



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

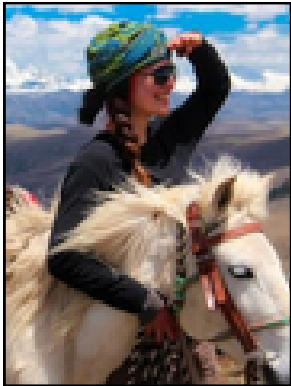
Haub School of  
Environment and  
Natural Resources

# MANAGING WILDLIFE IN LARGE LANDSCAPES

## *Speakers*

### JUSTINE SHANTI ALEXANDER

*Country Director, Mongolia Wildlife Conservation Society*



Justine Shanti Alexander is a conservation scientist and the Country Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Mongolia Program. She leads a passionate team working to bring WCS Mongolia's 2030 strategy to life — safeguarding ecological functions, connecting critical habitats, and helping wildlife and people adapt to a changing climate across Mongolia's vast steppe and mountain landscapes.

A scientist by training, Justine holds an MSc in Conservation Science from Imperial College London and a PhD from Beijing Forestry University, where she researched snow leopard conservation in central China. She has spent over a decade working across High Asia on snow leopard conservation and previously served as Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Network.

### LESLI ALLISON

*Executive Director, Western Landowners Alliance*



Lesli is a founding member and chief executive of the Western Landowners Alliance. She was also a founding member of the Chama Peak Land Alliance. For the past three decades, Lesli has worked extensively with private landowners and multiple stakeholders to advance conservation, sustain working lands and support rural communities.

Prior to Western Landowners Alliance, Lesli managed a large ranch in the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado. During her 16-year tenure, she implemented progressive conservation management through award-winning programs in restoration forestry, prescribed fire, grazing, stream restoration, hunting and wildlife management, and scientific research and monitoring. Lesli holds a B.A. from Columbia University and an M.A. from St. John's College, Santa Fe.

## ESTER BORGIOLO

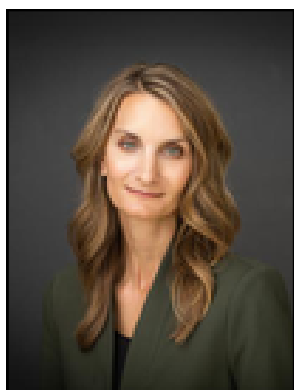
*Human-Wildlife Initiative Coordinator, Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco*



Ester Borgioli is a 27-year-old Italian conservation specialist with experience across marine and terrestrial ecosystems. She holds a B.S. in Marine Biology from Bangor University (UK) and an M.S. in Marine Science, Conservation, and Innovation from the University Côte d'Azur (France). While her academic background is rooted in marine science, Ester chose to broaden her path into terrestrial conservation and human-wildlife coexistence, driven by a passion to diversify her expertise and explore new dimensions of biodiversity protection. She works at the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation as Coordinator of the Human-Wildlife Initiative, a program that finances and supports projects promoting coexistence between biodiversity and human activities in France, Spain, and Switzerland. Since its launch, the initiative has supported over 60 projects and is guided by a steering committee that brings together hunters, farmers, NGOs, scientists, and public authorities. Ester is now working to expand the initiative on a wider scale across Mediterranean regions to maximize its impact in new areas. She has represented the Foundation at international events, including the International Wildlife Coexistence Network Conference in Turin, contributing to global exchanges on coexistence models.

## ANGI BRUCE

*Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Department*



Angi Bruce is the first female director in the state's 51-year history. A dedicated biologist, Angi built a long-standing career in conservation. Her career includes previous roles as the Game and Fish habitat protection supervisor and assistant wildlife bureau chief with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As the former Game and Fish deputy director of external affairs, Angi collaborated closely with partners, external organizations, other states and the legislature to be a voice for Wyoming's wildlife. Her work has been instrumental in addressing complex fish and wildlife management issues, including oversight of significant projects such as migration corridors, the department's "Movement Matters" initiative and sage-grouse policy.

## HARRISON CARTER

*WildCRU and Nature Positive Hub, University of Oxford*



Harrison Carter is an interdisciplinary conservation biologist and storyteller, exploring innovative ways to incentivise human-wildlife coexistence in some of the world's most extraordinary places. He has travelled and filmed in over 20 countries worldwide, and his expeditions include traversing the Guyanese jungle, Indonesian rainforests and Indian lowlands in search of the world's most infamous wildlife and the stories of neighbouring communities.

