2019–20
YEAR IN REVIEW

Remembrances
Student Leadership
Collaborative Solutions
WHO WE ARE

STAFF AND FACULTY

Doug Wachob, Interim Dean
Rob Godby, Acting Associate Dean
Chicory Bechtel, Academic Advising Manager
Drew Bennett, Whitney MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice
Colleen Bourque, Administrative Associate
Maggie Bourque, Associate Lecturer
Rachael Budowle, Assistant Professor, Community Resilience and Sustainability
Samantha Dwinnell, Wildlife Research Scientist
Kit Freedman, Ruckelshaus Institute Project and Outreach Coordinator
Nicole Gautier, Research Scientist
Matthew Henry, Scholar in Residence
Joe Holbrook, Assistant Professor, Carnivore and Habitat Ecology
Corrie Knapp, Assistant Professor, Environment & Society
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, Associate Professor, Natural Resource Science
Emilene Ostlind, Editor and Communications Coordinator
Amiee Reese, Director of Development, UW Foundation
Abby Sisneros-Kidd, Assistant Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management
Steve Smutko, Spicer Chair in Collaborative Practice
Temple Stoellinger, Assistant Professor, Law and ENR
Justine Sulia, Academic Programs Research Assistant
Richard Vercoe, Associate Lecturer
Jessica Western, Senior Research Scientist

OUR MISSION

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources advances the understanding and resolution of complex natural resource challenges through interdisciplinary education, generating new thought and understanding, disseminating information, and supporting collaborative decision-making.
LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friend of the Haub School,

Wow—what an extraordinary year it’s been! As I sit writing this letter from my home office and reflect on academic year 2019-20, it’s hard to believe that so much has happened in such a short amount of time.

Last fall, we welcomed several new faculty and staff members to the Haub School community, greatly increasing our in-house capacity to serve our highest number of enrolled students ever. We also produced an award-winning documentary, “Deer 139,” and our Ruckelshaus Institute was busy assisting communities and agencies throughout the state and region to address complex issues head on while also working to enhance collaborative capacity in the process. In December, we said goodbye to dean Melinda “Mindy” Benson, and in January we brought on Rob Godby as our new acting associate dean. And just as the spring semester entered the final stretch, the coronavirus pandemic turned our semester on its head.

When the UW administration made the thoughtful decision to move to online course delivery in March, our faculty and staff responded admirably, providing a quick transition to online learning while also maintaining the high-quality of instruction and personable engagement that our students have come to expect. I even received several notes and emails from students thanking the Haub School for making such a seamless transition. And it’s not just our faculty and staff. As you’ll read in the following pages, several of our students provided leadership on campus and in the greater Laramie community to help support those in need amid the coronavirus outbreak.

As we prepare to return to campus this fall, I’m confident in the leadership of the UW administration and incoming President Seidel to keep the campus community safe while also fulfilling the land grant mission of the University of Wyoming in service to the state. And while it’s impossible to know exactly what the future holds, one thing is for certain—the Haub School will continue to train the next generation of natural resource professionals and leaders to be critical thinkers and thoughtful, engaged citizens. At this moment in history, what could be more important?

Sincerely,

Doug Wachob
Interim Dean
In recent months, we lost two influential leaders who shaped our mission from the beginning and continued to serve as our advisors and mentors throughout the following decades. In 1993, William D. Ruckelshaus came to the University of Wyoming at the behest of Senator Alan Simpson to help create a new Institute of Environment and Natural Resources. Ruckelshaus was known for his integrity and ability to build robust solutions that benefitted both the environment and business. He served as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under two different Republican presidents as well as working as a lawyer, environmental consultant, forestry company vice president, CEO of a major waste management company, and in other roles. Whitney MacMillan was a founding member of our advisory board, beginning in 1994. As the chairman and CEO of Cargill, Inc., and the operator of a cow-calf ranch in Montana, and he brought extensive business acumen to our board. Motivated by a desire to keep agricultural operations economically viable, in 2018 he founded our Whitney MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Program to advance research and outreach to help sustain private lands. Ruckelshaus passed away at his home in Seattle last November and MacMillan passed away in Vero Beach, Florida, in March. We miss these two wise and dedicated leaders and are committed to carrying forward their ideas and approaches in current and future environment and natural resource problem solving.
NEW HIRE

**Rob Godby, Acting Associate Dean**

Rob Godby joined the Haub School in January as acting associate dean. An associate professor in the Economics Department at UW, he also serves as the Deputy Director of the University of Wyoming’s Center for Energy Regulation and Policy. His research areas include natural resource, energy, and environmental economics, industrial organization and macroeconomic policy, and he is often interviewed by national and international news media on energy and macroeconomic issues. In his new role, Rob oversees the administration of the Haub School’s academic programs.

