



HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

# HAUB SCHOOL UPDATE

NEWS FROM OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE

## FALL 2018 NEWS INSIDE

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[New Conservation Poll of Wyoming Voters](#)

---

[Haub School 25th Anniversary](#)

---

[Wildlife Data Science Hire](#)

---

[Fall 2018 Ruckelshaus Institute Communication Fellow](#)

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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 students take in a view of Gannett Peak on a summer-course expedition in the Wind River Range.

## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friend of the Haub School,

This summer we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the School and Institute of Environment and Natural Resources. It all started with a shared belief that collaboration and science-based decision making can lead to better, more durable solutions to our most pressing environmental and natural resource challenges.

Since 1993, more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students have earned UW degrees through the Haub School, with majors or minors in environment and natural resources, sustainability, outdoor leadership, and environmental systems science. Our Ruckelshaus Institute has convened stakeholders to facilitate collaborative processes and develop recommendations on issues ranging from ground-level ozone pollution in Sublette County to management strategies in the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, I couldn't be more enthusiastic about our future. If you agree, please consider making a contribution to support our work educating the next generation of natural resource practitioners and building collaborative capacity throughout Wyoming and the West.

Sincerely,

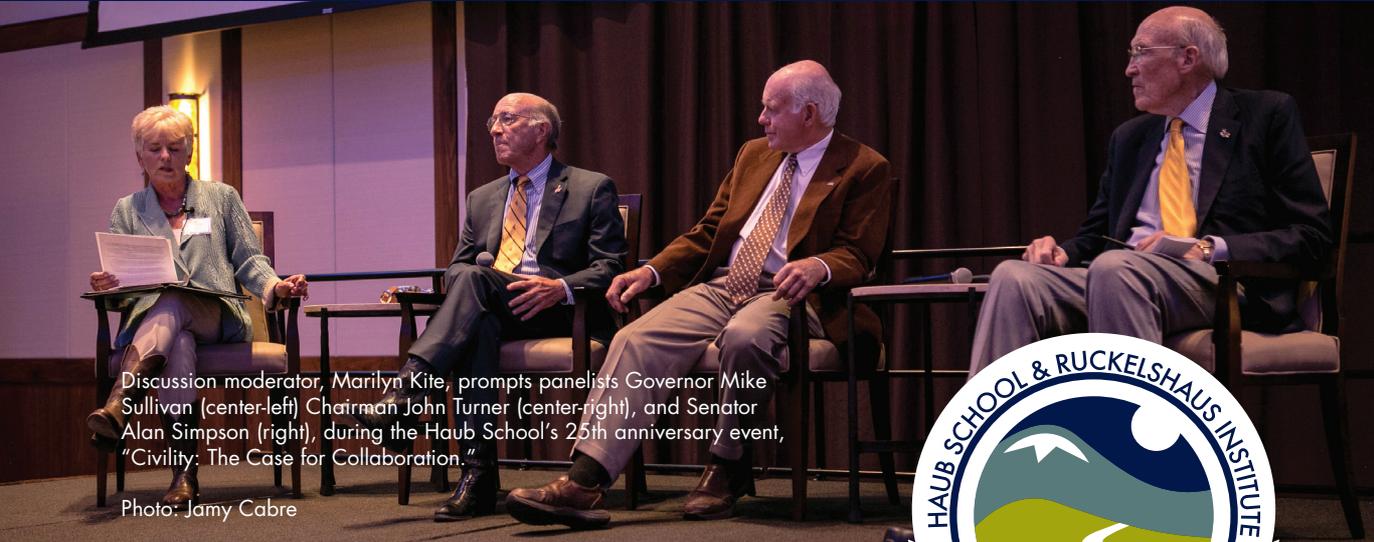
Melinda Harm Benson  
Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming

## HAUB SCHOOL LEADING ON SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING AT UW

Haub School faculty are leading a university-wide effort to pursue the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). STARS provides a transparent metric and reporting tool for sustainability activities across academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. In addition to using the reporting tool, universities can subscribe to receive a rating from bronze to platinum. Goal 4 of UW's *Breaking Through: 2017-2022 Strategic Plan* focuses on a high-performing university, including a performance indicator to achieve a STARS bronze rating by 2022.

