



## **Marina Richie, Writer**

60081 Turquoise Road,  
Bend, OR 97702  
(406) 370-7556  
Marinarichie1@gmail.com

### **EDUCATION**

1988 M.A. Journalism, University of Montana

1981 B.A. Biology, University of Oregon

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**1996-current—Freelance writing** (some appearing under given name of Deborah Richie)  
Writing interpretive panels, exhibits, blogs, website content, all forms of social media, brochures, birding trails, magazine articles, press releases, handbooks, and children's books; Planning and overseeing interpretive projects; Teaching interpretive writing.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **2018 National Wildlife Federation Writer**

Writing blogs (please see <http://blog.nwf.org/authors/marina-richie/>);  
Wildlife toolkit for conservation leaders (in progress); writing campaign material for Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

#### **2016-2018 Oregon Islands NWR Project Manager & Lead Writer**

I led the planning and wrote 65 interpretive panels in a thematic series for 24 locations along the Oregon coast, featuring seabirds, marine mammals and intertidal marine life. (Installed summer 2018).

#### **2015-current Blogger**

My personal nature blog began in 2015 as a travelogue and continues today with an average of twice monthly posts. See:  
<https://beltedkingfisher.blog/>

#### **2015 National Audubon, Bird-Friendly Communities Program**

Wrote multiple profile pieces of birds, native plants, and native plant gardeners for Web and publication, including a feature fact sheet for the Pope's Encyclical, 2015.

**2011-2015 Sage Grouse Initiative Communications Director**

Full-time consulting work leading all communications efforts for the [Sage Grouse initiative](#), a national partnership with a focus on 11 western states. Write and edit articles, reports, brochures and press releases. Create, write, and oversee social media—website, Facebook, Twitter, E-News. Develop strategy & oversee science writing, design & video. Go into field and interview ranchers & partners including land trusts—photography, articles, website content. Present Webinars & PowerPoints on writing/media & the Initiative. Solicit press coverage and work one-on-one with media for coverage of Sage Grouse Initiative.

**1995- 1996 Co-owner of Avocet Communications**

Media relations—directed Teaming with Wildlife media campaign for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; planned and wrote interpretive displays, gave trainings, participated in national watchable wildlife program development.

**1993-1995 NatureWatch Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana**

Coordinated development of wildlife viewing areas and interpretive exhibits for 13 national forests in Montana, Idaho, North and South Dakota. Gave public presentations on watchable wildlife.

**1993-1994 Co-leader of national watchable wildlife program of the USDA Forest Service, Missoula, Montana**

Represented the Forest Service at national meetings; Developed national highlights report for the program; Helped create national watchable wildlife interpretive training model. Coordinated national awards program.

**1992-93 Watchable Wildlife Coordinator, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with the Forest Service, Missoula, Montana**

Served as liaison between Forest Service and the state wildlife agency. Traveled to national forests and communities to assist with nature trails, interpretive exhibits, new viewing areas and interpretive training.

**1989-92 Watchable Wildlife Specialist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana**

Coordinated watchable wildlife programs across the state. Gave frequent public presentations. Wrote regularly for the state magazine, *Montana Outdoors* and weekly news columns for Montana newspapers.

**1983-85 Reporter/Photographer, The Blue Mountain Eagle, weekly newspaper, John Day, Oregon**

Wrote 10-15 news articles and features per week. Shot and developed black-and-white photos. Participated in newspaper layout.

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND WRITING WORKSHOPS**

- 2018 One-week writing retreat, Chacala, Mexico with author Laura Pritchett
- 2016 Fishtrap Writers Gathering—one week intensive workshop with author Laura Pritchett
- 2010 *Bug Feats* book selected to represent Montana at the National Book Festival on the Mall in Washington, DC.
- 2009 Silver award, “Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow,” *Vision Magazine*, University of Montana, Case District VII, Council for Advancement and Support of Education.
- 2008 Mesa Refuge, Point Reyes, California, two-week writing fellowship (
- 2006 Bitterroot Birding and Nature Trail Brochure, First Place Media Award (NAI)
- 2006 *The Interpreter* magazine, first place, Outstanding Feature Story.
- 2005 *Legacy Magazine*, first place, Outstanding Feature Story
- 2002 Distinguished Achievement Award, Association of Educational Publishers for children’s article, “Fire-loving Wildlife,” *WOW magazine*.
- 1995 National Watchable Wildlife Achievement Award  
USDA Forest Service
- 1994 National Watchable Wildlife Achievement Award  
USDA Forest Service
- 1993 Regional Foresters Award, Watchable Wildlife
- 1991 Regional Foresters Award, Watchable Wildlife
- 1987 Kim Williams Scholarship
- 1987 Outdoor Writers Association of America  
Scholarship

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/BOARDS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 2016- current Board of Directors, Greater Hells Canyon Council (2018-19 President)
- 1990-current National Association for Interpretation (NAI) member
- 2011-2015 Missoula County Lands Advisory Council member
- 2007-2016 Raptors of the Rockies Board Member
- 2004-2015 Earth Care Connection Missoula Coordinator
- 2010 Montana Conservation Voter Missoula Board Member
- 2005-2011 Sustainable Business Council member
- 2005-2006 Missoula Open Space Working Group member
- 2002-2008 Montana Birding and Nature Trail Committee member
- 2002-2003 Clark Fork School Board member
- 1999-2002 Watchable Wildlife, Inc., founding Board Member
- 1998-2002 Open Space Advisory Committee member

