



Re-envisioning UW's Grand Teton Campus: The UW-NPS Research Center at AMK Ranch

A proposal for investing in an updated vision for the University of Wyoming's Grand Teton Campus at the AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park.

The Vision:

Over the next 5-10 years, make the UW Grand Teton Campus into a world-class home for world-class scholarship and experiences in Wyoming's world-class setting.

The UW Grand Teton Campus will promote understanding of Wyoming's wonders and their connections to the world by

Inspiring discoveries: Advance the frontiers of knowledge by creating unique opportunities for scholars in Wyoming's iconic landscapes

Elevating experiences: Enhance and expand opportunities for place-based learning for UW students, community scholars and experts, and the public

Connecting communities: Share research and learning opportunities that cross boundaries and foster cooperation, understanding, and discourse.

The Mission:

To achieve our vision, UW students and faculty partner with the National Park Service and others to increase opportunities for research, scholarship, creative and cultural activities, and courses connected to Wyoming's iconic landscapes and ecosystems, its Native American culture and heritage, and its traditions from ranching to recreation.

Specific Goals:

- **Develop a world-class center of scholarship and education** by focusing on the exceptional prospects presented by Wyoming's landscapes, including the
 - Transformative uniqueness of the Teton landscape around the AMK Ranch and
 - Trans-boundary connections linking the Campus to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the rest of Wyoming and the American West, and the World's Grand Challenges.
- **Enhance UW's role in promoting informed stewardship of Wyoming's landscapes** by nurturing scholarship that can serve as a definitive source of information about the Teton ecosystem, its cultural heritage, and the regions and processes connected to it.

Institutional Benefits:

- **Raise the profile of UW** by communicating successes, discoveries, and connections;
- **Improve UW student and faculty recruitment and retention** by providing experiences and opportunities in the Tetons.

Key metrics related to achieving our goals:

- **Increased UW use and scholarly impact** associated with investing in facilities, people, and programs:
 - 10-15 new communities of UW faculty and students working at the Campus;
 - Regular development of new scholarly products (e.g., scholarly publications; creative output) worthy of national-level press coverage;
 - New large federally funded research programs centered at the Campus.
- **Expanded place-based learning** associated with promoting opportunities for courses and workshops:
 - Doubling the number of courses offered through the Campus;
 - Development of new internship and research opportunities for undergraduates;
 - Long-term push to give every UW student an experience at the Campus.
- **Increased range, volume, and mutual benefit of UW community partnerships** derived from facilitating work and dialog to build connections and cross boundaries.
 - Annual symposia presenting UW work to relevant local communities;
 - New partnerships with the WRIR and organizations in the Teton area;
 - New success at private fundraising through the UW Foundation.

Actions needed to overcome current limitations: The Grand Teton Campus currently is not positioned to achieve its potential success. The physical facilities, centered on historic buildings, need critical updates. The organization of Campus, particularly with regard to scheduling and staffing, needs to be updated and an explicit effort is needed to launch new transformative programs.

1. **Physical Facilities – UW Trustee investment in enhancing facilities to succeed as a 21st century campus:** Invest in an update of the UW Grand Teton Campus in the next 2-3 years to support the next 30 years or more of world-class activity.
 - a. Water supply update underway 2019-2020
 - b. Complete maintenance backlog
 - c. Potential to update existing buildings per architectural report
 - d. Potential to add new dorm per NPS EA report
2. **Organizational – Director, UW ORED, and the Task Force work to develop an updated model of organization, budget, and logistics:** Re-envision how the UW Grand Teton Campus is run, organized, and supported to meet the new vision.
 - a. Update scheduling priorities to facilitate UW participation
 - b. Create an Advisory Board for the director
 - c. Expand staffing to facilitate programs by hiring an associate director, facilities manager, research, educational, and outreach coordinators.

- 3. Programmatic – Task Force work with the UW ORED and Trustees to promote the growth of UW scholarship, creative, and educational activities:** Initiate a process that provides incentives for UW faculty to develop research and creative programs and student experiences at the GTC.
- a. **Crossing Divides Initiative:** Initiate a strategic planning process for scholarship, creative, and educational activities.
 - b. **Teton Trans-boundary Incubator Program:** Invest funds to launch new programs of scholarship based at the GTC as a means to create incentives for faculty commitments and leverage the location to attract external support (initially part of Crossing Divides).
 - c. **Teton Scholars Program:** Invest in fellowships for undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, and faculty (initially part of Crossing Divides).
 - d. **Align future faculty hires** with opportunities to develop programs through the GTC, possibility through connections to other UW programs such as the Grand Challenges and Biodiversity Initiatives.
 - e. **Pursue federal funding** for undergraduate research and large center-based scholarship programs (e.g., NSF EPSCoR, NSF STC).
 - f. **Pursue private and corporate fundraising** to fund fellowships.