9:00 am • Environmental Conservation in the West: Recognizing The ‘Radical Center’ in a Politically Divided Nation
Drew Bennett, Ph.D., MacMillan Professor of Practice in Private Lands Stewardship, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming
Americans appear more politically divided than ever, including on environmental issues. Yet, there is broad public support for environmental protections and westerners have a strong commitment to local conservation. This talk presents recent research based on public polling, focus groups, and a survey of landowners to debunk myths about deep divisions over environmental issues in the West. Dr. Bennett argues that there is a forgotten “radical center” working below the radar to build consensus on controversial issues like wildlife conservation and climate change.

9:45 am • Environmental Solutions: Engaging with Communities through Place-Based Learning to Address Social-Ecological Challenges
Rachael Budowle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming
Beginning in 2017, Haub School students have traveled to the historic Murie Ranch, home to conservation legends, in Grand Teton National Park to live for a month each summer and implement real-world environmental and sustainability projects of relevance to Jackson Hole stakeholders. The Environmental Solutions program pairs students with experienced faculty and non-profit, business, government, and agency sponsor organizations and mentors to make a meaningful difference in this unique social-ecological community. This presentation discusses the program as a successful case of place-based teaching and learning and envisions how to expand such approaches to engage with communities across Wyoming.

10:30 am • When a Crucial Legacy Intersects with Another: A Deer Story
Kevin Monteith, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Natural Resource Science, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Zoology and Physiology at the University of Wyoming
As human beings, and especially as we grow old, we reflect on if we will leave a legacy and what kind of legacy we leave. For our iconic and struggling mule deer populations in the West, their realities are not all that different. Nevertheless, only recently have we begun to peer into the cross-generational influence that mothers have within a strongly matriarchal society, and what that influence means for their survival and persistence in an ever-changing landscape. Such insight is only possible through long-term, and individual-based research, which is a cornerstone for the Monteith Shop and has become an avenue for exciting new discoveries and connections. Go on a journey through the lens of mule deer in western Wyoming and grapple with how deer leave a legacy, and come to appreciate how their legacy is contingent upon our own.