



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources



2025-26 YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE:

**Virtual Fencing's Potential to Transform
Conservation on Working Rangeland**

Data x Power Summit

**Long-time supporter Jay Kemmerer
receives an Honorary Doctorate**





HAUB SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

John Koprowski, Dean and Wyoming Excellence Chair

Temple Stoellinger, Associate Dean, Associate Professor, and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Law and ENR

Melanie Armstrong, Ruckelshaus Institute Director and Associate Professor

HAUB SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Rebecca Watson, Special Counsel, Welborn Sullivan Mack & Tooley, P.C. and Advisory Board Chair

Cindy Bower, President & CEO, Calibre Management, Inc.

Liliane Haub, AC2M Group

Joe Hiller, Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona

Rich Innes, Collaboration Expert

Anne Pendergast

Justin Spicer, Financial Advisor & Regional Leader at Edward Jones

Rob Wallace, Managing Partner, The Rob Wallace Group

Polly Weber, Philanthropist

Ex Officio Members

Chip Jenkins, Superintendent Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Scott Quillinan, Acting Executive Director, UW School of Energy Resources

Michelle Sullivan, Founder, Center for Inspired Learning Environments, UW Trustee

Emeritus Members

Joe Evers, Bifrost Partners LLC

Karen Kemmerer, Former Vice President, Business Communications Systems, AT&T

The late Donald Kendall, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PepsiCo Incorporated

Marilyn Kite, Chief Justice, Wyoming Supreme Court (retired)

The late Whitney MacMillan, Chairman Emeritus, Cargill, Inc.

The late William Ruckelshaus, Chairman and CEO, Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc.

The late Alan Simpson, United States Senator from Wyoming

Michael Sullivan, Former United States Governor from Wyoming

John Turner, Triangle X Ranch, Former Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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 information and understanding, and collaborative decision-making.

CONTACT US

Haub School
University of Wyoming
804 E Fremont St
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 766-5080

haub.school@uwyo.edu uwyo.edu/haub
ruckelshaus@uwyo.edu

f Haub.School.of.ENR

@haub.school

@UW_Ruckelshaus

On the cover: Expedition Leadership students enjoying some rest in the shade midway through the climb out of Halls Creek Canyon in Capitol Reef National Park, Utah. Photo by Aaron Freland.

Above: Undergraduate students on Expedition Leadership course trip March 2026. Photo by Bonnie Johnson.

Year-In-Review Editor: Jon Cabrera, Haub School Marketing and Communications Specialist

Graphic Design by: Jessica Perry, Creative Blue Yonder

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

I write to you with the joy and excitement of Spring Commencement fresh in my mind. One of my favorite days on a college campus is graduation day, when we get to see and celebrate the culmination of formal learning that has been ongoing for nearly the entirety of each graduate's life. Students have progressed from the anxiety of that first day in kindergarten to arrival in Laramie for the first time, then experiencing a difficult exam and classes that introduced them to a new perspective. The commencement ceremony allows us to revel in a sense of accomplishment! Graduates have their degree behind them, and options literally as wide as the world in front of them. Families and friends experience the joy of their loved one achieving a dream that was years in the making. Professors and mentors are reminded of the passions and talents of new freshmen who arrived four short years ago and how a degree can open doors to a lifetime of impact and happiness.

Spring 2026 was extra special for Haubies as we had 95% of our seniors walking at the ceremony! In addition, long-time friend and supporter of the Haub School, Jay Kemmerer, received an honorary doctorate at the ceremony for his efforts to support outdoor recreation and tourism around the state and at UW through the Haub School's ORTM degree and our WORTH Initiative that now serves the University as the Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute. The commencement speaker was also a friend of the Haub School, Carol Tomé, CEO of UPS, who, along with husband Ramon, partnered with us several years ago to start the Tomé Scholars to Fellows program that provides a cohort of incoming freshmen a full-ride scholarship and includes an experiential learning opportunity each year as well. As part of her commencement speech, Carol announced that she and Ramon had committed to funding the program for 10 more years and to starting a similar program with the UW College of Business, with a \$20M gift. The news of their generous gift was a fantastic way to end the academic year!

In the pages that follow, you will read about the successes of our students who captured the top awards for graduating seniors and those heading out to make a difference, trained in the world's best 'laboratory': the state of Wyoming! You will also read about faculty and staff who received the top awards for their efforts in the classroom, as mentors, and as scholars. Haubies are committed to finding solutions to the many challenges and opportunities on our wild and working lands in Wyoming, the West, and the world. We are grateful for your continued connection to and support for the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, which is stronger and more impactful because of you!

John Koprowski, Dean and Wyoming Excellence Chair
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources



John Koprowski



NEW HIRES



Andrea Harrington, Director of Development at UW Foundation, is connecting with Haub School friends and donors



Alex Hancock, Assistant Research Scientist, Ruckelshaus Institute



Chris Phillips, Program Coordinator with Wyoming Conservation Corps

FAREWELL



Jon Cabrera, Marketing and Communications Specialist



Matt McGee, Tomé Scholars to Fellows recruiting coordinator and College Relations Rep

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual Fencing's Potential to Transform Conservation on Working Rangelands

A new perspective article in *Biological Conservation* argues that virtual livestock fencing could reshape how ranchers and conservationists manage working lands. The article, "Advancing Conservation Through Virtual Livestock Fencing," was led by Drew Bennett, the Whitney MacMillan Professor of Practice at the University of Wyoming's Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, alongside Haub School colleagues Temple Stoellinger and Jacob Hochard.

