



HAUB SCHOOL UPDATE

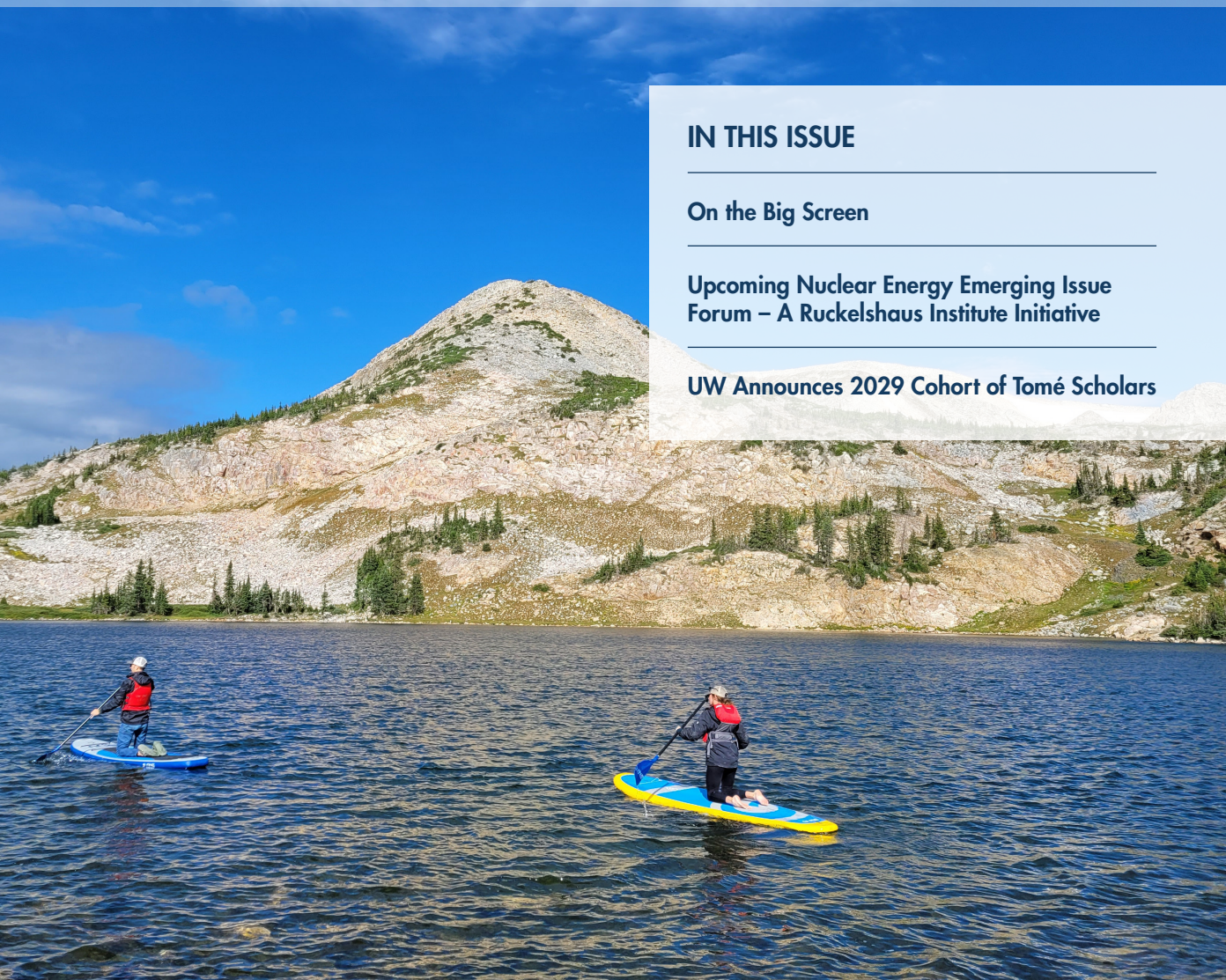
HAPPENINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY
FALL 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

On the Big Screen

Upcoming Nuclear Energy Emerging Issue
Forum – A Ruckelshaus Institute Initiative

UW Announces 2029 Cohort of Tomé Scholars





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

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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.

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On the cover: New graduate students paddleboard on Lake Marie during field orientation. Photo by Nicole Gautier.

Above: UW students in the environmental humanities course "Experience of Place" explore the Ames Monument in southeast Wyoming. Photo by Maggie Bourque.

