

October
17, 2024

TRIBAL ENERGY SUMMIT

Distinguished Guests and Speakers

Senator Affie Ellis, Parnter, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Affie Ellis (Navajo) is a State Senator representing Wyoming's 8th District in Cheyenne. She was elected in 2016 and was the first native woman to be elected to serve in the Wyoming Legislature. She currently serves as the Senate Chairman of the Select Committee on Tribal Relations. Additionally, she serves on several committees and select committees including: Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources; Minerals, Business and Economic Development; Select Federal Natural Resource Management; Select Water; and Select Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation Technology. Ellis is the Senate Co-Chairman of the bi-partisan Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus, which organizes an annual Leap Into Leadership conference to encourage women to run for office.

Professionally, Ellis is a Shareholder with the law firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, and practices in the areas of natural resources, energy, environment, and federal Indian law.

Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming

Mark Gordon was elected Wyoming's 33rd Governor, on Nov. 6, 2018. He was sworn into office on January 7, 2019.

Governor Gordon has worked tirelessly to set Wyoming on a sustainable fiscal path. He is committed to making government more transparent, accessible, productive and efficient.

Governor Gordon served as Wyoming State Treasurer from October 2012 until January 2019 when he was sworn in as Governor. Elected Governor in 2018, he has successfully led Wyoming through two of its most significant challenges in decades: the COVID-19 crisis and the most significant decline in mineral revenue in the state's history. He has spearheaded efforts to diversify all sectors of Wyoming's economy, including technology, finance, agriculture, energy, including carbon capture and sequestration, research, education and tourism.

Holly Krutka, Executive Director, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Holly Krutka 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 Transmissio; as executive editor of *Cornerstone*; and as a research scientist and senior research engineer with ADA Environmental Solutions.

In her various roles, Dr. Krutka holds three patents, has served in leadership positions in the National Coal Council and the Carbon Utilization Research Council, has participated in the Carbon Capture Coalition and as a judge on the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE competition.

James Trosper, Sun Dance Chief and Ceremonial Leader, Eastern Shoshone Tribe Tribal Liaison to the President, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Trosper grew up in a Shoshone community and in a Shoshone home upholding the traditional Shoshone ceremonial beliefs and practices. His mother is Shoshone and his father was Arapaho. Since 1993 James Trosper has been the Sun Dance Chief and Ceremonial leader of the Eastern Shoshone tribe on the Wind River Reservation.

Trosper holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming, and has served two terms on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees. He has served as director of the High Plains American Indian Research Institute (HPAIRI) at the University of Wyoming and as director of the Native American Education, Research and Cultural Center at the University of Wyoming. Her currently serves as the Tribal Liasion to the President at the University of Wyoming.

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Tarissa Spoonhunter, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and Director, High Plains American Indian Research Institute (HPAIRI)

As assistant professor in the Haub School of ENR and Director of the High Plains American Indian Research Institute, Dr. Spoonhunter enrolled Northern Arapaho (descendant of the Blackfeet Oglala and Dakota tribes) has focused her research on assetting treaty rights on traditional ceded lands such as Glacier National Park and Badger Two Medicine. Her teaching focuses on contemporary issues facing tribes as sovereign nations government to government political relationship in tribal resource management. She has taught at University of Arizona, Blackfeet Community College, Wind River Tribal College, Tohono O'Odham community College, and Central Wyoming College to empower tribal students to utilize the western educational tools to be an asset in their tribal communities and academic endeavors.

SUMMIT EMCEE

Daniel Cardenas, III, Student, University of Wyoming

Daniel is a current undergraduate student in the College of Business pursuing a major in Accounting. Additionally, he is working toward a minor in the School of Energy Resources' Energy Resource Management program as well as a certificate in Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage.

Daniel is an involved student serves as the Economics Club Treasurer, is a member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and of Keepers of the Fire.

CO-EMCEE

Sandra Iron Cloud, Language Arts Teacher, Wyoming Indian High School and Co-coordinator, Little Sun Drum and Dance Group

A member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, Sandra is a language arts teacher, speech coach and cultural mentor at Wyoming Indian High School. She graduated from Wyoming Indian High School herself, and also holds a bachelors degree in English and Language Arts Education from the University of Wyoming. A keeper of tribal culture, she also manages the Little Sun Drum and Dance Group. She has been helping to coordinate dances for Cheyenne Frontier Days at the American Indian Village for several years.

CEREMONIAL SINGER

Patrick, Iron Cloud, Singer

Pat is a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe and lives on the Wind River Reservation with his wife, Sandra. A proponent for preserving native culture, Pat regularly performs at ceremonies, cultural events, and at the Cheyenne Frontier Days at the American Indian Village as part of the Little Sun Drum and Dance Group.

CEREMONIAL SINGER

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Troy Eid, Shareholder, GreenbergTraurig

Troy A. Eid co-chairs the firm's American Indian Law Practice Group and represents companies in criminal and civil investigations and enforcement actions. Troy is highly sought nationally as a mediator to resolve complex disputes between Indian tribes and energy companies, and between tribes and state governments.

Troy served as Colorado's 40th United States Attorney appointed by President George W. Bush. During the Obama Administration, Troy was appointed to chair the Indian Law and Order Commission, the national advisory board to the President and Congress for strengthening public safety for all 573 federally recognized tribes in the United States. Before joining GT, Troy served on the cabinet of former Colorado Governor Bill Owens as Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor and later as the Executive Director of the Department of Personnel & Administration

ETHICS SPEAKER

Andrew Browning, Partner, HWB Resources and CO-founder, Western States and Tribal Nations Energy Initiative

Andrew Browning heads HBW's Denver office where he provides strategic counsel, issues management, grassroots, and advocacy expertise to oil and gas, utility, renewable energy, government, and manufacturing clients. With experience in both the private and government sectors, Browning has worked at the nexus of energy policy and politics for over 25 years.