Using GPS-enabled collars instead of physical fencing, the technology lets managers remotely adjust grazing boundaries, protect sensitive habitat, and improve wildlife connectivity.

"Virtual fencing has the potential to do for conservation what barbed wire did for agricultural management in the 19th century," Bennett says. "Done right, it can genuinely make both [ranching and conservation] better at the same time."

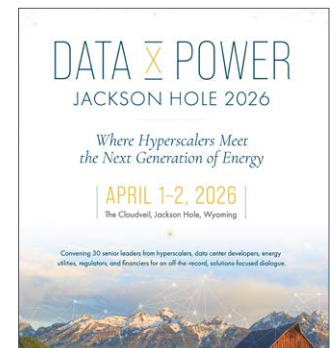
Co-author Travis Brammer, a UW alumnus and conservation director at the Property and Environment Research Center, says the technology "opens up a new playbook for conservation organizations," citing pilot projects already underway across the West.

Read the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2026.111866>

Data x Power Summit

Wyoming is positioning itself to compete in the national AI data center boom, as explored at a closed-door "Data x Power" summit held April 1–2 in Jackson. About 50 senior leaders from hyperscale tech companies, energy developers, government agencies, and academia gathered to discuss whether Wyoming belongs in the conversation. Representatives from Google, Microsoft, Meta, and Amazon Web Services attended, along with Gov. Mark Gordon, the Wyoming Energy Authority, and the Wyoming Business Council.

Wyoming's pitch centers on its competitive advantages: vast land near transmission corridors, firm power pathways including TerraPower's upcoming Sodium reactor in





Kemmerer, streamlined permitting, no state income tax, and a semi-arid climate that enables free-air cooling most of the year. Cheyenne has already gained traction as a data center hub, with a \$1.2 billion Related Digital campus underway and existing presences from Microsoft, Meta, and Crusoe.

<https://www.dataxpower2026.com/>

Tomé Scholars-to-Fellows program receives an incredible gift

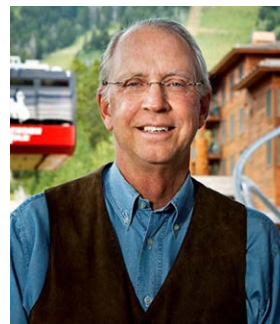
At UW's Spring Commencement ceremonies, alumna Carol Tomé, CEO of UPS and past CFO of Home Depot, was chosen as the keynote speaker. During her speech, Carol announced that she and her husband Ramon were providing a \$20M gift to UW to continue the 2021 partnership with the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources for our Tomé Scholars-to-Fellows Program while also extending the undergraduate scholarship initiative to the College of Business, creating new pathways for student success across disciplines. The second cohort of Tomé Scholars were in the audience for the announcement with Meghan Yarborough (Arkansas) and Paula Medina (Cody) shocked by the wonderful surprise! Read more about this incredible gift, one of the largest ever to UW, here: <https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2026/05/one-of-uws-largest-gifts-ever-expands-tome-scholars-to-fellows-program.html>



Long-time supporter Jay Kemmerer receives an Honorary Doctorate

Spring Commencement put the spotlight on several Haub School initiatives and partners. One of UW's two honorary doctorate recipients in 2026 is Jay Kemmerer. Jay and his wife Karen have been long-time supporters of the Haub School's Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management BS degree program. They've also supported our graduate students and the WORTH (Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality) Initiative started in the Haub School that has grown into the Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute. Read more here:

<https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2026/05/two-to-receive-uw-honorary-degrees.html>



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Pulte Gateway to Hospitality Innovation Challenge

The Pulte Gateway to Hospitality Innovation Challenge gave University of Wyoming students hands-on experience developing hospitality concepts for the upcoming renovation of the Hilton Garden Inn Laramie into Graduate by Hilton Laramie. The three-credit Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management course was taught by Dr. Sara Ghezzi, Assistant Professor of Practice, and challenged students to research the Graduate by Hilton brand, explore place-based storytelling, and guest experience ideas connected to the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and the broader Wyoming community. Students worked with Parker Henderson, Brand Leader for Graduate by Hilton, who provided insight into the brand's identity, guest experience, and community-centered approach. With support from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, Graduate by Hilton representatives, and the Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute, students gained real-world experience in hospitality operations, teamwork, professional communication, and the Humanitarian Hotel Model that the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation implements into its hotel properties.

First-place team:

- **Savannah Avey** — Gail, Texas; Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management major, Hospitality Business Management minor
- **Kara Waskowiak** — Gothenburg, Nebraska; Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management and Environment and Natural Resources major, Hospitality Business minor
- **Cori Holland** — Hermann, Missouri; Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management major, Hospitality Business Management and Agricultural Business minors
- **Finn McCoul** — Casper, Wyoming; Accounting and Finance major, Honors, Hospitality Business Management, and Real Estate Finance minors
- **Kellen McCoul** — Casper, Wyoming; Accounting and Finance major



1st place prize \$15,000



2nd place prize \$3,000



3rd place prize \$2,000



Career Services Highlights

This fall, forty-five students participated in the fall Wyoming Tourism Industry Familiarization Tour to Casper, Glendo, Guernsey, and Cheyenne. ORTM students networked with industry professionals, learned about the tourism operations in Wyoming, and discussed potential internship opportunities. In spring, the 2026 Hospitality and Tourism Fair invited 20 vendors to share outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality positions. This was the highest attended fair to date, welcoming over 125 students!

