



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources



2023-24 YEAR IN REVIEW



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During a swim at the International Zoological Expeditions marine field station on South Water Caye, Jane Ryan connects with a local crustacean.

OUR MISSION

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources advances the understanding and resolution of complex natural resource challenges through interdisciplinary education, creation and dissemination of new thought and information, and support of collaborative decision-making.

CONTACT US

University of Wyoming
Bim Kendall House
804 E Fremont St
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 766-5080

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Cover image: Alexyss LaDeaux, Jane Ryan, and Katie Fisher tether seaweed seedlings to a long-line cultivation in the vibrant waters of Belize during a Haub School international field course. The underwater farm is run by the Belize Women's Seaweed Farmers Association, a collective of ocean agriculturists and conservationists creating alternative livelihoods for Belizean women and girls.



John Koprowski

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

In the following pages, please find a summary of our efforts and accomplishments over the last academic year. When I think of how much we have achieved together, I am impressed but not surprised by the impact of our Haub School community of scholars, teachers, staff, and students, and the wonderful support that friends such as you have provided.

When one thinks of the challenges that we have faced since I arrived—from the pandemic and significant budget cuts to new leadership at UW, the reorganization of most of campus and shortages of space—this has not been 4 years in higher education for the timid. **The Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources remains an exciting place to be.** Our enrollment remains strong after three record graduating classes but we want to continue to bring as many students into our collaborative community as possible and we are rolling out new efforts to grow our enrollment in the coming years. Our faculty and staff are leading research on land management, conservation economics, wildlife ecology, collaborative solutions, food security, economic transformation, outdoor recreation opportunities and impacts, and many more. We have record external grants and near-record development efforts. Our experiential learning courses are more popular than ever and take students to all corners of the globe. Yours truly led a successful UW alumni and friends tour to Mongolia for 16 adventurous individuals! With wonderful new leadership of the Ruckelshaus Institute and the Wyoming Conservation Corps as well as the addition of the Biodiversity Institute, we are more engaged than ever in Wyoming, the West, and the World!

With your help and the efforts of our faculty and staff, we continue to position the Haub School to be viewed as critical to the future of the state and our campus. We remain leaders in sustainable tourism, our energy future, climate adaptation, and natural capital futures in our state and beyond. Our faculty continues to grow, maximize our impact, and provide leadership. One of my great joys is to hire great people, recruit great students, and provide the necessary “habitat” in which they can develop, succeed, and excel...and excel they have. I know you will enjoy the amazing accomplishments highlighted in the following pages but please know that we would need to double the size of this annual update to truly capture all of the impact! Thank you again for your belief and support in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Koprowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

John Koprowski, Dean
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources



NEW HIRES



Grete Gansauer, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Communities



Jake Hawes, Assistant Professor, Haub School and School of Computing



Taylor Kruger, Assistant Research Scientist, WORTH Initiative

FAREWELL

The Haub School is grateful to Emilene and Steve for their many years of dedication. As integral parts of the community's success and growth, their presence will be greatly missed, but an inspiration to all who had the privilege of working alongside them. Best wishes on the next adventure!



Emilene Ostlind, Editor and Communications Coordinator



Steve Smutko, Associate Dean

To learn more about our team, please visit uwyo.edu/haub/about-us/people

HIGHLIGHTS

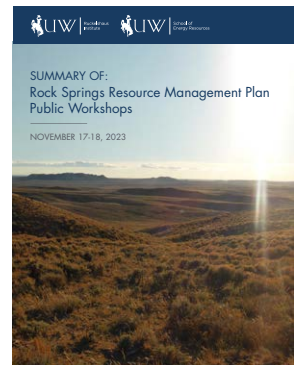
Biodiversity Institute Joins Haub School

The Biodiversity Institute promotes understanding and conservation of biodiversity through collaborative research, science education, public outreach, and community engagement. It serves Wyoming, the nation, and the world by facilitating projects, synthesizing research, providing grants, and offering programs for students and the public. Please welcome the Biodiversity Institute into the Haub School community!