Update Editor: Jon Cabrera, Haub School Marketing and Communications Specialist

Graphic Design by: Jessica Perry, Creative Blue Yonder



John
Koprowski

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Wow...2026 is moving along quickly! An amazingly fast and furious 2025 is in the books, a year that brought many changes for the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. We have just completed our 30th year “in business,” marking three decades of impact, and I am proud to be in my sixth year serving this impressive community of students, staff, faculty, and supporters like you. We continue to maintain strong enrollment and anticipate growth as we hire new faculty in social science, outdoor recreation, and tourism, and expand our curricular offerings—including a fully online MS in Environment, Natural Resources and Society and certificates in ENR Law and Policy, Collaborative Practice, and Global Environmental Futures. These new online options allow us to reach those unable to join us in Laramie while generating additional revenue. We have also expanded student support by nearly 25% through gifts to excellence funds and we nearly doubled the number of Tomé Scholars to Fellows full-ride scholarships we can offer. As you may have heard, our strong supporter, President Ed Seidel, will step down at the end of the 2025–26 academic year, bringing new opportunities as UW welcomes its next president and the legislature and governor have provided strong support to the UW for the next biennium.

I am pleased to be able to share this annual review that updates you on so many good things happening in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources over the past year and, more importantly, the good people doing the hard but impactful work on our wild and working lands. I hope that you will enjoy the stories and exploits of our Haub School community members that you support with your pride and gifts ... thank you! These students, staff, and faculty are the future of environmental and natural resource conservation and management in Wyoming, the West, and the World.

While the challenges are great, when one is privileged to be on campus with the unbridled passion of undergraduate students, phenomenal skills of graduate students and unparalleled talents of our amazing faculty and staff, I cannot be anything but optimistic about the future. These leaders of today and tomorrow demand their chance to make a difference and I am thrilled to be able to assist given their talent, passion, and resolve that you will find highlighted within these pages. Current and future leaders abound. Enjoy! John

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Koprowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John L. Koprowski
Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources



ON THE BIG SCREEN

We hope that you have had a chance to catch Haub School faculty members Ellen Aikens, Joe Holbrook, Kevin Monteith, and Haub School Dean John Koprowski (plus their graduate students Ellen Ye, Emily Davis, Macy Jacobson and Lauren Wetterau) on the big screen (depending on how big your television is!). They are featured on a new series called *Saving Yellowstone: America's Majestic Ecosystem* narrated by Dennis Quaid which can be found on Animal Planet and Prime Video streaming services. Check out the trailer at: <https://www.osmosisww.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS SPRING

Nuclear Energy Emerging Issue Forum — A Ruckelshaus Institute Initiative

Join us April 13th and 14th for a statewide forum in Laramie exploring the full fuel cycle of nuclear energy—from uranium mining, through fuel fabrication and energy generation, to spent fuel storage—as well as supporting industries. Convened in partnership with the School of Energy Resources and the Wyoming Energy Authority, the forum will build a shared understanding of the benefits and risks of these various projects and consider under what conditions they might be right for Wyoming's communities. Register at <https://www.uwyo.edu/haub/ruckelshaus-institute/forums/nuclear-energy.html>



Wild and Working Lands Film Festival

March 26th marks the fifth edition of this unique film festival created and hosted by the Haub School.

In addition to a wonderful night of films demonstrating the intricate connections between humans and the landscapes where we dwell, work, and play, we're thrilled to welcome Todd Wilkinson as our keynote speaker for this year's exclusive sponsors mixer. Todd is a nationally known, award-winning American journalist, author, and lecturer whose expertise focuses on the importance of wildlife and wild. For information about how to become a sponsor, please visit our website: www.uwyo.edu/haub/events/film-festival/index.html



UW ANNOUNCES 2029 COHORT OF TOMÉ SCHOLARS

Six incoming University of Wyoming undergraduates affiliated with the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources have been named to the prestigious Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program. Established in 2021 through a major gift from the Tomé Foundation, the program provides full-ride scholarships plus support for high-impact experiences such as international field courses, undergraduate research, and community service.

We have been thrilled to partner with Carol and Ramon Tomé, both alumni of UW. Carol is also a Wyoming native. When they established the Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program at UW in 2021, the Tomés envisioned future leaders in the environment and natural resources that will make a difference in the lives of others.