Beginning last academic year, the UW Campus Sustainability Committee—a presidentially appointed committee of staff, faculty, and students co-chaired by the Haub School's Nicole Korfanta and Rachael Budowle—completed a feasibility analysis and report to realize success with STARS. The Campus Sustainability Committee will provide oversight and guidance for the process, with support from the Office of the President and Rocky Mountain Power for a STARS student coordinator and two student interns.





Discussion moderator, Marilyn Kite, prompts panelists Governor Mike Sullivan (center-left) Chairman John Turner (center-right), and Senator Alan Simpson (right), during the Haub School's 25th anniversary event, "Civility: The Case for Collaboration."

Photo: Jamy Cabre



## HAUB SCHOOL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

We can hardly believe it: 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the School and Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming! To celebrate the occasion, we hosted a public reception and panel discussion on August 23 in Laramie. More than 100 former board members, alumni, staff, and friends of the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute traveled from across Wyoming, and as far away as Germany, to attend the events. An anniversary luncheon and program entitled, "Honoring the Past, Envisioning the Future," included introductory comments by former EPA administrator and first chairman of the Institute Advisory Board, William D. Ruckelshaus, and featured commentary by Haub School benefactor and board member, Liliane Haub.

Later that evening, we did what we do best—explored the power of collaboration. U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, Governor Mike Sullivan, and Chairman John Turner were part of a lively panel on "Civility: The Case for Collaboration," moderated by retired Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kite. Over 300 people attended the event, and many more watched on FacebookLive. The event offered viewers a rare opportunity to hear from some of Wyoming's most influential leaders discuss the importance of collaboration as they reflected on the last 25 years and look forward to the future. The panel discussion is available to view on our website.

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Research Briefs

Earlier this year, we introduced a new line of publications that we're calling 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-reviewed literature. Our first research brief details a long-term study of energy development impacts on mule deer in the Upper Green River Basin by a research team that included Ruckelshaus Institute director, Nicole Korfanta, and Haub School Assistant professor, Kevin Monteith. Our second research brief summarizes a legal analysis by Haub School assistant professor, Temple Stoellinger, that explores the legal history of the Endangered Species Act and makes the argument for strengthening the role of states in conserving listed species. View interactive versions and download hard copies of the research briefs on our website.



### Approaches to Private Lands Conservation

Drew Bennett, the Whitney MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice, is lead author on a new paper published in the journal *Biological Conservation* that looks at practitioner knowledge of strategies for private-lands conservation. Drew and colleagues surveyed conservation practitioners to gauge their familiarity with different approaches to private-lands conservation. They found that most practitioners were familiar with just two conservation approaches (conservation easements and direct payment programs), and suggest ways to expand the toolbox for private lands conservation and enhance professional capacity to achieve conservation goals.

### Attributes of Ungulate Migration Corridors

Haub School Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Science, Kevin Monteith, is lead author on a new research article that will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Ecological Applications*. "Functional attributes of ungulate migration: landscape features facilitate movement and access to forage," documents landscape features associated with stopovers and movement corridors of spring migration routes for mule deer in two study areas, and reinforces the idea that the location and length of migration has a nutritional underpinning. Kevin was also part of a research team that published the cover story of the September issue of *Science*, with evidence of social learning in ungulate migration.





## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Degree

Following its approval by the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees in March, this fall we officially launched our new degree program in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management (ORTM), offering two courses: Introduction to Recreation and Tourism, and Cultural and Natural Resources of the West. In addition to a host of existing courses in the ORTM curriculum, we will offer three more new courses during the Spring 2019 semester. With 30 students already having declared a major in ORTM in just the first two months of offering the program, we are well on our way to achieving our target enrollment goal of 50 students in the first year. We are currently in the process of hiring two faculty positions for the ORTM degree program, including an assistant professor and a professor of practice.