Harrison started his career in Investment Banking and later Management Consultancy, developing skills that now inform his research with a focus on innovative approaches to incentivise coexistence. He is currently undertaking his DPhil at the University of Oxford, where he sits across the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) and Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (ICCS)

research groups. Harrison also holds an Associate position at the University of Exeter's Centre for Ecology and Conservation, a Faculty position at World Extreme Medicine, a Co-Director of Research position at the Thousand Year Trust and is an invited Term Member at the Explorers Club alongside Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



## SUSAN CLARK

*Yale School of the Environment*



Susan's goal is to improve conservation of species and ecosystems at professional, scientific, organizational, and policy levels. She seeks to be an integrator of knowledge and action and thereby helping people practically solve important problems.

She has worked in North America, Australia, Asia, and Central America on diverse field projects. Books include *Averting Extinction: Reconstructing Endangered Species Recovery*, *Foundations of Natural Resources Policy and Management*, *Yellowstone's Survival: A Call to Action for a New Conservation Story*, and *Policy Sciences and the Human Dignity Gap: Problem Solving for Citizens and Leaders*.

The basic framework for her activities is research/application to improvement decisions. Early on, she set out to acquire familiarity with many disciplines. Her skill is analysis and creative, disciplined criticism. Any contribution that she might make is educational, scientific, and advisory.

## KATIE DEUEL

*Center for Large Landscape Conservation*



Katie Deuel joined CLLC in 2022 as Senior Director of Conservation, working across diverse programs to ensure they are strategic, effective, inclusive, connected and supported. She has been a leader in biodiversity and large landscape conservation, nature-based education, and building sustainable, circular economies, as well as working extensively as a facilitator and mediator in complex systems. At the center of her work is a passion for systems thinking, cold water, and empowering people. She lives with her family in Missoula and enjoys time outside in most any form.

## VALERIE GORDON

*Executive Director, Cuenca Los Ojos*



Valerie's conservation work spans over two decades of projects focused on endangered species, water, rangeland, and wildlife habitat in the U.S. and Mexico. Most notably, Valerie spearheaded the transition of the Cuenca Los Ojos Foundation, a family foundation started by her mother, Valer Clark, to a public nonprofit that promotes land restoration both in the U.S. and Mexico. The Cuenca Los Ojos Mexico project is responsible for the management of a 121,000-acre protected preserve dedicated to restoring the historic wetlands, grasslands, and wildlife habitat of northern Mexico along the U.S./Mexico border. Valerie also served as the director of The Nature Conservancy's Merced County Grassland's Program where she worked to preserve a vast vernal pool grassland in California's Central Valley in support of endangered species conservation. She also owns and operates a grass-fed, regenerative beef ranch in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Valerie's leadership roles include chairwoman of the California Rangeland

Trust, board member of both Cuenca Los Ojos in the U.S. and Mexico, technical committee member for Cuenca Los Ojos (Mexico), and board member for the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts. She is a dog lover and an avid outdoors woman who loves to trail run, backpack and ski with her husband and daughter.

## BENOÎT GOOSSENS

*Cardiff University, Danau Girang Field Center, Malaysia*



Prof. Dr. Benoît Goossens is the Director of the Danau Girang Field Centre in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, a research and training facility co-managed by Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University, where he leads projects on biodiversity responses to habitat fragmentation and degradation. He is also a Professor at Cardiff University and has more than 25 years of experience in the field of conservation genetics, conservation biology and landscape ecology. Benoît holds a PhD in biology from University of Grenoble, France. He started working in Sabah back in 1999. He is holding a work permit from the Sabah State Government and is acting as an advisor for the Sabah Wildlife Department. Benoît is a member of the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle, Asian Elephant, Crocodile and Primate Specialist Groups.

## CY GRIFFIN

*European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE), Belgium*



Cy is Senior Conservation Manager at FACE. Dedicated to finding solutions for effective conservation of wildlife in Europe and seeking common ground between different interest groups, Cy has been closely involved with implementation of the European nature legislation, and most recently advocating for the adoption and implementation of the new Nature Restoration Regulation. He has particular interest in migratory birds, both for their ecology and the international approach required for their conservation. Prior to his career in international wildlife policy, he was a field biologist based in Scotland.

