

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources  
Report to the UW Board of Trustees  
May 2, 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

- Lead by Haub School Instructional Designer Courtney Carlson, the Online & Digital Learning working group has completed a thoughtful proposal for the coming years investment and growth. We continue our focus on innovative, intentional, and unique learning experiences for students across all modes of participation and engagement.
- We are excited to have funded 9 students for independent summer work under the *Haub Creative Activities and Student Research Grant*. Example projects include climate change variability in the arid West; digital storytelling with communities in energy transitions; sustainable water management in Teton Valley, Idaho; camera trap-based wildlife population studies; free radicals in plants under environmental stress; and sharing the ecology and culture of the Colorado River through nature's music.
- As we look toward the summer, our hard-working First-Year Experience team will finalize plans for the Haub School version of "Saddle Up" – UW's new program for incoming first-year students launching in August 2022. The Haub School is well-positioned to scale up our long-running Field Week model, and in 2022 we expect to engage up to 50 freshmen in a range of activities including class sessions with multiple Haub School faculty, field trips to Pole Mountain and the Snowy Range, leadership and team-building activities, sustainability and food security service projects, and study sessions that introduce them to a range of UW resources that support student success. We will also expand our peer mentoring program and teach a First-Year Experience course throughout the fall semester to help incoming students in our Living and Learning Community establish good habits and build the kinds of relationships we know make all the difference in retention; we continue our dedication to holistic, transformational learning experiences for all Haub School students.

### Haub School Graduate Programs

- The first cohort of graduate students are wrapping up the inaugural year of the Environment Natural Resources and Society (ENR&S) program. Students positioned themselves theoretically, identified research questions, and engaged in applied, team-based projects. Working in interdisciplinary teams is a core experience of the ENR&S program. Example projects from the Capstone in ENR course tasked students with exploring recreation perspectives and reviewing recreation & wildlife monitoring methods within the context of Pilot Hill, a public natural area on Laramie's eastern edge. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort will have >10 students that hail from Wyoming to Nepal, and bring backgrounds ranging across environmental science, food systems, and environmental justice.
- Early in 2022, University Public Relations, the Haub School communications team, and current students and faculty collaborated on a promotional video highlighting the program. The video showcases student voices, Wyoming landscapes, and why the Haub School is a primer destination to study ENR&S issues. The full video can be viewed [here](#).

### Ruckelshaus Institute

- **Collaborative Solutions Through The Wyoming Renewable Energy Siting Collaborative** The Ruckelshaus Institute convened and completed the Wyoming Renewable Energy Siting Collaborative, which brought together local government officials, industry representatives, and conservation organizations to generate proactive policy recommendations around siting future renewable energy projects. After meeting nine times between December

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2020 and July 2021, the collaborative developed [ten recommendations to increase siting efficiency while conserving important natural habitats](#).

- **Collaboration Program in Natural Resources** In April the Ruckelshaus Institute's Collaboration Program in Natural Resources (CPNR) graduated its 10<sup>th</sup> cohort.
- **Building Bridges Symposium: Cross-Cultural Collaboration for Natural Resources Management and Conservation** On April 14, the Ruckelshaus Institute invited leaders from the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to Cody, together with others representing state and federal agencies and conservation nonprofit organizations. The goal of the Building Bridges Symposium was to begin the process of building relationships and improve our shared stewardship of Wyoming's natural resources. The day-long symposium featured dialogues on exploring the cultural dimensions of collaborative partnerships and examples of cross-cultural collaboration across Wyoming
- **Wild and Working Lands Film Festival** The Haub School hosted its inaugural Wild and Working Lands Film Festival on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Gryphon Theater in Laramie. The festival featured 14 short films highlighting critical natural resource issues including inspiring stories about wetland restoration, conservation of migratory ungulates, indigenous approaches to forest management, and wild horse and burro management. Several films also presented portraits of individuals and their connections to place and relationships with the natural environment. The festival continues online, where the selected films can be screened on our website at [uwo.edu/haub/events/film-festival](http://uwo.edu/haub/events/film-festival).
- **A Youth Vision for 2030: Imagining Wyoming's Future** In partnership with the Wyoming Humanities Council, Wyoming 2030, the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, and the UW Creative Writing Program, the Ruckelshaus Institute held a writing and multimedia narrative contest that asked young people in Wyoming to imagine life in 2030 if all of their dreams for the state came true. The stories touch on everything from litter-free highways and carbon capture to community development and inclusivity. Three winners and seven honorable mentions won a cash prize and are published in an online anthology available at [wyoming2030.org/youth-voice](http://wyoming2030.org/youth-voice).

#### **Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative (WORTH) Updates**

- A ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration was held on March 2 for the WORTH initiative.
- On March 2, Dan McCoy was announced as the Interim Director.
- The Hospitality Management feasibility study is being completed. Anticipated completion by May.