



HAUB SCHOOL UPDATE

NEWS FROM OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE



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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: January 2020 Winter Ecology field course



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

On 30 September 2020, I began my tenure as dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. While this has most certainly been a challenging year, I am proud to lead such an amazing community of students, educators, and scholars with a shared commitment to taking on today's most complex environmental and natural resource issues and making an impact. I am excited to share with you my first "Dean's Letter" as part of this update on the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Due to strong leadership, endless energy, and importance of our mission, over the last year we:

- ✓ Celebrated our first graduates in the Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management degree;
- ✓ Maintained strong enrollments through the pandemic;
- ✓ Increased our core Haub School faculty and capacity to engage by more than 10 percent;
- ✓ Transferred our famed collaborative, place-based, experiential learning online; and,
- ✓ Continued world-class research to benefit our landscapes, wildlife, and people.

The pandemic and ensuing budget cuts have, of course, created obstacles for members of the Haub School to overcome in the classroom and field. I have been amazed to see the way that our community has come together to navigate these obstacles and continue to excel. This should come as no surprise, however. 'Haubies' are at our very best when we tackle large, complex problems. Needless to say, I am convinced that the leaders that we have on our team, as well as the future leaders that we are working to educate in our academic programs, provide reason for optimism.

I hope that the stories of impact found within the pages of this update will fill you with hope as the passion and tireless efforts of the Haub School community are on display. Our commitment to sustainable landscapes and livelihoods is clear. Enjoy, and I look forward to our next update when I can continue to share more stories of impact. And if your end of the 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



HAUB SCHOOL WELCOMES JOHN KOPROWSKI AS NEW DEAN



We are thrilled to welcome John L. Koprowski as our new dean. He comes to the Haub School from the University of Arizona, where he directed the School of Natural Resources and the Environment for several years and held the role of professor of wildlife conservation and management since 2000. He brings a rich record of experiential and interdisciplinary teaching, student mentorship, research productivity, administrative experience, and contributions to conservation solutions across the West as well as internationally.

Dean Koprowski has taught a range of undergraduate and graduate courses, many of which explore the complexity of environmental and wildlife conservation challenges in human-dominated landscapes. He has conducted research and taught students in Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Nepal, China, Mongolia, South Africa, and other locations. He has also published more than 180 academic articles, books, and book chapters, many describing his studies of ecology, behavior, and response

to environmental change in species from squirrels and bats to parrots and dolphins. As director of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, he guided a large team of faculty and staff, raised impressive philanthropic funds, and oversaw a large student body engaged in multiple degree programs. As director of the Mt. Graham Biology Programs, he coordinated with state and federal agencies and university programs to conduct and publish biological research at the Mt. Graham astrophysics site in Arizona. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Wildlife Society, and the Linnean Society of London.

While this impressive career creates the foundation for what Dean Koprowski brings to the Haub School as our new leader, he also arrives to the University of Wyoming with real passion to make meaningful impact, vision how the Haub School can continue and expand our efforts to advance on-the-ground environmental problem-solving, and a commitment to truly make a difference in the lives of students, natural resource stakeholders, and citizens across Wyoming and beyond. We are very grateful to have recruited such a strong leader. We've already started to see the power of Dean Koprowski's positive thinking and way of viewing challenge as opportunity as he has embraced his role helping the Haub School navigate challenging times and keep an eye to a stronger future.

NEW HIRES



Jacob Hochard, Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics

Jake Hochard joined the Haub School this fall as Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics. An alumnus of the University of Wyoming's College of Business where he earned his PhD in economics in 2015, Jake spent the last five years as an assistant professor and research scientist with East Carolina University's Department of Economics and Coastal Studies Institute and was a faculty fellow with the US Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute, and Center for Natural Hazards Research. His work combines geospatial analysis, mathematical modeling, and empirical analysis to examine feedback between natural and human systems with the goal of engaging with stakeholders to support natural resource policy and management decisions. Jake's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, US Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, and other sources with focus on constructing a set of Wyoming Natural Wealth Accounts, assessing the downstream environmental and human health impacts of animal agriculture, measuring the effect of natural disasters on birth outcomes, and synthesizing large datasets to predict groundwater contamination risks following major storm events.



