

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources



HAUB SCHOOL UPDATE

HAPPENINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY 2023



30th Anniversary of the Haub School

Professional and Applied Student Experiences

Roundup of Faculty Projects



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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: Students on an international field course in Queensland engage in a student-led discussion on the unique patterns and management practices of Australian bushfires, looking out over the Coral Sea from Point Arkwright at Coolum Beach. Photo by Maggie Bourque.

Above: Parker Johnson, an ENR and ORTM undergraduate student, holds a blue sea star (*Linckia laevigata*) on a guided reef walk on Lady Elliot Island on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Photo by Maggie Bourque.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

On October 1st, I celebrated my 3rd anniversary with the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. My move—amid a global pandemic, UW budget crisis, and a looming Wyoming winter—should say something about the amazing opportunity that the deanship promised. Three years later, I can say that it has not disappointed. I am as excited as ever about the people, the position, and the potential. I'm even more excited to be providing leadership during the Haub School's 30th anniversary!



John Koprowski

As you review this 2023 update, you will see why I remain so enthused about our school. We have graduated record classes and still retain strong undergraduate major enrollment. We have had record success in attracting external grants, record numbers of research publications, and record

success in annual gifts and Giving Day. We added seven new faculty and staff over the summer. Our students, staff and faculty continue to amaze! We just doubled our space, finally bringing many of our faculty under one roof in Crane Hall, and are still planning for a new building that we will pursue in the coming years. Lastly, we finalized our 2023-28 Strategic Plan and hosted our external Program Review team in October.

Thank you for your time and efforts in support of our Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources; I cannot wait to see where we go with your support and the incredible talent within the Haub School community. If you are able and so inclined to join me in providing a gift to celebrate our 30th anniversary and set the stage for the next 30 years, I would be most appreciative. Best wishes for a wonderful 2024!

With much gratitude,

Hund Kongrouth,

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



THE HAUB SCHOOL'S ANNIVERSARY

30 years of service to Wyoming, the West, and the World

When the Haub school was established in 1993, it was envisioned as a gathering place. It was meant to be an interdisciplinary hub for scholars and researchers from far-flung fields to tackle cross-cutting environmental issues. It was conceived of as a center for collaboration, where people in conflict over natural resource decisions could come



together to better understand each other and the problem at hand. And from the start, it was a community of people who recognized the complexity of environment and natural resource challenges and believed in the power of working together, within and beyond the university, to craft sound and durable solutions.

30 years later, we are proud to have become everything that was imagined for us and more.

ACADEMIC	RESEARCH AND	OUTREACH
PROGRAMS	CREATIVE ACTIVITIES	AND SERVICE
 970 students graduated 11 grad and undergrad degree programs established 10 unique field and international courses held High student retention, graduation rates, and satisfaction maintained 	Exceeded \$4 million in research grants last year Faculty grown to 30 , with incredible disciplinary breadth Thriving research programs conducting impactful, community-engaged inquiry	 13 issues of Western Confluence 137 CPNR graduates trained in collaborative process 17 seasons of Wyoming Conservation Corps New centers and institutes added

As Bill Ruckelshaus, our founding board chairman, said five years ago, "[The Haub School] has already begun to help the university rediscover its role and its relevance in assisting society and governments in solving many of the thorny, often debilitating problems that afflict us...[without] trying to impose its own solutions, brilliant though they are, on a particular problem. What they are doing is informing the debate with credible science, and providing tools and information, and significantly a forum, where disparate parties, the public and policy makers can begin to hash out their differences...where science and policy making can come together more efficiently and produce more light than heat."

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Charting the course to success

To ensure the good work of the last decades continues, we completed a 2023-2028 Strategic Plan aimed at sustaining wild and working lands, seeking solutions at the nexus of environment and energy, planning smart growth of tourism and recreation, sustainable land management, exploring novel economic approaches, adapting to a changing climate, and developing wildlife conservation leaders.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Train, inspire, educate, and WE VALUE ... ensure the success of future leaders in environment and natural resources. Create new understanding with Communication 2 an expansive network of partners that have a vested interest in Interdisciplinarity Complexity solving complex natural resource challenges. Create and disseminate effective communications and convene Learning and public engagement to support the Scholarship Haub School's core mission Extend and expand the reach of our centers and institutes across the campus, state, and nation. Relevance and Impact and Engagement Responsiveness Attract and support people and acquire spaces that will advance Community and excellent programs. Inclusivity Secure and diversify our financial future.