OUR EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

After years of personnel growth filling available space in our beloved Bim Kendall House, in January several Haub School faculty members moved into a series of newly-renovated offices on the fourth floor of Ross Hall. Home to the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management team, as well as professors Joe Holbrook and Temple Stoellinger, associate lecturer Richard Vercoe, and scholar in residence Matt Henry, the space includes six offices and features a spacious conference room shared with the Wyoming Center on Aging.
Academic Programs

Haub School Students Lead the Way on Emergency Relief and Food Security at UW

Our students have led the way on student support and relief efforts in the wake of COVID-19, including advocating for students and collaborating with the UW administration to create both the Pokes Make the Difference and Haub School Student Emergency Relief funds. Special thanks to Sustainability Coalition leaders Addi Marr and Caitlin McLennan. These students also supported Haub School Outstanding Undergraduate and winner of the 2020 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award, Tessa Whitman, to create and launch Laramie Mutual Aid, which raised funds and coordinated volunteers for food and supply deliveries for members of the Laramie community.

Students Complete First-Ever ORTM Professional Semester

This spring, students in the Haub School’s new Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Degree completed the program’s first-ever professional semester. Fifteen seniors in their final semester at UW worked in teams on three projects based in Fremont County. The projects included an outdoor recreation assessment of Fremont County, wherein students completed a countywide inventory of outdoor recreation assets and opportunities for project sponsors including the Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative and the Wind River Visitors Council; an outdoor recreation collaborative toolkit to assist rural communities with forming and implementing collaboratives focused on enhancing tourism and recreation opportunities in their communities; and, gathering stakeholder input and presenting recommendations for the “Bus Loops” area trails plan outside Lander.

“Our first ORTM cohort demonstrated grit and determination to complete complex projects under difficult circumstances,” said ORTM degree coordinator Dan McCoy. “We were very impressed with the quality of their work and their commitment. We believe that these projects are an example of the impact we hope to have in communities across the state of Wyoming for years to come.”
Haub School Students Abroad

For the ninth time in as many years, students traveled to Spain’s Canary Islands in January for a 10-day immersion trip to explore the island of Tenerife’s physical landscape and learn about European Union environmental policy. Students spent most their time in the field meeting with local scientists, resource managers, business owners, and attending lectures from Universidad de la Laguna and UW faculty members.

“My time in the Canary Islands was an unforgettable experience that will continue to affect the rest of my time at the University of Wyoming. I have gained a deeper understanding not only of our natural environment, but of the cultures and regulation affecting it.” – Meghan Kent

“I was thoroughly impressed by the Haub School’s Canary Islands field course. Having been my first time abroad, I was slightly apprehensive at first, but grew to really enjoy my time there. I really appreciated the immersive nature of the course. Although we did partake in a few tourist-related activities, I feel that we also got the chance to visit some areas off the beaten path. Looking back, I think this trip gave me a better perspective of how interconnected the world is. How regardless of culture or location, the human experience is largely the same throughout the world.” – Andrew Walker
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Student Awards and Scholarships

2020 Haub School Outstanding Undergraduate
Zayne Hebbler, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Outdoor Leadership
Tessa Wittman, BS Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management and ENR, minors in Reclamation & Restoration Ecology and Sustainability, Honors Program

2020 Haub School Outstanding Graduate
Mary Grace Bedwell, Masters of Public Administration and ENR

Recipient, 2019-2020 Sara Axelson Outstanding RSO Award
Sustainability Club
Japheth Frauendienst, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Spanish, Co-Chair
Zayne Hebbler, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Outdoor Leadership, Co-Chair
Addison Marr, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minor in Sustainability, Co-Chair
Caitlin McLennan, BS Environment & Natural Resources and Political Science, minor in Sustainability, Co-Chair
Rachel Post, BS Environment & Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, minor in Sustainability, Honors Program, Co-Chair
Rachael Budowle, Haub School Assistant Professor, RSO Advisor