## **PROJECT EXAMPLES**

**Published articles** in magazines and newspapers include: *Working Ranch, Idaho Magazine, Sun Valley Magazine Blog, Big Sky Journal, National Wildlife, Birdwatching, Paddler, Christian Science Monitor, High Country News, Montana Outdoors, Legacy, The Interpreter, University of*

*Montana Vision and Research View magazines. Radio scripts: Earth and Sky, Field Notes for Montana Public Radio.*

**Published books** (under prior married name of Deborah Richie Oberbillig)

*Bird Feats of Montana*, Far Country Press 2008;

*Bug Feats of Montana*, Far Country Press 2009. (Selected to represent Montana at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. in 2010).

#### **SELECTED INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT PANELS**

**Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge:** Project manager and lead writer for a large project under Interpretive Graphics for 65 panels at 24 locations along the Oregon coast, many in state parks with visitation of more than 500,000 a year. (installation complete, summer 2018).

**Interpretive Graphics:** Researched, wrote text and provided historic photos and materials for an exhibit in Thompson Falls, Montana (2017); wrote text for birding blind in Louisville, Colorado (2017); Old Spanish Trail in Nevada (2017); and Bear River in Utah (2016).

**Water quality exhibits, Burlington, Vermont:** Wrote text for two interpretive panels on innovative practices to reduce runoff and preserve Lake Champlain water quality; Client: City of Burlington and Maja Smith Design, 2015.

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Santa Monica, California:** Wrote text for series of interpretive banners on ecosystems and wildlife; Conducted field visit for interpretive planning; Wrote science fact sheets. Client: National Park Service, 2012-14.

**National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, Alton, Illinois:** Wrote a series of interpretive panels on native plants, ecosystems, sustainable building for outside, plus video script for rivers' film; Client: Formations, Inc. 2011.

**Audubon Conservation Education Center, Billings, Montana:** Wrote interpretive plan, and sign panel texts for kiosk and nature trail (10 panels on Yellowstone ecosystem, marsh ecology, wildlife). Client: Montana Audubon. 2008-2011.

**Open Space Exhibits, Wenatchee, Washington:** Wrote text for a series of wayside exhibits for Wenatchee open space lands (16 panels on natural history, conservation, geology. Client: Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, 2009-2010.

**Idaho State Parks:** Writer for 10 interpretive panels, Harriman State Park (2010) —overlook panels, nature trail—John Muir/Harriman story, wildlife, ecology, geology of Yellowstone ecosystem; Writer for six interpretive panels, Hells Gate State Park and two panels for Lolo Pass Lewis & Clark campsite (2009; Writer for 5 interpretive panels, Snake River Plain (2008)—wildlife survival in arid climate.

**Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge Wayside exhibits, Bandon, Oregon:** Writer for four panels overlooking tidal marsh –marsh ecology, restoration, Coquille tribal history, geology. Client U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2010-11.

**Missoula & Vicinity Open Space Exhibits, Montana:** Wrote two-panel Mt Jumbo trailhead kiosk (partnership with City of Missoula) in 2010; and three-panel interpretive exhibit for the Primm Pine old growth ponderosa grove: history, ecology, fire, 2007. Client: Five Valleys Land Trust. 2007-2010.

**Seeley Lake Ranger District, Girard Grove, Montana:** Wrote three interpretive panels for Girard Grove—partnership project with Salish-Kootenai tribe, state forestry – fire restoration, tribal use of fire, biggest larch. Client: U.S. Forest Service, 2010.

**Silver’s Lagoon Kids’ Fishing Pond Exhibits, Missoula, Montana:** Wrote three natural history interpretive panels for kid’s fishing pond in Missoula. Client: Montana Natural History Center in partnership with City of Missoula. 2010.

**Hell Creek State Park Exhibits/Brochure, Jordan, Montana:** Wrote five interpretive panels and a self-guided paleontology trail (brochure) - Dinosaurs, geology, mule deer winter range. Client: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 2008.

**Riparian Exhibit, Missoula, Montana:** Wrote a single interpretive panel on riparian area water quality values adapted for use at various sites (Tom Green Park, Tower Open Space). Client: Missoula City-County Health Department, 2008.

**Maude S. Canyon Trail Exhibits, Butte, Montana:** Writer for three-panel project—geology of Boulder Batholith, mining history, conservation story. Client: East Ridge Foundation and U.S. Forest Service. 2007.

**Bearpaw Nature Trail, Havre, Montana,** Wrote 19 interpretive panels on native plants, wildlife, history. Client: Beaver Creek County Park, 2006.

## REFERENCES

Naomi Edelson, senior director of wildlife partnerships, National Wildlife Federation, 202-797-6889, [edelsonn@nwf.org](mailto:edelsonn@nwf.org)

Dawn Harris, Visitor Services Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 541-867-4550, [dawn\\_harris@fws.gov](mailto:dawn_harris@fws.gov)

Cary Shimek, Communications Manager, University Relations—University of Montana, 406-243-5914, [cary.shimek@umontana.edu](mailto:cary.shimek@umontana.edu)