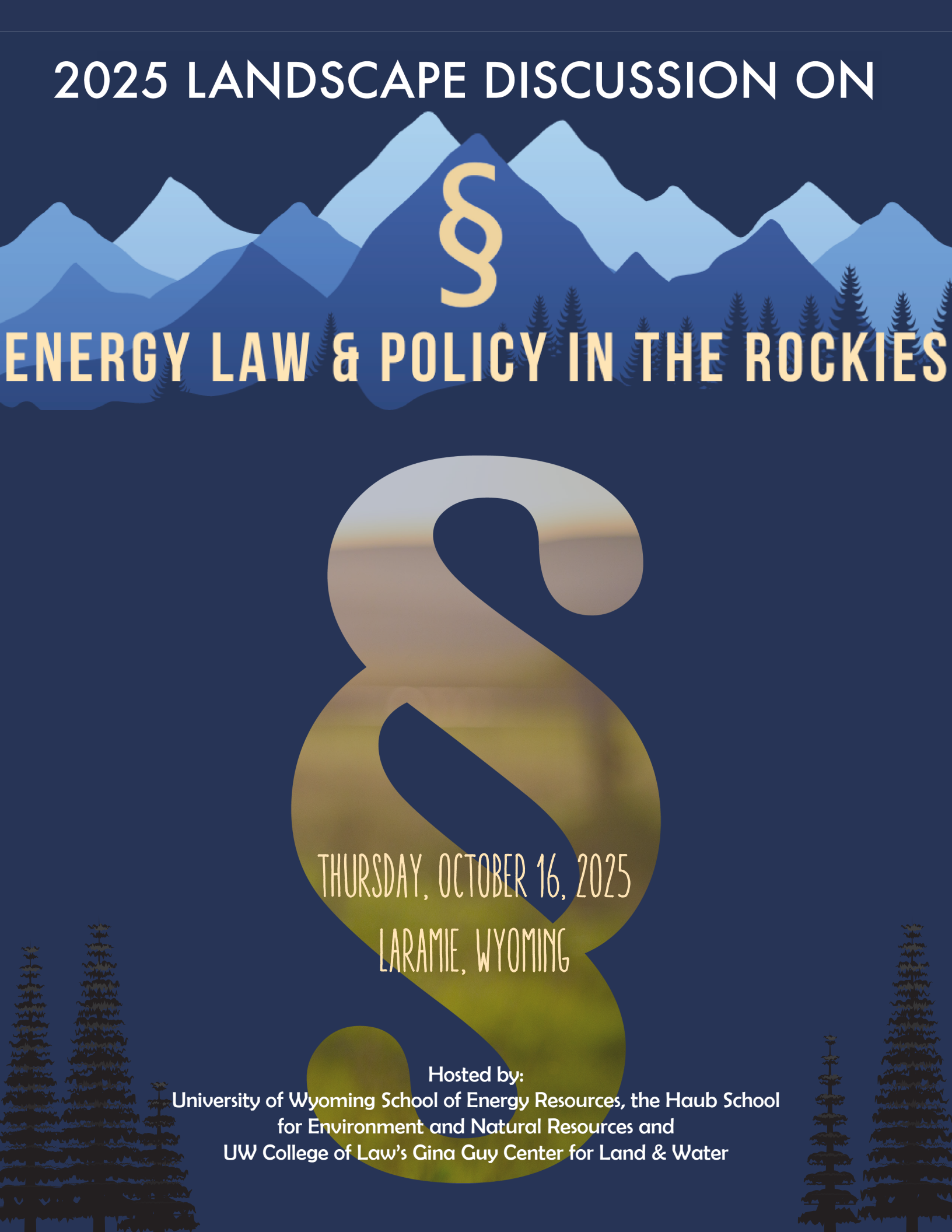




2025 LANDSCAPE DISCUSSION ON § ENERGY LAW & POLICY IN THE ROCKIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

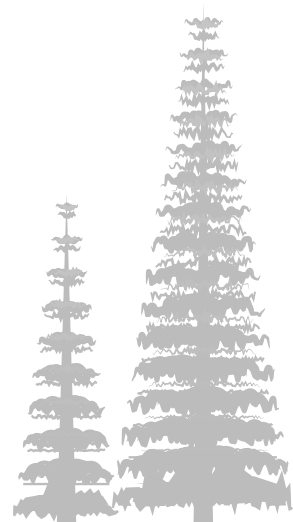
LARAMIE, WYOMING

Hosted by:

