

# Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Report to the UW Board of Trustees July 14-15, 2021

The Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources has continued to foster sustainable landscapes and livelihoods by expanded efforts to engage and impact the state of Wyoming's needs in environmental and natural resource issues. We have focused on being entrepreneurial and collaborative to increase opportunity and accessibility of the Haub School to students on and off campus.

**Enrollment updates** We are on track with new student numbers heading into Fall 2021 compared with Fall 2020, which includes first-time/freshmen, transfer, and second bachelor's degree in Haub School major programs (BS ENR, BS ESS, ENR concurrent major, and BS ORTM).

The Haub School is planning various in-person events to welcome/welcome back new incoming students, second-year students, and all Haub School students during the first weeks of the fall semester to include educational hikes in the nearby Pilot Hill area.

#### Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management (ORTM) Degree Program growth:

• The Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, & Hospitality Center (coined the WORTH Center) in partnership with the College of Business and College of Agriculture & Natural Resources has been identified as a major initiative for investment by Pres Seidel. The center will support the 2nd largest industry in the state—tourism—and capitalize on growth of our BS in ORTM that has reached 84 student majors < 5 years.

### **Opportunities during Challenging Times**

- MS in Environment, Natural Resources & Society has been approved and we are enrolling for the Fall 2021 semester
- New space in the vacant Beta House is being renovated, in part through a gift from a donor.
- The Occidental Endowed Chair in Energy & Environmental Policy search negotiations are underway with the top candidate.
- The <u>Wyoming Conservation Corps</u> has rejoined the Haub School in their conservation service and providing important opportunities for student and military veterans.

#### **Ruckelshaus Institute**

- Pole Mountain Gateways in partnership with the Laramie Ranger District of the Forest Service, is soliciting public input about non-motorized recreation on Pole Mountain to inform USFS planning. The Pole Mountain Gateways Public Engagement Summary Report will be shared July 2021 and provides a synopsis of public/digital input for further planning.
- **Upcoming Decision-Making Workshop** –hosts a workshop Aug 16-17 titled "Structured Decision Making in Natural Resources Management" targeted at managers, planners, consultants and environment and natural resource professionals. The workshop will cover approaches to define and structure natural resource problems for management and policy decision making and provide tools and techniques to address problems analytically and in a values-oriented context.
- Collaboration Program in Natural Resources Our year-long professional development program is under new directorship. Deb Kleinman, a facilitator, trainer, and leadership coach based in Laramie, is updating the curriculum and running the program. Professionals from WY Game & Fish, WY Department of Transportation, and other agencies, NGOs, and businesses are participating. The goal is to build capacity throughout the state and region for collaborative approaches to environment and natural resource problem solving.
- Ruckelshaus Day, July 24 In 1993, at the behest of Senator Alan Simpson, William D. Ruckelshaus came to the University of Wyoming to discuss a new institute of environment and natural resources. He became the founding board chairman of the institute and brought to Wyoming his steady-handed approach to addressing tough challenges in ways that would advance both environmental conservation and economic prosperity. This month we are holding a virtual celebration of his legacy building up to his birthday, July 24, our Ruckelshaus Day. Follow along on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.
- Yellowstone Symposium To recognize the sesquicentennial anniversary of Yellowstone National Park's creation in 1872, the Ruckelshaus Institute is partnering with the UW College of Law in collaboration with Yellowstone National Park and others to hold a symposium in 2022 that will reflect on the past 150 years of the park's existence and look to the future, with special emphasis on the role of Indigenous people in the Yellowstone region.

## **Grant and Donor Funds**

We have worked to maximize **Donor Support** during challenging budget times; 2021 has been strong with more than \$1 million in individual donor support pledged already in the calendar year. The Carol and Ramón Tomé Foundation has provided an unparalleled full-ride scholarship for 4 students; the Haub School was selected as the location to represent the environmental pillar of the Tomé Foundation's 4 pillar approach to impact. Recent **Grant Successes** have yielded ~\$2 million dollars for work in topics from mule deer and bighorn sheep management and swift fox recovery to drinking water contamination and collaborative decision making.