

KENT KOHLHASE

PROFILE

Twenty-nine years progressively responsible engineering and management experience as project engineer, team leader, engineering program manager, department director, and executive level leader. Broad experience working across disciplines with stakeholders with varied interests and goals.

- Experience working with legislative government, including assembly representatives.
- Extensive experience working with A/E consulting firms and construction contractors.
- Experience working with and supervising teams of professionals in various disciplines.
- Experience managing multiple projects, with responsibility for project scheduling and budgeting.
- Experience working in remote areas of Alaska.

My greatest strengths are communications and problem solving. I can communicate effectively both verbally and in writing, and have demonstrated those skills repeatedly, including in sensitive situations involving strong disagreements and personality conflicts. I can effectively critique issues without raising defensiveness in my audience. By training and nature, I can see all facets of an issue, understand the varying needs of disparate groups, and work towards mutual solutions.

As Director of Project Management & Engineering and the Municipal Engineer for the Municipality of Anchorage, I have developed strong working relationships across a wide range of municipal agencies, including Building Safety, Traffic, Project Management & Engineering, and Maintenance & Operations. I work closely with these agencies to ensure that public infrastructure will be safe for the public and will meet municipal standards.

My 20-year career with the Forest Service included 6 years leading the Engineering, Facilities, Aviation, Fire, and Fleet staff as both acting and then permanent Forest Engineering Staff Officer on the Chugach National Forest; five years as the Team Leader for the design and construction team on the Chugach; a term as acting Seward District Ranger; and 8 years as a project engineer and project manager. I also served in a number of special project roles, including an assignment as the Chugach program manager for implementation of a \$13,000,000 construction program for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and serving as a leader of a major office relocation effort.

As a member of the Forest Leadership Team, I was an active contributor to the team's strategic planning and in positioning our organization for future needs.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Acting Municipal Manager (December 2022 – Present)

Provide leadership and management of municipal departments responsible for operation of municipal services.

Director of Public Works (November 2022 – Present)

Provide leadership and broad oversight of Project Management & Engineering Department, Traffic Department, and Maintenance & Operations Department.

Director, Project Management & Engineering (September 2019 – October 2022)

As director, I lead the PM&E staff responsible for identifying, designing, and constructing road, drainage, lighting, and safety projects across the Municipality. Department responsibilities include:

- Capital Improvement Program implementation, including budgeting, planning, design, construction, and inspection of capital projects
- Community involvement for capital projects
- Acquisition of rights-of-way, permanent easements and construction easements needed for construction of capital projects
- Compliance with Clean Water Act and national and state permitting requirements for management, treatment, and discharge of stormwater
- Flood Hazard permitting
- Responding to Assembly inquiries
- Responding to citizen inquiries and concerns
- Ongoing coordination with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Overall responsibility for management of design and construction contracts implementing municipal capital projects
- Manage annual operating budget of \$1.5m, annual capital budget of ~ \$35m

Design Section Manager/Acting Municipal Engineer (November 2015 – September 2019)

Managed and supervised the MOA engineering design group, Survey/Right of Way Acquisition section, and MOA Materials Lab. Overall responsibility for ensuring municipal design criteria and standards are followed on public projects. Reviewed and decided on variances to municipal design standards. Responsible for maintenance and updates of MASS and MOA Design Criteria Manual.

I also served as acting Development Services department director and Building Official for about a year during this period.

Private Development Manager, Municipality of Anchorage (April 2013 – November 2015)

As Private Development Manager, I worked directly with developers and engineers to guide the design and construction of subdivisions and related public improvements. I and my staff ensured that projects were designed and constructed in compliance with applicable municipal code, design criteria, and construction standards.

Forest Engineering Staff Officer (August 2006 – April 2013)

My duties as Engineering Staff Officer for the Chugach National Forest included exercising the full range of supervisory responsibility and authority for as many as 15 employees, including 6 direct reports. I assigned work, set priorities, evaluated performance, and coached and mentored my staff toward continued professional development.

I had overall staff responsibility for Facilities, Roads, Fleet, Fire, and Aviation. This is a broad program of work that has a direct impact on the safety of all forest employees, and their ability to perform their jobs.

I was responsible for accomplishment of a multifaceted program of work including the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of facilities, roads, and trail projects; fire suppression; aviation management; Fleet; and surveying and boundary management. The average combined annual budget for these areas ranged between \$2.0 million and \$6.0 million, depending on the number of funded construction projects.

I ensured that planning, design, and construction of engineering projects complied with all applicable policies and regulations.

Acting District Ranger (June – August 2006)

My duties as Acting Seward District Ranger included exercising the full range of line officer responsibility and authority for as many as 60 employees. My detail took place during the height of field season, and a ranger district during the summer is a dynamic, fluid, ever-changing environment. I and my staff dealt with several rapidly developing situations, requiring flexibility and adaptability in setting and adjusting priorities.

Design and Construction Team Leader (July 2001 – June 2006)

As the Engineering Design Team Leader, I supervised approximately 6 positions, including 4 engineers, an engineering technician, and a landscape architect. My supervisory duties included the full range of responsibility, including interviewing, coaching, mentoring, and evaluating performance.

In this position, my primary responsibility was overall implementation of the full engineering design and construction program for the forest. This responsibility covers the full life of a project, starting with a concept. From that concept, I and my team analyzed options, prepared project funding proposals, completed the survey and design, worked with acquisition management to award a contract, and managed the construction project to stay within budget and schedule. These projects ranged in size and scope from \$5,000 maintenance projects to \$2.5 million facility construction projects.

As leader of the design team, I had overall responsibility for the preparation of engineering designs, calculations, drawings, specifications, and cost estimates. This work is accomplished using a mix of contracts and in-house staff. I often reviewed these items for completeness and accuracy, especially on complex projects. Some projects for which I have been responsible include the \$1.2 million addition to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, the \$1.6 million Kenai Lake Office Building, the \$2.2 million Kenai Lake Flexible Housing Unit, and the reconstruction of 5 major campgrounds on the forest.

Acting Forest Engineer (September 2000 - July 2001)

- Personally selected by Forest Supervisor to serve in this position.
- Supervised a multi-disciplinary staff of 12 to 15 people.
- Overall responsibility for engineering design and construction; safety; aviation management; fire suppression; and cadastral surveying.
- Served as a member of the Forest Leadership Team, providing technical advice and input on a wide range of forest management issues.

Project Engineer (May 1993 - July 2001)

As a project engineer, I was directly responsible for all work associated with development of capital improvement projects on the forest. My specific duties included preliminary analysis of feasibility of a project; survey and design; preparation of drawings, specifications, engineering calculations, and engineering cost estimates; and contract administration during the construction phase of the project.

Administered government design and construction contracts, with responsibility for ensuring compliance with contract drawings and specifications.

- As Contracting Officer's Representative, served as primary point of contact for contractor for the duration of the project. Solely responsible for day-to-day administration of the contract.
- Prepared daily contract diaries to document progress, status, and issues for contracting officer and management.
- Negotiated changes in cost and scope with contractors. Prepared change orders for review and approval of contracting officer.
- Monitored project schedules and worked with contractors to maintain schedule.
- Coordinated permitting with regulatory agencies such as Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Corps of Engineers.

Municipality of Anchorage – Street Maintenance (January 1984 – August 1989)

Equipment Operator. Worked as light, medium, and heavy equipment operator. Operated equipment for maintenance of city streets and storm drain systems, including graders, dump trucks, sweepers, pavers, chip spreaders.

Professional Licenses

Registered as a civil engineer in the state of Alaska since 1998.