The Tomés have given generously to UW since 1995. Their previous gifts include establishing the Carol and Ramon Tomé Student Admissions Center, located in the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center. They have contributed to the Mick and Susie McMurry High Altitude Performance Center and the UW Alumni Association.

Carol currently serves as CEO of UPS, and Ramon served as an environmental specialist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Air Protection Branch.

Tomé Scholars are selected for academic excellence, leadership potential, and a strong commitment to serving communities and landscapes. The 2029 cohort's interests span environmental policy, science communication, infrastructure, outdoor leadership, economics, journalism, and wildlife conservation. In addition to financial support, scholars join a national Tomé network, build relationships with benefactors Carol and Ramon Tomé, and become Tomé Fellows after graduation.

The selected students are:

- **Naomi Poelma** (Carpenter, WY and Okinawa, Japan) — *Environment and Natural Resources; Civil Engineering*
- **Bliss Bonner** (Cody, WY) — *Environment and Natural Resources; Journalism*
- **Leah Ines** (Holderness, NH) — *Environment and Natural Resources; Economics*
- **Benjamin “Ben” Clough** (New London, NH) — *Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management (Outdoor Leadership Focus)*
- **Liliana “Lili” Scott** (Sheridan, WY) — *Environment and Natural Resources; Political Science*
- **Claudia Anderson** (Solon, Ohio) — *Environment and Natural Resources; Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management*



RECENT HIRES

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

Callie Berman, Assistant Research Scientist

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

Michael Egan, Assistant Research Scientist

E. Abbey Morales Eggener, Biodiversity Institute Communications and Marketing Specialist

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

Ruby Jenco, Senior Academic Advising Professional

Amanda Harper, Senior Program Coordinator for the Wyoming Conservation Corps

Bonnie Johnson, Assistant Lecturer

Mason Lee, Biodiversity Institute Senior Project Coordinator

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

Iree Wheeler, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Wildlife and Wilderness Recreation Lab

Introducing Matt Hamilton

Matt Hamilton is an Associate Professor in the Haub School and the Eldon and Beverly Spicer Chair in Environment and Natural Resources. He is an interdisciplinary environmental policy scientist with an interest in how groups of people work together to address complex natural resource management challenges. He draws upon tools and perspectives from policy, psychological, and environmental sciences, and collaborates extensively with colleagues from diverse social and natural science backgrounds. Matt's work also relies on partnerships with natural resource managers, extensionists, and others who have a stake in collaborative environmental decision-making.



Introducing Bonnie Johnson

Bonnie Johnson is an Assistant Lecturer and Degree Coordinator in our Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management program. Her goal is to bring her field experience into the classroom to help students build practical skills to support their career development.

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



INTRODUCING NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Anne Pendergast

Born and raised in Maine, Anne Pendergast earned a BA from Bowdoin College and an MS in geology from Oregon State University, then moved to Wyoming in 1983 to work with an oil and gas exploration company in Casper. She served on the Board of Trustees for The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming for 16 years and the National Advisory Council for The Brinton Museum for six years. Currently, Pendergast sits on the Board of the Coldwater Conservation Fund, an arm of Trout Unlimited. Additionally, Pendergast is a graduate of Leadership Wyoming in 2017.



Justin Spicer

Justin is a fifth-generation Wyoming resident and the third generation of his family to attend UW. Justin and his wife graduated with their bachelor's degrees from UW in 1996 and make their home in Rock Springs. All four of their daughters have attended UW (three graduated, one finishing her senior year in 2025-2026), with three bachelor's and one master's degree so far! Justin's father, Tom, was a surgeon in Rock Springs and was a two-term member of the UW Board of Trustees, and their whole family has been deeply involved in the university through the Board of Trustees, the UW Foundation, the UWAA, the Cowboy Joe Club, and now the Haub School.





HAUBIES IN ACTION: HAUB SCHOOL ALUMNA JENNIFER ZYGMUNT

Jennifer Zygmunt received her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wyoming in 2003, where she studied Botany and Environment & Natural Resources. Since then, she has spent the last 23 years with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and has served as Water Quality Division Administrator since 2021. Getting to this position was no small feat; from writing the permit for the Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES), to managing a grant program that focused on voluntary watershed restoration projects, to representing Wyoming's precious water resources in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as Wyoming's Nonpoint Source Program manager, she is a dedicated steward of the Cowboy state.

