



# HAUB SCHOOL UPDATE

NEWS FROM OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, WCC, AND RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE  
2021



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First Cohort in New Graduate Degree

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WORTH Initiative to Support State's Tourism Industry



## HAUB SCHOOL BOARD

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The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources advances the understanding and resolution of complex natural resource challenges through interdisciplinary education, creation, and dissemination of new information and understanding, and collaborative decision-making.

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On the cover: Haub School student Will Benkelman (left) tours a water desalination plant in Tenerife, Spain's Canary Islands, during a course abroad in 2020.

## Thank You

The Haub School team shares our sincere gratitude for advisory board members Marilyn Kite and Gail Bingham, who are rotating off the board after fulfilling their terms, and to Brent Eastman. Thank you for the time and service you have given to the Haub School, and for the wisdom and leadership you have shared with us.



Ingrid Velez takes a selfie with other Haub School students  
Anaga Rural Park, Canary Islands, Spain, in 2020

## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

My first year as dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources has moved with the speed of a pronghorn across the sagebrush plains. I feel a wonderful sense of satisfaction and incredible enthusiasm for what the future holds. These are certainly challenging times defined by the pandemic and budget cuts resulting in reorganization of many academic units on campus. However, our students, staff, and faculty have persevered with remarkable passion and commitment. As I traveled Wyoming this year from the Red Desert to the Teton, Wind River, and Snowy Ranges and the high plains, I met many friends, stakeholders, donors, tourists, and residents with a common passion for our wild and working lands. In Wyoming, a connection to the land bonds us all.

You will find many of our impressive accomplishments from the past year detailed within this update:

1. We returned safely to campus to experience the company of our community members;
2. We maintained strong enrollments through the pandemic, exceeding campus-wide trends;
3. We welcomed an inaugural cohort to our first stand-alone graduate degree, a master of science in environment, natural resources, and society;
4. We doubled our available space on campus to accommodate our continued growth;
5. Our faculty had record success in obtaining extramural grants that fuel world-class research;
6. We welcomed the return of the Wyoming Conservation Corps;
7. We received support for the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative.

I hope the tireless efforts of the Haub School community on display within the pages of this update will fill you with hope. Our commitment to sustainable landscapes and livelihoods is clear. And if your end-of-year charitable giving can include support for our important mission, rest assured that we will put these funds to immediate use.

Sincerely,



John L. Koprowski  
Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Wyoming



## FELLOWSHIPS

### Haub School Welcomes Four Tomé Scholars

The Haub School received a gift of \$600,000 from the Tomé Foundation and welcomed four students into the Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program in September. This program is among UW's premier scholarship opportunities, providing transformational experiences for future leaders in the environment and natural resources sector. Tomé Scholars receive a full-ride scholarship and funding for experiences such as international field courses and community service.

### Wyoming Wildlife Fellows

The new Wyoming Wildlife Fellowship program promotes well-rounded and well-prepared wildlife and fisheries professionals through an immersive, supportive, hands-on education and work experience. UW undergraduate students Macy Jacobson, Ryen Nielson, Danielle Jones, and Steven Antonio make up the inaugural cohort of fellows, starting fall 2021. The fellowship is fully funded by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and is carried out in collaboration with the Monteith Shop in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

### Muley Fanatic Foundation Partnership

A \$250,000 gift from the Muley Fanatic Foundation to the Haub School supports sound science that advances conservation of mule deer along with growth and development of future leaders in wildlife science. The first Muley Fanatic Foundation Fellow is PhD student Tayler LaSharr in her work understanding the effects of severe winters on mule deer. Her research is directed by Kevin Monteith, associate professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair in the Haub School.



Inaugural recipients of the Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program scholarship at UW are, from left, Iris Kurz, Benjamin Piña, Addison Potts, and Jennifer Bautz.



The 2021 Wyoming Wildlife Fellows (left to right, Macy, Ryen, Danielle, and Steven) meet with Wyoming Game and Fish Department access coordinator Kelly Todd (red shirt).



