



UW

Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources

MANAGING WILDLIFE IN LARGE LANDSCAPES

Reciprocal learning for the world's most iconic ecosystems

October 1–2, 2025

Snow King Resort, Jackson, Wyoming

In every corner of the world, large ecosystems fostering diverse wildlife and complex species interactions sprawl over jurisdictional boundaries. They provide ecological wonders and societal benefits, but also present considerable management challenges and potential for conflict.

Join us in October 2025 for a global dialogue on the challenges, opportunities, and solutions for conserving and managing wildlife in large, complex landscapes around the world. The conference will bring managers, researchers, and conservationists from iconic landscapes across the planet to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in search of reciprocal learning both from and for this place.

October 1

8:30 a.m. — Welcome

9:00 a.m. — Opening Keynote, Cam Sholly, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Superintendent Sholly will set the stage for the conference by reflecting on the unique role of Yellowstone within global conservation and how the park is navigating the evolving challenges of managing wildlife in large, complex, and multi-jurisdictional landscapes. Drawing from his leadership within the National Park Service, he will speak to the importance of collaboration, science-based decision-making, and international dialogue in stewarding iconic ecosystems in a changing world.

9:40 – 10:00 a.m. — Break

Theme One: Indigenous and Local Communities

Voices of Place: Indigenous and Local Perspectives on Wildlife Conservation in Shared Landscapes

Wildlife in large landscapes moves across ecological, jurisdictional, and cultural boundaries. This session highlights the perspectives of local and Tribal leaders whose communities are deeply connected to the lands and species they help steward. Speakers will explore how place-based values, long-term relationships with wildlife, and lived experience inform management approaches and support meaningful collaboration across diverse and dynamic landscapes.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. — *Indigenous Perspectives on Wildlife Conservation in Shared Landscapes*

Moderator: Julie Thorstenson — Executive Director, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

Panelists:

- **Jason Baldes**, Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative (invited)
Jason will discuss the restoration of buffalo to Tribal lands and how cultural and ecological goals intersect in wildlife stewardship on the Wind River Reservation.
 - **Åsa Larsson Blind**, Saami Council Member
Åsa will offer perspectives from northern Europe on reindeer herding, Indigenous sovereignty, and the challenges of coexisting with predators in Saami territory.
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11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — *Local Perspectives on Wildlife Conservation in Shared Landscapes*

Moderator: Brian Yablonski, Chief Executive Officer, PERC

Panelists:

- **Albert Sommers**, Sommers Ranch, Sublette County, Wyoming
This speaker will highlight the lived experience of ranching and land management in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, where close proximity to large carnivores brings both challenges and opportunities for innovation.
- **TBD**, Executive Director, Cuenca Los Ojos
Valerie will explore efforts to integrate jaguar conservation with ranching livelihoods.
- **Mark Newcomb**, Chair, Teton County Board of County Commissioners
Commissioner Newcomb will discuss how Teton County's land use planning process accounts for wildlife and habitat considerations within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. His remarks will highlight how local governments can shape conservation outcomes through zoning, development review, and long-range planning in a landscape shared by people and wildlife.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. — Lunch

Lunchtime Keynote: Todd Wilkinson, Journalist and Author of *The Story and Impact of Bear 399*

Author Todd Wilkinson will share the remarkable story of Grizzly 399, the world's most famous wild bear, and how her visibility has influenced regional and global conversations about wildlife management, public values, and human–wildlife coexistence. His keynote will explore how a single animal can serve as a lens through which we examine broader themes of ethics, conservation, and coexistence in iconic ecosystems like the Greater Yellowstone.

1:00 – 1:15 p.m. — Break

Theme Two: Human–Wildlife Coexistence

This keynote session highlights three perspectives on large carnivore conservation: grizzly bears and wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and tigers and cheetahs in India. While the species and regions differ, all three speakers will explore common challenges in managing human–wildlife conflict, building public trust, and sustaining long-term conservation across multi-use landscapes.

1:15 p.m. — Greater Yellowstone Keynote

Dan Thompson, Carnivore Supervisor, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Thompson will reflect on decades of on-the-ground experience managing mountain lions, bears and wolves in the GYE highlighting how science, policy, and public perception intersect in managing large carnivores.

1:45 p.m. — International Keynote

Dr. Yadvendradev Jhala, Former Dean, Wildlife Institute of India; Lead Scientist, India Cheetah Reintroduction Project

Dr. Jhala will share insights from decades of work on tiger and cheetah conservation in India, focusing on how large-scale carnivore recovery efforts navigate human–wildlife conflict, governance challenges, and cultural values.