Jennifer valued many things while she was a student at the Haub School. Collaboration, communication, and being solution-oriented were just a few. "Being able to clearly get your ideas across to other people is critical. I appreciate the Haub School's emphasis on technical writing—this is an important skill no matter where you go in your career," she said. "I [also] appreciate that the Haub School emphasized the importance of understanding and working within environmental laws and regulations. A technical scientific background is important, but it's equally important to understand the laws and regulations that govern environmental programs."

"I'm proud to be a Haub School alum, and I am thrilled that in my current position I have the opportunity to connect with current students and provide perspectives on Wyoming's water quality issues and career paths."



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

First Year Student Opportunities

This summer, the Haub School collaborated with UW Campus Recreation's Outdoor Program to offer First-Year Outdoor Experience trips to Haub School students starting their college experience by choosing to live on the "Environment and Outdoors" floor in the residence halls. New students had the opportunity to move in early and participate in either a backpacking trip or a hiking, camping, paddleboarding, and hot springs trip. Trips were led by professional staff and student leaders. The mountains of the Snowy Range provided a beautiful backdrop for building community and making connections before classes started. All 20 spots filled up quickly. Thanks to funding from the Dick and Mary Lou Taggart Student Enhanced Experience Fund and the Outdoor Program, the cost to students was \$100 dollars, which included being able to move in early into the dorms, food, transportation, instruction, earning a Leave No Trace certificate, and all activities. Families were also invited to a welcome BBQ after moving their student in—75 attended and enjoyed connecting with Haub School and Outdoor Program staff before departing campus. Given the success of the program, we hope to continue offering this experience next August!



ENR 1010, Thinking Like a Mountain

Throughout the fall 2025 semester, 80 students in ENR 1010, *Thinking Like a Mountain*, learned about complex environment and natural resources contexts and innovative solutions through the practice of systems thinking. Students pursuing majors in the Haub School and across UW engaged in active learning, small group discussion, and field-based experiences to understand interdisciplinary approaches to ENR-related challenges and opportunities across Wyoming, the American West, and the world. We welcomed first-year students studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management (WFBM) in the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources into this course as well.



Our partnership with the WFBM program means that wildlife students in *Thinking Like a Mountain* begin their path to receiving their Certified Wildlife Biologist credential through The Wildlife Society, which is achieved through interdisciplinary study in the Haub School's ENR courses in addition to their major coursework.



Fall Career Services Highlights

Over 50 students participated in professional development activities in the fall semester, including resume feedback with professional headshots, a job interview workshop, and employer meet-and-greets. Students engaged meaningfully with representatives from the Outdoor Program, Wyoming State Parks, Xanterra, Brush Creek Ranch, South Dakota Game and Fish, and more.

Fall 2025 was the first full semester of the virtual career center (haubcareers.uwyo.edu). Compared to its February launch, engagement more than doubled in total users and sessions. Notably, the number of users surpassed the combined undergraduate and graduate student population, indicating that employer partners and alumni are also actively using the platform.

FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Riley Ovard: Researching Laramie's Community Food Web

In 2020, over 47% of University of Wyoming students reported experiencing food insecurity, contributing to Albany County's position as one of the most food-insecure counties in Wyoming. Haub School Senior and Wyoming Research Scholars Program award recipient Riley Ovard is investigating the "community food web" of social enterprises, which addresses food insecurity across the Laramie community.

Working under the mentorship of Dr. Grete Gansauer (Assistant Professor, Sustainable Communities), he has spent the summer and fall semesters conducting interviews with community members, documenting food access points in Laramie, and conducting background research on best practices in food redistribution. His preliminary findings suggest that the system largely operates through informal arrangements formed on social bonds; the formalized relationships and organizations that promote social sustainability through food redistribution function because of informal social ties, trust, and relationships within the community. Riley's research contributes to understanding how strong social capital and collaboration form resilient community systems, which promote sustainability by repurposing food waste to address social need. Riley will be presenting his research at the American Association of Geographers conference in March. Congratulations Riley!



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

New Academic Programs Launched

The Haub School is committed to training the next generation of environmental and natural resource leaders — and this year, we significantly expanded our ability to do that. This fall, we launched three new online graduate programs designed to bring the Haub School's distinctive, interdisciplinary approach to graduate students and working professionals across the country, without requiring them to relocate to Laramie. These programs reflect both the growing demand for professionals who can navigate the complex intersection of natural systems, policy, and communities, and our commitment to making a Haub School education more accessible. We are also pleased to share that we recently received approval to offer new undergraduate and graduate certificates in Global Environmental Futures, which will be available starting in fall 2026, which will enable students to combine their experiential US and Global courses.