From left, Kevin Monteith, John Koprowski, Tayler LaSharr, UW Provost Kevin Carman, Governor Mark Gordon, Josh Coursey and Joey Faigl of the Muley Fanatic Foundation, and Brian Nesvik, director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

## AWARDS

### **McCoy Named Person of Influence by Veterans Service Center**

A graduating student veteran at UW, William Paul Stuckey, selected Dan McCoy as a Person of Influence, someone highly influential to the student's academic success and experience. McCoy was recognized for this honor during the May 2021 Military Connected Student Graduation Ceremony at UW and received a Veterans Service Center Challenge Coin, a long-standing military tradition that recognizes duty performance, excellence, quality, or service that extends beyond the normal standard.



Dan McCoy

### **Mazzamuto Receives International Research Grant**

Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, research scientist in the Haub School, received a \$5,000 Faculty and Staff International Research Grant from the Center for Global Studies to support a new project in Mongolia starting next spring. She and her colleagues will use motion-sensor cameras to assess how human activity is influencing distribution of mammal species in natural areas.



Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto

### **Monteith Recognized for Mule Deer Research and Conservation**

Kevin Monteith received the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' O.C. Wallmo Award for outstanding contributions to knowledge and improved management of mule deer. The award is given every other year. "Over the past decade, Kevin's contributions to mule deer ecology and management are unparalleled," says previous Wallmo Award winner Terry Bowyer. In addition, the Pope and Young Club awarded Kevin the 2021 Lee Gladfelter Memorial Award in recognition of significant contributions to bowhunting and wildlife conservation.



Kevin Monteith

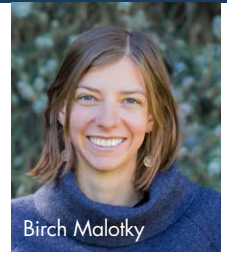




## NEW HIRES

### **Birch Malotky, Emerging Issue Initiative Coordinator**

Birch Malotky joined the Ruckelshaus Institute this fall. She brings expertise in science communication as well as experience working on land management challenges. She will write, edit, produce, and publish materials to help move scholarship and new understanding from Haub School researchers out to stakeholders who can put those ideas into action on the ground. She will also map out and coordinate activities to advance the Ruckelshaus Institute's emerging issues initiatives.



Birch Malotky

### **Courtney Carlson, Instructional Designer for Distance Education**

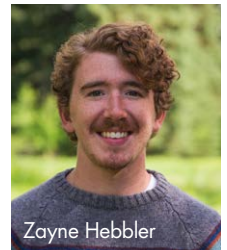
This fall Courtney Carlson (re)joined the Haub School as lecturer and instructional designer, responsible for developing online and distance learning opportunities for current students, alumni, and professionals. Previously Carlson worked as an administrator and professor in the school and she brings nearly fifteen years of experience in curriculum design and instruction.



Courtney Carlson

### **Zayne Hebbler, Academic Advising Professional**

As an academic advising professional, Zayne Hebbler assists students through their academic careers. He provides advising support as well as guidance through the registration process. Prior to this position Hebbler worked as an undergraduate research scientist, working primarily in student outreach and engagement. As a student at the Haub School, Hebbler studied zero waste, sustainability, and outdoor leadership. When not advising students he works as a mountain guide, exploring the great ranges of Wyoming.



Zayne Hebbler



### **Wyoming Conservation Corps Team**

The Haub School welcomed the Wyoming Conservation Corps into our unit starting July 1. With that administrative move, three staff members joined our team: Jim Fried, WCC program director; Caleb Johnson, outreach coordinator; and Tyler Carroll, project coordinator. In welcoming back the WCC, Dean Koprowski says, "Our shared mission is to have an impact on our wild and working lands. Great partners mean great impact."