Consternation and Collaboration in Southwest Wyoming

In August 2023, the Bureau of Land Management released its Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Rock Springs Field Office in southwest Wyoming. In response to public outcry, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon assembled a task force to develop consensus recommendations for revising the Draft RMP to meet the needs of Wyoming stakeholders. The Ruckelshaus Institute facilitated the task force meetings and held a series of interactive public workshops to help inform task force deliberations.



A summary of the public meetings—held in Rock Springs, Green River, and Farson—highlights key values like access to the land, multiple use, listening to locals, and protecting livelihoods and quality of life in southwest Wyoming. The task force final report—submitted to the BLM as a public comment and to the governor—contains more than 100 recommendations for specific management actions as well as 24 agreements in principle.

Dr. Corrine Knapp Named Inaugural Haub Fellow at Ucross

Corrine Knapp, an associate professor at the University of Wyoming's Haub School, has been named the inaugural Haub Fellow at Ucross. The new fellowship offers a two-week residency at Ucross, providing studio space, accommodations, and interdisciplinary exchange with other artists. Knapp's research interests are at the intersection of land-based livelihoods and conservation in the context of climate change. During her residency, Knapp plans to draft an article exploring how socioecological feedbacks can amplify or dampen perceptions of climate change, illustrated with case studies.



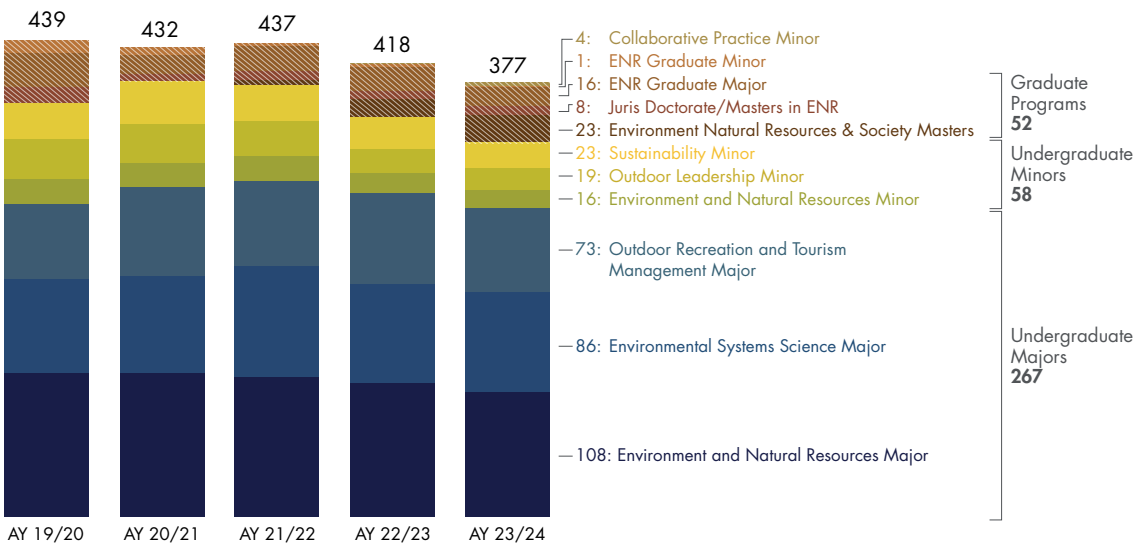
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Griffin Willard, Winner, 2024 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Outstanding Graduate Award

The winners of this prestigious recognition are chosen as the ideal role models of student scholarship and achievement. Griffin Willard completed his B.S. in Environmental & Natural Resources, Environmental System Science, and Geography in just three years and holds minors in criminal justice and international studies. As a first responder for Albany County Fire District #1, he responded to the most calls out of the entire department in the past year. Congratulations Griffin!



