



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

————— Laramie, Wyoming —————

April 14-15, 2026

*Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center
Laramie, Wyoming*



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

School of
Energy Resources



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of Agriculture,
Life Sciences and
Natural Resources



AGENDA

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, Laramie, WY

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Joint Reception with UW Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Nuclear Energy: An Emerging Issue Forum

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, Laramie, WY

7:30 AM - 8:15 AM

Breakfast Available, Networking and Registration

8:15 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcoming Remarks presented by:

Scott Quillinan, Acting Executive Director of the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming

Kelly Crane, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, & Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Panel 1: Ethics moderated by:

Jacob Haseman, Esq., Shareholder, Beatty & Wozniak

Featuring:

Mark Eisle, Owner, King Ranch

Callie Burch, Surface Landman, Continental Resources

Doug Stark, Interim Director of UW Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program

9:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Networking Break

10:10 AM - 11:00 AM

Technology Use and the Energy Sector presented by:

Kyle Summerfield, Program Manager, 3D Visualization Center at the School of Energy Resources

James Amato, Associate Research Professional and Division Manager, 3D Visualization Center at the School of Energy Resources

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Negotiation & Interactive Activity presented by:

Steve Smutko, Professor Emeritus, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming



12:00 - 1:15 PM

Lunch and Networking Break

1:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Introduction of Keynote Speaker by:

Randall Luthi, Policy Director for The Office of the Governor

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Keynote Speaker

Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Panel 2: Reclamation and Restoration Panel: Cleanup of Superfund Sites and Mining Areas moderated by:

Brian Mealor, Interim Associate Dean and Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

Featuring:

Greyson Buckingham, Co-Founder, President, and CEO, DISA Technologies

Josh Oakleaf, Project Manager, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Timothy Hoelzle, Deputy Director, Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

Joshua Sorenson, Reclamation Program Manager, Jonah Field

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Networking Break

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Land Use Rights with:

Pete Arambel, Owner and Operator of the Midland Ranch in southwestern Wyoming

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks with:

David Meraz Ordonez, Student Chapter of Energy Resources President and UW AAPL Outstanding Graduate



About the Ranching in the West Seminar Series

The Ranching in the West Seminar Series welcomes University of Wyoming students, Wyoming community college students, and members of the public. Designed to connect academic insight with real-world application, the series brings together students, ranchers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas, build networks, and explore the future of Western agriculture.

Students gain exposure to emerging issues and career opportunities, while producers benefit from continued education and fresh perspectives.

Past topics include energy and innovation, agritourism, high-elevation stewardship, water policy, BLM partnerships, and succession planning—exploring the evolving challenges and opportunities of ranching in the West.



Support the Student Chapter of Energy Resources (SCER)

The goal of this student-run organization is to develop students' understanding of the Landman and environmental energy professions, develop relationships with the University of Wyoming students, and the energy industry as well as foster a sense of community from both a professional and student perspective.

Scan the Raffle QR code to buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win cool prizes! **Do not need to be present to win, but must report ticket purchase to SCER table.*

Want to wear UW or SCER Merchandise? Scan the Online Store code to buy items!



Raffle

All proceeds go to support SCER and club-sponsored opportunities for SER students!



Online Store



SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE



Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming

Governor Mark Gordon is the 33rd Governor of Wyoming, currently serving his second term with a focus on fiscal responsibility and economic diversification. Raised on a family ranch in Kaycee, Gordon brought decades of experience as a small business owner and rancher into public service, previously serving as State Treasurer where he modernized the state's financial portfolio. His administration is defined by an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that champions Wyoming's traditional mineral industries while aggressively advancing innovation in carbon capture and hydrogen. To ensure a resilient future, he launched the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), a collaborative initiative that aligns the state's higher education institutions with industry needs to bolster workforce development in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and digital technology.



Scott Quillinan, Acting Executive Director, UW School of Energy Resources

As Acting Executive Director of the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources, Scott Quillinan leverages over two decades of technical expertise to advance the state's energy economy. A Wyoming native and licensed professional geologist with two degrees from the University of Wyoming, Quillinan has managed more than \$250 million in externally funded research throughout his career. He previously served as Senior Director of Research, where he focused on translating complex geology and applied research into tangible economic and policy applications. Today, he leads major initiatives across a broad spectrum of the energy evolution, including carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, rare earth elements, and nuclear energy, ensuring Wyoming remains at the forefront of global energy innovation.



