzy logic, and genetic algorithms applied to water resource issues
Linking simulation models with optimization methods to water resource problems
Linkage of physical and biological models in fisheries management

EDUCATION

B.S.	Humboldt State University, environmental resources engineering	1979
M.S.	Montana State University, civil engineering	1982

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Geophysical Union
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Water Resources Association

CURRENT PROJECTS

Hydrologic Site Safety Reviews for Early Site Permits. Principal Investigator and Project Manager. Three applications for an Early Site Permit (ESP) have been submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This project provides an independent assessment of hydrologic suitability of the proposed sites. Assessments include a broad range of considerations such as flooding, low water conditions, ice impacts, seiches, storm surge, and tsunamis.

Water-related Environmental Reviews for Early Site Permits. Task Manager. Three applications for an Early Site Permit (ESP) have been submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This task provides an independent assessment of the proposed sites' environmental suitability. Assessments include a broad range of considerations such as water-use conflicts and changes in water quality.

Snohomish Basin Characterization. Technical Lead. Advanced distributed watershed models were applied to provide the Tulalip Tribes of Western Washington state a thorough understanding of the impacts of logging, development, and climate on the Snohomish River Basin.

Acid Rain TMDL. Principal Investigator and Technical Project Manager. The objective of this work assignment for Region II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is to develop a preliminary assessment approach for TMDLs

for pH impaired waters listed on the New York State Section 303(d) list. The intent is to enhance and further develop TMDL program capabilities by providing expertise in both acid deposition and TMDL development. The development of such an assessment approach requires that available models and data resources be reviewed. Systems engineering methods will be used in developing a conceptual model to ensure the relationships between models and data are fully understood. The assessment approach will be tested on one or more representative watersheds to be determined in close coordination with EPA, NYSDEC and Battelle. <http://acidraintmdl.pnl.gov>

PAST PROJECTS

Environmental Impact of License Renewal of Commercial Nuclear Power Plants. Contributor. Mr. Vail assesses the water use, water quality, and hydrologic impacts of license renewal for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's NEPA process. He has performed this function for the following commercial nuclear plants: Calvert Cliffs, Oconee, Arkansas Nuclear One, Hatch, McGuire, Catawba, North Anna, Robinson, Ginna, and St. Lucie.

Chehalis Basin Characterization. Principal Investigator and Project Manager. Advanced numerical modeling and GIS methods were applied to assist the Corps of Engineers in characterizing the Chehalis Basin in Western Washington State. The Chehalis Basin is subject to frequent flooding. The native populations of anadromous fish have been stressed to adverse changes in habitat resulting from development and logging.

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Decommissioning Commercial Nuclear Power Plants. Contributor. Mr. Vail is providing expertise in the development of a GEIS for decommissioning of nuclear plants. He provides expertise on water use, water quality, and hydrologic impacts for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Impact of Climate on the Lower Yakima Basin. Principal Investigator and Project Manager. The objective of this three-year EPA STAR Grant Project was to develop and demonstrate an integrated assessment of the impact of climate variability and climate change on a diverse set of interests in the Lower Yakima Valley in Central Washington State. Interests considered include: surface and groundwater supply, surface and groundwater quality, air quality, public health, farm and regional economics, and fisheries. The project considered the effectiveness of changes in land management (crop selection) and water management (reservoir operation) in adapting to an uncertain future climate. A diverse set of models was linked with an optimization procedure to ensure that the tradeoffs between various resource management objectives are clearly articulated. <http://projects.battelle.org/yakima/>

Use of NOAA's Seasonal Climate Forecast for Water Resource Management. Task Manager of Reservoir Optimization Task. The objective of this NOAA funded project was to show the potential value of improved climate forecasts in managing surface water reservoirs for multiple objectives. Using a pareto genetic algorithm, the reservoir operating rules were optimized to define the tradeoff curves for hydropower, flood control, and instream flow requirements in the Tennessee River basin. Changes in forecast reliability result in changes to these tradeoffs and thereby express the value of such improved forecasts.

Accelerated Climate Prediction Initiative. Task Manager of Water Resources and Habitat Task. This project will provided a limited, systematic assessment of the potential effects of anthropogenic climate change over the next half-century on water resources in the western United States. This objective was accomplished by "downscaling" the results of the global-scale simulations described above to the spatial and temporal resolution needed to drive impact assessment models. Downscaling is particularly important for the West, where topography is a dominant climate driver. An important aspect of the hydrology of almost all western rivers is water management. Other than a few headwater streams, the hydrology of most rivers in the west is strongly affected by water use and artificial storage. Water management models were

used to study the effect of reservoir operations and understand the implications of climate variability and change on the water resources of the west. <http://acpiwater.pnl.gov>