## CHIP JENKINS

*Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park*



Palmer "Chip" Jenkins, Jr., was named superintendent of Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway in 2020. As superintendent, Jenkins manages more than 310,000 acres of park lands, including the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway and much of the iconic Teton Range, whose jagged peaks and distinctive geology make it a classic vista of the American West. His previous service includes serving as superintendent at Mount Rainier National Park, superintendent of North Cascades National Park, superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park, and as a deputy regional director and acting regional director. Jenkins also worked as a natural resources specialist with the NPS' Denver Service Center, the agency's central planning, design and construction management office. He began his career as a seasonal ranger at North Cascades National Park.



## YADVENDRADEV JHALA

*Former Dean, Wildlife Institute of India; Lead Scientist, India Cheetah Reintroduction Project*



Yadvendra V. Jhala, obtained his Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia USA in 1991, in Wildlife Science and a Post Doc from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. He joined the Wildlife Institute of India in 1993 and retired as Senior Professor and Dean in 2023. He is a fellow of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and National Academy of Science, India (NASI). Currently he is an INSA Senior Scientist based at National Centre for Biological Sciences. Jhala conducted long-term ecological and behavioural studies using modern technology of radio and satellite telemetry on wolves, lions, striped hyenas, snow leopards, and tigers. He designed, supervised, and implemented the estimation and monitoring of tigers, leopards, elephants, and other wildlife populations across India for the Govt. of India from 2006 to 2023. He has assisted the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal in establishing country scale wildlife monitoring programs.

Jhala's research has been instrumental in i) banning veterinary diclofenac that caused the decline in vultures; ii) identifying and addressing causes of Great Indian Bustard declines and commencing their conservation breeding; iii) understanding the social organization and coexistence of Asiatic lions with humans; iv) status, demography, ranging patterns, and conservation genetics of tigers; v) ecology, status, and ancient lineage of Indian wolves; vi) Jhala has led the project and provided the science required for the reintroduction of cheetahs to India from Southern Africa. Jhala has trained over 1600 conservation practitioners from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, China, Nepal, Austria, and USA. Jhala's work is an example of blending basic and applied science in the area of conservation biology, and using it to formulate policy and to manage India's wildlife.

## MADELINE KASS

*School of Law, Seattle University*



Professor Kass is a Visiting Professor at University of California Law in San Francisco, a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Seattle University School of Law, and Professor Emeritus at Thomas Jefferson Law School.

She is also a frequent Visiting Professor at Seattle University, where in addition to teaching she served as a faculty advisor for the Seattle Journal of Technology, Environment, and Innovation Law (formerly, the Seattle Journal of Environmental Law) and the Seattle Environmental Law Society. As a 2019 Fulbright recipient, she held a Visiting Scholar appointment at the College of Europe in Belgium, and as a 2022 ISSR Global Scholar, she held a Visiting Fellow position at the University of Dundee in Scotland. She was also a visiting scholar at the University of Ghent in Belgium, and a visiting scholar

and lecturer at the University of Milan in Italy.

Professor Kass is active in the American Bar Association (ABA). She currently serves on the Editorial Board of the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER) publication National Resources & Environment. She is a past chair of both the ABA's Biodiversity and International Environmental and Resources Law committees and a former member of the SEER Council.

## BOB KEITER

*University of Utah S.J. Quinney School of Law*



Robert B. Keiter is the Wallace Stegner Professor of Law, University Distinguished Professor, and founding director of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment at the University of Utah's S. J. Quinney College of Law. Professor Keiter holds a J.D. degree with honors from Northwestern University School of Law and B.A. with honors from Washington University. He has taught at the University of Wyoming, Boston College, and Southwestern University, and served as a Senior Fulbright Scholar at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal.

His books include *Conserving Nature in Greater Yellowstone*, *To Conserve Unimpaired*, *Keeping Faith with Nature*, and *The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*. He currently serves on the National Park System Advisory Board and as a trustee for the National Parks Conservation Association.