NEW HIRES



Kelly Dunning, Associate Professor, Timberline Professor of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Tourism



Amanda Harper, Academic Advising Professional



Tayler LaSharr, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Monteith Shop



Rebecca Levine, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop



Yun Liang, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Tourism & Hospitality Initiative



Meagan Ricks, Assistant Lecturer, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Degree Coordinator



Lee Tafelmeyer, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

To learn more about our team, please visit <u>uwyo.edu/haub/about-us/people</u>

HAUBIES IN ACTION: ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ VAZQUEZ

By: Walker Koberlein

Alejandro's journey began in middle school, when he participated in the Pura Vida youth program at Grand Teton National Park. His initial involvement eventually led to an internship as a community ambassador in the park, where he fell in love with outdoor recreation. Since then, he has devoted all of his time to being in the parks and sharing this joy of the environment with others.

Alejandro graduated from the Haub School—where he was recognized with our Outstanding Graduate Award—in spring 2023 with a bachelor's in outdoor recreation and tourism management and a concentration in cultural and international tourism. Now, Alejandro serves as a park ranger in Denali National Park and Preserve, providing outdoor youth education and fostering relationships with the communities around Denali and across the state.

Reflecting on his time at the Haub School, Alejandro cherishes the rich academic and recreational opportunities. From a field course in Chilean Patagonia exploring critical conservation issues, to a panel discussion on Wyoming's checkboard land pattern, Alejandro was there, ready to be a part of the dialogue. Opportunities like these solidify experiences and skills that are learned in the classroom, he says, while also introducing students to new perspectives. He thinks of these events often, bringing those thoughts and conversations into his daily career.

As he transitions from being a student to an alumnus, Alejandro is grateful for the Haub School and excited to see its continual growth. "I'm a Haubie because I care about the connection between people and the outdoors," Alejandro says. "Being in in the Haub School is being a part of that community that elevates the feeling of 'I'm not in this alone. I have passions that are shared by others.' It's really wholesome to have that in academia."





UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Connecting students with real-world opportunities

Two new hires to the student services team have elevated the Haub School's capacity to connect students with opportunities to apply the skills learned in the classroom in real-world settings, as well as connect them with future employers. Jordan Kobliska—the internship and employment coordinator for WORTH—and Amanda Harper an advisor focused on professional and applied experiences, who goes by Harper—have spent the fall growing the Haub School's network and connecting with partners interested in working with students.



Harper and Jordan offered a series

of meet-and-greet style events that allowed students to talk with various partners and learn more about potential career paths. Partners that visited campus include the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Division, Grand Teton National Park, Wilderness Adventures, Jackson Hole Mountain Resorts, and Avid4 Adventure.

Jordan has also focused on growing a range of meaningful internship opportunities for students. She is working to establish formal partnership agreements with outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality organizations, ranging from a pledge to provide internship opportunities for students to multi-year programs that offer students management training and experience in multiple departments of an organization. She's currently working with Xanterra, Vail Resorts, Jackson Hole Mountain Resorts, Safari Hospitality, Hilton Garden Inn Laramie, Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris, Wagonhound, and a number of guest ranches around Wyoming.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Research Support Fund

Dean Koprowski initiated an effort to build a significant endowment, the John F. and Mary Kay Turner Graduate Research Support Fund, which would support Haub graduate students through research and travel grants. The fund would also honor the Haub School's friends, John and Mary Kay, for their unwavering service and support. Giving Day provided an excellent start and we look forward to building this fund over a 5-year gift campaign—please consider a contribution.

Student Profile: Connecting youth with elders on the land

Janna Black, an ENRS graduate student, partnered with Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative to host an Indigenous Youth Culture and Climate Camp at the Eastern Shoshone Buffalo Herd pasture. In September, students from the Wyoming Indian Schools each spent a day learning on the land from Elders, local educators, and experts. Subjects included Shoshone and Arapaho language, climate change, conservation, buffalo, hydrology, and more. The intergenerational, land-based camps focused on preserving cultural traditions while fostering a passion for environmental sustainability and inspiring youth to be ambassadors for positive change.





RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

What is pore space worth?

Many pathways for carbon sequestration and utilization involve acquiring the rights to the underground pore space where the carbon would be stored. With a market for pore space still emerging, Tara Righetti is leading a project to understand how to value pore space and how rights to use it could best be structured. The research team, which includes Bryan Leonard, recently hosted a workshop with federal agency representatives to focus on pore space use on public lands.