Kelly Crane, Dean, University of Wyoming College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources

Dr. Kelly Crane serves as the Dean of the University of Wyoming's College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources (CALSNR), where he leads the college's mission of high-impact education, research, and outreach. A proud UW alumnus, Crane earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management before embarking on a career dedicated to the land-grant mission. With decades of leadership experience, he previously served as the Director of UW Extension and the Associate Dean of CALSNR, where he was instrumental in launching the Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership program. His work emphasizes community-based applied research and the sustainable management of Wyoming's natural resources.



W. David Prescott, Founder and President of Talon/LPE

W. David Prescott, P.G., is the Founder and President of Talon/LPE, a regional environmental consulting and engineering firm headquartered in Amarillo, Texas. A Licensed Professional Geologist in Texas and Wyoming, W. David brings nearly three decades of applied experience in remediation, drilling, and regulatory compliance across the energy and water sectors. He earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Biology, an M.B.A. in General Business, and an M.S. in Environmental Science from West Texas A&M University, where he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Agricultural Science. Appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2013 and reappointed by Governor Greg Abbott in 2019, he served as Chair of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. He is the co-author of *Creative Destruction: How ESG Mandates Are Destroying Capitalism, Costing You Money, and Wrecking America*.



SPEAKERS



Michael Ashley, Author

Michael Ashley began his writing career as a newspaper reporter and playwright before transitioning to Hollywood to work for the head of the literary department at Creative Artists Agency (CAA.) He also served as a screenwriter for Disney in which he sold the treatment for the hit Halloween movie *Girl Vs Monster*. Creator of *The AI Philosopher* podcast/Substack, Michael has written over 50 books on many subjects, including 5 books on AI. An in-demand professional speaker for Vistage and YPO, Michael serves as a columnist for *Forbes*, *Entrepreneur*, and *Becker's Hospital Review*. His prolific work has been featured in *Fox Sports*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *IEEE*, the *United Nations' ITU News*, *The Orange County Business Journal*, *The Austin Daily Herald*, *Yahoo! Finance*, *Huffpost*, and *The Boston Herald*.



Kyle Summerfield, Program Manager, UW School of Energy Resources 3D Visualization Center

Kyle Summerfield is the Program Manager in the 3D Visualization Center at the School of Energy Resources, where he oversees a multidisciplinary team of software developers, 3D modelers and GIS professionals. Having been a software developer with the Visualization Center since 2014, Kyle has over a decade of experience in software development, data capture, 3D modeling, and project management. Kyle is dedicated to leveraging emerging technology to deliver workforce training, public outreach, and educational opportunities across the state of Wyoming. To that end, he has worked with departments across the University of Wyoming, Community Colleges across the state, high school programs, and industry to create useful and compelling applications in virtual reality, augmented reality, web, desktop, and mobile platforms. Kyle holds a bachelor's degree in fine art and graphic design from the University of Wyoming and certifications in several software environments and management paradigms.



James Amato, Associate Research Professional, UW School of Energy Resources 3D Visualization Center

As an Associate Research Professional and Division Manager at the School of Energy Resources, James Amato oversees the 3D Visualization Center's GIS and remote sensing capabilities. A licensed drone pilot with a specialized background in field geology and unmanned aerial systems, Amato holds dual master's degrees—one in Geosciences and a second in GIST from the University of Wyoming. His career includes pivotal roles at the Wyoming State Geological Survey and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where he served as a geospatial technical expert and field instructor. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Geology, he focuses on utilizing hyperspectral and drone technologies to advance mapping efforts within the energy evolution, ensuring precision and innovation in Wyoming's geological research.



Steve Smutko, Professor Emeritus, UW Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

Steve Smutko, Professor Emeritus and former Spicer Chair in Collaborative Practice at the University of Wyoming's Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources, is a distinguished expert in participatory decision-making and environmental leadership. Since retiring from his role as Associate Dean in 2024, he has maintained an active presence in the field, facilitating negotiated problem-solving for government agencies, private industry, and nonprofits on complex natural resource policy issues. With a Ph.D. in Economics and decades of experience, Smutko continues to teach negotiation analysis and lead professional development programs designed to foster cross-sector collaboration. His work remains vital to the energy and environmental landscape, as he guides stakeholders through the technical and political challenges of modern resource management.



SPEAKERS



Randall Luthi, Policy Director to Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon

Randall Luthi serves as the Policy Director to Governor Mark Gordon, bringing decades of legislative and regulatory expertise to Wyoming's executive branch. A former Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives and a double alumnus of the University of Wyoming, Luthi has held high-level federal positions, including Director of the Minerals Management Service and Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His extensive background also includes nearly a decade as President of the National Ocean Industries Association in Washington, D.C. Today, he is a key architect of Wyoming's "all-of-the-above" strategy, navigating the energy evolution by balancing the state's traditional resource strengths with emerging technologies and innovative policy. In 2024, Luthi was honored as a UW Distinguished Alumni.