## JOHN KOPROWSKI

*Dean & Wyoming Excellence Chair, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming*



John joined the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources in 2020 after 20 years at the University of Arizona. A native of Ohio, he possesses a lifelong passion for our wild and working lands. John has taught courses in wildlife conservation and management focused on the complexity of conservation challenges in human-dominated landscapes, including international efforts in Ecuador, Mongolia, China and Italy. John's research program has focused on biodiversity conservation and management through community-based approaches in USA, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, India, Nepal, China, Mongolia, Malaysia, and South Africa. With >260 peer-reviewed articles and 7 books including *International Wildlife Management* and the forthcoming *Squirrels of the World 2*, John and his >60 graduate students have provided data-informed solutions to real-world challenges. His efforts led to his election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Wildlife Society

the Explorer's Club and the Linnean Society of London. In 2022, he received the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award from The Wildlife Society for lifetime contributions to wildlife conservation. He is President of the American Society of Mammalogists and serves as an Expert Speaker on wildlife conservation for the US Department of State.

## ÅSA LARSSON BLIND

*Saami Council Member*

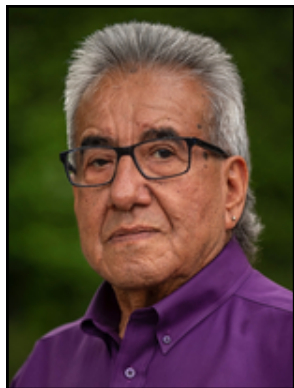


Åsa Larsson Blind is vice-president of the Saami Council. She has been a member since 2008 and elected President in the period 2017-2019. She was, as the first woman to hold the position, elected chair of the Sámi Association in Sweden 2019-2021, where she also served as board member in 2007-2011. Larsson Blind was in 2018 elected to the municipal council in Kiruna, representing a local Sámi party, Sámelistu. In 2022 she was re-elected and serves as member in the municipality council, municipality board and chair of the minority language committee.

Åsa Larsson Blind lives in Övre Soppero in the Swedish part of Sápmi, is part of a reindeer herding family and mother of three children. She holds an MSc in Human Resources Management and Development and works as project manager at the Saami Council.

## WES MARTEL

*Greater Yellowstone Coalition*



Wes works on an important segment of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which is the Wind River Indian Reservation. The mission of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, to protect the lands, water, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, fits in with Indigenous values and beliefs. Tribes are important allies in conservation. With an office at Fort Washakie on the Wind River Indian Reservation, we are able to work with Tribal Elders and Tribal leadership to obtain first-hand knowledge of how Tribal sovereignty can play a role in the management and protection of the ecosystem and how we can utilize the technical and administrative strength of the GYC to support mutual efforts.

Wes utilizes some of the knowledge and experience he attained as a member of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council. While on the Council, Wes served on the Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game Committee. This committee worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop fisheries and wildlife management plans for the reservation. It is an important exercise of not only Tribal sovereignty, but also an important component of the nation-to-nation relationship that exists between Tribes and the United States as established by treaty.

## FRANCESCA MARUCCO

*University of Turin, LifeWolfAlps EU*



Francesca Marucco, Associate Professor in Zoology at the University of Torino in the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, has a long experience with large carnivores: she has been studying them for 30 years, between the Alps and North America. After graduating from Turin, she received her Master's and Doctorate (PhD) degrees at the University of Montana, US, dedicated to the study of wolf ecology in the Alps and their coexistence with human activities. She has published numerous scientific articles internationally, books and is editor and reviewer for scientific journals. She is the Scientific Coordinator for UNITO of the LIFE WolfAlps EU Project, LIFE Wild Wolf and CoCo Horizon project on Developing Coexistence. Contact person on the subject for the Ministry of the Environment in Italy, and the Ministry of Ecological Transition in France, she is a member of several international scientific groups, including SCALP, WAG, and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), a Specialist Group of the IUCN.

## ARTHUR MIDDLETON

*University of California, Berkeley*



Arthur Middleton is a professor of wildlife management at UC Berkeley, where he studies how environmental changes affect wildlife behavior and populations. His recent work focuses on conserving wildlife habitat and reducing human-wildlife conflict. Middleton has shared his work with the public through outlets like *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*, and advised government agencies on conservation initiatives. He is the co-director of UC Berkeley's James and Cathleen Stone Center for Environmental Stewardship. He received a master's degree in environmental management from Yale University and a PhD in ecology from the University of Wyoming.