Sara Ghezzi, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Professor of Practice

Sara Ghezzi joined the Haub School in November as the new Professor of Practice of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management. Previously, she was a lecturer in the Tourism and Hospitality program at the University of Southern Maine. While at USM she developed several interdisciplinary courses focused on hospitality management, event management, and food and beverage management. She was also a part-time faculty member at Reykjavik University in Iceland. Sara's research focuses on food safety. She has examined food safety knowledge in the catering sector and wrote a food safety manual for the food truck industry. Sara has many years of industry experience in food and beverage management. She was an assistant sommelier at the Mandarin Oriental Miami and worked in event management at The Hotel at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Sara brings a passion for the tourism and hospitality industry and enjoys mentoring the future leaders of the profession.



Justine Sulia, Academic Programs Assistant Project Coordinator

After years working in various capacities for the Haub School, Justine Sulia officially joined our team as assistant project coordinator for academic programs in July. In her new role, Justine will serve as an undergraduate academic advisor and professional and applied experience coordinator. In addition, she is highly involved in marketing and communications for the Haub School. She manages social media accounts for the Haub School, aids in press release design, and helps maintain the Haub School website.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Haub School Courses Switch to Virtual Delivery for Fall Semester

This fall, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most classes in the Haub School shifted to some form of online delivery while a few remained in-person. Online courses were delivered asynchronously (where all course content is pre-recorded with no set meeting time for class) or synchronously (where students meet together in real time for online instruction) via web conferencing. Both delivery options offered students a high degree of flexibility to complete their course work. In addition, UW extended opportunities for students to make-up course work without penalty in the event they became sick.

To support this transition, the University of Wyoming's Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning offered all university faculty weeklong instructional design courses to aid in online course delivery. Several members of the Haub School faculty attended the courses, which provided an overview of best practices for online instructional delivery formats. Overall, courses in the Haub School have gone exceedingly well given the myriad challenges facing both students and faculty this semester. Haub School instructor Maggie Bourque's in-person ENR course was even featured as an example of best practices to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees this fall.

Our Outdoor Classroom

Amid the ongoing pandemic, this fall Haub School faculty and staff tapped into their creativity and expertise in field-based and outdoor education to create a safe and effective outdoor "classroom" in the backyard of the Bim Kendall House. First-year students in ENR 1101, *Thinking Like a Mountain*, and graduate students in ENR 5000, *Approaches to ENR Problem-Solving*, utilized the space for discussion, guest lectures, and active learning experiences throughout the in-person phases of the fall semester. Using basic materials like a portable whiteboard, wireless microphone and speaker, and projector (for evening screenings of films like *Deer 139*), students had the opportunity to learn in a collaborative, face-to-face setting—always wearing our masks, keeping physical distance, and sanitizing shared surfaces—with the added layer of COVID-19 safety that comes with learning outdoors.



Students sit for class in our outdoor classroom behind the Kendall House this fall.

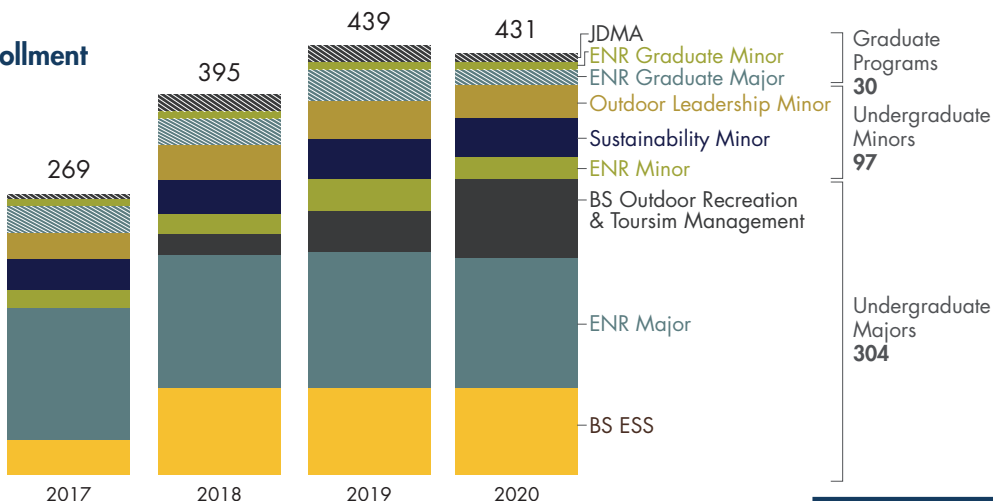
Haub School Professors Participate in Saturday University