Haub School Enrollment



Student Awards and Scholarships

2023-2027 Tomé Scholars

Shayla Babits | Lander, WY: BS Environment & Natural Resources / Environmental Systems Science, Honors Program

Lilly McGever | Phoenix, AZ: BS Environmental Systems Science, BS Geology, minors in Mathematics, Environment & Natural Resources, Zoology, Honors Program

Mariela Via-Reque | Sarasota, FL: BS Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, concentration in Outdoor Recreation Leadership

Gabriella Paterson | Powell, WY: BS Environment & Natural Resources, BS Kinesiology & Health Promotion, minor in Sustainability, Honors Program

2024 Haub School Outstanding Undergraduate Award

Burgan Campbell | Clemmons, NC: BS Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, concentration in Outdoor Recreation Leadership, minors in Outdoor Leadership and Hospitality Business Management

Kellyn Chandler | Dubois, WY: BS Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management / Environment & Natural Resources, minor in Sustainability

Thomas Furland | Albert Lea, MN: BS Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, concentration in Outdoor Recreation Leadership

Emma Jones | Papillion, NE: BS Environment & Natural Resources / Political Science, minor in Creative Writing, certificate in Remote Sensing, Honors Program

Lindsey Mitchell | Colorado Springs, CO: BS Environment & Natural Resources / Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management, minor in American Politics

Griffin Willard | Palo Alto, CA: BS Environmental Systems Science / Environment & Natural Resources / Geography, minor in Criminal Justice



From left to right, Lindsey Mitchell, Kellyn Chandler, Griffin Willard, and Emma Jones at the Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Outstanding Graduate Award Ceremony.



Pictured, from left, Shayla Babits, Gabriella Paterson, Lilly McGever, and Mariela Via-Reque. These four were selected to the prestigious 2027 Tomé Scholars cohort.

2024 Haub School Outstanding Graduate Award

Janna Black | Sequim, WA: MS Environment, Natural Resources & Society, minor in Collaborative Practice

Pallavi Pokharel | Kathmandu, Nepal: MS Environment, Natural Resources & Society

Nominee, 2024 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Outstanding Graduate Award

Lindsey Mitchell | Colorado Springs, CO: BS Environment & Natural Resources / Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management, minor in American Politics

Finalist, 2024 Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri and Tobin Outstanding Graduate Award

Kellyn Chandler | Dubois, WY: BS Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management / Environment & Natural Resources, minor in Sustainability

Emma Jones | Papillion, NE: BS Environment & Natural Resources / Political Science, minors in Creative Writing, certificate in Remote Sensing, Honors Program



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Tara Righetti Appointed Chair of Federal CCUS Permitting Task Force

Tara Righetti will serve a two-year term as chair of the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS) Permitting Task Force for Federal Lands and Outer Continental Shelf. Appointed for her expertise in subsurface and pore space issues, Righetti will lead the task force focused on permitting CCUS projects on federal lands while considering stakeholder needs and community benefits. Righetti's leadership aims to advance responsible carbon management vital to national carbon removal goals.



Drew Bennett Receives Fulbright Award

Drew Bennett, the Whitney MacMillan Professor of Practice of Private Lands Stewardship, has received a US Fulbright Scholars Award to conduct natural capital investment research in Australia. His project will compare the US and Australia's approaches to investing in sustainable land management practices. The research will be based in Canberra, Australia, and hosted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency.



Presidential Scholarly Achievement Awards Recognizes Two Haub School Faculty

Started by President Ed Seidel in 2022, the Presidential Scholarly Achievement recognizes faculty who demonstrate high achievement in scholarship, with this year's focus on business and education. Congratulations to Ellen Aikens and Curt Davidson for receiving this honor!



SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Aikens, Ellen, Nourani, Elham, Fiedler, Wolfgang, Fielder, Wikelski, Martin, and Flack, Andra. "Learning shapes the development of migratory behavior." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(12), (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2306389121>

Alva, Amanda, **Dunning, Kelly,** Williamson, Ryan, and Pannoi, Kampol. "What compels bipartisan lawmakers to support coral reef legislation in the U.S. Congress." *Marine Policy*, vol 163 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106094>

Armstrong, Melanie. "Creating Public Space for Complex Conversations." In Reid, Debra, Scholthof, Karen-Beth, and Vail, David, (eds). "Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites." Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (2023).

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Carr, Grace, Brown, Nate, **Clark, Kayla,** McBarnes, Chris, Phillips, Taylor, **Shreve, Tyler,** **Willis, Inna,** and **Hochard, Jacob.** "Emerging Approaches to Conservation Fundraising and the Case of 'WYldlife for Tomorrow'", *Local to Global: Eco-entrepreneurship and Global Engagement with the Environment (Advances in the Study of Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Growth, Vol. 30)*, 39-49, (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1048-473620240000030004>

Davidson, Curt, and Ewert, Alan. "Exploring Mental Health Outcome Variables in Outdoor Adventure and Experiential Education." *Journal of Experiential Education*, 47(2), 185-190 (January 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10538259231226315>

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Etheridge, Randall, Pascual-Gonzalez, Janire, **Hochard, Jacob,** Peralta, Ariane L. and Vogel, Thomas J. "Predicting nitrate exposure from groundwater wells using machine learning and meteorological conditions." *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.13175>

Johnson, Gregory, Anderson, Christopher, **Dunning, Kelly,** Williamson, Ryan. "National ocean policy in the United States: using framing theory to highlight policy priorities between presidential administrations." *Frontiers in Marine Science* vol. 11 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1370004>

McCoy, Daniel, **Scott, Mary Katherine,** **Shamloo, Nilou,** and **Holland, Morgan.** "GAP Analysis Report." University of Wyoming, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Hospitality, and Tourism (WORTH) Initiative. (2024). <https://doi.org/10.15786/wyoscholar/9852>

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CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

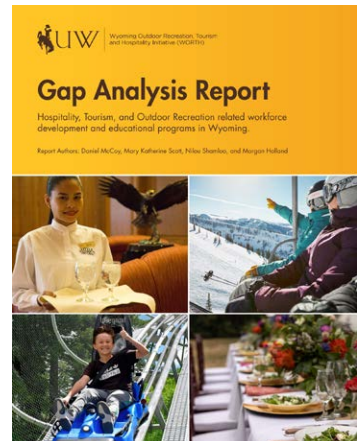
Wyoming Conservation Corps Individual Placements

For the 2024 season, WCC has 45 outstanding AmeriCorps members working to promote individual development, stewardship, and education through localized National Service. Four of these members are part of a new Individual Placements in Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest program instead of participating within a specific crew.



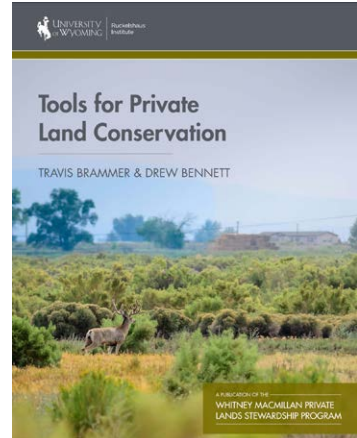
WORTH Gap Analysis

As part of the work with the Wyoming Innovation Partnership, WORTH researched and developed a state-wide Gap Analysis Report. The Wyoming Gap analysis report evaluated employment gaps, workforce development, training needs, and the extent of educational and training opportunities in Wyoming as it relates to the travel industry. The report found that several of Wyoming's community colleges and the University of Wyoming offer academic programs in tourism, hospitality, outdoor recreation, and related areas to provide highly trained, career-ready graduates with the skills needed to excel in the travel industry. However, despite these academic training opportunities, Wyoming still lacks enough skilled workers to supply the industry, especially as it relates to its projected growth. The report primarily found academic programs to be under-enrolled and have low graduation numbers. The report primarily found academic programs to be under-enrolled and have low graduation numbers.