## MARIANA MONTOYA

*Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society—Peru*



Mariana Montoya is a Peruvian biologist with over 25 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and environmental policy in Latin America. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography and the Environment from the University of Texas at Austin, where her research focused on the sustainability of Indigenous social-ecological systems in the Peruvian Amazon. She also earned an M.Sc. in Ecosystem Management from the Autonomous University of Baja California, and a B.Sc. in Biology from the National Agrarian University of La Molina. Since 2013, Montoya serves as Country Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Peru, where she leads a team of professionals working at the intersection of science, policy, and community empowerment for conservation in Peru. Previously, she held key roles at WWF-Peru and the National Institute of Natural Resources-INRENA, contributing to national conservation policies and the management of protected areas. Montoya has

authored or co-authored over 25 scientific publications addressing Amazonian freshwater ecosystems, Indigenous territories, hydropower impacts, and environmental governance.

## OSCAR MTHIMKHULU

*Executive Manager, Kruger National Park*



Oscar Mthimkhulu is the Managing Executive of the Kruger National Park, South Africa's flagship protected area and one of the most renowned conservation landscapes globally. With over 25 years of experience in protected area management, biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism, he has established himself as a leading figure in linking conservation practices with sustainable community development. Oscar holds a master's degree in environmental management and development, complemented by qualifications in nature conservation, human resource management, project management, and postgraduate studies in leadership and governance. His academic and professional trajectory reflects a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches in conservation, integrating ecological stewardship with socio-economic development imperatives. Prior to his appointment at Kruger National Park, he held senior management roles with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, where he oversaw iconic reserves such as

Giant's Castle and Royal Natal. These positions enabled him to refine expertise in adaptive management, community engagement, and tourism development within World Heritage and protected areas.

At Kruger National Park, Oscar leads one of the most complex conservation landscapes on the continent, balancing biodiversity protection, anti-poaching initiatives, tourism management, and cross-border conservation partnerships. His leadership emphasises the role of protected areas as catalysts for education, inclusivity, and economic empowerment opportunities for surrounding communities. Oscar's contributions extend beyond park management to thought leadership in conservation governance, stakeholder collaboration, and the integration of scientific research into policy and practice. His work reflects a vision of conservation as both a scientific and social enterprise, advancing biodiversity goals while fostering resilience and equity in local communities.

## BRIAN NESVIK

*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



Brian Nesvik, born in Casper and Cheyenne, Wyoming, began his military career in high school with the Army National Guard as a flight operations specialist. He later attended officer candidate school, becoming a second lieutenant in field artillery, and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1994 with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management. In 1995, he joined the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as a wildlife law enforcement technician and later became a game warden, focusing on wildlife law enforcement, data collection, and conflict management in remote areas.

Appointed 2019, he served as Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, addressing issues like species recovery and wildlife disease. Retiring in 2024, he and his wife started a ranching operation, implementing habitat projects. In 2025, President Trump nominated him as the 19th Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, confirmed and assumed the role on August 18, 2025.

## MARK NEWCOMB

*Chair, Teton County Board of County Commissioners*



Mark Newcomb grew up in Wilson, Wyoming. He earned a BA in geology from Carleton College in 1990. He studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teachers College and Nanjing University in 1988. In 1990 he traveled for a year in China, funded by a Watson Fellowship, visiting farms to learn about Chinese agricultural practices. He worked as a mountain guide for 18 years, returning to China many times to lead trips and climbs in western China. In 2010, he earned an MS in Economics from the University of Wyoming with a focus on the economics of carbon capture and shipping carbon dioxide for storage or utilization. He volunteered as a Teton County Planning Commissioner between 2004 to 2006 and again from 2010 to 2014. He was elected to the Teton County Board of Commissioners in 2014. He is on his third 4-year term. He served on the board of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation for six years from 2016 through 2022 and is now engaged with JHWF as an Advisor to the Board with an emphasis on County policies that impact wildlife.

## CAMILLA SANDSTRÖM

*Umeå University, Sweden*



Camilla Sandström is a leading scholar in climate and environmental policy, with a focus on the governance of natural resources such as forests, wildlife, water, and nature conservation. Her research explores governance models that build trust between authorities and citizens, strengthen the legitimacy of political decisions, and foster collaborative approaches to policy and management. She is a member of the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group.