### Academic Offerings

Program	Students Enrolled as of Spring 2018
<b>UNDERGRADUATE</b>	
 BS in Environmental Systems Science	73
 BS in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management	14
 BS in Environment and Natural Resources/Major in Environment and Natural Resources	2/105
 Minor in Environment and Natural Resources	27
 Minor in Outdoor Leadership	40
 Minor in Sustainability	40
<b>GRADUATE</b>	
 Major in Environment and Natural Resources	28
 JD/MA in Law and Environment and Natural Resources	13
 Minor in Environment and Natural Resources	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>

## FIELD LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### Haub School Field Weeks

With the generous support of ranch owners Bruce and Beth White, the Haub School once again offered our annual August Field Weeks at the Staddle Camp of Brush Creek Ranch in southeastern Wyoming. This year, 41 students gathered at the ranch for two different courses. One of those courses, ENR 1101 *Thinking Like a Mountain*, includes students enrolled in the ENR Freshmen Interest Group (FIG). Students Jonathon Witthoft from San Diego, CA, and Emma Dixon from Lawrence, Kansas, share a bit about their experience:



Both Jon and Emma joined the FIG with an interest in meeting new people who share their love of the environment, and both wanted to explore their new home of Wyoming. Emma “decided to get involved in opportunities that would get me outside of my dorm room. I have been a part of the Haub School from the beginning of my college visits, so I really wanted to join the Environment and Natural Resources FIG group.”

During the field week, students explore Aldo Leopold’s advice to “think like a mountain” by engaging with ecological communities, working landscapes, and personal experiences of place.

“I never knew that a sense of place is so important,” Emma shared. “It can help influence your environmental and conservation values, and it helped me realize why my hometown and favorite vacation spot were so important to me.”

One highlight of the week for Jon was “having class outside at the Gap Lakes,” an experience that helped him “become more familiar with the environment through first-hand learning experiences and understanding how the natural world is all interconnected. In terms of helping me navigate college, the field week introduced me to so many Haub School employees and made me realize that I have so many valuable resources that I can ask for school or just plain life advice,” he said.

Now at the mid-point of their first college semester, the students in *Thinking Like a Mountain* are thriving in part because of those relationships and habits of mind formed during the field week. “We’re a very close-knit group with lots of friendly and helpful people,” Jon said. “The field week brought together a group of random strangers and created such a sense of community.” Emma sums up the FIG’s living and learning community best: “The field week was amazing, but honestly, the best part of this FIG has been the sense of community that occurred because of the field week. I can honestly say that we have become a rather large—and loud—family.”



## RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE

### **New Conservation Poll of Wyoming Voters**

Results from a new statewide poll of 600 likely voters in Wyoming organized by the Ruckelshaus Institute found that conservation continues to be a high priority for Wyoming voters. Wyoming voters say that compared to issues like the economy, health care, and education, issues involving wildlife, water, and public lands are somewhat or very important. That high level of support cuts across party affiliations and is some of the highest seen nationally. The poll was commissioned in association with Wyoming Conservation Legacy, The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust. The poll is the fourth in a series of public opinion polls on natural resource conservation in Wyoming organized by the Ruckelshaus Institute and partners since 2004. View the poll results on our website.

### **Ruckelshaus Institute Communication Fellowship**

Last fall we launched the Ruckelshaus Institute Communication Fellowship—a semester-long program designed to engage artists in the diverse interdisciplinary work of the Ruckelshaus Institute. Laramie-based artist June Glasson was our inaugural Communication Fellow, designing several pieces, including illustrations for a new line of research briefs, the cover for the next issue of *Western Confluence* magazine, and an animated Wyoming Open Spaces Initiative video about the economic benefits of Wyoming conservation easements. This fall we welcomed Jackson Hole-based videographer and editor, Hilary Byrne, to the position. Over the coming semester, we'll be working with Hilary on several video projects, including an oral history project documenting the 25-year history of the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute.