### **New Research Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers**

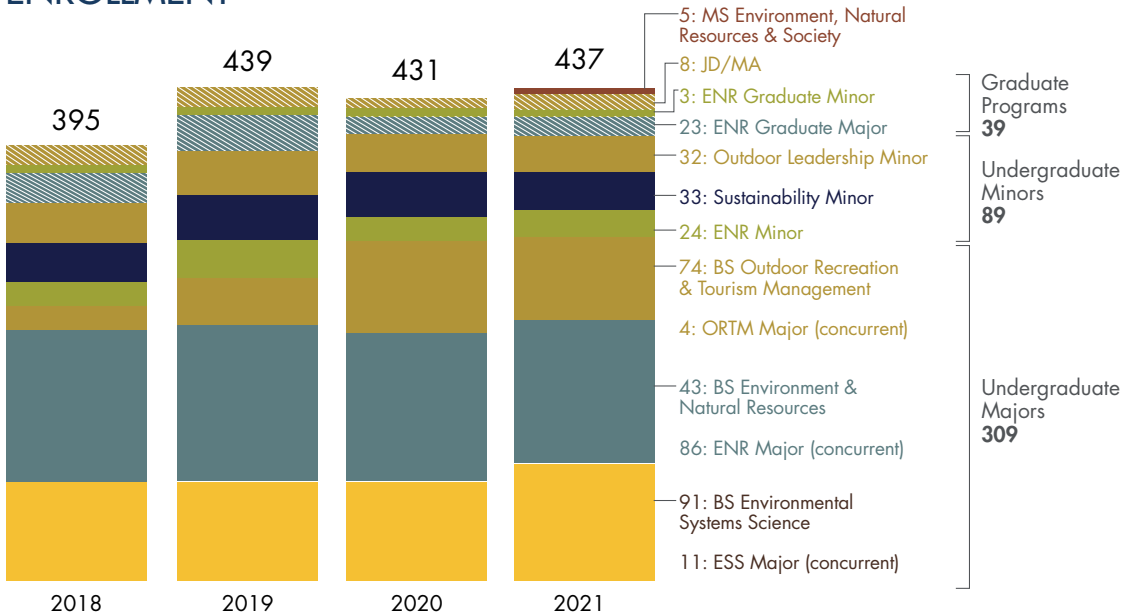
- Nino Abashidze, Postdoctoral Research Associate
- Heather Abernathy, Assistant Research Scientist
- Ranjit Bawa, Postdoctoral Research Associate
- Rhiannon Jakopak, Research Scientist
- Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, Assistant Research Scientist
- Wwai Yan Sui, Postdoctoral Research Associate
- Odbayar Tumendemberel, Assistant Research Scientist

## BETA HOUSE

As our ranks have grown, the University of Wyoming has given the Haub School use of the Beta House on Fraternity Row. With this building we doubled our space on campus, adding several classrooms, offices, and a large meeting room. Over the summer we raced to refurbish spaces, update technology, and acquire furniture. A generous gift from advisory board member Liliane Haub created a Zoom-ready classroom for in-person and distance learning. We also added a technology cart that can be rolled into less well-equipped rooms. Several researchers are now using offices in the Beta House, and we still have more improvements to make for maximum productivity to support learning, collaboration, and research. We continue to look for partners to complete the renovation. Contact the UW Foundation or Dean Koprowski to join this effort!



## ENROLLMENT





## GRADUATE PROGRAM LAUNCH

### New Master's Degree, ENRS

The new masters of science in environment, natural resources, and society (ENRS) trains students at the intersection of socio-ecological systems; environmental, natural resources, and social sciences; and collaboration, community-engaged practice, and interdisciplinary research methods. For our first cohort, we accepted five high-quality students into the program, and they are engaging in applied and practical experiences to develop strong skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. Our goal is to bring in ten new students next year, six to be funded through grants and donor contributions. We plan to be fully enrolled with 30 students spanning the two years of the program by fall 2024.

### Student Profile: Emily Peters

"I think melding environmental sciences in with social sciences is super important," says Emily Peters, one of five students in the first cohort for the Haub School's new master's degree in environment, natural resources, and society.

Originally from Clemson, South Carolina, Peters earned a bachelor's in psychology with a minor in environment and sustainability studies from the College of Charleston. She researched memory in children and completed two internships, training and studying animals with the South Carolina Aquarium and the Center for Birds of Prey.

She thought environmental education might be her calling and came to Wyoming to attend Teton Science Schools in Jackson. After a year at TSS (amid the pandemic) she was beginning to feel that it wasn't the right field for her.

So when she saw a chance join Haub School professor Corrie Knapp on a project related to climate change resilience, she leapt at the opportunity. After compiling existing research, she'll begin working with rural communities across the state to build strategies for adaptation and resilience to a changing climate.

"I was very intrigued by the interdisciplinary and social science approach," she says. "I feel it is the right path for me. I can bring all of my different interests together. I have been really happy working on this project with Corrie."



Emily Peters, a student in the new masters of science in environment, natural resources, and society at the Haub School, stands before the Teton Range.



# OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM

## Outdoor Guide Certification

This year we launched an online certificate course to provide aspiring or established guides the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the industry, regardless of their area of outdoor expertise. The course, which contains videos from industry experts, readings, discussions, knowledge checks, and short assignments, is self-paced and takes approximately 32 hours to complete. Areas of focus include becoming a more effective outdoor educator, improving naturalist skills, and developing professional skills. The course is offered several times each year and each session is open to 30 students. Already, 63 have earned the certification. The fee to enroll is \$325. Learn more at [bit.ly/outdoor-guide-certification](http://bit.ly/outdoor-guide-certification).



## WORTH Initiative

The Haub School is working with the College of Business and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to establish an interdisciplinary Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative. The WORTH Initiative will employ an extension-style model to generate professional development, outreach, and applied research.

The goal is to help build an expanded, diversified, and more resilient Wyoming economy where outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality industries thrive and grow, as well as to produce national leaders and innovators in applied research, professional development, and outreach to this sector. UW's President Seidel has identified the WORTH Initiative as a strategic priority. Next steps include detailed planning, fundraising, and hiring of key positions.

Tourism photos throughout Wyoming. Left: Lake Yellowstone Hotel, Wyoming Office of Tourism; Middle: Grayrocks Reservoir, Wyoming Office of Tourism; Right: Farmers Market, Sweetwater County Travel & Tourism





## EVENTS

### Ruckelshaus Tree Dedication

July 24, 2021 | To recognize Bill Ruckelshaus's birthday on July 24, we dedicated a Douglas-fir planted at our building. Several people who were instrumental to launching the Ruckelshaus Institute and who worked closely with Ruckelshaus in Wyoming and beyond shared their thoughts and remembrances. We will celebrate Ruckelshaus Day each year to remember the founding of our institute as well as consider how we can apply Ruckelshaus's experience, foresight, and ideals to the challenges we and our students will face in the coming years and decades.

### BIOECON Conference

September 17-19, 2021 | The Haub School co-hosted, along with the UW College of Business Economics Department and the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the 22nd international Biodiversity and Economics for Conservation (BIOECON) Conference, in Jackson, Wyoming. BIOECON XXII highlighted the integration of natural science and social science, including economics for conserving biodiversity and protecting human health. The Haub School's Jacob Hochard presented about conservation crowdfunding and about ecological entitlements and wealth of wildlife at the conference.

### Energy Law Conference

October 8, 2021 | The Haub School partnered with the School of Energy Resources and the UW College of Law to host "Landscape Discussion: Energy Law and Policy in the Rockies." Over 400 participants registered for the conference, which featured panels of experts discussing such topics as regulation for small nuclear reactors, current issues related to oil and gas, and low-carbon energy in the Rocky Mountain West. Nada Culver, deputy director of programs and policy for the Bureau of Land Management, delivered the keynote. Recordings are available at [uwyo.edu/ser/events/conferences/clerr-energy-law.html](http://uwyo.edu/ser/events/conferences/clerr-energy-law.html).

### Mountainfilm on Tour Both Live and Virtual

October 21-24, 2021 | We hosted a Mountainfilm on Tour stop in Laramie for the tenth year in a row. In addition to a night of films at the local Gryphon Theatre, we also shared the films online. The tour is curated from Telluride's Mountainfilm Festival, with the mission to bring people together to celebrate the human spirit, explore inspiring places and cultures, and advance solutions for a livable world.

### Wild and Working Lands Film Festival Call for Submissions

We are now accepting submissions for our inaugural Wild and Working Lands Film Festival to be held in Laramie next May. The deadline to submit is Jan. 17. We invite films up to 15 minutes long that explore the intricate connections between humans and the landscapes where we dwell, work and play. Find details at [uwyo.edu/haub/events/film-festival](http://uwyo.edu/haub/events/film-festival).

# RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE

## Youth Vision for 2030

The Ruckelshaus Institute partnered with the Wyoming Humanities Council, the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, and the UW Creative Writing Program to host a multimedia narrative contest for young people to share their visions for the state's future. Winners receive cash prizes as well as publication in an anthology that will be distributed to leaders around the state. The contest will elevate young people's voices in the discussion about Wyoming's future direction.