Earlier this fall, three members of the Haub School faculty participated in the first-ever virtual edition of the University of Wyoming’s Saturday University program held in Pinedale and Jackson. Professor of Practice Drew Bennett presented the talk “Environmental Conservation in the West: Recognizing the ‘Radical Center’ in a Politically Divided Nation,” assistant professor Rachael Budowle shared her work on “Environmental Solutions: Engaging with Communities Through Place-Based Learning to Address Social-Ecological Challenges,” and Haub School associate professor Kevin Monteith presented the talk “When a Crucial Legacy Intersects with Another: A Deer Story.” Saturday University is an event sponsored by the UW Office of Outreach and Engagement held in locations throughout Wyoming that includes lectures by professors of the University of Wyoming and Wyoming’s community colleges on today’s most captivating topics.

Mountainfilm on Tour Makes Virtual Stop in Laramie

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year’s presentation of Mountainfilm on Tour was held virtually in Laramie. The event, which included a selection of adventure-packed and incredibly inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm Festival held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride, CO, drew an estimated audience of nearly 700 unique viewers over two nights in October. In lieu of the face-to-face community interactions that have become a hallmark of the event, the Haub School hosted a virtual watch party and event kick-off on Instagram. A special thanks to our friends at UniWyo Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the event.

Haub School Program Enrollment





RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE

Ruckelshaus Institute Partners for Conservation Conversation Webinar Series

The Ruckelshaus Institute recently partnered on a new webinar series, Conservation Conversations, hosted by an unprecedented coalition of eight university centers from throughout the western United States. The series explored conservation challenges of the future and identified specific policies, programs, and strategies to help secure the long-term health of the nation's natural resources, wildlife, and landscapes, and broaden the benefits for all Americans.



In August, the Ruckelshaus Institute hosted the webinar, “Reframing Conservation as an Economic Driver and Stimulus to Rural Communities.” The session was moderated by our very own Drew Bennett and featured panelists Ray Rasker (executive director of Headwaters Economics), Brent Davies (vice president of forests and ecosystem services at Ecotrust), and Erik Glenn (executive director of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust). Panelists highlighted specific conservation and restoration investments that stimulate economic activity and job creation, and also described how fiscal policy can constrain local governments in capitalizing on opportunities. Several specific policy recommendations emerged from the panel discussion including establishing a federal land endowment to decouple revenues to rural communities from extractive activities on surrounding public lands, and developing a forest carbon leasing program to provide new sources of revenue for forest landowners adopting climate smart forestry practices.

The series ran from July through October, and drew more than 2,000 unique participants and over 10,000 unique visitors to our website where the webinars were streamed. Recordings of each “conversation” are available to view at www.conservationconversations.org.

Albany County and City of Laramie Form Tourism Coalition

The Ruckelshaus Institute is assisting the Albany County Tourism Board and City of Laramie to form a coalition of stakeholders in the Laramie area to explore ways to boost the use and economic impact of Laramie’s major tourism assets, including outdoor recreation, arts and culture, food and craft beer. Over the coming months the group will work to identify and recognize the diverse assets that draw visitors to Laramie; explore ways to better coordinate and leverage resources to attract more visitors and capture more visitor spending; embed sustainable practices to maximize the economic, social, and environmental benefits of visitors while minimizing negative impacts; and, develop working relationships and partnerships to maintain these efforts over time. The first meeting of the Laramie Tourism Coalition is set for early December.

Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group Issues Final Report

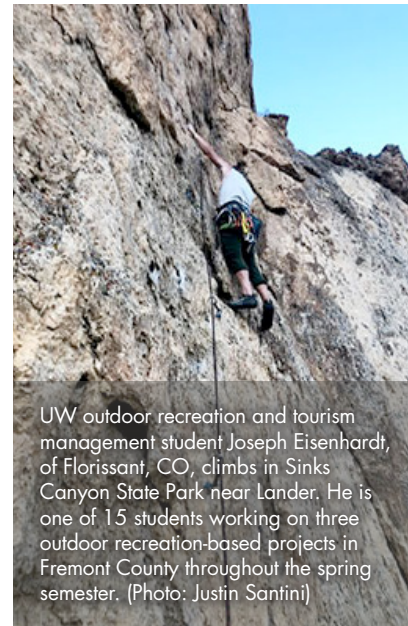
The Ruckelshaus Institute's Jessica Western facilitated a statewide collaborative process convened by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to explore strategies to reduce the prevalence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in ungulate species in Wyoming. Following a series of open meetings to solicit public input in 2019, a 32-member stakeholder working group formed to consider options and make recommendations to the WGFD to update the agency's CWD Management Plan. At the conclusion of their efforts, the group submitted 55 draft recommendations and sub-recommendations to the WGFD from a set of 273 options received from the public. All language in the final recommendations was created and vetted by the working group over five two-day meetings. This process resulted in 39 consensus recommendations, seven recommendations that received consensus with major reservations, and nine recommendations that received no consensus. The WGFD presented its updated CWD Management Plan in August, and has since been approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. A process report is available on our website.

Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative Forges Ahead

The Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative continues to move forward in spite of the surging coronavirus pandemic. About 20 people gathered carefully in Lander's City Park in August, and continued to move forward on its parallel goals of focusing both on pandemic-related re-opening and recovery for the Wind River Region while also continuing to explore the group's long-term vision and strategy. A meeting scheduled for October transitioned on a dime from in-person to virtual when virus numbers began to surge in Wyoming. Several short-term projects are moving forward, addressing needs among multiple user communities. The group also finalized its charter and began to draft a long-term purpose and five-year vision for what outdoor recreation could look like in the region.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PLANNING COLLABORATIVE PROCESS IN WYOMING

JULY 2020



UW outdoor recreation and tourism management student Joseph Eisenhardt, of Florissant, CO, climbs in Sinks Canyon State Park near Lander. He is one of 15 students working on three outdoor recreation-based projects in Fremont County throughout the spring semester. (Photo: Justin Santini)



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Improving Cooperative State and Federal Species Conservation Efforts

In May 2019, the University of Wyoming’s Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources and College of Law, along with Texas A&M University’s Natural Resources Institute and School of Law, convened a workshop that brought together 22 federal ESA and state wildlife conservation experts to reimagine the state-federal relationship and discuss opportunities for states to engage more meaningfully in species conservation efforts. The conversation resulted in a series of agreements in principle that state and federal agencies can collaboratively take to improve species conservation on the ground. Findings from the workshop are summarized in a new report available on our website.

Producer Perspectives

The MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Program recently launched a new publication series, *Producer Perspectives*, to share individual agricultural producer’s experiences with innovative conservation and stewardship practices. Through their own voices, producers explain the benefits and challenges of specific land management options and share advice for other managers considering similar opportunities. The first edition in the series, “Direct Marketing Lessons from Glenn Elzinga,” is now available on our website.



Research Briefs

Over the past few months, we’ve added several new titles to our line of research briefs. These single-page documents provide plain-language summaries of research conducted by Haub School faculty that would normally be found exclusively in the peer-review literature. You can view and download hard copies of the following research briefs and more on our website.