Peter Arambel, Owner and Operator of the Midland Ranch

Peter Arambel is a third-generation rancher of Basque descent and a lifelong steward of Wyoming's agricultural heritage. Operating a large-scale grazing business in the Rock Springs-Pinedale area, Arambel manages a historic 170-mile migration route across federal and state lands to optimize forage and land health for his sheep and cattle. His extensive leadership includes roles with the Wyoming State Farm Service Administration Board and the Sublette County Predator Animal Board, as well as serving as a director for Northside State Bank. At 68, Arambel remains dedicated to ensuring a resilient future for the energy and agricultural landscapes of the West, working alongside his family to balance sustainable production with the conservation of Wyoming's rugged ecosystems.



David Meraz Ordonez, President, UW Student Chapter of Energy Resources

David Meraz Ordonez is a senior in the Energy Resource Management and Development program with a concentration in Professional Land Management at the University of Wyoming. He is serving as the 2025-2026 Student Chapter of Energy Resources President as well as the 2025-2026 AAPL LST Student Leadership Council representative for UW. Throughout his education in the School of Energy Resources, he has actively participated in the student organization as well as in networking, professional development, and field opportunities to expand his skills and knowledge in the energy industry. He has gained valuable experience as an intern with Tallgrass Energy and, most recently, working for Pacer Energy. David will be graduating May 2026 with his Bachelor's degree as well as his Registered Landman certification. David was also recognized as the UW AAPL Outstanding Graduate for 2026.



Jacob Haseman, Esq., Shareholder, Beatty & Wozniak and Chairman Emeritus, University of Wyoming Professional Landman Industry Advisory Board

Jacob (Jake) T. Haseman is a Shareholder Attorney at Beatty & Wozniak, P.C. in Sheridan, WY. He maintains an active energy and natural resource-based legal practice and has practiced law since graduating from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 2007. Jake's legal practice has traditionally focused on oil, gas, and water; particularly regulatory and administrative work in front of various state regulatory bodies, title examination and curative, litigation surrounding oil and gas, real property, contracts, and title issues, real estate transactions, eminent domain, and various title and contractual surface issues for a variety of parties in the energy and natural resources sector. Jake is also the Board Chair Emeritus of the University of Wyoming's Professional Land Management Industry Advisory Board.



SPEAKERS



Mark Eisele, Owner and Operator, King Ranch

Mark Eisele lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his family runs Red and Black Angus cow-calf pairs, retained yearlings that sell into branded programs, and a custom haying operation on the historic King Ranch. The ranch runs cattle on both privately owned and public lands with state and federal grazing leases. Eisele understands the delicate balance that is protecting private property rights and maintaining access to public lands while increasing numbers of people want to experience the beauty of the West. The King Ranch was recognized in 2015 for the Leopold Conservation Award and Wyoming Stock Growers Environmental Stewardship Award. Mark is the past president of the National Beef Cattlemen's Association.



Callie Burch, Surface Landman, Continental Resources

Callie Burch is a Surface Landman at Continental Resources, working primarily in the Powder River Basin. A graduate of the University of Wyoming and raised on a ranch in Colony, Wyoming, Callie maintains strong ties to ranching and agriculture—connections that have been instrumental in building lasting relationships within the energy industry. Outside of work, Callie enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children.



Doug Stark, Interim Director of UW Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program

Doug Stark is a distinguished leader in agricultural finance and a devoted supporter of the University of Wyoming. A Riverton native and UW alumnus, Stark served as the president and CEO of Farm Credit Services of America from 2005 to 2017, where he led the cooperative in providing critical financial services to farmers and ranchers. His deep commitment to his alma mater is reflected in his roles as chair of the UW Foundation Board of Directors and a member of the Agriculture Dean's Advisory Board, as well as his instrumental work in launching the Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership program. In recognition of his professional success and his contributions to the energy evolution and agricultural landscapes of the West, Stark was honored with the UW Distinguished Alumni Award in 2022.



Brian Mealor, Interim Associate Dean and Director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

Dr. Brian A. Mealor is the Interim Associate Dean and Director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station. His research, teaching, and outreach programs focus on understanding the long-term impacts of exotic plant invasion and on restoring rangeland ecosystems negatively impacted by invasive plants. He received the outstanding young range professional award from SRM in 2013, the outstanding early career weed scientist by the Western Society of Weed Science in 2015, the Harold Alley award for service to Wyoming Weed and Pest in 2015, and the Rangeland Professional Award from the Wyoming Stock Growers Association in 2019. Under his leadership, the Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems has become a primary source of scientific support for land managers implementing strategic invasive annual grass management. IMAGINE was recognized as the Intermountain West Joint Venture "science to implementation" partner of the year for 2024.