## William D. Ruckelshaus Fellow

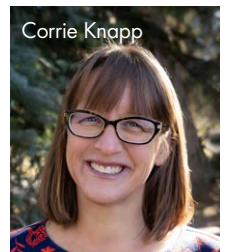
The Ruckelshaus Institute welcomes John Burrows to a 6-month fellowship with our Collaborative Solutions Program. John holds a bachelor of arts in environmental studies with honors as a Morehead-Cain Scholar at UNC Chapel Hill and a masters of environmental management from Duke University. His work knits together responsible use of resources with conservation. In his current role as a conservation advocate with the Wyoming Outdoor Council he has, among many other projects, collaborated closely with the Ruckelshaus Institute on a statewide public process for renewable energy siting.



As a William D. Ruckelshaus Fellow, John will generate academic and public publications and other materials. He will network with Haub School faculty members, engage with the scholarly community at UW, and present a seminar on the work of his fellowship. He brings to our institute deep awareness of the complexity of environment and natural resource challenges in our region, skills at collaborative process and community engagement, and enthusiasm for both theoretical and applied approaches.

## Knapp to Lead Chapter for National Climate Assessment

Haub School assistant professor Corrine Knapp will lead the Northern Great Plains regional chapter of the fifth National Climate Assessment, a federally mandated analysis of climate change impacts for the United States. As the Northern Great Plains regional chapter lead for the National Climate Assessment, she will organize and direct a team of authors, including federal, state, local, nonprofit, and business partners.



"I look forward to synthesizing the most relevant scientific information into a form that is useful to a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers," Knapp says. "I believe in the intention of connecting the best available science to what people care about to help them make better decisions."



## RESEARCH

### Carnivore Ecology

Haub School assistant professor Joe Holbrook is leading a five-year project to understand how swift foxes make a living in shortgrass prairie relative to shrublands. Swift foxes, a species of conservation concern, are conventionally found in short-grass prairie. Over the last decade their populations have expanded in shrublands of central and western Wyoming where they are also successfully rearing kits. While this provides hope for conservation, it also creates practical challenges for multiple-use management on public lands. The Holbrook Team is evaluating information gaps through the lens of space use, habitat use, diet, survival, and reproduction. Stay tuned as the story of these little foxes unfolds over the next few years.



Masters student Kelsie Buxbaum handles a swift fox during field work in summer 2021.

### Western Water Assessment: Building Resilience

Haub School assistant professor Corrie Knapp is co-principal investigator on a NOAA Climate Program Office Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) grant (\$4.1 million) to build water and community resilience in the Intermountain West, with a particular focus on underserved Indigenous and small rural communities and utilities. RISA teams focus on multiple societal issues relevant to their region and develop a set of interconnected projects. In Wyoming, \$310,000 will help assess climate impacts and adaptation needs and over \$100,000 will go toward applied climate adaptation work in the state.



With funding from a UW Grand Challenges grant, undergraduate research assistant Gary Gassaway (left) and Knobloch Professor Jacob Hochard gather footage of wildlife in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.

### SHOW Wyo

Haub School Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics Jacob Hochard spent part of the summer with undergraduate and graduate students in Yellowstone National Park and the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest testing technology to create virtual wildlife viewing experiences. Hochard created and leads the SHOW Wyo Initiative, a multi-year project that will build partnerships with private guide services and non-profit organizations throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to showcase Wyoming's natural resources and crowdsource funding to protect Yellowstone wildlife species. The students will also conduct interviews and surveys to better understand and improve the experience of Wyoming tourists.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Western Confluence magazine

The latest issue of *Western Confluence* magazine takes on the emerging field of road ecology to learn how roads change the landscapes they cross. We explore new ideas for mitigating roads' ecological damage while making them safer for drivers and wildlife. Articles cover such topics as noise from roads, protecting dragonflies from vehicles, new materials for wildlife crossing structures, and Interstate 80 as a barrier to migrating big game. Find all the articles online at [westernconfluence.org](http://westernconfluence.org).

### Collaborative Solutions Reports

The Ruckelshaus Institute has recently or will soon release three reports summarizing collaborative processes in Wyoming. The *Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Collaborative Learning Process* final report summarizes outcomes from a situation assessment and collaborative learning process conducted for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Forthcoming reports include final recommendations from the Wyoming Renewable Energy Siting Collaborative, as well as *Digital Storytelling for Public Land Management: Best Practices*.