Private Land Conservation Toolkit

The Whitney Macmillan Private Lands Stewardship Program focuses on a range of pressing issues affecting private landowners and private lands throughout the West through expertise and interdisciplinary collaborations across natural resource management, rangeland ecology, business and finance, law, decision-making, and collaborative processes. This recently published toolkit, *Tools for Private Land Conservation*, by Travis Brammer and Drew Bennett lays out (with case studies) both well-known and emerging tools for private land conservation, including long-term protections, short-term agreements, and wildlife conflict reduction and mitigation strategies.



Western Confluence Wins Awards

Western Confluence magazine, a publication of the Ruckelshaus Institute, won two first-place awards in the Society of Professional Journalists Top of the Rockies competition. The contest received more than 1,900 entries from 80 news outlets and 30 freelancers. Janey Fugate's "Bison on Wind River: Restoring a wildlife economy and revitalizing culture" earned first place in the Short Form Feature Writing category. Jill Bergman's "Flight Interrupted: Biologist works to preserve eagles on collision course with wind power" won first place in the Illustration category for a pair of linocuts she created for the story. Congratulations!



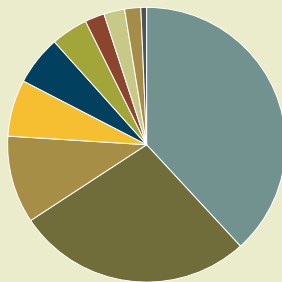
Ripples Across Wyoming

The 2024 Collaboration Symposium, hosted in Jackson, Wyoming, offered an exploration of real-world collaboration in natural resource management. Open to all professionals working collaboratively on environmental issues, the event opened the floor for participants to share experiences through group learning, case studies, and skills sessions. Looking at both successes and challenges, participants were able to engage their enhanced collaborative skills. By fostering these connections, the event aimed to strengthen the community dedicated to addressing natural resource and environmental challenges.



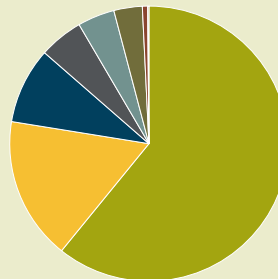
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditures: Fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 31, 2024



INCOME
TOTAL INCOME:
\$7,845,571

- 38%: Gift Funds Carried Forward
- 28%: State Budget
- 10%: Wyoming Excellence Chair support
- 7%: Endowment income
- 6%: State match
- 4%: Course related revenue
- 2%: Operating Reserve account
- 2%: Grant related funds (F&A, residual)
- 2%: Individual contributions
- 1%: Scholarship Income

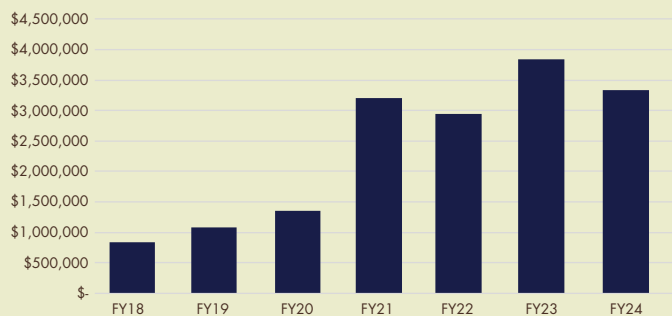


EXPENSES
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
\$6,225,558

- 60.8%: Full time salary and benefits
- 16.8%: Student GA/research
- 8.9%: Admin/operations
- 5.2%: Faculty research encumbrances
- 4.3%: Part time salary and benefits
- 3.3%: Travel
- 0.6%: Publications
- 0.1%: Equipment

Grant Dollars

In addition to our general income and expenditures, Haub School faculty bring in funding to support research through grants and contracts. In FY 24, our faculty brought in \$3,320,346.



OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Thank You for Your Support. Private Giving: May 1, 2023—June 20, 2024

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Kevin Winter

WHO WE ARE: STAFF AND FACULTY

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Steve Smutko, Associate Dean, Spicer Chair of Collaborative Practice & Wyoming Excellence Chair

Ellen Aikens, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Haub School

Melanie Armstrong, Ruckelshaus Institute Director and Associate Professor

Drew Bennett, MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice

Colleen Bourque, Administrative Associate

Maggie Bourque, Associate Lecturer

Anastasia Brady, Special Events Coordinator

Melissa Bukovsky, Associate Professor, Derecho Professor, Regional Integrated Earth System Modeler

Courtney Carlson, Instructional Designer for Distance Education

Tyler Carroll, Project Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Kayla Clark, Assistant Lecturer, Graphic Design

Curt Davidson, Assistant Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

Anderson De Figueiredo, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT)

Kelly Dunning, Associate Professor, Timberline Professor of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Wes Eaton, Visiting Assistant Professor

Hilary Byerly Flint, Senior Research Scientist

Aaron Freland, Academic Advising Manager

Nicole Gautier, Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Research Scientist

Sara Ghezzi, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Professor of Practice

Amanda Harper, Academic Advising Professional

Jake Hochard, Knobloch Associate Professor of Conservation Economics

Joe Holbrook, Assistant Professor, Carnivore and Habitat Ecology

Rhiannon Jakopak, Outreach Coordinator and Research Scientist

Caleb Johnson, Program Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Corrie Knapp, Associate Professor, Environment and Society

Walker Koberlein, Student Services Communication and Outreach Coordinator

Jordan Kobliska, Internship and Employment Coordinator

Taylor Kruger, Assistant Research Scientist, WORTH

Rebecca Levine, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Yun Liang, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, WORTH

Jewell Lund, Associate Research Scientist, Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT)

Birch Malotky, Assistant Research Scientist, Ruckelshaus Institute Emerging Issues Initiative Coordinator

Melanie Matthews, Senior Project Coordinator

Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto, Assistant Research Scientist

Dan McCoy, Interim Director, WORTH, Associate Lecturer, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

Kimberly Messersmith, Executive Business Manager

Kevin Monteith, Professor, Natural Resource Science

John Paradis, UW Foundation Director of Development

Ben Regan, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Meagan Ricks, Assistant Lecturer, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Degree Coordinator

Tara Righetti, Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies

Austin Smith, Assistant Research Scientist

Tarissa Spoonhunter, Assistant Professor, Director, High Plains American Indian Research Institute

Temple Stoellinger, Associate Professor, Law and ENR; Co-Director, Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies

Lee Tafelmeyer, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Richard Vercoe, Assistant Lecturer

Brittany Wagler, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Taylor Wagstaff, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Rebecca Witinok-Huber, Associate Research Scientist, Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT)



Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources

University of Wyoming
Bim Kendall House
804 E Fremont St
Laramie, WY 82072

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: ASHTON HOOKER

Ashton Hooker received her Master of Arts in Communication and a concurrent degree in Environment & Natural Resources. Now based out of Gardiner, MT, she is a Digital Communications Specialist for the National Park Service. While this role includes many responsibilities, Ashton mainly manages the Park's social media channels and works with public affairs and reporters during media events. Still nearby in Yellowstone, Ashton feels the Haub School community.

“What's unique about [the Haub School] experience is you have to work with people from different fields, different backgrounds, different perspectives, and different majors all at the same time in the Haub program. That helped me for this current position because I work with so many different audiences communicating science and working with scientists, reporters, congressionals, employees, and visitors. There are a lot of different perspectives to think about and communicate to different audiences,” Ashton says. “I am a Haubie because I have a love for the environment, our human relationship to the environment, how we interact with it, and how we can steward it for future generations. That's important to me and was instilled in me during my time at the Haub School.”