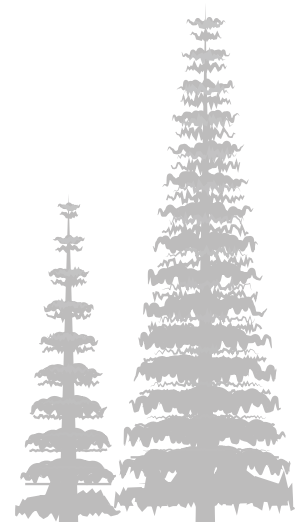
University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, the Haub School
for Environment and Natural Resources and
UW College of Law's Gina Guy Center for Land & Water

Schedule of Events

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast and Registration Open, sponsored by [BakerHostetler](#)
- 9:00-9:20 Welcome
Temple Stoellinger, Associate Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Co-Director, Gina Guy Center for Land and Water
Holly Krutka, Executive Director, School of Energy Resources
- 9:20-9:45 Trenton Thornock, CEO, Prometheus Hyperscale
- 9:45-10:15 Oil and Gas Law and Policy Update, Alex Obrecht, Partner, BakerHostetler
- 10:15-10:30 Mining Law and Policy Update, Travis Deti, President, Wyoming Mining Association
- 10:30-10:45 Networking Break sponsored by [Holland & Hart LLP](#)
- 10:45-12:00 Spent Nuclear Fuel Management: From Interim Storage to Permanent Solutions
Moderator: Tara Righetti, Occidental Chair of Energy and Environmental Policies, School of Energy Resources Professor of Law
Scarlett Forrest, Assistant Research Scientist, School of Energy Resources, Jurisprudence of Underground Energy Law Research Group
'The Supreme Court's Decision in Texas v. NRC'
R. Budd Haemer, Senior Nuclear Council, American Electric Power
'Opportunities for Reprocessing Spent Nuclear Fuel'
Stewart Forbes, Counsel, Hogans Lovell
'Nuclear Waste Management and Advanced Reactors'
Marla Morales, Director, Office of Consent-Based Siting, Department of Energy
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch, sponsored by [Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley PC](#)
- 12:30-12:40 Salt Creek Energy Scholarship Presentation by Joe Evers, President, Wyoming Rare (USA) Inc.
- 12:40-1:00 Gina Guy Keynote on Government Service, Dave Freudenthal, former Governor of Wyoming



- 1:00-1:15** **Networking Break and Lunch Reset sponsored by [Wyoming Rare \(USA\) Inc.](#)**
- 1:15-2:30** **Emerging Energy Opportunities in the Intermountain West**
Moderator, Matt Fry, Director, Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis, School of Energy Resources
Joe Evers, President, Wyoming Rare (USA) Inc.
'Unlocking Wyoming's Rare Earth Potential: Emerging Opportunities for Critical Mineral Development'
Cindy Delancey, Of Counsel & Government Affairs Director, Holland and Hart
'Entering Wyoming's Energy Market: Key Insights for New Developers'
Kelly Bott, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Purewest Energy
'Low Emission Natural Gas'
Chris Petrie, Deputy Chair of the Wyoming Public Service Commission
'Transmission Development in Wyoming'
- 2:30-2:45** **Networking Break sponsored by [Beatty & Wozniak, P.C.](#)**
- 2:45-4:00** **National Environmental Policy Act: Regulatory and Statutory Changes**
Moderator: Madeleine Lewis, Associate Research Scientist, School of Energy Resources, Jurisprudence of Underground Energy Law Research Group
Dessa Reimer, Of Counsel, Holland and Hart, LLP
'Rewriting NEPA: Legal and Policy Dimensions of Reform Efforts'
Nada Culver, Partner, Nashoba Consulting LLC
'Agency Action and Implementation of Federal Permitting Reform'
Pilar Thomas, Partner, Quarles & Brady LLP
'Federal Permitting Reform in Indian Country'
Ana Gutierrez, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson
'How the Courts are Addressing and Shaping the Future of Federal Permitting'
- 4:00** **Closing Remarks/Conclusion**



Keynote Speakers



Trenton Thornock, CEO, Prometheus Hyperscale

Trenton Thornock is the Founder and CEO of Prometheus Hyperscale, a leading developer of sustainable hyperscale data centers. He is a visionary leader with a proven track record in the energy sector. He has extensive experience in finance, technology, and sustainable infrastructure. Previously, Thornock served as Chief Financial Officer for The Miller Group, a Trinity Hunt Partners portfolio company. Thornock also held the role of Group Chief Financial Officer for WellDog, a high-growth energy technology company backed by Shell Ventures and was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Scientific Drilling International, Inc., the world's largest private horizontal and directional drilling company.