We are now accepting applications for our three online graduate programs:

- **Master of Science in Environment, Natural Resources & Society (ENRS)** | prepares graduates to become innovative leaders in conservation, sustainability, resource management, and policy
- **Graduate Certificate in ENR Law & Policy** | designed for graduate students and professionals seeking to strengthen their policy and legal expertise in areas such as public lands, wildlife conservation, and energy development
- **Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Practice** | designed to help graduate students and professionals develop the skill set to lead multistakeholder processes and build consensus on complex environmental issues

For more information, visit <https://www.uwyo.edu/haub/academics/graduate-students/index.html>

Biodiversity Institute Graduate Student Research Enhancement Grants

In spring 2025, The Biodiversity Institute proudly awarded \$47,500 across 13 projects through the Biodiversity Graduate Student Research Enhancement Grant program.

Funded projects span a wide range of biodiversity topics, including research on declining sagebrush songbirds, ground-nesting bees, alpine lake ecology, arctic and alpine willow evolution, bat populations in the wake of white-nose syndrome, and floristic inventories in the Bighorn Mountains.



2025 also saw continued support through the Don and Judy Legerski UW Teton Graduate Scholars in Biodiversity Fellowship and the Graduate Student Excellence Grant, allowing us to expand opportunities for graduate students

Additionally, \$21,650 of small research grants were awarded to 15 graduate students in April 2025.

Importantly, each grant recipient commits to public outreach and engagement through public events like Science Cafés around the state or digital outreach. Later this year, we'll host our third annual Science Communication Training geared toward the 13 grant recipients.

Applications are accepted at www.wyomingbiodiversity.org

FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT

Lauren Wetterau: Uncovering the Ecological Role of Red Squirrels in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem From Middens to Ecosystems

Lauren Wetterau, a graduate student in the Koprowski Conservation Research Lab, is pursuing a graduate degree in Zoology and Physiology (ZOO) along with a concurrent M.S. in Environment, Natural Resources, and Sciences (ENRS). In conjunction with funding from the Jackson Fork Ranch-University of Wyoming's Saving Yellowstone partnership, her research examines how red squirrels influence biodiversity and species abundance in coniferous forests within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Red squirrels create centralized piles of debris from consumed pinecones known as middens. Unlike many other squirrel species, they are larder hoarders, storing large quantities of pinecones in these middens to maintain a year-round food supply. These concentrated resource sites often attract other wildlife species, potentially shaping patterns of biodiversity within the surrounding forest.



"We know of a couple individual species, such as grizzly bears, that benefit from middens. But my research aims to see if and how the middens impact the forest community as a whole," Wetterau says. "We often view squirrels as pesky critters that won't stop hogging the bird feeder or chattering at us on peaceful hikes. But I'm excited to challenge people to think of them in a new way and consider how much good they might be doing for the other animals in their ecosystem."

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Fulbright Experience Brings Global Perspectives to the Haub School

During the spring 2025 semester, Drew Bennett, the Whitney MacMillan Professor of Practice of Private Lands Stewardship in the Haub School, served as a Fulbright Scholar and visiting scientist at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, in Canberra. The experience proved transformative both professionally and personally.



“One of the most striking aspects of CSIRO is the depth of its international reach and the richness of its multicultural community.” Working alongside CSIRO colleagues on natural capital investments and sustainable agriculture, Bennett discovered striking parallels between Australian and Wyoming conservation challenges. “One day in rural New South Wales, I helped facilitate a stakeholder workshop about community perceptions of sustainability investments,” he noted. “I was struck by how closely the dialogue reflected conversations taking place in Wyoming. If I were to read the transcripts, its national context would be indistinguishable.”

He is already incorporating this experience into his work in the Haub School. Bennett now draws on Australian case studies in his teaching and has developed collaborative relationships (and friendships) with international researchers that will benefit Haub School students and faculty for years to come.

