

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
 Report to the UW Board of Trustees
 January 7, 2022

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources has continued to foster sustainable landscapes and livelihoods by expanding efforts to engage and have impact on the state of Wyoming's needs in environmental and natural resource issues.

Haub School Undergraduate Programs

We are proud to have the strongest first-year retention rates at UW, yet the Haub School is innovating once again, as we adapt our long-standing successes in 1st-year student engagement to the new *Saddle Up* program and other first-year initiatives. Drawing on our faculty and staff expertise in field-based and place-based education, we will deliver an engaging, rigorous, and unique weeklong experience, and are one of 3 programs (along with the Honors College and First-Generation Scholars) piloting a Living & Learning Community in Fall 2022, which will expand our ENR Freshman Interest Group (which has served ~20 students each year since 2010) to serve up to 50 incoming students in extra- and co-curricular experiences, a first-year experience course, and peer mentorship throughout the fall semester. We were pleased to graduate 19 undergraduates in Haub School majors and minors in Fall 2021 and will welcome at least 13 new incoming freshman and transfer students for Spring 2022.

Haub School Graduate Programs

- **The Growing ENRS Graduate Program.** The Haub School Graduate Programs Committee accepted 2 new Environment Natural Resource and Society graduate students in December – so our new stand-alone graduate program (launched fall 2021) now has 7 full-time enrolled students in the first 6 months.
- **ENRS Recruitment Efforts.** We have also recently launched a recruitment effort for our ENRS graduate program including this promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1wPwNOnpVk>

Ruckelshaus Institute Team Gains Capacity

- **Ruckelshaus Institute Director:** Provost Carman has approved the hire of a new Ruckelshaus Institute director. The institute has been without a director for 2.5+ years, and we are launching a national search to attract and bring on a high-level candidate in a tenure-track line for this role. The position will primarily focus on public outreach and engagement, science communication, collaborative problem solving, and applied research relevant to natural resource policy and practice. We anticipate advertising the position in mid to late January and beginning candidate reviews in late February.
- **William D. Ruckelshaus Fellow:** The Ruckelshaus Institute welcomes John Burrows as the first William D. Ruckelshaus Fellow with our Collaborative Solutions Program. The purpose of the Fellowship is to foster the creative and impactful work of scholars and practitioners engaged in environmental and natural resources policy and management to generate creative work broadly related to collaboratively engaging Wyoming communities and decision makers.
- **Emerging Issues Initiative Coordinator and Research and Outreach Coordinator:** Two new team members further strengthen our impact. Birch Malotky worked part-time for the institute in 2021 and joined the team full-time on Jan 4, 2022, to coordinate our science communication and public engagement around emerging environment and natural resource challenges for Wyoming. Grace Carr joined us in November 2021 to support applied environment and natural resource research in Wyoming and to help facilitate public engagement logistics for Ruckelshaus Institute projects.

Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative (WORTH)

- Governor Gordon allocated year-one American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the WORTH initiative. The \$3M allocation was received by UW in December. PI Dean Koprowski completed and submitted the budget narrative to the Office of Research and Economic Development who oversees the allocation of funds.
- State-wide project leads and UW leads for the WORTH and related WIN initiatives are being identified and should be finalized in January.
- Hiring, research, business development, and special projects under WORTH are now beginning to take shape. Concurrently, a system for metrics and deliverables for year-one is being developed for the WIN.