Alex Obrecht, Partner, BakerHostetler

Alex Obrecht is a partner in the Denver office of BakerHostetler. He co-leads the firm's national Energy Industry team and concentrates his practice on energy regulation and litigation, focusing on oil and gas development on federal lands, hazardous materials transportation and compliance and oil and gas royalties. Having grown up and attended law school in Wyoming, one of the leading energy-producing states in the country, Alex adds a practical understanding to the complex legal environment in which these clients operate. Prior to law school, Alex worked with Credit Suisse, a Switzerland-based investment bank. During his tenure, he was involved in securities trading that occurred after the Macondo well blowout, which gave Alex insight into the corporate and financial aspects of issues affecting energy clients.



Travis Deti, President of the Wyoming Mining Association

Travis Deti joined the Wyoming Mining Association in 2011 and has been the executive director since 2016. Deti serves as a unified voice for the Wyoming mining industry, advocating its interests with elected officials, state and federal regulators, and the public. He represents western coal with America's Coal Associations and serves on the University of Wyoming Nuclear Energy Research Center advisory board. Previously, Deti worked as legislative assistant and field representative to US Senators Craig Thomas and John Barrasso in both Washington, DC and Cheyenne. Deti is a former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Appointed to the Wyoming Veterans Commission by Governor Matt Mead, he served 10 years ending his term as chairman in 2021. He is a 2016 graduate of the Leadership Wyoming program. A Wyoming native, Deti holds a degree in political science from the University of Wyoming.

Gina Guy Keynote on Government Service



Dave Freudenthal, former Governor of Wyoming

Wyoming native Dave Freudenthal graduated from Amherst College in 1973 and then returned to Wyoming to take a position as an economist for the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development. Governor Ed Herschler appointed him state planning coordinator in 1975. After graduating from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1980, Freudenthal opened his own one-man law office in Cheyenne, which grew into a general practice firm representing individuals and businesses. In 1994, he was appointed U.S. attorney for Wyoming, a position that he held until May 2001. He has chaired the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, was a founding director of the Wyoming Student Loan Corporation, and has been a member of the Education Policy Implementation Council, the board of the Wyoming Community Foundation, the state Economic Development and Stabilization Board, and the Laramie County Community Action Board. He was elected governor of Wyoming in November, 2002.

Welcome Remarks

Temple Stoellinger, Associate Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and Wyoming Excellence Chair, Co-Director, Gina Guy Center for Land and Water

A Wyoming Excellence Chair, Stoellinger holds a dual appointment in the Haub School and the UW College of Law, where she co-directs the Gina Guy Center for Land and Water Law. She also serves as an adjunct professor for SER and leads the Haub School's JD/MA program in Environment and Natural Resources. She teaches courses in wildlife law, public land law, environmental law and the National Environmental Policy Act. Stoellinger's research focuses on a broad spectrum of environmental and natural resource law and policy issues, including wildlife conservation, endangered species protection, energy development, and public and private land management and conservation.



Holly Krutka, Executive Director, UW School of Energy Resources

Dr. Holly Krutka is the Executive Director of the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. She came to the university after serving as the Vice President for Coal Generation and Emissions Technologies at Peabody, the world's largest private-sector coal producer. Dr. Krutka has spent much of her career focusing on technology and policy pathways to advance carbon capture as well as identifying nontraditional coal-consumption opportunities. Before joining Peabody, she worked as a senior research and development analyst for Tri-State Generation and Transmission, an electric generation and transmission cooperative based in Westminster, Colo.; as executive editor of *Cornerstone*, The Official Journal of the World Coal Industry, employed by the Chinese state-owned energy company Shenhua Group; and as a research scientist and senior research engineer with ADA Environmental Solutions in Highlands Ranch, Colo., where she was tasked with launching a carbon capture research program.