Throughout the academic year, Haub School Career Services partnered with industry organizations, including Xanterra, Wyoming State Parks, the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, the EPA, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Students participated in job interviews and résumé workshops, meet-and-greets, and classroom visits, all designed to support their professional development.

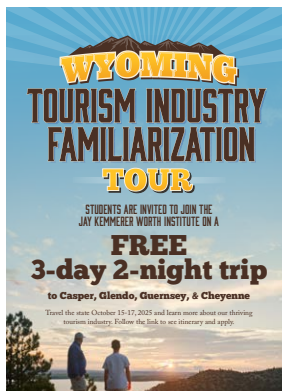
Outside of structured events, the Career Services team has continued to be a resource for the Haub School students through both one-on-one meetings and weekly drop-in office hours to review resumes, discuss career pathways, and more. Learn more: haubcareers.uwyo.edu

Environment, Wildlife & Natural Resources Job Fair

The Haub School Career Services team will partner with the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources to host the Environment, Wildlife & Natural Resources Fair on September 15th, 2026. This marks the first time the Haub School has co-hosted a career fair for ENR and ESS programs, providing the opportunity for more intentional connections between employers and students. Learn more: haubcareers.uwyo.edu

ENR 4600/5600 Community Sustainability | Dr. Grete Gansauer

This Sustainability capstone course was organized around a partnership with the City of Douglas, WY this spring. Douglas served as a case study for the class, where students answered the question “What does it look like for a community to thrive over the long run?” using the Community Capitals Framework. Students completed five service-learning projects identified as needs by Douglas’ City Manager, Mayor, and Community Development Director. The students produced direct deliverables for their projects, and each student group authored a chapter of a



collective “Community Sustainability Report” which will be published with UW’s Center for Rural Community Resilience and Innovation (CRCRI).

Service-learning projects included:

- Developing interpretive signage for Douglas Mountain
- Collecting Oral Histories on Environmental Change from multigenerational ranchers
- Water demand scenario planning
- Improving the fiscal sustainability of rural waste and recycling systems
- Community engagement in planning new public outdoor space

Outstanding Graduating Student Awards

Each spring, a campus-wide committee selects the winners of the Outstanding Graduating Senior Awards, UW’s prestigious recognition for outstanding graduating seniors.

Haub School undergraduates Paula Medina and Riley Ovard were named the award recipients for 2026, recognizing their exceptional character, leadership, service, and academic excellence.

The awardees are recognized as the ideal role models of student scholarship and achievement out of a graduating class of 1,100 students. From 40 nominations 14 finalists were chosen and 6 of the 14 finalists earned degrees from the Haub School:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| • Andrew Bishop | • Paula Medina | • Ezra Stepanek |
| • Nicole Klosterman | • Riley Ovard | • Carter Watsabaugh |

Haub School Senior Lecturer Maggie Bourque states, “I have had the honor of serving on the selection committee for these awards since 2016. It is among the most uplifting and humbling experiences of my year to read the incredible nomination and recommendation letters and student essays, and to marvel at each of these students’ incredible accomplishments in the short time they’ve been part of — and shaping — the UW community. The committee interviews each of the finalists, and I am continually impressed and deeply moved by the excellent, well-rounded, funny, caring, visionary, and brilliant human beings who transform their lives and the lives of so many across our state during their time as undergraduates. The Haub School values and cultivates so many of the characteristics and qualities that the Outstanding Graduating Student Awards espouse. The awards process is a unique, shining example of the whole-person approach that we take to education here at the University of Wyoming. It recognizes soon-to-be alumni for their impacts as people, putting excellence in scholarship alongside sincere demonstration of outstanding character, leadership, and service.”