On the Other Side of the World

Join Haub School Dean John Koprowski as he leads a UW Alumni Study Tour to western Mongolia from 7 to 17 September 2026. Participants will see saiga antelope and attend the Eagle Festival which is full of contests and games of skill between golden eagles and their human partners. Participants will also experience Mongolian horse races, archery demonstrations, and cultural dances. Visit <https://www.pokes.org/> travel for more information and to reserve a spot...space is filling quickly!



Mesocarnivore Research in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

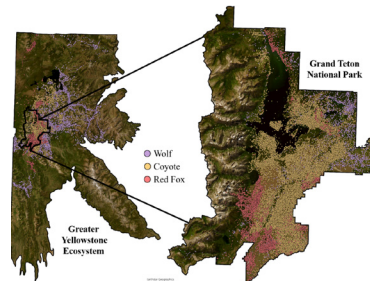
Dr. Joe Holbrook, an associate professor in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and the inaugural Wyoming Biodiversity Professor, is the lead investigator of the UW Mesocarnivore Project. The focus of this research is on assessing how coyotes and red foxes navigate the landscape in relation to gray wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Emily Davis earned her master's in zoology and physiology from the University of Wyoming in December 2023, conducting research



under Dr. Holbrook on the behavioral complexity of black bears in Wyoming, with her work published in *Ecological Applications* and positively reviewed by *Behavioral Ecology*. Inspired by a lifelong interest in ecology and extensive research, teaching, and mentoring experience, she now plans to pursue a career focused on behavioral ecology, wildlife management, and conservation.

Similar Conservation Challenges on Different Sides of the Globe

Dean Koprowski teamed up with Peter Parolin, the dean of UW's Honors College, to lead a J-term class with 20 UW students. "Wild and Working Lands: Community-based Conservation in Nepal" was a 3-week course focused on conservation challenges that are remarkably similar to, but also uniquely different from, Wyoming. Topics covered included predator management (swap out grizzlies and wolves for tigers and leopards), crop depredation (exchange elk and mule deer for elephants and spotted deer), rapid gateway community development around national parks (swap out Jackson for Sauraha), and overwhelming increases in tourism in protected areas (swap out Grand Teton/Yellowstone for Annapurna). There was plenty of knowledge and perspectives shared with Nepali land and wildlife managers and much to learn from them as well...the reason why these experiences are transformational to our students.

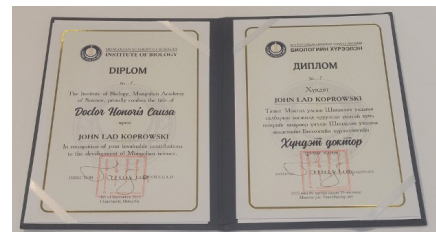


Award-Winning Research on State Trust Lands

Temple Stoellinger and Bryan Leonard, both Haub School faculty, along with their co-authors, were recognized in the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review (ELPAR) for their article, *State Trust Land Revenue Diversification Through Conservation*. ELPAR annually selects a small number of articles nationwide for distinction and republication based on scholarly quality and policy relevance. The article explores tools that can add revenue diversity to state trust lands without displacing existing uses, offering a framework for balancing fiduciary obligations with evolving conservation and land management opportunities.

Dean Koprowski is recognized for collaboration in Mongolia

After a plenary presentation in Mongolia in 2025, Dean Koprowski was surprised to be honored with an honorary doctorate from the Mongolian Academy of Science for 'invaluable contributions to the development of Mongolian science.'



CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

THE RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE FALL 2025 EVENTS

Forest Service Planning Support

The Ruckelshaus Institute, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service's Mountain Planning Services Group, is supporting forest planning in our region. A team including faculty, post-docs, and graduate students has been working to support planning processes on the Bridger-Teton, Manti-La Sal, and Black Hills national forests. Their work has ranged from planning public engagement strategies to facilitating meetings with cooperating agencies, resulting in excellent applied project experience for students pursuing our minor in collaboration.

Managing Wildlife in Large Landscapes Conference

The *Managing Wildlife in Large Landscapes* conference, held October 1–2, 2025, in Jackson, Wyoming, was convened by the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources in partnership with the Ruckelshaus Institute. The event brought together scientists, land managers, Indigenous leaders, and conservation practitioners from North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America to share strategies for conserving wildlife across large, complex ecosystems. By fostering cross-jurisdictional dialogue and collaboration, the conference strengthened professional networks, highlighted the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a global learning landscape, and advanced practical approaches to large-scale biodiversity conservation.



