



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

ENR Highlights



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RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE TRAININGS FOR PROFESSIONALS

The Ruckelshaus Institute recently announced the official launch of its new training series for professionals, under the leadership of UW's Spicer Chair, Dr. Steve Smutko, an expert in collaborative process and design. The theme of the series, "Natural Resource Decision-Making in Communications," is geared toward the seasoned professional who is looking to enhance their skills in facilitation, negotiation, media relations and communications. The Institute has partnered with the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resources Mediation

Program for the trainings, with a shared goal to bring quality trainings to professionals who regularly work to engage the public and stakeholders in natural resource decision-making. In an effort to reach professionals in rural communities, the workshops will be held at different locations throughout Wyoming, beginning with the first workshop, Facilitating Controversial Public Issues, scheduled for May 12 in Casper. For additional information, or to register online, log on to www.uwyo.edu/enr.

Energy Resources and Produced Waters Conference (May 25-26, Hilton Garden Inn/ UW Conference Center)

Staff of both the Institute and the School of Energy Resources have reviewed and selected more than 50 presentations and 12 posters for the Energy Resources and Produced Waters conference, representing government agencies, nonprofits, institutions, and private consulting firms from around the country involved in energy development and research of produced waters, management, and use. "The event will advance an understanding of current research and monitoring projects related to the management, treatment, and use of water associated with energy development," said Diana Hulme, Ruckelshaus Institute associate director. Presentations range from technical advancements in monitoring – to academic research and legal and regulatory implications. "Produced water management is a major consideration when it comes to the extraction of underground energy resources," said Mary Byrnes, SER associate director. "Protection of water resources, including how to treat and use produced water, has become more important as both energy production and demand for water resources increases," she said.

The event will culminate with a media panel discussion on whether energy produced water is on the public and policy makers radars. Moderated by veteran journalist and Institute Board member Daniel Glick, the panel will include Bob Beck, Wyoming Public Radio, Mead Gruver, Associated Press, Dustin Bleizeffer, Casper Star Tribune, and Allen Best, freelance reporter. Registration is free (please sign up before May 14) at www.uwyo.edu/enr.

Wyoming Sustainability Summit 2010 drew more than 150 people for the two-day event on April 12-13 at the Hilton Garden Inn, UW Conference Center. The agenda included a variety of paper and poster presentations on sustainability, including community green initiatives, historic preservation, sustainable energy resources, residential and business contributions in sustainability and agriculture. Concurrent sessions included expert presenters representing the university community as well as experts from around the country. The event was sponsored by the UW Sustainability Committee, Argosy Foundation, and the Haub School. The school also provided outreach support, and several moderators for the conference sessions.



“While the road has been a little bumpy along the way, I’m encouraged by the quality of the ideas coming out of the CBM Working Group. I think they will come up with solid recommendations that will address the most critical issues.” - Dr. Steve Smutko, UW Spicer Chair and facilitator of the CBM Working Group process.

CBM Working Group

The Ruckelshaus Institute’s Dr. Steve Smutko continues the facilitation efforts for the Coalbed Methane Produced Water Working Group. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for permitting discharges from CBM wells and impoundments, and is considering a revision to its permitting policy to better ensure that water quality standards are met in drainages where CBM produced water discharges are occurring. The working group is a major part of this process by assisting in the development of a CBM permitting strategy.

The working group has met monthly since December to develop a framework that characterizes what matters to the stakeholders, and identifies the issues that need to be addressed, such as damage to soils from salt loading, damage from flooding, and protecting the economic interests of all stakeholders. At their most recent meeting, the group began evaluating options, focusing on the issues that hold the most promise of addressing key issues and are compatible with stakeholder values. The final two meetings will center on developing a set of recommended actions. DEQ will organize a scientific panel to evaluate the group’s set of recommendations.

Brown Bags

This spring, ENR hosted a series of brown bag lunches on careers in natural resource management. Each luncheon drew more than 30 students, including prospective ENR students and those currently pursuing a career in natural resources.

The event focused on panel discussions with representatives from state and federal agencies, research and consulting firms, conservation organizations, and the energy industry.



Juris Doctor/ENR Master of Arts

Applications to the new Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Environment and Natural Resources (JD/MA) program are on the rise. During March, five new students enrolled in this dual degree program. Students from around the nation eager to study and work at the intersection of law, policy, and environment and natural resources are reporting that the program offers a distinctive opportunity for interdisciplinary training. “One of my primary motivations for pursuing the dual degree is my passion for Wyoming’s wild spaces,” said Julia Heemstra, an incoming JD/MA student and member of the Leadership Wyoming Class of 2010. “It is this love

which also drives me to become an environmental lawyer in this state – I seek to understand and work within the competing demands upon these wild places. The opportunity to pursue this dual degree is why UW’s College of Law became my first choice for law school.” Heemstra and her colleagues will arrive at UW to begin the program in August of 2010.