Eta Sigma Delta Now Has a University of Wyoming Chapter

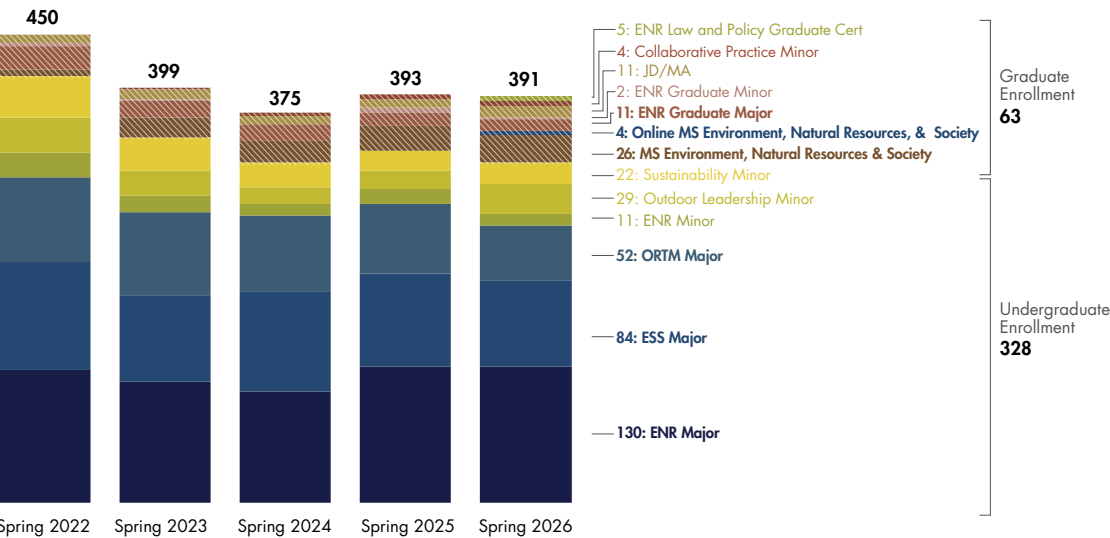
Eta Sigma Delta, an international honors society for hospitality and tourism students, recognizes students for outstanding academic achievement, professionalism, leadership, and service within hospitality and tourism education. Students inducted into the organization rank among the top academic performers in their programs and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in the industry. Founded in 1978 at the University of New Hampshire, Eta Sigma Delta was established to honor exceptional students in hospitality and tourism management. Today, the organization includes more than 90 active chapters worldwide. Membership in Eta Sigma Delta is a lifelong distinction and provides students access to networking events, leadership development, undergraduate research, and engagement with hospitality industry professionals.

Inaugural Inductees:

- Priya Chaudhari
 - Sophia Spiva
 - Kara Waskowiak
 - Cole Grant-Guerra
- McKayley Lane
 - Savannah Avey
 - Cori Holland
 - Addie Kane
- Lawson Enley
 - Carter Watsabaugh
 - Savannah Page
 - Elijah Kern
- David Willems
 - Katy Fleming
 - Sadie Vandenberg
 - Jakob Haenisch

Chapter Advisor—Dr. Sara Ghezzi

HAUB SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



HAUB SCHOOL FACULTY AWARDS

- **Temple Stoellinger** - UW Presidential Scholarly Award for Tenured Faculty
- **Grete Gansauer** - UW Presidential Scholarly Award for Early Career Faculty
- **Bryan Leonard** - UW Presidential Scholarly Award for Early Career Faculty
- **Maggie Bourque** - Promoting Intellectual Engagement (PIE) Award & Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award
- **Birch Malotky** - Named the Ucross x Haub Fellow

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Natural Resources & Environment Special Edition Publication

This summer, the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources will publish a special Yellowstone-focused edition of their quarterly magazine Natural Resources & Environment, edited by Haub School Associate Professor Temple Stoellinger. The idea for the edition emerged during the Haub School’s “Managing Wildlife in Large Landscapes” conference held in Jackson, Wyoming, in October 2025, which brought together scholars, practitioners, and conservation leaders to explore the future of wildlife and landscape-scale conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The issue features an outstanding collection of articles examining timely legal and policy questions connected to Yellowstone, including grizzly bear and bison management, tribal treaty rights, visitor use pressures, geothermal development, biodiversity and bioprospecting, public lands governance, and the evolving legal frameworks shaping one of the nation’s most iconic landscapes.





SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Vela-Vargas, I. M., Soto, J. R., Kibria, A. S., González-Maya, J. F., & **Koprowski, J. L.** (2026). Perception clouding reality? Interactions and opportunities for Andean bear conservation in Colombia. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 31(2), 239-254.
- Blais, B. R., Bubac, C. M., Wells, S. A., Johnson, A. C., Morandini, M., & **Koprowski, J. L.** (2026). Reach and effectiveness of conservation translocations when founder animals are sourced from zoos. *Animal Conservation*, 29(1), 8-20.
- Nicola, U., McCarty, R., **Hamilton, M.**, Nesbitt, H., & Williamson, M. Performative planning creates a values mismatch between wildfire plans and community needs. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 123, no. 15 (2026): e2521536123.
- Janzakov, B., Mirzaev, K., Sobirov, B., Jonuzokov, M. & **Ghezzi, S.**, 2026. Forecasting tourism demand and sustainable management in Yellowstone National Park. *Geojournal of Tourism and Geosites*, 65(2), pp.664-673.
- Monteith, K.**, Jahner, J. P., Parchman, T. L., Matocq, M. D., Cox, M., Crowhurst, R. S., Galland, L. M., ... & Epps, C. W. (2026). Resolving the evolutionary history of bighorn sheep to inform future management: an answer to the California bighorn lineage question. *Evolutionary Applications*, 19(3), e70205.
- Banotai, C.**, Spencer, C. R., & **Koprowski, J.** Rooted in Community: Local Perspectives on the Cultural and Conservation Value of Marula in Rural South Africa. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 9, 1765177.
- Sciandra, O.F., Anderson, W.M., Zohdy, S., & **Dunning, K.H.**. Prevalence of leprosy-causing bacteria in Mexican Long-Nosed Armadillos (*Dasypus mexicanus*) in Alabama, USA. *The Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, 62, no. 2 (2026): 282-294.
- Kosdak, M. A., Güzel, O., **Bandyopadhyay, K.**, Ulusoy, A. N., & Budak, İ. (2026). Allelopathic effect of some weeds on germination of lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.) Seeds. *Plant Protection Bulletin*, 66(1), 17-25.
- Dunning, K.**, Olivas, T., Camus, C., Henry, H., Gumbleton, S., Beckham, N., & Willoughby, J. R. (2026). An analysis of the marine wildlife interactions with the commercial shrimping industry on the Alabama Gulf Coast. *Fisheries Research*, 293, 107645.
- Wheeler, I., Blair, P., Creany, N., Manire, H., Morris, D., Mollett, S., Scarce, S.S., **Stoellinger, T.**, Willoughby, J.R. & **Dunning, K.H.**, (2025). Delisting the Northern Rocky Mountain gray wolf from the US Endangered Species Act: an assessment of political discourse over 20 years. *Wildlife Biology*, p.e01589.
- Verzuh, T.**, Torstenson, M., Tao, Y., Fryxell, J., Rutz, C., & Beltran, R.S.. Aligning tools and terminology to integrate movement ecology with conservation science. *Conservation Biology* (2026): e70209.
- Bailey, D., De Propriis, L., **Gansauer, G.**, & Tomlinson, P.R.. 2025. Industrial Strategy Reborn: Global Trends, Tensions and Trajectories. *Contemporary Social Science*, December 2025, 1–16.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