Moderators and Panelists



Tara Righetti, UW School of Energy Resources Professor of Law and Occidental Chair of Energy and Environmental Policies

Professor Righetti is the Occidental Chair of Energy and Environmental Policies and co-director of the Nuclear Energy Research Center at the University of Wyoming. She is a tenured, full professor in the faculties of the College of Law, the School of Energy Resources, and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. Professor Righetti's research focuses on property, administrative law, and justice issues associated with energy development and decarbonization. In 2021-2022 she served as a Fulbright Research Scholar at the Université de Lille, in Lille. She is licensed to practice law in Texas and California and is a certified professional landman. She was recently appointed to serve on the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) task force for Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration (CCUS) Federal Lands and Outer Continental Shelf Permitting Task Force.



Scarlett Forrest, Assistant Research Scientist, School of Energy Resources, Jurisprudence of Underground Energy Law Research Group

Scarlett Forrest, J.D. is an Assistant Research Scientist in the Jurisprudence of Underground Law and Energy research group at SER. Forrest attended Virginia Tech for her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science before starting a career as an Environmental Engineer and Consultant. Working mainly on remediation projects, Forrest gained valuable experience in the field on contamination clean-up efforts, and garnered a considerable background in groundwater modeling and plume modeling. With an increasing interest of the intersection between energy and environmental impacts, Forrest was prompted to attend law school and attended the University of Wyoming College of Law for her Juris Doctor. While in law school, she served on the editorial board of the Wyoming Law Review, externed for the Honorable Kelly Rankin, United States District Court Judge for the District of Wyoming, and was a recipient of the prestigious Salt Creek Energy Excellence scholarship.



R. Budd Haemer, Senior Nuclear Council, American Electric Power

R. Budd Haemer is currently Senior Nuclear Counsel for American Electric Power at its DC Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan. Prior to that, Mr. Haemer was a lawyer with the nuclear energy practice of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLC. His practice covers a wide range of legal topics necessary for successful support of commercial nuclear power operation, including State and NRC regulatory matters, commercial transactions, employee relations, and government affairs. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mr. Haemer served in the U.S. Navy as an engineering duty officer with the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. There, his work covered control of nuclear testing, quality assurance, radiological protection, and defueling of submarine reactors. Mr. Haemer is also an adjunct instructor at Lake Michigan College on energy and business law topics.



Stewart Forbes, Counsel, Hogans Lovells

Stewart Forbes is Counsel in the energy regulatory practice group. He joined Hogan Lovells after spending over ten years at the Department of Energy (DOE). Stewart's tenure at DOE involved work with many DOE program offices, laboratories and sites, and he worked with many of the U.S.-based advanced nuclear developers and was at the forefront of developing novel government programs to support them. Stewart helped create the Civil Nuclear Credits Program, the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, and the Department of Defense's Project PELE. He also pioneered efforts to make DOE federal lands available to private sector developers including data center developers and nuclear utilities. At Hogan Lovells, Stewart focuses his practice on Department of Energy activities, lab agreements, and funding opportunities. He graduated magna cum laude from the University at Buffalo School of Law, where he specialized in corporate transactions.



Marla Morales, Director, Office of Consent-Based Siting, Department of Energy

Marla Morales is the Director for the Office of Siting and Disposal with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Previously, Marla worked for the NRC as a Project Manager working on the environmental analyses for consolidated interim storage facilities, fuel fabrication facilities, independent spent fuel storage installations, uranium recovery activities, and decommissioning facilities. Additionally, Marla led public outreach, government-to-government engagement, and Tribal consultation. Prior to joining the NRC, Marla was a Lead Scientist at SwRI where she began her career working on the Yucca Mountain site assessment. Ms. Morales is a licensed professional geoscientist in the States of Virginia and Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Matt Fry, Director, Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis, School of Energy Resources

Matt Fry is the Director of the Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis at the School of Energy Resources where he leads a team of research professionals with backgrounds in economics, business and government to serve as a resource for decision-makers at the local, state, regional and national levels. He also works to support SER's other research centers to help bridge the gap between technical and policy issues. Fry has served Wyoming with more than two decades of experience in natural resource management, regulation and policy in both the public and private sectors. Fry began his career in fish and wildlife biology working for state wildlife agencies in Virginia, Arizona and Wyoming. While with the Wyoming office, he began to branch into the policy sphere, working alongside former Gov. Dave Froedenthal's staff on siting and mitigation issues for pipelines and electric transmission projects. He then served as a senior policy adviser to former Gov. Matt Mead, and he developed and managed the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative. Most recently, Fry served as the policy and technical director at the Great Plains Institute, where he supported the carbon management program and was named to multiple prestigious committees and advisory councils.