### **Social Science Research Needs for Managing Sagebrush Ecosystems**

Under the direction of project leads, Drew Bennett and Jessica Western, the Ruckelshaus Institute is leading a year-long project to identify research that will help state wildlife agencies integrate social science, such as understanding the public's tolerance of prescribed fire, into the management of sagebrush ecosystems. The goal of the project is to develop a research agenda to fill gaps in our understanding of the human dimensions of sagebrush management. The project is funded by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

## University Network for Collaborative Governance Retreat at AMK Ranch

In August, the Ruckelshaus Institute's Spicer Chair of Collaborative Practice, Steve Smutko, and colleagues at the University of Utah Wallace Stegner Center's Environmental Dispute Resolution Program and the University Network for Collaborative Governance (UNCG), convened the first annual Collaborative Governance Research and Scholarship Retreat. Scholars and researchers from 15 universities around the country came together at the AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park to share ongoing research and ideas for advancing collaborative-governance scholarship.



### Collaborative Solutions

#### Wyoming Public Lands Initiative

Over the last several months, the Ruckelshaus Institute has been assisting stakeholders across Wyoming to make decisions on future management and designation of Wyoming's Wilderness Study Areas and associated public lands. This effort is in support of the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI), a collaborative, county-led process intended to result in a state-wide legislative lands package that is broadly supported by public-lands stakeholders in Wyoming. Nine Wyoming counties encompassing 23 of the state's 45 Wilderness Study Areas have formed or are participating in advisory committees. The Ruckelshaus Institute provided collaborative support, resource materials, and training to WPLI advisory committees in Carbon, Sublette, and Teton Counties.

#### Collaboration Program in Natural Resources

In July, the Ruckelshaus Institute convened the sixth class of the Collaboration Program in Natural Resources. Thanks to generous scholarship support from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation, we recruited our largest cohort yet, with 19 participants from across Wyoming and Colorado. We will invite applications for our seventh cohort in February 2019.

#### US Forest Service Region 2 Trainings

The Ruckelshaus Institute's Jessica Western has been leading a series of trainings for the U.S. Forest Service Region 2 headquarters in Denver. These two-day trainings offer forest personnel instruction in meeting facilitation and an introduction to collaboration. Jessica has provided six trainings in Colorado and Wyoming, with additional trainings planned for spring 2019.



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Wyoming Population Growth: 2010–2015

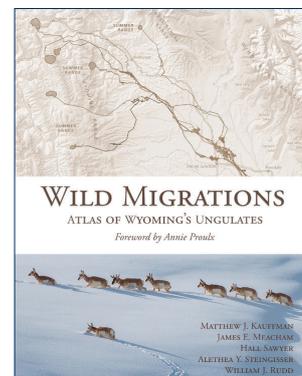
Part of a long-line of publications from the Wyoming Open Spaces Initiative, we recently published an update to our population growth series. “Population Growth in Wyoming, 2010–2015,” by David “Tex” Taylor and Nicole Korfanta, builds on 20 years of census data to describe population changes and patterns at the community, county, and state levels, and takes an in-depth look at five years of census data from 2010 to 2015.

### Western Confluence Magazine

Issue nine of *Western Confluence* magazine is all about how everyday people interact with approximately 400 million acres of federally and state-managed public lands that make up more than half of the surface of the 11 contiguous western states. The feature story by Kit Freedman examines how some small western towns like Laramie are looking to diversify their economies through recreation, which requires getting the right structures in place—from trails to taxation. And we dive into the spending patterns of “quiet recreationists,” the roots and future of the Sagebrush Rebellion, the secret lives of wild horses, and much more.