SPEAKERS



Greyson Buckingham, Co-Founder, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DISA Technologies

Greyson Buckingham is the Co-Founder, President, and CEO of DISA Technologies, a Wyoming-based technology company pioneering High-Pressure Slurry Ablation (HPSA) for mineral recovery and mine remediation. A military veteran, licensed attorney and former policy advisor, Greyson has led DISA from concept to national deployment, raising over \$50 million and building a team of over 50 people. With degrees from Georgetown and the University of Wyoming, he brings deep expertise in energy, law and leadership, and remains committed to advancing U.S. energy security and environmental innovation from his home state.



Josh Oakleaf, Project Manager, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division

Josh Oakleaf is a fourth-generation Wyomingite and environmental project manager at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division, where he specializes in large-scale reclamation and native vegetation restoration. As the Vegetation Coordinator, Oakleaf leads the AML Native Plants Project (NP²), a collaborative statewide initiative focused on transforming post-mining lands into resilient ecosystems, particularly the high-priority sagebrush steppe habitat. His work involves directing complex restoration efforts for over 350 species, including greater sage-grouse and mule deer, through strategic partnerships with the BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish, and The Nature Conservancy.



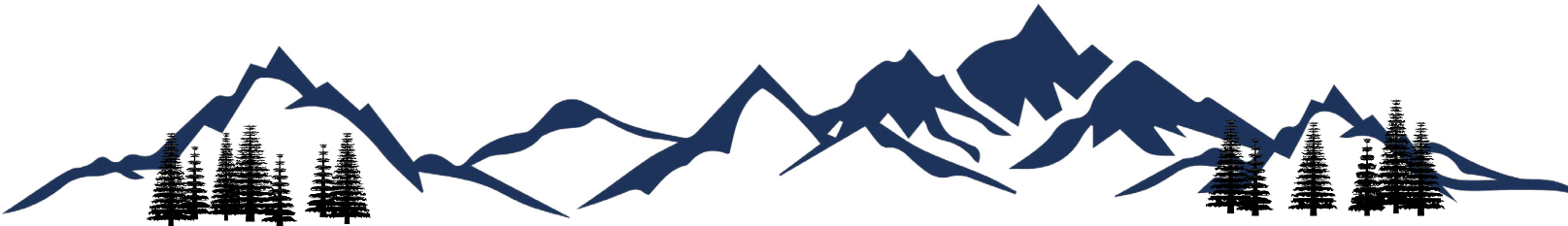
Tim Hoelzle is the Deputy Director of the Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment, US Department of the Interior

Tim Hoelzle is the Deputy Director of the Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment (ORDA) at the US Department of the Interior (DOI). Tim has been with the ORDA since 2016, where he coordinates the work of the DOI Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (NRDAR Program) in partnership with other federal agencies, states, tribes, and industry. Before joining ORDA, Tim was Vice President at Great Ecology where he served as a client and sales manager for large-scale restoration and remediation projects in the energy and mining sectors across the country. He received his B.S. and M.S. in restoration ecology from Colorado State University.



Joshua Sorenson, Reclamation Program Manager on the Jonah Field

Josh has managed the reclamation program on the Jonah Field in southwestern Wyoming since 2011. The field contains more than 2,600 natural gas wells and 9,600 acres of disturbance, over 80% of which has been successfully restored to provide sustainable wildlife habitat and livestock forage. In addition to his work on the Jonah Field, Josh oversees Jonah Energy's assets in the nearby NPL and Anticline fields, as well as operated assets in the Permian Basin of southeastern New Mexico. Josh earned an AS from Central Wyoming College, a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming, and a master's degree from Texas A&M University. He was nominated by Dr. Pete Stahl and received the American Society for Reclamation Scientists' (ASRS) 2021 Reclamationist of the Year Award. His work was further recognized when the Jonah Field received the ASRS 2024 Distinction in Reclamation Award.

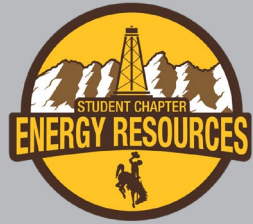


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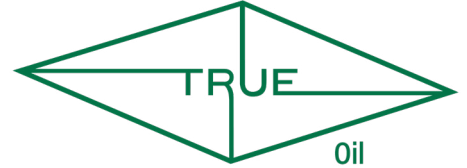
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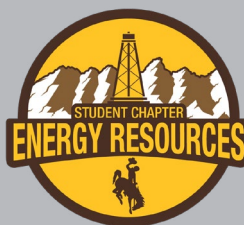


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