Growing Intergenerational Resilience for Indigenous Food Sovereignty through Home Gardening

Paper by Rachael Budowle, Melvin Arthur, and Christine Porter. Brief by Rachael Budowle and Kit Freedman.

Climate Change, Agency Decision-Making, and the Resilience of Land-Based Livelihoods

Paper by Corrie Knapp and others. Brief by Meghan Kent.



Improving Cooperative State & Federal Species Conservation Efforts

Paper by Temple Stoellinger and others. Brief by Emilene Ostlind, Temple Stoellinger, and Sara Brodnax.

Management of Forests and Forest Carnivores: Relating Landscape Mosaics to Habitat Quality of Canada Lynx at their Range Periphery

Paper by Joe Holbrook and others. Brief by Kit Freedman.

SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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Bennett, D., C.N. Knapp, R. Knight, and E. Glenn. (2020). The Evolution of Rangeland Trusts as Catalysts for Community-based Conservation in the American West. *Conservation Science & Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.257>

Burnett, A. and **J.L. Koprowski**. (2020). Ultimate causes of antipredator vocalizations in a non-hibernating squirrel. *Animal Behaviour* 168:225-230.

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Mazzamuto, M.V., M.N. Mazzella, M. Merrick, and **J.L. Koprowski**. (2020). Fire impacts on a forest obligate: western gray squirrel response to burn severity. *Mammalian Biology* 2020:1-9.

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Mazzella, M., and **J.L. Koprowski**. (2020). Response to fire by a forest specialist in isolated montane forest. *Forest Ecology and Management* 462:117996.

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Ostlind, E. (2020). Powell as the Unwitting Godfather of Outdoor Recreation in the Great Unknown. Chapter in *Vision and Place: John Wesley Powell and Reimagining the Colorado River Basin*, ed. Jason Robison, Thomas Minkley, and Daniel McCool. University of California Press.

Paudel, S. and **J.L. Koprowski**. (2020). Factors affecting the persistence of endangered Ganges River dolphins (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*). *Ecology and Evolution* 10:3138-3148.

Sims, C., D. Aadland, D. Finnoff, and **J. Hochard**. (2020). “What are the benefits of delisting endangered species and who receives them?: Lessons from the gray wolf recovery in Greater Yellowstone.” *Ecological Economics* 174:106656.

Squires, J., **J. Holbrook**, L. Olson, J. Ivan, R. Ghormley, and R. Lawrence. (2020). A specialized forest carnivore navigates landscape-level disturbance: Canada lynx in spruce-beetle impacted forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 475:118400.

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

John Koprowski, Dean

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Maggie Bourque, Associate Lecturer

Rachael Budowle, Assistant Professor, Community Resilience and Sustainability

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Nicole Gautier, Assistant Research Scientist

Sara Ghezzi, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Professor of Practice

Matt Henry, Scholar in Residence

Jacob Hochard, Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics

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REMEMBERING DONALD KENDALL



A founding member of our advisory board whose wife holds the namesake of our beloved Bim Kendall House, Donald Kendall passed away from natural causes in September. He was 99. Born and raised on a dairy farm in Sequim, WA, he became a distinguished Naval aviator in World War II and later joined the Pepsi-Cola Company, beginning as a fountain sales representative and route driver, in 1947. In 1957 Mr. Kendall became president of

Pepsi-Cola's overseas operations, and in 1963 he was named president and CEO of the company. Mr. Kendall served on the Ruckelshaus Institute Board from 1994 to 2002, and became an Emeritus member of the board in 2003. An avid angler and physical fitness buff, Kendall owned a ranch near Pinedale, an area he was introduced to by the Haub Family. He served as director of the National Park Foundation, and was a trustee of the New York Philharmonic, among many other notable distinctions. He will be remembered for introducing Pepsi to the former USSR in 1959, as well as for several other historic openings including in China, India, Iran, and many other countries.



Support Our Work

Support informed, collaborative approaches for natural resource decision making in the West and around the world.

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