Linking Physical and Biological Models. Principal Investigator and Project Manager. The objective of this three-year Laboratory Directed Research and Development project is to develop and demonstrate an integrated natural resource analysis framework. This framework: dramatically improves the ability to integrate physical and biological models, thereby encouraging the utilization of advanced process models; allows utilization of large, sparse, and distributed data sets (including model output); communicates high-level tradeoffs and their respective uncertainties; and assesses, communicates, and minimizes scales issues. During the first year, the fundamental structural differences between such models was identified as a significant obstacle to successful linking of physical and biological models. The pervasive vagueness of rules and the multivaluedness associated with temporal/spatial upscaling suggested an approach using “fuzzy methods”. The second year of this project utilized a variety of fuzzy methods including: fuzzy arithmetic, fuzzy logic, fuzzy clustering, and adaptive neural fuzzy inference systems (ANFIS). A series of rules and a database from the Multispecies Framework Process were employed to test the various fuzzy methods. These rules and data are used to define aquatic habitat diversity in the Pacific Northwest. A tool called FuzzyHab was developed to estimate habitat diversity from a set of categorical statements about the environment. Each of these categorical statements is vaguely defined. Estimates for each categorical statement are derived from physical process models.

Integrated Natural Resource Data System. Contributor. This project is to demonstrate INRDS. INRDS is an advanced, web-based environmental information system that will promote public understanding of natural resource management issues and assist planners and decision makers in accessing the most relevant information and analytical tools and evaluating the tradeoffs of alternate actions. <http://inrds.pnl.gov>

Early Warning of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Events for Regional Agriculture. Task Manager of Reservoir Optimization Task. This project is investigating the current predictability of interannual variability in climate conditions in the Pacific Northwest to determine whether and how early warning and seasonal climate forecasts by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts can be used to reduce the vulnerability of irrigated agriculture to low water-availability conditions. The study is funded by a grant from the economics and Human Dimensions Program of the NOAA Office of Global Programs. The Economics and Human Dimensions program aims to improve our understanding of how social and economic systems are currently influenced by fluctuations in short-term climate (seasons to years), and how human behavior can be (or why it may not be) affected based on information about variability in the climate system. <http://elrino-northwest.labworks.org>

Impact of Reservoir Operating Strategies on Resident Fish - Mr. Vail has employed several models to assess the impact on resident fish species of a variety of reservoir operating strategies. This study was undertaken as part of the Columbia Basin System Operation Review process. Mr. Vail helped define the values and value measures of the Resident Fish Work Group.

Multiobjective Optimization - Mr. Vail is the project manager of an effort to assess the multiobjective optimization needs of Bonneville Power Administration. Objectives include: hydropower, resident fish, anadromous fish, irrigation, flood control, wildlife, and navigation. Mr. Vail is developing definitions of the canonical mathematical form of each of these objectives. The resulting multiobjective statement will be used to define the required optimization tools.

Integrated Environmental Monitoring Initiative - Mr. Vail is a co-principal investigator for the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Initiative. The objective of this initiative is to develop and demonstrate a comprehensive interdisciplinary methodology targeted to improve the effectiveness of environmental monitoring and restoration activities. This objective required comprehensive integration of monitoring regimes, analytical practices, design methodologies, and compliance needs.

Coupled Simulation/Optimization of Ground Water Remediation - Mr. Vail developed a computer code that coupled a ground water flow model with an optimization procedure. The code was able to provide estimates of the pumping/injection rates that would mitigate or remove a plume at minimal cost.

Simulation of Watershed Hydrologic Responses to Alternative Climates - Mr. Vail is the principal investigator of a project studying the impacts of global climate change on the hydrologic response of a watershed. The results of hydrologic simulations using distributed snowmelt and soil moisture accounting algorithms were graphically compared via video displays of daily simulated snow water equivalent, soil moisture, and runoff for the American River, Washington, which drains 204 square kilometers of the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains, Washington. Snow water equivalents and snowmelt were simulated using a simplified distributed temperature-index model augmented with seasonally estimated net solar radiation. A classification scheme was used to partition the empirical cumulative probability distributions of precipitation (rain plus melt) and a topographic index over the basin into groups of near-equal membership. Topographically-based soil moisture capacities were assumed for each class and were estimated via automated calibration methods using historical data. The simulated soil moisture and snow water accumulations for each class were geographically mapped for visualization. Test of the effect of alternative, warmer climates on snow accumulation, the seasonal distribution of soil moisture, and runoff were conducted by adjusting historical (daily) temperature and precipitation and repeating the analysis.