### Wild Migrations: Atlas of Wyoming’s Ungulates

Haub School’s Emilene Ostlind edited the text and contributed five essays to a new book from the Wyoming Migration Initiative. *Wild Migrations: Atlas of Wyoming’s Ungulates* is a 200-page compendium of recent scientific discoveries surrounding Wyoming’s big game migrations, as well as the history of human interactions with migratory ungulates in the West. The book is full of migration maps and graphics, and each page tells a story of some aspect of migration ecology, history, threats, or conservation. Wyoming Migration Initiative biologists Matt Kauffman, Hall Sawyer, and Bill Rudd, and University of Oregon InfoGraphics Lab cartographers Jim Meacham and Alethea Steingisser also contributed to the book.



## WHO WE ARE

### Faculty and Staff

**Melinda Harm Benson**, Dean

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

**Colleen Bourque**, Administrative Associate

**Maggie Bourque**, Associate Lecturer

**Kit Freedman**, Project and Outreach Coordinator

**Mandy Gifford**, Advising Manager

**Joe Holbrook**, Assistant Professor, Data Ecology

**Nicole Korfanta**, Ruckelshaus Institute Director

**Amanda Korpitz**, Special Events Coordinator

**Melanie Matthews**, Academic Programs Project Coordinator

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

**Kimberly Messersmith**, Business Manager

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

**Fred Ogden**, Cline Chair in Engineering and Environment and Natural Resources

**Emilene Ostlind**, Editor and Communications Coordinator

**Steve Smutko**, Spicer Chair in Collaborative Practice

**Temple Stoellinger**, Assistant Professor, Law and Environment and Natural Resources

**Doug Wachob**, Academic Programs Director

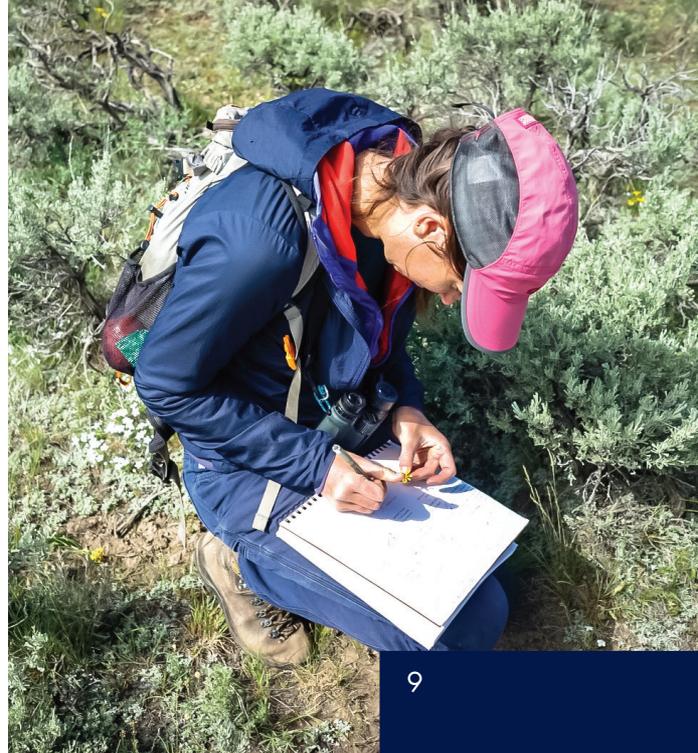
**Jessica Western**, Collaboration Program Director

## Support Our Work

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

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- Send your contribution in the mail:  
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222 S 22nd St  
Laramie, WY 82070
- Call during business hours:  
(307) 766-6300 or (888) 831-7795

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## HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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# Welcoming New Faculty

Joe Holbrook, Wildlife Data Scientist



This fall, we welcomed Joe Holbrook, a quantitative data ecologist, to the Haub School faculty. Joe comes to us from the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Montana, where he held a position as research scientist in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University. Joe's research program is focused on improving the understanding of the behavioral and demographic responses of large mammals to their environment, while providing conservation-relevant information for managers. Joe joined the Haub School faculty as part of a cluster hire of data scientists at the University of Wyoming.