The Ruckelshaus Institute

Emerging Issues Forum: Nuclear Energy and Communities

On April 13-14, the Ruckelshaus Institute co-hosted a Nuclear Energy Emerging Issue Forum with the School of Energy Resources and the Wyoming Energy Authority. The goals of the forum were to build a shared understanding of all parts of the nuclear energy fuel cycle; equip participants with the knowledge and tools to engage in informed decision-making about current and future development of nuclear industries in Wyoming; and identify policy, community engagement, research, planning and other needs or opportunities and begin to develop strategies to address them.

Day one began with presentations on the history and legacy of nuclear technologies and an overview of radiation and the fuel cycle. Subsequent sessions addressed uranium mining, milling and regulation; economic development opportunities in Wyoming; and high-level waste. After the first day's sessions, a public reception featured hands-on, interactive opportunities to learn about nuclear energy, including Idaho National Laboratory's Nuclear Science Trailer. Day two focused on community engagement, benefits, and preparedness. Kickoff presentations followed by facilitated, small group discussions addressed community capacity, trust, and cultural alignment in the morning, and workforce development, infrastructure needs, and more in the afternoon.

Big thanks to our sponsors for their financial support of the forum. We also thank our co-conveners and our steering committee who offered guidance in developing the forum topics of focus, helping us home in on the critical issues for conversation in this moment. Dylan Fernholz-Hartman and Vicky Harder, ENRS graduate students, offered immense support with planning the event, and current and past CPNR participants provided facilitation support throughout.

Collaboration Symposium

"Dialogue and Collaborative Doing in the West" was the theme for the April Collaboration Symposium on campus. The event brought together over 60 leaders and other practitioners in collaborative natural resource management from across Wyoming and beyond to learn from one another, build community, and strengthen collaboration skills. The day-long symposium featured panel discussions, facilitated sessions on dialogue and deliberative engagement, and hands-on small-group work to develop initiatives to advance collaborative capacity in Wyoming and the West.





BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

New Associate Director

Erin Bentley was appointed Associate Director of the Biodiversity Institute in January 2026. A UW alumna, she earned her undergraduate degree in animal science and her Ph.D. in ecology and evolution, where her research focuses on the evolution of rarity in *Penstemon* wildflowers and the conservation of Wyoming's endangered *penstemon haydenii*.

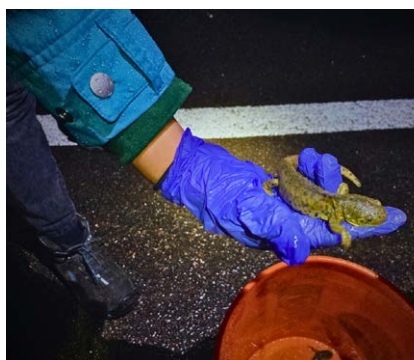
Bentley brings extensive experience in science communication, education, and outreach, including leadership on NSF-funded projects and art–science collaborations. In her new role, she is advancing the integration of teaching, outreach, and creative communication across the Biodiversity Institute and the Haub School, expanding opportunities for students and communities to engage with Wyoming's ecosystems.



Biodiversity Institute Programs and Community Science

The Biodiversity Institute continues to grow its community science programs, engaging Wyoming residents in meaningful data collection and conservation efforts.

- **Wyoming Naturalist Program (WNP):** The program remains a cornerstone of statewide engagement, with 25 graduates in 2025 and 32 participants accepted into the 2026 cohort. Participants contribute volunteer hours to conservation education, outreach, and service projects across Wyoming.
- **Laramie Salamander Migration Initiative:** Now in its fifth year, the initiative continues to expand. In 2025, participants collected data on 79 salamanders and documented, for the first time, mass migrations of juvenile salamanders dispersing from breeding ponds.
- **Vulture Watch Wyoming:** In its second full year, the program saw substantial growth, with 90 observers submitting 764 observations and documenting more than 7,000 Turkey Vultures statewide. This is nearly double the participation from 2024. Additional long-standing programs, including the Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project (12th year), Mullen Wildfire Initiative (4th year), Moose Day (11th year), and Wyoming BioBlitz (13th year), and others, continue to engage the public in the scientific process.