Pacific Northwest Climate Change Case Study - Water Resource Impacts - Mr. Vail is investigating the effects of global climate change on water resources of the Pacific Northwest. Spatially distributed snowmelt, soil moisture, and runoff models have been combined with a graphics visualization package to understand the changes in snowpack, soil moisture, and evapotranspiration over time. A weather classification scheme has been developed which estimates point precipitation as a function of large-scale atmospheric variables. This allows the synthesis of point precipitation given large-scale meteorological information as might be produced by GCM simulations. Orographic effects also have a significant role in defining climate at the watershed scale. Efforts are under way to develop a scientific basis to extend the sparse meteorological measurements basis to extend the sparse meteorological measurements available for any watershed to estimate the spatial distribution of precipitation, temperature, and wind speed within the watershed. A reservoir network model for the Columbia River Basin has been aggregated to fourteen nodes. This network model of the Columbia River Basin has been aggregated to fourteen nodes. This network model will be driven by a collection of index watersheds. A daily hydroclimatological data set has been developed to aid in the selection of index watersheds.

Acid Rain Watershed Modeling Project - Mr. Vail directed the hydrologic part of a study to evaluate and apply several coupled hydrology/geochemical codes that were developed to model the impact of acid rain on surface water chemistry. The project involved extensive behavior and sensitivity analyses of three coupled geochemical/hydrological simulation codes.

Incineration at Sea - The objective of this project was to assess the impact of incinerating toxic waste at sea on the aquatic environment. Mr. Vail developed a model on an IBM-PC to estimate the concentration of contaminant in the ocean.

Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage - The objective of this project was to develop and apply computer codes that would simulate the trade-offs between different management policies of an Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage system. Mr. Vail independently developed, validated, and applied several computer codes for this purpose.

Flow and Fractured Media - The objective of this study is to develop a state-of-the-art predictive capability for flow and transport in saturated fractured media. Mr. Vail was responsible for implementing, modifying, and testing a computer code that models steady flow in permeable media with discrete fractures. Mr. Vail has also developed a computer code that models steady flow through fractures in an impermeable rock mass. The fractures can either be specified or generated via Monte Carlo Methods. This code was applied in an investigation of the potential impact of a nuclear meltdown on groundwater.

Modeling Flow With Certainty in Hydraulic Parameters - The objective of this study is to develop a methodology to analyze the uncertainty in predicting piezometric surfaces caused by uncertainty in groundwater flow parameters. Mr. Vail developed a computer code that couples perturbation and finite-element techniques to estimate the mean and variance of the piezometric surface.

Stripa Mine Hydrogeologic Characterization - The objective of this study was to perform three-dimensional simulations with the CFEST code for ground water flow at the Stripa Mine in Sweden. Mr. Vail was the Battelle project manager of this effort.

PUBLICATIONS

Coleman A, LW Vail, and A Savery. 2005. "Landscape Classification for Assessment of Impacts of Landuse and Climate on Water Resources." Presented by Andre M Coleman (Invited Speaker) at 25th Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute International User Conference, San Diego, CA on July 25, 2005. PNWD-SA-7118.

Prasad R, LW Vail, CB Cook, and G Bagchi. 2005. "Establishment of Safety-Related Site Characteristics Based on Consideration of External Sources of Flooding at Nuclear Power Plant Sites in the United States of America." Presented by Rajiv Prasad (Invited Speaker) at IAEA-India External Flooding Hazards Workshop , Kalpakkan, Tamil Nadu on August 29, 2005. PNNL-SA-46005.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Benefits and Costs of Options to Mitigate the Uncertain Effects of Climate Change on Irrigated Agriculture in the Yakima Basin. What Matters? What Doesn't?" Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at 39th Annual Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, Bellingham, WA on May 20, 2005. PNWD-SA-6980.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, and R Prasad. 2005. "Managing Water for Irrigated Agriculture Under Extended Climate-Related Drought." Presented by Michael J. Scott at American Water Resources Association 2005 Annual.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Benefits and Costs of Options to Mitigate the Uncertain Effects of Climate Change on Irrigated Agriculture in the Yakima Basin. What Matters? What Doesn't?" Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, Bellingham, WA on May 20, 2005. PNWD-SA-6902.

Vail LW. 2005. "Adaptive Management of Water Resources in the Puget Sound." Presented by Lance W. Vail (Invited Speaker) at Puget Sound Georgia Basin Research Conference, Seattle, WA on March 29, 2005. PNNL-SA-44581.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Adapting Irrigated Agriculture to Climate Variability and Change." Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at 2005 Annual Meeting, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC on February 20, 2005. PNWD-SA-6848.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Adapting Irrigated Agriculture to Climate Variability and Change." Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at 2005 Annual Meeting, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC on February 20, 2005. PNWD-SA-6743.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, and R Prasad. 2005. "Managing Water for Irrigated Agriculture Under Extended Climate-Related Drought." Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at American Water Resources Association 2005 Annual Conference, Seattle, WA on November 8, 2005. PNNL-SA-47342.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, and A Kemanian. 2005. "Impacts of Water Availability on Washington Agriculture in a Changing Climate." Presented by Michael J. Scott (Invited Speaker) at 2005 Fall Climate Change Conference, Seattle, WA on October 27, 2005. PNNL-SA-47128.