Joe Evers, President, Wyoming Rare (USA) Inc.

Prior to joining Wyoming Rare (USA), Inc., Joe served in various leadership roles in the energy and mining industry. Most recently, Joe served as General Counsel of American Rare Earths Ltd. Prior to that, Joe was corporate counsel at an international mining company and held positions of increasing responsibility in the land and policy departments at a publicly traded oil and gas company. Originally hailing from Sheridan, Wyoming, Evers received a bachelor's degree and JD/MA in Environment & Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming. He maintains strong ties to his alma mater where he serves as the Chair of the Advisory Board at the Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources, President-Elect of the Alumni Association, and is a member of the Advisory Board at the College of Law. Joe was instrumental in securing a US\$7.1 million grant from the State of Wyoming with support from partners Wyoming Energy Authority and the University of Wyoming Energy Resources Council.



Cindy Delancey, Of Counsel & Government Affairs Director, Holland and Hart

Cindy's experience includes advocating for Wyoming businesses and local governments, translating business needs into legislative policy to advance client objectives. She has been appointed by Governor Gordon, Governor Mead, Senate President Drew Perkins, and Superintendent Megan Degenfelder to serve in roles that have helped shape the future of Wyoming from government reform and efficiency task forces to the state's inaugural Charter School Authorizing Board. She served as the Director of Government and Public Affairs for BP's US Lower 48 onshore exploration and production business, including BP's Wamsutter facility, which at the time was the largest oil and gas field in their global portfolio. Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Cindy served as the President/CEO of the Wyoming Business Alliance and Wyoming Heritage Foundation and formerly served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, in the criminal division of the Wyoming Attorney General's office. Cindy was the first woman elected as the Carbon County and Prosecuting Attorney.



Kelly Bott, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Purewest Energy

Kelly was appointed SVP of ESG, Land, and Regulatory of PureWest in May 2021. She joined Ultra in 2014 as the Regulatory and Environmental Manager and succeeded multiple positions with increasing responsibility until serving as the Director of ESG and Regulatory with a focus on growing the culture of safety, compliance, and environmental diligence. Prior to that, Kelly founded 307 Consulting LLC, where she was selected to coordinate shared environmental and regulatory policy positions and compliance activities for Ultra, Shell and QEP in the Pinedale Anticline field. She earned a BS degree in engineering from the University of Wyoming and started her career with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in the Air Quality Division with a focus on federal NEPA Engagement, policy development, and planning.





Chris Petrie, Deputy Chair of the Wyoming Public Service Commission

Chris Petrie earned a bachelor's and law degree from the University of Wyoming. Petrie's career experience includes working as the secretary, the chief legal counsel, and a staff attorney with the Wyoming Public Service Commission; senior counsel with the Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate; and in the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Wyoming Attorney General.



Madeleine Lewis, Associate Research Scientist, UW School of Energy Resources Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis

Madeleine (Maddie) Lewis is an associate research scientist in the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources' Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis. In her role, she conducts legal policy research and public outreach on a number of federally funded research grants to support energy development in Wyoming. She also provides analytical support on energy-related social science topics as they related to ongoing research projects. She earned her M.A. in Environment and Natural Resources from the UW Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources concurrently while earning her law degree from the UW College of Law. Following graduation, Lewis clerked for the Honorable Nancy Freudenthal in the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming before joining the regionally based law firm, Crowley Fleck PLLP. While in private practice, Lewis primarily focused on oil and gas litigation, title work, as well as commercial litigation, estate administration and estate planning.



Hadassah (Dessa) Reimer, Of Counsel, Holland and Hart, LLP

Dessa Reimer is an attorney in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, office of Holland & Hart LLP. Her practice focuses on federal environmental regulation and litigation before the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the federal courts, including environmental impact assessment, endangered species, and public land permitting requirements. Dessa also has an active Indian law practice. Dessa represents a variety of clients including conventional and renewable energy developers, mining companies, and water resource providers, as well as Indian tribes.