### Underwriting Morfar's View of the Winds

The Haub School is underwriting a 25-minute documentary film called *Morfar's View of the Winds* by Burning Torch Productions on PBS. The film follows retired UW professor Conrad Smith on his quest to find the location where the first published image of the Wind River Mountains was made in 1842. When a health issue holds him back from trekking into the mountains himself, his daughter and granddaughter go in his place. His granddaughter, Irja Sandvik, is a Haub School student pursuing a degree in anthropology, ENR, and honors.

"I was excited to hear that the Haub School is providing support for the film," says Sandvik. "The film was a great experience for me and has been a really big part of my grandfather's life, which I am lucky enough to be a part of." The film is expected to reach over 2 million households via PBS. Learn more at [www.pbs.org/show/morfars-view-winds](http://www.pbs.org/show/morfars-view-winds).

Haub School student Irja Sandvik surveys the view deep inside the Wind River Mountains in a scene from the PBS documentary *Morfar's View of the Winds*.





## SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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Proffitt, K. M., A. B. Courtemanch, S. R. Dewey, B. Lowrey, D. E. McWhirter, **K. L. Monteith**, J. T. Paterson, J. Rotella, P. J. White, and R. A. Garrott. “Regional variability in pregnancy and survival rates of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.” *Ecosphere* 12:e03410 (2021).

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## WHO WE ARE

### Faculty and Staff

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**Steve Smutko**, Associate Dean

**Nino Abashidze**, Postdoctoral Research Associate

**Heather N. Abernathy**, Postdoctoral Research Scientist

**Ranjit Bawa**, Postdoctoral Research Associate

**Chicory Bechtel**, Academic Advising Manager

**Drew Bennett**, MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice

**Colleen Bourque**, Administrative Associate

**Maggie Bourque**, Associate Lecturer

**Rachael Budowle**, Assistant Professor, Community Resilience and Sustainability

**Courtney Carlson**, Instructional Designer, Distance Education

**Tyler Carroll**, Project Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

**Kayla Clark**, Assistant Lecturer

**Jim Fried**, Program Director, Wyoming Conservation Corps

**Nicole Gautier**, Assistant Research Scientist

**Sara Ghezzi**, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Professor of Practice

**Zayne Hebbler**, Academic Advising Professional

**Jacob Hochard**, Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics

**Joe Holbrook**, Assistant Professor, Carnivore and Habitat Ecology

**Rhiannon Jakopak**, Outreach Coordinator and Research Scientist

**Caleb Johnson**, Outreach Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

**Corrie Knapp**, Assistant Professor, Environment and Society

**Amanda Korpitz**, Special Events Coordinator

**Birch Malotky**, Emerging Issues Initiative Coordinator

**Melanie Matthews**, Academic Programs Senior Project Coordinator

**Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto**, Research Scientist

**Dan McCoy**, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Degree Coordinator

**Kimberly Messersmith**, Business Manager

**Kevin Monteith**, Associate Professor, Natural Resource Science

**Emilene Ostlind**, Editor and Communications Coordinator

**Kelsey Paolini**, Research Scientist

**Wai Yan Siu**, Postdoctoral Research Associate

**Temple Stoellinger**, Associate Professor, Law and ENR

**Justine Sulia**, Academic Programs Assistant Project Coordinator

**Odbayar Tumendemberel**, Assistant Research Scientist

**Richard Vercoe**, Associate Lecturer

**Jessica Western**, Adjunct Professor and Research Associate

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

We will immediately put your gift to work educating future decision makers, discovering new approaches, and building collaborative solutions to sustain wild and working landscapes and the people who depend on them in the West and around the world.

### Three easy ways to give...

1. **Give online through UW's secure platform:**  
[www.uwyo.edu/giveonline](http://www.uwyo.edu/giveonline)
2. **Send your contribution in the mail:**  
University of Wyoming  
Foundation  
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Laramie, WY 82070
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*Save the Date*  
**YELLOWSTONE  
150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SYMPOSIUM**

**MAY 19-20, 2022**  
Buffalo Bill Center of the West  
Cody, Wyoming

Hosted by the University of Wyoming College of Law and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

The two-day event is open to the public and will feature keynote talks and panel discussions to celebrate the history and look to the future of the world's first national park.