Meza EP, and LW Vail. 2005. Real-time Harvesting of Distributed Environmental Data for Improved Management of Complex Distributed Water and Power Management Systems . PNNL-15333, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Prasad R, LW Vail, CB Cook, and G Bagchi. 2005. "Establishment of Safety-Related Site Characteristics Based on Consideration of External Sources of Flooding at Nuclear Power Plant Sites in the United States of America". In Proceedings of International Workshop on External Flooding Hazards at Nuclear Power Plant Sites (tentative; title yet to be finalized by IAEA). PNNL-SA-46268, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Coleman A, LW Vail, and A Savery. 2005. "Landscape Classification for Assessment of Impacts of Landuse and Climate on Water Resources." PNWD-SA-7118, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Prasad R, LW Vail, CB Cook, and G Bagchi. 2005. "Establishment of Safety-Related Site Characteristics Based on Consideration of External Sources of Flooding at Nuclear Power Plant Sites in the United States of America." PNNL-SA-46005, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Benefits and Costs of Options to Mitigate the Uncertain Effects of Climate Change on Irrigated Agriculture in the Yakima Basin. What Matters? What Doesn't?" PNWD-SA-6902, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Benefits and Costs of Options to Mitigate the Uncertain Effects of Climate Change on Irrigated Agriculture in the Yakima Basin. What Matters? What Doesn't?" PNWD-SA-6980, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, and R Prasad. 2005. "Managing Water for Irrigated Agriculture Under Extended Climate-Related Drought." PNWD-SA-6946, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Vail LW. 2005. "Adaptive Management of Water Resources in the Puget Sound." PNNL-SA-44581, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, A Kemanian, KM Branch, R Prasad, MS Wigmosta, and JA Jaksch. 2005. "Adapting Irrigated Agriculture to Climate Variability and Change." PNWD-SA-6848, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, CO Stockle, and A Kemanian. 2005. "Climate Change and Adaptation in Irrigated Case Study of the Yakima River ." American Association for the Advancement of Science, Portland, OR.

Cook, CB, LW Vail, and DL Ward. 2005. "North Anna Early Site Permit Water Budget Model (LakeWBT) for Lake Anna". PNNL-14944, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

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Scott MJ, JA Jaksch, and LW Vail. 2004. "Water Exchanges: Tools to Beat Climate Variability." Journal of the American Water Resources Association 40(1):15-31.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, R Prasad, and JA Jaksch. 2004. "Can WE Use Long-Lead Climate Forecasts to Operate the Pacific Northwest Rivers Better?" PNWD-SA-6512, Battelle – Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

RL Skaggs, LW Vail, and SA Shankle. 2003. "Operationalizing Adaptive Management for Water Supply Planning: Sustaining Mexico City's Water Supply." In Urban Water Supply Infrastructure Management Handbook. J. Wiley. New York, NY.

Burke JS, GR Danielson, DA Schulz, and LW Vail. 2002. "Parallel computing for automated model calibration." vol. XVIII, pp. 424-429. The 6th World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics (SCI 2002), Orlando, FL.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, and A Kemanian. 2002. "Integrated Impact of Climate Warming on Yakima Valley Water Demand and Availability." PNWD-SA-5613, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, JA Jaksch, CO Stockle, and A Kamenian. 2002. "Early Warning of ENSO Events For Regional Agriculture." PNWD-SA-5834, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA

Skaggs R, and LW Vail. 2002. "Adaptive Management Platform: Approach and Application." PNNL-SA-36755, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Vail LW. 2002. "Adaptive Management in Nooksak River, Wa Flow Selection." PNNL-SA-36605, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Vail LW, and R Skaggs. 2002. "Adaptive Management Platform for Natural Resources in the Columbia River Basin." PNNL-13875, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA.

Vail LW, and R Skaggs. 2002. "Integrated Process Modeling to Assess Performance of Salmon Recovery Strategies." PNNL-13903, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

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Scott MJ, LW Vail, and CK Knudson. 2001. "El Nino and the Yakima Valley." PNWD-SA-5597, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, JA Jaksch, and LW Vail. 2001. "Water Exchanges: Tools to Beat Climate Variability." PNWD-SA-5425, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

Scott MJ, LW Vail, A Kemanian, and CO Stockle. 2001. "Integrated Impact of Climate Warming on Irrigated Crop Production." PNWD-SA-5468, Battelle—Pacific Northwest Division, Richland, WA.

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