Facilitating Collaborative Conservation Finance for Minnesota Peatlands

In late October, the Ruckelshaus Institute facilitated a Pew Charitable Trusts– and The Nature Conservancy–convened workshop in Minneapolis focused on conservation finance strategies for Minnesota's peatlands. Bringing together state agencies, Tribal leaders, NGOs, and trust land managers, the Institute guided structured discussions and barrier analysis to identify legal, policy, and capacity challenges and develop actionable next steps. The effort strengthened cross-sector relationships and advanced practical pathways for aligning peatland conservation, climate goals, and state trust land revenue generation.



CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Facilitating Dialogue on Data Centers and Energy Development

On October 15, 2025, the Ruckelshaus Institute helped organize and facilitate the Governor's Gathering Cowboy State Energy kickoff forum, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, utilities, and workforce experts to examine opportunities and challenges related to data center development in Wyoming. The forum helped identify key policy, infrastructure, and workforce considerations while providing the Governor's Office with insights to inform strategic planning around emerging large-load energy development.

WYOMING CONSERVATION CORPS

The Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) had a successful field season in summer 2025. We extend our gratitude to Caleb Johnson, Project Coordinator, and Tommy Furland, Outreach Coordinator, for leading three field crews on projects across the state. Projects included constructing bog bridges, performing tree work and corridor clearing, and conducting comprehensive trail maintenance—rock work, retaining walls, grade reversals, drainage improvements, and tread restoration. Crews also built beaver dam analogs and wildlife guzzlers, installed wildlife-friendly fencing, and enhanced public spaces with landscaping. We wish Tommy well as he leaves this role to pursue a MS in Environment, Natural Resources and Society in the Dunning lab. We also welcome Amanda Harper as the new Program Director. Harper brings over a decade of experience in outdoor leadership and a strong commitment to mentoring the next generation of natural resource leaders.

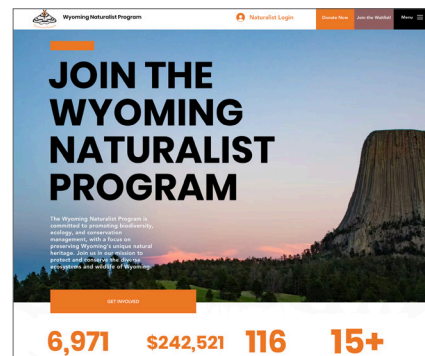


CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Wyoming Naturalist Program

A new dedicated website launched in 2025, providing a hub for online coursework, volunteer opportunities, and program announcements. Interest remains high, with many already signing up for the 2026 class waitlist. <https://www.wyomingnaturalists.com>



Moose Day

July 2025 marked the ninth annual Summer Moose Day, with community scientists surveying eight routes in Albany County. Participants recorded eight moose observations, up from just two the previous year, contributing to long-term data shared with UW researchers. For the second year, the event also included a group hike at Curt Gowdy State Park, offering a welcoming option for new participants.

During the 12th annual Winter Moose Day, 100 community scientists surveyed moose populations in three mountain ranges near Laramie. They spotted five moose and recorded various data points, including visibility conditions and other wildlife observations. The data collected will be shared with UW biologists to help understand moose population dynamics.

Wyoming BioBlitz

The Wyoming BioBlitz at Seminoe State Park in June 2025 brought together families, scientists, and educators to record species from bighorn sheep to sagebrush lizards to over 2,000 black flies. In addition, our Virtual BioBlitz extended participation statewide (and into neighboring states), inviting people to log plant and animal observations on iNaturalist.

In 2025, the Biodiversity Institute connected with more than 3,500 people through hands-on programs and events across Wyoming, including Wyoming BioBlitz, Moose Days, Bar Walks, Science Cafés, the Salamander Migration Initiative, and K–12 education at the Berry Center.

Our 2025 Annual Report highlights the impact of these efforts, along with record support for graduate student research and community science. Explore the stories, numbers, and statewide reach of our work by reading the full report at wyomingbiodiversity.org



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- Berman, C.**, & Darменова, Y. (2025). Kazakh sharing practices: A critical inquiry into sharing economy models from the vantage of ownership in collective societies. *Business & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00076503251364163>
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- Bourque, M.** (2025). Yucca Fountain is (not) here. In M. Sunset (Ed.), *Sympoiesis: Co-Creating Sense of Place* (pp. 56–63). Essay, University of Wyoming Art Museum.
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