## CAM SHOLLY

*Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park*



Cam Sholly became the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park in October 2018, bringing a wealth of experience as a third-generation park service manager. His leadership has focused on supporting the workforce, enhancing the ecosystem, improving visitor experiences, investing in infrastructure, and fostering partnerships. During his tenure, he navigated the park through the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2022 floods, reopening 93% of the park in 20 days and rebuilding major roads within four months. Sholly has overseen \$50 million in employee housing projects and developed a new bison management plan, transferring over 400 bison to tribes. The park has invested record funds in native fish restoration and invasive species eradication, while addressing climate challenges. Since 2020, \$250 million in infrastructure improvements have been completed, with another \$250 million planned by 2026. Sholly has engaged American Indian Tribes, launching the park's first tribal heritage center in 2022. He has held various senior roles, including Regional Director for the Midwest Region and Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection. Sholly holds degrees from Duke University and Saint Mary's College of California and is a Harvard Senior Executive Fellow. He has received numerous awards, including the 2024 "Agency Leadership Award" and the 2023 "Forest Resilience Champion Award."

## ALBERT SOMMERS

*Sommers Ranch, Sublette County, Wyoming*



Albert Sommers, a lifelong resident of Sublette County, has been involved in conservation since childhood. His grandparents were early homesteaders in the Green River Valley. Sommers graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1981. After university, he returned home to help run the family ranch. Albert and his family have received numerous conservation awards, including the 2012 Wyoming Leopold Conservation/Environmental Stewardship Award, the 2013 Landowner of the Year Award from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the 2022 National Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award. Sommers served six terms in the Wyoming House of Representatives, including as Speaker of the House in his final term. The Sommers-Grindstone Conservation Project, a collaboration between private landowners, state and federal agencies, and conservation organizations, represents one of the largest habitat conservation and public access projects in Wyoming. This partnership reflects Albert's vision, passion, and commitment to agriculture and conservation in the state.

## NARISH SUBEDI

*Member Secretary, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal*



Narish Subedi, a PhD holder in Wildlife Science specializing in rhinoceros ecology, works on a diverse range of species in Nepal, including wild elephants, tigers, snow leopards, and small mammals. He is a pioneer in implementing community-based anti-poaching systems in Nepal and leads numerous wildlife conservation projects in the country.



## DAN THOMPSON

*Carnivore Supervisor, Wyoming Game and Fish Department*



Dan currently heads up the large carnivore section of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; responsible for science based management and monitoring of large carnivores (mountain lions, wolves, black and grizzly bears) throughout Wyoming and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He received his PhD from South Dakota State University in 2009, evaluating population demographics of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming and has been studying large carnivore ecology and conservation for "more than a few decades now". His career interests include large carnivore expansion and recolonization, interactions among sympatric carnivores, predator prey dynamics in ever-evolving systems, the intricacies of human-wildlife conflict and the applicability of research toward management.

## JULIE THORSTENSON

*Executive Director, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society*



Dr. Julie Thorstenson (Lakota) is the Executive Director for the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. She grew up on a cattle ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in Northcentral SD, where a love for the land and the environment was instilled in her. Dr. Thorstenson earned a B.S., M.S. and PhD in biological sciences from South Dakota State University. Her research focused on cottonwood site selection using GIS for riparian restoration and incorporating culture into ethics education for scientists and engineers. Dr. Thorstenson has worked in Indian Country her entire career in various positions, including Wildlife Habitat Biologist and Health Department CEO for her tribe. She currently lives on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota with her husband and three children.

## DASHPUREV TSERENDELEG (PUUJEE)

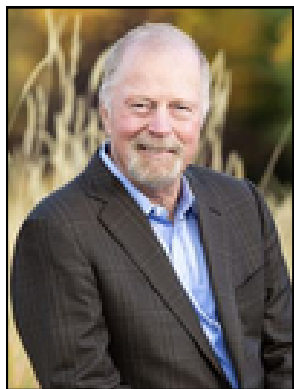
*Deputy Director, Hustai National Park*



Dashpurev Tserendeleg is a seasoned professional in the field of tourism and wildlife conservation with extensive experience and leadership in promoting sustainable tourism. With a background in English translation and journalism, Dashpurev has held various roles at Hustai National Park Trust, including Deputy Director and Director, where he spearheaded community-based tourism and income-generating activities. He currently serves as the Chairman of Tuv aimag's Tourism Association.