Protecting night skies and astrotourism

Kelly Dunning is launching the Wildlife & Wilderness Recreation Lab, which focuses on public policy that protects ecosystems and wildlife while promoting tourism-based livelihoods. For example, the lab is wrapping up a project working with communities in the Mountain West on protecting the rare and precious dark skies that draw astro-tourists from around the world.

Buffalo community engagement

Tarissa Spoonhunter, director of the High Plains American Indian Research Institute, is collaborating with the Wind River Buffalo Initiative on community outreach and engagement, including summer programming, internships for college students, stream restoration at Crow Creek, language learning opportunities, and partnerships with universities, community colleges, non-profits, and other tribes.





Working with communities to store spent nuclear fuel

Weston Eaton, Steve Smutko, and Temple Stoellinger will lend their expertise in community engagement, environmental justice, and law to a multistate research team on a \$2 million Department of Energy grant. The project is exploring how to improve the community-engaged process called consent-based siting—that DOE will use to select the location for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel.

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Sustainability at home and abroad

Sara Ghezzi is working to advance sustainability in the Haub School by creating a sustainable travel plan for study abroad courses, revamping the tour materials for the Bim Kendall House (the second LEED-certified building on UW's campus) and working on an alert system to notify students when there is extra food from events. The alert system would help reduce food waste while also addressing food insecurity.





Air quality, crowdsourced

Kayla Clark is leading an interdisciplinary team—including Haub School grad and undergrad students—that received EPA funding to develop a platform for crowdsourcing air quality during wildfires. At notable outdoor recreation sites, signage will direct recreators to capture photos that an app will use to analyze particle levels and share with other users in real time.

Recreation impacts in the Snowies

In collaboration with the US Forest Service, the Southeast Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Collaborative, and Haub graduate students, Richard Vercoe is leading a project to investigate the recreational and habitat carrying capacity of alpine areas along the much-beloved Snowy Range Scenic Byway (Highway 130).





Modeling environmental futures

Melissa Bukovsky is spearheading a new lab dedicated to collaborative, intersectoral modeling of Earth's Systems. Supported by the NSFfunded Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WY-ACT) Project, on which several Haub School faculty are co-investigators, the lab's goal is to generate quantitative, computational projections of environmental futures that are relevant to Wyoming and beyond.



OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Steve Smutko Collaborative Leadership Fund

Steve Smutko, the Spicer Chair of Collaborative Practice and an esteemed and valued member of the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute, will retire at the end of this academic year.

Steve is known across campus and in every corner of Wyoming for his expertise and skill in bringing people with diverse perspectives and values together to work on contentious environment and natural resource challenges. At UW he teaches courses on negotiation and collaborative leadership. Across Wyoming he has facilitated stakeholder groups working on forest management, ozone in gas fields, groundwater consumption, outdoor recreation, renewable energy, endangered species, and more. Whether in the classroom or the meeting room, Steve does his work with cheer, warmth, and exceptional care for the people he interacts with.

In recognition of Steve's commitment to building collaborative capacity in our society, the new Steve Smutko Collaborative Leadership Fund will support graduate students studying collaborative governance, leadership, and decision making. Students in fields as diverse as economics, policy, social sciences, natural resources, and more will receive support for learning, research, and hands-on projects that engage people in complex problem-solving around the environment and natural resources.

Thank you, Steve, for all you have contributed during the last nearly 14 years. We wish you a joyful and fulfilling retirement, and we hope to see you back on the local ski trails from time to time.

International wildlife policy workshop

Temple Stoellinger, Jake Hochard, and Brent Ewers convened a twoday International Wildlife Policy Workshop that brought together thirty-one interdisciplinary experts from around the world to discuss

wildlife conservation in large landscapes. The group focused on opportunities for reciprocal learning around conservation in the context of change, collaboration with Indigenous peoples, human-wildlife conflict, and the challenges of transboundary management. The workshop will guide the agenda for a 2025 conference that will use the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a touchstone to initiate a global dialogue and exchange of ideas around shared wildlife policy challenges and opportunities. The next issue of *Western Confluence* will feature stories from home and abroad that address these common themes and begin to share solutions.





OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Agriculture in the Colorado River Basin

The MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Program, in partnership with the Western Landowners Alliance, Wes Eaton, and others, conducted a survey of 1,020 agricultural water users in the Colorado River Basin to understand their perspective on the current crisis, their water conservation practices, and their preferences for strategies to address water shortages going forward. The report, available online, generated significant press coverage by KUNC, Oil City News, The Hill, Denver 9News, and more.