Recipient, 2020 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award
Tessa Wittman, BS Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management and ENR, minors in Reclamation & Restoration Ecology and Sustainability, Honors Program

Finalist, 2020 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award
Karolina Klatk, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, BA Theatre and Dance, minor in Geography, Honors Program

Nominee, 2020 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award
Zayne Hebbler, BS Environmental Systems Science and ENR, minors in Sustainability and Outdoor Leadership
This spring, the Sustainability Club at UW received the 2019-2020 Sara Axelson Outstanding RSO Award. The prestigious honor was presented to the Sustainability Club for demonstrating commitment, character, citizenship, support of fellow student organizations, community service, and visibility on campus. One of over 270 registered student organizations on campus, the Sustainability Club is led by several Haub School students, including juniors Addi Marr, Caitlin McLennan, Japheth Frauendienst, Rachel Post, and senior Zayne Hebbler. Despite being a relatively new student organization (formed in 2014), the group has grown in membership and has had an outsized impact on UW students and the greater Laramie community.

The Sara Axelson Outstanding RSO Award is presented annually, and is determined by a selection committee.
Western Confluence Magazine

Issue 10 of Western Confluence magazine covers invasive species—how they are transforming lands and waters in the West as well as the innovative approaches researchers and managers are taking to address the challenges they pose. The issue, which came out in early May, contains 15 in-depth articles about species ranging from thistles and cheatgrass to mussels and mountain goats, plus a perspective from Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, all to advance the conversation around invasive species management. The Ruckelshaus Institute publishes one issue of Western Confluence each year to share engaging and relevant information about complex environment and natural resource challenges in the American West, with an emphasis on how researchers from UW and other institutions are producing new data and understanding that can inform management decisions. All the content is available for free at westernconfluence.org. Our readership for Issue 10 included 3,000 print copies, 1,800 email subscribers, and 8,600 page views to date on the web.

Research Briefs

Over the past year, we’ve added several new editions 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. View interactive versions and download hard copies of the research briefs on our website.

Modeling Visitor Use on High Elevation Trails: An Example from Long’s Peak by Dave Pettebone, Ahsley D’Antonio, Abigail Sisneros-Kidd, and Christopher Monz

Using Practitioner Knowledge to Expand the Toolbox for Private Lands and Conservation by Drew E. Bennett, Liba Pejchar, Beth Romero, Richard Knight, and Joel Berger

SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Haub School faculty members authored several papers and articles in 2019–20, contributing essential new thought and understanding to inform solutions to natural resource challenges around the West and the world.


**RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE**

**Deer 139 Update**

After premiering at the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Alberta, Canada, in November 2019, our documentary film *Deer 139* has been screened in schools, community centers, and at conferences from Alaska to Arizona and beyond. The film, which follows Haub School research scientist Sam Dwinnell and two friends as they hike and ski a mule deer’s migration path for 85 miles through the Wyoming Range, was selected to screen as part of the Banff World Tour, and was picked up by several other film festivals including the Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Grass Valley, CA; Colorado Environmental Film Festival in Golden, CO; No Man’s Land Film Festival in Denver, CO; and the International Wildlife Film Festival, in Missoula, MT. To date, more than 10,000 people have viewed the film. Later this summer, *Deer 139* will screen at the Gutsy Girls Adventure Film Tour in Australia and New Zealand.