“Natural resource challenges increasingly require cross-disciplinary analysis. The current JD/MA students have the desire to evaluate these issues not alone as legal professionals, but also as wildlife biologists, cultural geographers, economists, and philosophers.”

- Courtney Carlson, assistant director of the Haub School.

Awards

Milton Geiger, MS Agricultural and Applied Economics/ENR ‘09, was named one of the 2010 winners of the University’s highest honor for graduate research, the Outstanding Thesis Award, for his economic analysis of national climate change legislation and the implications for Wyoming. Geiger’s research was supported in part by a Haub Research and Creative Activities Grant.

Lydia Reneissen, BS Range Ecology and Watershed Management/ENR ‘10, is the 2010 recipient of the prestigious Larsh Bristol Memorial Award for Photojournalism. The \$5000 stipend will support Reneissen in an endeavor to chronicle an undervalued “cultural resource” in the State of Wyoming through multi-modal documentary: during summer 2010, Reneissen will travel the state to photograph, record, and catalog a range of local music festivals.

ENR Field Trip In March, 17 students in Dr. Robert Field's seminar, Environment and Energy Development, traveled to Pinedale, Wyoming, to tour the Pinedale Anticline. Students visited the UW Mobile Air Quality Laboratory before meeting with a group of Pinedale residents involved in energy issues, including Ted Porwoll, with the U.S. Forest Service, Jim Sewell of Shell Exploration and Production and Elaine Crumpley and Mary Lynn Worl, both with Citizens United for Responsible Energy Development. The students toured the Pinedale Anticline with stops at the Boulder South air quality monitoring site, a drill rig, production facility, and the liquids gathering infrastructure. Pete Guernsey and Kevin Williams, with Questar Exploration and Production, discussed reclamation issues to conclude the two-day visit.



Students of the "Environment & Energy Development" class toured the Pinedale Anticline and met with agency representatives and nonprofit organizations as part of their applied course work.

Director News

On Earth Day this year, Director Burke will give a talk to the American Chemical Society Banquet on "Chemistry Every Global Citizen Should Know." Following the event, she will travel to Washington D.C. for the National Academy of Sciences Board meeting where she will give a presentation on "Frontiers in Chemistry for Ecosystem Science." Burke will also give the keynote address for Women in Science on May 11 at UW, an event for the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium. In April, she attended a committee meeting in Bozeman, Montana for the Greater Yellowstone Science conference, which is scheduled for Oct. 11-13 in Yellowstone.

Associate Director Diana Hulme is scheduled to present the "Wyoming's State of the Space" report at the Wyoming Planners Association meeting on April 23 in Thermopolis. Her presentation will include an overview of rural and municipal land use trends and population redistribution in the state over the last decade. Hulme will also preview current research on updated models for determining costs of community services for city and county governments. Hulme will also

discuss new survey results on landowner opinions of conservation easements, as well as state initiatives for better coordination with rural landowners to preserve wildlife migration corridors.



Wyoming's Green River and Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project was the focus of a panel discussion on March 31 with Dan Luecke, hydrologist and scientist, Aaron Million, originator of the pipeline project idea, and Jeff Fassett, engineer. A video of the panel is available at www.uwo.edu/enr, click "Information and Project Resources."

Wyoming Conservation Corps

The WCC had a busy spring, scheduling and interviewing more than 70 crew members for positions for the 2010 field season. A total of 36 members were hired to fill member slots for six WCC crews. Also this spring, coordinators Ben Bump, Kendall Peacock, and Crew Leader Emilie Litow traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, for their recertification as Wilderness First Responders. This nationally recognized training provides medical education specifically for wilderness and remote settings. Coordinator Tim Sowecke attended the first Rocky Mountain Sustainability and Science Network (RMSSN) meeting, hosted by The Nature Conservancy's Zapata Ranch in Mosca, Colorado. Recognizing

a disconnect between public land management and scientific research, the network aims to better connect science and research efforts to management of public lands. The WCC will assist the network this summer with a pilot project designed to connect students working on public service projects with providing their impressions and information to agencies charged with managing public lands.

The RMSSN presents an exciting collaborative opportunity for ENR, UW, and a number of institutions, agencies, and organizations throughout the Intermountain West to support scientific research that goes beyond the traditional lab by providing students with applied efforts in public lands management.
- Tim Sowecke, WCC senior project coordinator

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