WYOMING CONSERVATION CORPS

Two Decades of Conservation Service Continues

The Wyoming Conservation Corps celebrates its 20th field season this summer — marking two decades of service on Wyoming's wild and working lands. Since its founding in 2006, WCC members have built and maintained hundreds of miles of trail, restored waterways, protected wildlife habitat, and cared for the public lands that define our state. That legacy belongs to every member who has served, every partner who has supported our work, and every community that has opened its doors to our crews.

Over the past five years, 161 AmeriCorps members have completed 138 conservation projects statewide, including:

- 262 miles of trails maintained or constructed
- 569 acres treated for invasive species
- 2,306 hazard trees removed
- 595 habitat restoration structures built or maintained
- 17 miles of fencing constructed, removed, or repaired
- 4,000+ plants established

Eight Field and Crew Leaders have completed Wilderness First Responder certifications and our Leadership for Natural Resource Management course, establishing a foundation in outdoor leadership, risk management, and field techniques. Summer classes focused on sustainable trail building, wildlife-friendly fencing, and a 4-day certification in chainsaw use and safety. The remaining AmeriCorps members joined our Leaders in May for a 10-day Orientation before projects began on June 1st. This summer, we are hosting three Field Crews and several Individual Placements that will be embedded with partner organizations for the full season.

2026 WYOMING OUTDOOR RECREATION SUMMIT

The 2026 Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Summit brought 140+ leaders from across the state to Saratoga April 30–May 1 under the theme of Building Capacity for Tomorrow. Co-convened by the WORTH Institute and the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation, the program featured sessions on political engagement, public-lands stewardship, and the state's 12 Outdoor Recreation Collaboratives. ORTM students Katy Fleming, Cole Grant-Guerra, Konnor Gregory, Ruth Mayapa, Tom Salerno and Carter Watsabaugh presented their ORTM Capstone projects “Fly Fishing Guide School Development and Best Practices” and “Founded Outdoors – Wyoming Outdoor Business Needs Assessment and Recommendations” to summit attendees.

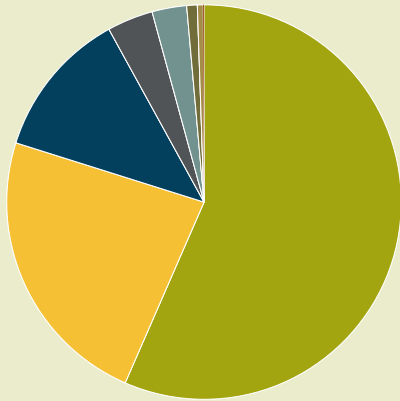




FINANCIAL STATEMENT

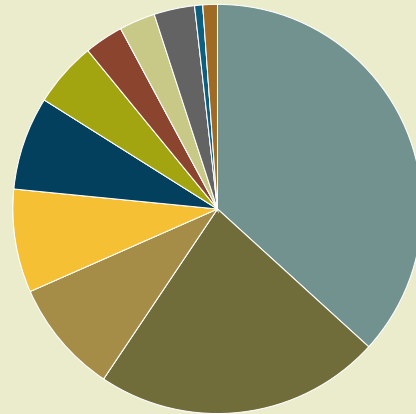
Income and Expenditures: Fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 31, 2026

**Budgeted Expenses FY 27:
\$6.66 million**



- 56.5%: FT Sal and Bens
- 23.3%: Student GA/research
- 12.1%: Admin/operations
- 3.8%: PT Sal and Bens
- 2.8%: Travel
- 0.9%: Faculty Research Encumbrances
- 0.5%: Publications
- 0.1%: Equipment

**Budgeted Financial Resources FY 27:
\$9.83 million**



- 37%: Gift Funds Carried Forward
- 23%: State Budget
- 9%: Individual contributions
- 8%: Wyoming Excellence Chair support
- 7%: Endowment Income
- 5%: State match
- 3%: Course/fee related revenue
- 3%: BI Support
- 3%: Operating Reserve account
- 1%: Grant related funds (F&A, residual)
- 1%: Scholarship Income

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Thank You for Your Support. May 1, 2025 - June 9, 2026

Major Gifts

Ramon E. Tomé and Carol L. Tomé
Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
Knobloch Family Foundation
Alumbra Innovations Foundation
Christy Walton
Margret E Ellwanger and Russell C. Ellwanger
Grand Teton National Park Foundation
Michael F. Allen and Edith B. Allen
Anne Pendergast
Muley Fanatic Fdn of WY Blue Ridge Chapter
Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trails Foundation

John F. Turner
Susan Beesemyer
Larry Krause
Todd D. Graham
Brent Eastman and Tica Eastman
Cheyenne Light Fuel & Power
Gregory B. Watson
Michelle M. Sullivan
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
American Bar Association
Wind River Honey Co
Justin T. Spicer
Mike Sullivan
John L. Koprowski
John D. Stark
Glenn D. Teschendorf