2:15 p.m. — Break

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. — Human-Wildlife Coexistence: Innovations, Challenges, and Paths Forward

What innovative and successful approaches, policies, and strategies—as well as lessons from past failures—can help communities manage human–wildlife conflict? This session brings together international experts and local leaders to explore real-world examples of conflict and coexistence—from large carnivores and wildlife disease to private land stewardship and conservation in emerging economies. Panelists will share tools, insights, and ethical considerations for navigating the complex dynamics of living with wildlife across diverse ecological and cultural landscapes.

Moderator: Christine Peterson, Freelance Journalist

Panelists:

- **Lesli Allison**, Executive Director, Western Landowners Alliance
Lesli will highlight how private landowners in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and across the American West are navigating coexistence with wildlife, and the role of stewardship, collaboration, and policy innovation.
- **Ester Borgioli**, Human-Wildlife Initiative Coordinator, Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco
Ester will talk about an initiative to foster coexistence between human activities and wildlife in rural and mountainous areas in France, Spain, Switzerland, and Italy.
- **Mariana Montoya**, Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society–Peru
Mariana will speak to the challenges and successes of managing human–wildlife coexistence in South America, with a focus on the Amazon and community-led conservation strategies in biologically and culturally rich regions.
- **Harrison Carter**, WildCRU and Nature Positive Hub, University of Oxford
Harrison is an interdisciplinary conservation scientist with a focus on human-wildlife coexistence and nature finance. He will share insights from research on financing human–wildlife coexistence in Tanzania and the trade-offs involved in building credible nature finance.
- **Francesca Marucco**, University of Turin, LifeWolfAlps EU
Francesca will share insights from decades of work on wolf recovery in Europe and North America, highlighting how science, policy, and transboundary collaboration intersect in addressing human-wildlife conflict.

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. — Jackson Fork Ranch Student Poster Session & Reception

Enjoy an engaging showcase of student research sponsored by the Jackson Fork Ranch, featuring innovative work at the intersection of wildlife science, policy, and conservation. Connect with emerging scholars and learn about the next generation of ideas shaping the future of wildlife and land stewardship.

Heavy appetizers and drinks served.

5:30 – 7:15 p.m. — Opening Remarks & Film Screening: *The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone*

Thomas Winston, producer of *The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone*, and Rob Wallace will offer opening remarks reflecting on the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone and the legacy of key conservation leaders.

Day Two: October 2

Theme Three: Transboundary Collaboration

How do we best collaborate across disciplines and with diverse stakeholders in large landscapes that traverse political and jurisdictional boundaries?

8:30 a.m. — Greater Yellowstone Keynote

Brian Nesvik, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tom Schultz, Chief, U.S. Forest Service (invited)

In this session, two of the nation's leading federal land and wildlife managers—Brian Nesvik, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tom Schultz, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service—will reflect on the leadership challenges and opportunities of managing wildlife in expansive, multi-jurisdictional landscapes like the Greater Yellowstone. They will explore the importance of shared stewardship, cross-agency collaboration, science-based decision-making, and building trust with diverse constituencies.

9:00 a.m. — International Keynote

Oscar Mthimkhulu, Executive Manager, Kruger National Park

Oscar will share insights from his work in Kruger National Park, highlighting how cross-boundary collaboration among communities, agencies, and international partners is key to addressing large-scale conservation challenges. His keynote will show how cooperation across political, cultural, and jurisdictional lines can strengthen ecological and social resilience in complex, contested landscapes.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 am Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — Navigating Borders: Transboundary Collaboration in Landscape and Wildlife Conservation

From the Northern Rockies to Scandinavia, Patagonia to the Pacific Northwest, this session explores how leaders and institutions are confronting the ecological and political realities of managing species and landscapes that span borders. Panelists will discuss lessons from transboundary science, policy, and management frameworks—and how they evolve over time in response to shifting pressures and values.

Moderator: Annecoos Wiersema, Sturm College of Law, Denver University

Panelists:

- **Camilla Sandström**, Umeå University, Sweden
Camilla will speak to the political and cultural dynamics of transboundary wildlife management in Scandinavia, with a focus on wolves and shared governance.