**Wyoming’s Energy Future Survey Summary**

Earlier this spring, the Ruckelshaus Institute and UW’s School of Energy Resources published findings from a recent survey that offers a glimpse into the attitudes of Wyoming residents regarding the state’s energy future. Findings show that Wyomingites support natural gas and oil production at high levels, with renewable energy and coal production receiving lesser but still relatively strong support. The survey is the first in a two-phase social study of Wyoming residents’ values and beliefs about the future of energy production and development in Wyoming. The second phase of the study is set to begin later this summer. The survey report is available to view on our website.
COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Pole Mountain Gateways Project

The Ruckelshaus Institute’s Nicole Gautier is assisting the Laramie Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service to organize a public input process pertaining to non-motorized recreation on the Pole Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest. The goal of the project is to gain a better understanding of preferred destinations and public usage on and through Pole Mountain to inform a broad-scale USFS planning project. The Laramie Ranger District is organizing volunteer events to gather trail data from public users this summer, but all other public meetings have been postponed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative

In February, a group of more than 20 stakeholders representing local business, conservation groups, recreation user groups, state and federal agencies, local elected officials, and more came together to launch the Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative. The purpose of the group is to promote outdoor recreation, develop new opportunities, and provide a plan to enhance Fremont County’s recreation and all of its associated benefits, including to the economy and quality of life for residents and visitors. The Ruckelshaus Institute is providing facilitation services through Deb Kleinman of Lupine Collaborative.

Western Honored by The Wildlife Society for Work on Wildlife

Over the past couple of years, the Ruckelshaus Institute’s Jessica Western has assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to facilitate several public processes, including an effort to revise the state’s existing chronic wasting disease management plan, convening a public process to deliberate future management of the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Herd, and working with the Teton Bighorn Sheep Working Group to identify opportunities to balance bighorn sheep winter habitat needs and winter backcountry recreation in the Tetons. In recognition of her years of service to the state facilitating collaborative processes on issues related to wildlife and natural resources, the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society named Dr. Western “Citizen of the Year” during the organization’s annual banquet in Sheridan in November 2019. Congratulations, Jessica!
OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Thank You for Your Support
Private giving, May 1, 2019—April 30, 2020

Major Gifts
Alumbra Innovations Foundation
Gilman Ordway Charitable Lead Trust, Gilman and Margaret Ordway
Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
Richard and Mary Taggert
WEM Foundation, Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan

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Grand Teton Lodge Company
Liliane and Christian Haub
Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
Karen and John Kemmerer
Kenneth Lay
Boyd and Teri Nelson
Mark Headley and Christina Pehl
Tandem Productions
John and Mary Kay Turner
Elizabeth and Bruce White
Wind River Honey Co.
Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association

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Mary McCrady
Dan McCoy and Melanie Arnett
Michae and Hannah McNamee
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditures
Fiscal year July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

**INCOME**

- **38%**: Gift Funds Carried Forward
- **26%**: State Budget
- **9%**: Endowment Income
- **8%**: Wyoming Excellence Chair Support
- **6%**: State Match
- **6%**: Grants and Contracts
- **4%**: Individual Contributions
- **2%**: Course Revenue
- **1%**: Scholarship Income

**TOTAL INCOME:**
$5,760,790.48

**EXPENSES**

- **67%**: Full Time Salary and Benefits
- **9%**: Student GA/Research
- **7%**: Faculty Start-Up Encumbrances
- **6%**: Part-Time Salary and Benefits
- **6%**: Admin/Operations
- **2%**: Travel
- **1%**: Publications
- **<1%**: Sponsorships
- **<1%**: Equipment

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES:**
$4,081,574.67
LETTER FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As Director of Development for the University of Wyoming Foundation in support of the Haub School, I am proud to join an exemplary community of leaders. We have grown an innovative interdisciplinary program and a strong sense of community in which to solve complex environment and natural resource issues. Since joining the UW Foundation team a year ago, I have enjoyed visiting and learning from many of the friends of the Haub School.

Thank you for making me feel welcome! We share a common pursuit to ensure the success of the Haub School and the Ruckelshaus Institute. As a stakeholder, you recognize the importance of sustaining this program for the benefit of communities across Wyoming and beyond. While the state and university are experiencing unprecedented circumstances, I believe that support for our students and faculty remains among Wyoming’s most vital needs. The Haub School serves an important role to educate and train the next generations of environment and natural resource problem solvers to develop solutions to today and tomorrow’s most pressing challenges. Help us lead the way!

Sincerely,

Amiee Reese
Director of Development
UW Foundation

SUPPORT INCLUSIVE, INFORMED NATURAL RESOURCES SOLUTIONS

Contribute to educating future natural resource leaders and supporting sound, lasting solutions for natural resource challenges.

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Laramie, WY 82070

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