Up to \$1,000

Conservation Strategies LLC
Summit Search Solutions
The Maurer Timm Trust
Glen C. Musser
Terry M. Morgan and Marilyn M. Morgan
Richard Innes and Salli Innes
John W. Hay, III
John W. Haines
Brent E. Ewers and Samantha L. Ewers
Taylor Phillips
Frank Maurer
Ur-Energy Inc.
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Draper Natural History Museum
The Nature Conservancy- Dubois WY
Glen A. Zumwalt and Judith Zumwalt
Richard J. Guenzel and Mary C. Guenzel
Richard T. Clark
Michael R. Neumann and

Analee Neumann
Tad McCall, Jr and Kathleen I. Taimi
Jim Linton and Carol J. Linton
Miguel A. Leotta and Sandy Leotta
Dennis H. Knight and Judith E. Knight
Joe Evers and Elise K. Huppert
Brad Bonner and Yancy A. Dearing
Drew E. Bennett
Kris Barrash
Fritz Valentine and Marci Valentine
Robert J. Anderson and Sonni Anderson
Polly Weber
Kenneth Burnes
Robert Christopherson
Susan R. McGuire
Robert P. Warburton
B&J Dailey Family Trust DTD 6/15/2020
Bernard J. Dailey
Richard D. York and Carolyn York
Bill Grobe, Jr and Dolleen M. Grobe
Mary G. Bedwell
Bonnie M. Long
Marilyn S. Kite
Aaron S. Utton and Hillary A. Utton
Andrew G. Ines
Laura Schmid-Pizzato
Archie F. Reeve and Andrea T. Reeve
Joseph S. Meyer
Robin K. Hill and Lawrence Haimowitz
Carma L. Corra and John V. Corra
Michael A. Carnevale and

Deborah A. Carnevale
Lora J. Bergert
Christopher Clouse
Jeanne Emerson and Denis Connelly
Danny J. Stanley and Janet E. Stanley
Kim A. Parfitt and Todd Parfitt
Zach Hutchinson
Dorothy E. Tuthill
Jacoje Veterinary Services
Gary L. Homec
Michelle L. Hilaire
Douglas G. Wachob and Becky Wachob
Carl A. Trout and Kia Trout
Mary Rose Cassa
Melanie A. Matthews and Caleb Owen

Up to \$100

Mary J. Rugwell and Darrell L. Rugwell
Loren L. Pritzel and Marsha J. Pritzel
Kurt D. Olson and Kimberly A. Olson
Philip R. Ogle and Kathy D. Muller Ogle
Urszula Norton
Michael A. McNamee, III
Judith M. McBride
Joseph G. Hiller
Douglas S. Hart
Jeffrey D. Hamerlinck and Julie A. Hamerlinck
Esther H. Gilman-Kehrer and Paul T. Kehrer
Rick Fisher and Maggie Bourque
Ingrid C. Burke and William K. Lauenroth
Bridget L. Veauthier
Colleen M. Bourque



SUPPORT INCLUSIVE, INFORMED NATURAL RESOURCES SOLUTIONS

Contribute to educating future natural resource leaders and supporting sound, lasting solutions for natural resource challenges.

Send by mail: UW Foundation, 222 S 22nd St, Laramie, WY 82070

Call during normal business hours: (307) 766-6300 or (888) 831-7795

Give online: www.givecampus.com/campaigns/33450/donations/new

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law. Thank you for your support. Please reference giving code A26HCYE.



Melanie L. Arnett
Rose Quinn
Mr. Joseph Green and Mrs.
Susan Green
James Archuleta
Mary K. Hiney
Teresa McGuire
Anna DeSanctis
Emily Bacall
Mackensie Swift
Lance Neeff
Michael K. Stoellinger and
Temple L. Stoellinger
Jean F. Staehr and Fred W.
Staehr
Dr. William R. Smith and
Janice K. Smith
Jon G. Siddoway
Marilyn J. Samuel
Ivy R. McLeod
Ted J. Theobald and Joanne T.
Theobald
Paul T. Howard and Stacy
Drake
Tyrell L. Perry
Elizabeth Wommack
Amy M. Navratil
Donna J. Mecham and James
O. Mecham
Michael Kusiek
Robert M. Kennedy and
Pamela A. Kennedy

Samuel Western and
Jessica M. Western
Sienna Wessel
Joseph D. Holbrook and
Rachel Holbrook
Mike Evans and Joyce E. Evans
Brian Claydon and Julie
Claydon
Daniel P. Beverly
Brett A. Befus and Mary
Katherine Scott
Ellen O. Aikens
Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II
Judy Davis and Bernard Davis
Stacia Law
Michelle Zerfas
Derek Schumacher
Andrew Vinton
Sherri Vinton
Rebecca Hornickle and Patrick
Hornickle
Darren Steele and Nereida
Steele
William E. Benseal and Kristina
M. Korfanta
Colby L. Newton
Melissa Bukovsky
Wade D. Wykert
Gregory S. Pappas and Tara N.
Pappas
James R. Olson and
Anne M. Olson