CPNR continues to grow

The Collaboration Program in Natural Resources (CPNR) welcomed its largest cohort ever, with participants hailing from the US Forest Service, University of Wyoming, WY County Commissioners Association, WY Department of Environmental Quality, WY Game and Fish, WY State Parks, the Greater

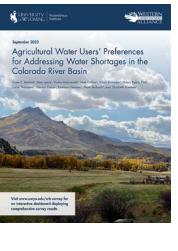
Yellowstone Coalition, Wyoming Pathways, Salazar Center for North American Conservation, and the Center for Collaborative Conservation.

Register Now: Outdoor Recreation Summit

The WORTH Initiative and the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation will co-host the 2024 Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Summit on April 18-20th in Casper, Wyoming. Inspired and driven by the success of last year's emerging issues forum, the summit will provide a space for people to come together to discuss issues, learn from successes and challenges, and work cooperatively to build Wyoming outdoor recreation in a responsible and sustainable way. Visit <u>uwyo.edu/worth</u> for more.

WCC wraps up its season

The Wyoming Conservation Corps wrapped up its 17th season completing high priority conservation projects for partners around the state. Projects ranged from maintaining, building, and armoring more than 77 miles of trail to clearing over 750 downed trees, constructing more than 60 tent and living pads, and installing 101 artificial beaver dams for habitat restoration.







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WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

John Koprowski, Dean and Wyoming Excellence Chair

Steve Smutko, Associate Dean, Wyoming Excellence Chair, and Spicer Chair of Collaborative Practice

Ellen Aikens, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Haub School

Melanie Armstrong, Ruckelshaus Institute Director and Associate Professor

Drew Bennett, MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice

Callie Berman, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Colleen Bourque, Administrative Associate

Maggie Bourque, Associate Lecturer

Anastasia Brady, Special Events Coordinator

Melissa Bukovsky, Associate Professor, Derecho Professor, Regional Integrated Earth System Modeler

Courtney Carlson, Adjunct Professor, Instructional Designer for Distance Education

Tyler Carroll, Interim Program Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Kayla Clark, Assistant Lecturer, Graphic Design

Curt Davidson, Assistant Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

Anderson De Figueiredo, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Kelly Dunning, Timberline Associate Professor of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Wes Eaton, Visiting Assistant Professor

Hilary Byerly Flint, Senior Research Scientist

Aaron Freland, Academic Advising Manager

Nicole Gautier, Graduate Coordinator and Research Scientist

Sara Ghezzi, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Professor of Practice

Amanda Harper, Academic Advising Professional

Zayne Hebbler, Academic Advising Professional

Jacob Hochard, Knobloch Assistant Professor of Conservation Economics

Joe Holbrook, Wyoming Biodiversity Term Professor, Carnivore and Habitat Ecology Rhiannon Jakopak, Outreach Coordinator and Research Scientist

Caleb Johnson, Outreach Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Corrie Knapp, Associate Professor, Environment and Society

Jordan Kobliska, Internship and Employment Coordinator

Bryan Leonard, SER Associate Professor of Environment and Natural Resources (starting fall 2024)

Rebecca Levine, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Yun Liang, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, WORTH Initiative

Jewell Lund, Co-Production Coordinator

Birch Malotky, Emerging Issues Initiative Coordinator

Melanie Matthews, Academic Programs Senior Project Coordinator

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Dan McCoy, WORTH Initiative Director

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Kevin Monteith, Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Natural Resource Science

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Meagan Ricks, Assistant Lecturer, Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management Degree Coordinator

Tara Righetti, Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies, Law, SER, and ENR

Austin Smith, Research Scientist

Tarissa Spoonhunter, Assistant Professor, Director of High Plains American Indian Research Institute

Temple Stoellinger, Associate Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Law and ENR

Richard Vercoe, Associate Lecturer

Brittany Wagler, Assistant Research Scientist

Taylor Wagstaff, Monteith Shop Lab Coordinator and Assistant Research Scientist

Rebecca Witinok-Huber, Associate Research Scientist



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SUPPORT INCLUSIVE, INFORMED NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

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

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Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law. Thank you for your support. Please reference giving code E24HSY.

SUBMIT YOUR SHORT FILM

Next spring, the Haub School will host the third annual Wild and Working Lands Film Festival in Laramie, online, and in



communities around Wyoming. We are now accepting submissions of short films (<20 minutes) that explore the intricate connections between humans and the landscapes where we dwell, work, and play. Deadline to submit is January 15, 2024. Details at filmfreeway.com/ WildandWorkingLandsFilmFestival.