## ROB WALLACE

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



Rob Wallace, a native of Evanston, Wyoming, served as the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Department of the Interior until January 2021. He was responsible for policy and personnel for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, earning unanimous Senate confirmation in June 2019. Wallace's extensive experience spans both government and private sectors. In government, he was an assistant director of Legislative and Congressional Affairs for the National Park Service and a seasonal ranger in Grand Teton National Park, where he participated in rescue teams and led ski patrols. He also held roles as chief of staff to U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop, Republican staff director of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and chief of staff to Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer. In the private sector, Wallace led U.S. government relations for GE's energy division and was president of the Upper Green River Conservancy, focusing on conservation and energy development. He holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and worked as a professional rafting guide. Wallace has served on several boards, including those of the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Park Foundations.

## ANNECOOS WIERSEMA

*Sturm College of Law, Denver University*



Prof. Wiersema is the Associate Dean of Graduate and International Legal Programs at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she is also the Catherine Boggs Endowed Faculty Research Scholar and a Professor of Law. She holds an SJD from Harvard Law School and an LL.B. from The London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research centers on international environmental law, focusing on wildlife law, species conservation, and natural resources, and she explores the structure of the international environmental legal system. Prof. Wiersema was a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School in 2024 and 2025, teaching International Environmental Law. She advises the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy and serves on the Accountability Panel for the Wildlife Justice Commission. Her teaching includes International Environmental Law, Property Law, and other international law courses.

## TODD WILKINSON

*Journalist and Author of *The Story and Impact of Bear 399**



Todd Wilkinson has been a professional journalist since 1985. A native of Minnesota's North Woods, he began his career as a violent crime reporter with the legendary City News Bureau of Chicago. Wilkinson's work has appeared in a wide variety of national publications, ranging from National Geographic and Christian Science Monitor to The Washington Post and many others in-between. He is the author of several critically-acclaimed books on topics ranging from Ted Turner and scientific whistleblowers to the harrowing life of famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear mother 399 featuring photographs by Thomas Mangelsen. Proudly, he adds, "I was also a grunt cook working minimum wage for the park concessionaire at Canyon Village in Yellowstone during two summers of college." For more on Todd's background, go to [toddwilkinsonwriter.com](http://toddwilkinsonwriter.com)

## THOMAS WINSTON

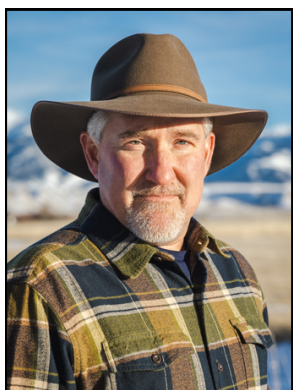
*Producer of The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone*



Thomas Winston is an EMMY award-winning filmmaker and the Founder/CEO of Grizzly Creek Films, an independent production company headquartered in Montana. Tom and his team have created original series and documentary films for The Smithsonian Channel, National Geographic, The History Channel, Amazon and PBS. His films have been screened and honored at the world's premier festivals, including Tribeca, BFI London, Mill Valley, Jackson Wild, Wildscreen and the International Rome Film Festival.

## BRIAN YABLONSKI

*Chief Executive Officer, PERC*



Brian Yablonski is the CEO of the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) in Bozeman, Montana. PERC addresses issues like national parks management, endangered species recovery, and Great Salt Lake conservation. Under Brian's leadership, PERC has developed innovative tools such as elk occupancy agreements and conservation leasing. He frequently contributes to media outlets like The Wall Street Journal and NPR. Previously, Brian chaired the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 14 years, earning awards for his work on coastal bird conservation and property tax relief for land conservation. He is on the board of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and a member of the Boone and Crockett Club. Early in his career, he was policy director for Florida Governor Jeb Bush, contributing to Everglades restoration. Brian also worked in the White House under President George H.W. Bush as a personal staff assistant and Horseshoe Commissioner.