Nada Culver, Partner, Nashoba Consulting LLC

Nada Wolff Culver is currently a partner with Nashoba Consulting, LLC. Nada was most recently the Principal Deputy Director with the Bureau of Land Management. In this role, Nada oversaw the development and application of policy and regulations, to ensure conservation is managed on par with other multiple uses; support the transition to clean energy and manage oil and gas responsibly; protect natural and cultural resources in national monuments, wilderness study areas and management plans; and make Tribal co-stewardship a part of all public lands management. Prior to her time at the BLM, Nada was the Vice President, Public Lands and Senior Policy Counsel at the National Audubon Society. Nada was also the Senior Counsel and Senior Director of Agency Policy and Planning at The Wilderness Society. Before joining the non-profit community, she practiced law in the private sector for more than 10 years, working on a variety of environmental issues including energy development and environmental remediation, and was a partner with the law firm of Patton Boggs.



Pilar Thomas, Partner, Quarles & Brady LLP

Pilar Thomas advises Native American tribes on tribal renewable energy project development and finance, tribal economic development, federal Indian law and natural resource development. Pilar's in depth federal Indian law experience extends to her governmental work as deputy director for the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs at the U.S. Department of Energy. She was responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs to achieve the office's objectives related to the promotion of energy development, electrification and infrastructure improvement on tribal lands. Pilar also was the deputy solicitor of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior interim attorney general, chief of staff to Chairwoman Herminia Frias of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Indian Resources Section.



Ana Gutierrez, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson

Ana Maria Gutiérrez has local, Rocky Mountain regional, national, and international experience and offers strategic counsel on policy and legal matters. She is recognized for her knowledge of environmental and permitting issues affecting many industries, including power transmission, oil and natural gas (exploration, production, refining, transport, and onshore and offshore storage), mining, natural resources, manufacturing, refinery, food and beverage, pharmaceutical, and waste management, among others. Ana uses her wealth of knowledge to provide sophisticated advice to clients to mitigate risk and obtain successful outcomes. She serves as Head of the Environmental Practice. Ana counsels companies in implementing compliance programs, climate initiatives, and transactional due diligence across a range of environmental issues relating to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, public lands, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulations, and other federal environmental statutes and regulations.



est.
2015

ENERGY EXCELLENCE
Scholarship



2025-2026 Salt Creek Scholar

Bleu Bennett

Additional Salt Creek Scholarship recipients: Jordan Carlson, Kylie Matthews-Worthen, Molly Bretthauer, Chance Harper, Carson Lougee, Tyler Schlagel, Caleb Smith, Zachary Thomas

Bleu grew up on a ranch outside of Kaycee, Wyoming. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wyoming. He is currently in his third and final year of law school at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

He has worked as a graduate research assistant for the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources in the Jurisprudence of Underground Energy and Law (JOULE) research group, and interned for Hirst Applegate, LLP. Bleu is interested in civil litigation - particularly defense and energy work - as well as estate planning.

About the Salt Creek Energy Excellence Scholarship

Established in 2015 by University of Wyoming alums and benefactors practicing in the areas of oil and gas and energy law, the Salt Creek Energy Excellence Scholarship is awarded to students demonstrating academic achievement and a commitment to the study and practice of energy law.

Salt Creek Scholars are recognized at the Landscape Discussion on Energy Law and Policy and promoted to potential employers throughout the Salt Creek Scholars donor network. The intent is to connect these students to a network of friends and donors as a way to enhance employment and mentorship opportunities within the field.

The Salt Creek Scholar is selected by the Salt Creek Energy Excellence Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of the director(s) of the Gina Guy Center for Land & Water, the College of Law professor who teaches oil & gas law, and no less than three of the donors to the fund selected at random by the director(s) of the Gina Guy Center and approved by the dean of the College of Law.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

School of
Energy Resources



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Haub School of
Environment and
Natural Resources

BakerHostetler

WELBORN

SULLIVAN MECK & TOOLEY, P.C.



 **Holland & Hart**



BEATTY & WOZNIAK
ENERGY IN THE LAW



We would like to extend a special thank you to Temple Stoellinger for her leadership in planning this conference as well as members of this year's steering committee: Rob Mathes, Rebecca Watson, Joe Evers, Dessa Reimer, Alex Obrecht, Matt Fry and Affie Ellis. We sincerely appreciate your efforts in making this conference a success.

Thank you