- **Barry Noon**, Colorado State University
Barry will reflect on the Northwest Forest Plan and the long-term recovery of the northern spotted owl, and how forest policy, species conservation, and regional collaboration intersect.
- **Arthur Middleton**, University of California, Berkeley
Arthur will share lessons from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem on the science and practice of managing migratory species across jurisdictional boundaries, with attention to community engagement, Indigenous partnerships, and working lands.
- **Cy Griffin**, European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE), Belgium
Cy will offer a European perspective on transboundary wildlife governance and stakeholder engagement in densely populated, fragmented landscapes.
- **Julie Thorstenson**, Executive Director, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Julie will discuss the role of Tribal nations in managing wildlife across jurisdictional boundaries, highlighting how Tribal sovereignty, co-management, and cross-agency partnerships support conservation in shared landscapes.
- **Katie Deuel**, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Katie will provide three different international examples of connectivity assessments in Africa and Latin America (single species, multi-species, and Linear Infrastructure focused) that cross international and jurisdictional boundaries and demonstrate how they inform management and drive action and investment.
- **Dashpurev Tserendeleg (Puujee)**, Deputy Director, Hustai National Park
Puujee will discuss Hustai National Park as a case study in international collaboration, from its beginnings as a European–Mongolian partnership to its current status as a Mongolian-led conservation effort. He will highlight lessons in long-term collaboration, local leadership, and adaptive management.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. — Lunch

Lunchtime Keynote: **John Koprowski**, Dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

Dean John Koprowski will draw on decades of experience in transboundary wildlife research and conservation to explore how we protect large landscapes amid accelerating environmental and societal transformation. From climate change and habitat fragmentation to shifting governance structures and cultural values, his keynote will examine the role of science, collaboration, and adaptive leadership in building resilient conservation strategies across dynamic and multi-use geographies.

1:00 – 1:15 p.m. — Break

Theme Four: Change

How do we conserve and protect large landscapes in the context of change—from climate change, land conversion, invasive species, and biodiversity loss, to shifting social values, political and legal frameworks, and economic development?

1:15 p.m. — Greater Yellowstone Keynote

Chip Jenkins, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Jenkins will reflect on the challenges and responsibilities of managing Grand Teton and its role within the broader Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in a time of rapid change. From climate variability and land use pressures to shifting public expectations and legal frameworks, he will explore how the National Park Service is working with partners to adapt and steward these landscapes for future generations.

1:45 p.m. — International Keynote

Dr. Narish Subedi, Member Secretary, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal

Dr. Subedi will explore how Nepal is responding to the complex and accelerating forces of change—climate impacts, land conversion, biodiversity loss, and shifting social and political dynamics—while managing some of the world’s most iconic and fragile landscapes. Through his leadership at the National Trust for Nature Conservation, he will highlight how community-based conservation, transboundary collaboration, and adaptive management are helping build resilience across the Himalayas in the face of rapid transformation.

2:15 – 3:45 p.m. — Panel: Navigating Change: Conservation in Shifting Landscapes

Moderator: Madeline Kass, School of Law, Seattle University

- **Justine Shanti Alexander**, Country Director, Mongolia Wildlife Conservation Society
Justine will discuss how Mongolia is navigating ecological change, expanding development pressures, and international conservation partnerships to protect large-scale ecosystems and iconic species such as snow leopards.
- **Benoit Gossens**, Cardiff University, Danau Girang Field Center, Malaysia
Benoit will reflect on efforts to conserve biodiversity in Malaysian Borneo, where habitat fragmentation, palm oil expansion, and illegal wildlife trade challenge the long-term viability of species and protected areas.
- **Bob Keiter**, University of Utah S.J. Quinney School of Law
*Drawing from his recent book *Conserving Nature in the Greater Yellowstone*, Bob will explore how evolving public values, science, and legal frameworks have shaped—and continue to shape—landscape-scale conservation in the American West.*

- **Susan Clark**, Yale School of the Environment
Susan will examine how adaptive governance and values-based decision-making are essential to managing complex conservation problems in rapidly changing social-ecological systems.
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3:45 – 4:00 p.m. — Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. — Panel: The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: Reflections on the Past, Priorities for the Future

This session offers an intimate conversation about the evolution of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—its legacy, current pressures, and future direction. As the region faces growing challenges, panelists will reflect on what the GYE has taught the world about large landscape conservation and consider what global lessons might help guide its path forward. The discussion will explore how values, partnerships, and institutions must evolve to sustain this iconic ecosystem in a time of rapid change.

Moderator: Rob Wallace, Former Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, Haub School Board Member

Panelists:

- **Angi Bruce**, Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 - **Chip Jenkins**, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park
 - **Cam Sholly**, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
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5:00 p.m. — Conclude