Brandon Moore
Richard M. Rocco
Peter A. Parolin
Patrick M. Owen
Emilene Ostlind
Abbey Morales
Guy F. Litt and Leah T. Ritz
Garrett Eggener
Nicole M. Crawford
Courtney B. Carlson
Tom Whittle
Ms. Emma Koprowski
Mr. Zach Koprowski
Tom Cervenak
Carlo Migliaccio
David Heuvelman and Mary
Chandler Vinton
Anna Bahnson
Andrew Trausch
Mark L. Shelstad
Benjamin S. Robb
Bridger J. Huhn
Aaron J. Freland
Jessica Morales
Nathalia Morales
Sabrina O'Brien
Rebecca Moore
Kyler S. Smith and
Spencer A. Hurt
Austin B. Smith
Michael B. Riley

John H. Paradis
Brynn M. Hirschman and Fred
Hirschman
Anna R. Hepp
Jonathan Cabrera and Katelyn
J. Kotlarek
Matthew McKenna
Mason O'Brien
Vicky Morales
Walker E. Koberlein
Skye A. Irwin
Aaron Woods and Amy Woods
Rachel Tighe
Dustin J. Carruthers and Carly-
Ann M. Carruthers
Jaime Morales and Laura E.
Veronica Krutka
Sarah Wines
Elizabeth Wommack
Mary Rose Cassa
Harold and Carole Johnson
Ivy McLeod
Randall and Clancee Rea
Tara Righetti
Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II
Casey Black
Richard Alper
Tom Cervenak
Gabby Eberly

WHO WE ARE: STAFF AND FACULTY

John Koprowski, Dean and Wyoming Excellence Chair

Temple Stoellinger, Associate Dean and Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Law and ENR

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

Melanie Armstrong, Ruckelshaus Institute Director and Associate Professor

Bri Arnbrecht, Academic Advisor and Alumni Relations Coordinator

Drew Bennett, MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Professor of Practice

Erin Bentley, Program Manager/Associate Director of the Biodiversity Institute

Callie Berman, Assistant Research Scientist, Ruckelshaus Institute

Colleen Bourque, Administrative Associate

Maggie Bourque, Senior Lecturer

Anastasia Brady, Special Events Coordinator

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

Shawn Bunning, Grants Development Manager

Jon Cabrera, Marketing and Communications Specialist

Kayla Clark, Assistant Professor in Communications and Journalism and the Haub School

Anderson De Figueiredo, Postdoctoral Research Associate

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

Michael Egan, Assistant Research Scientist

Brent Ewers, Biodiversity Institute Director and Professor in Botany

Hilary Byerly Flint, Senior Research Scientist

Aaron Freland, Academic Advising Manager

Grete Gansauer, Assistant Professor, Sustainable Communities

Nicole Gautier, Graduate Coordinator and Associate Research Scientist

Sara Ghezzi, Assistant Professor of Practice ORTM

Matt Hamilton, Associate Professor and Eldon and Beverly Spicer Chair in Environment and Natural Resources

Alex Hancock, Assistant Research Scientist

Amanda Harper, Senior Program Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

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

Jacob Hochard, Knobloch Associate Professor of Conservation Economics

Joe Holbrook, Associate Professor, Carnivore and Habitat Ecology

Ruby Jenco, Senior Academic Advising Professional

Bonnie Johnson, Assistant Lecturer and Degree Coordinator in the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program

Caleb Johnson, Outreach Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Corrie Knapp, Associate Professor, Environment and Society

Jordan Kobliska, Internship and Employment Coordinator ORTM

Taylor Kruger, WORTH Institute community liaison and Assistant Research Scientist

Mason Lee, Senior Project Coordinator for the Biodiversity Institute

Bryan Leonard, Associate Professor and SER Chair of Environment and Natural Resources

Rebecca Levine, Assistant Research Scientist, Monteith Shop

Birch Malotky, Emerging Issues Initiative Coordinator and Associate Research Scientist

Melanie Matthews, Student Services Senior Project Coordinator

Dan McCoy, WORTH Institute Director, Senior Lecturer

Kimberly Messersmith, Business Manager, Executive

Kevin Monteith, Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Natural Resource Science

Erendira Morales Eggener, Communication and Marketing Specialist at the Biodiversity Institute

John Paradis, UW Foundation Senior Director of Development

Chris Phillips, Program Coordinator, Wyoming Conservation Corps

Ben Regan, Assistant Research Scientist

Tara Righetti, Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies, Law, SER, and Haub School

Austin Smith, Assistant Research Scientist

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

Richard Vercoe, Associate Lecturer

Rebecca Witinok-Huber, Associate Research Scientist



Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources

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

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: HAUB SCHOOL ALUMNA ASHLEY LEONARD

Based in Laramie, Wyoming, Ashley serves as the Statewide Education Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In her role, she oversees hunter education, hunting and angling recruitment/retention, volunteer coordination, and conservation education initiatives that connect people to wildlife and the outdoors. Her work blends leadership, collaboration, and hands-on field experiences, reflecting her long-standing passion for conservation and community engagement.

Ashley earned her master's degree in 2016 from the Haub School at the University of Wyoming, completing a concurrent major in Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Natural Science with a concentration in Natural Science Education. She credits the interdisciplinary, place-based focus of the ENR program for preparing her to navigate the complex relationships between agencies, science, policy, and the public. Reflecting on the heart of her work, she shares, "Seeing those 'aha' moments—when someone connects with wildlife or understands their role in managing species on the landscape—is the best part."