Andrew is one of principal founders and President of the Western States and Tribal Nations (WSTN) Natural Gas Initiative. WSTN is a unique 501(c)(4) public/private partnership between Western states, counties, sovereign tribal governments, and natural gas industry stakeholders with a focus on building comprehensive and effective regional collaboration under a formal MOU to advocate for and develop local and global markets for Rockies natural gas.

MODERATOR

Elisabeth Takeuchi, Partner, Maynes, Bradford Shipp & Sheftel, LLP

Elisabeth Takeuchi began her practice upon joining the firm in 2005, providing general business and transactional representation to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund's various oil and gas, utilities, real estate, and other enterprises. Since that time, her practice has expanded to include employment law, real estate, midstream oil and gas matters, software licensing agreements, and other transactional matters for companies within the Growth Fund's expanding investment areas and for other firm clients. Elisabeth currently works in the firm's Denver office.

Elisabeth graduated from the University of Oregon in 1999 with a B.A. in Russian and Political Science. She graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2004, where she participated in a judicial externship with the Northwest Intertribal Court System and the Native American Project of Columbia Legal Services.

PANELIST

Raven Goswick, Senior Reservoir Engineer, Aka Energy Group, LLC

Raven is a Senior Reservoir Engineer for Aka Energy Group, LLC where she focuses on carbon capture and storage and geothermal projects. She earned her B.S. degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, followed by her M.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics from the same institution. With over 20 years of experience in mining and energy, she now currently works for the Durango-based company, collaborating on projects with the Southern Ute Tribe.

She is also an appointee to the White House committee for CCUS Federal Lands Permitting Task Force.

PANELIST

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James Jmieff, Senior Operating Engineer, Navajo Energy Transitional Company, LLC

James Jmieff is a Senior Operating Engineer with Navajo Energy Transitional Company (NTEC) where he works primarily on helium extraction. With a robust background in Oil & Gas, James has experience working in the energy industry and on tribal lands throughout the Mountain West. Prior to joining NTEC, he worked as a drilling coordinator for Schlumberger, and spent nearly a decade at Encana Corporation in leadership roles for production and development.

He earned his B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Technical University.

PANELIST

Erin Phillips, Director, Cross-cutting Programs, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources

Erin Phillips, Ph.D., is the Director of Cross-Cutting Programs at the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (SER). Erin is the Principal Investigator for the DOE-sponsored Powder River Basin Carbon Ore, Rare Earths, and Critical Minerals (CORE-CM) project and has contributed broadly to Critical Minerals and Carbon Capture and Storage research at SER. She is currently working on multiple energy-related workforce development initiatives. Erin completed her Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming Department of Geology and Geophysics and is an adjunct faculty member in that department.

Originally from the Black Hills of South Dakota, Dr. Phillips earned her bachelor's degree in geology in 2000 from Macalester College followed by her master's degree in 2004 from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., she worked for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.

MODERATOR

CJ Stewart, Energy Director, Crow Nation

CJ is an enrolled Member of the Crow Nation, Member of the Big Lodge Clan and Child of the Greasy Mouth Clan. He currently serves as the Crow Nation Energy Director. Prior to that, he worked in private practice as an Energy Consultant for Indian Energy Development and Infrastructure for five years. CJ currently serves as a Board Member and Co-Founder of the National Tribal Energy Association (NTEA). He was duly elected and served 2 terms (8 years) as a Senator in the Crow Legislative Branch. There, he served as Chairman of the Natural Resource Committee and the Infrastructure Development Committee for 8 years, through 2015. He was instrumental in the passage of Coal Development Deals, with Cloud Peak Energy for the Big Metal Mine and with Westmoreland Coal for Tract 1. After serving in the Crow Nation Legislature, CJ served as the Crow Nation Energy Advisor & Legislative Liaison in 2016.

PANELIST

Daniel Cardenas, Jr., CEO, President, and Chairman of the Board of the American Indian Infrastructure Association and the National Tribal Energy Association

Daniel C. Cardenas Jr., is a member of the Hammawi Band of the Pit River Tribe of California. Daniel served as an elected member of the Pit River Tribal Council, a Federally Recognized Tribe, representing the Hammawi Band, for over 15 years, from 1992-2016. He has owned and operated Hammawi Communications, a public relations firm, Shasta Advisors, a business consulting firm, and Sweetgrass Government Relations, a government relations/lobbying/advocacy firm, since 1999. Daniel currently serves as the CEO, President, and Chairman of the Board of the American Indian Infrastructure Association and the National Tribal Energy Association, both trade associations representing the interests of Native American Tribes across the United States.

PANELIST

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Sam Woods, CEO, RedStreak, LLC



PANELIST

Sam Woods is the CEO of RedStreak, LLC and has 25+ years of experience in energy & power, natural resources, and mining. Mr. Woods facilitated the EPC of over 1,500 MW of CCGT power plants, supported the financial raise of over \$115 million in capital funds, facilitated over \$285 million in M&A's, negotiated, and supported more than \$1 billion in security revenues for the Navajo Nation. For instance, Mr. Woods worked on the due diligence and acquisition of a \$400 million energy and mining business enterprise and successfully managed the startup of this new venture for the Navajo Nation. Presently, Mr. Woods is developing several renewable energy projects and exploring the tribal mineral resources for tribes and private businesses. Mr. Woods received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Mr. Woods is also a Navajo artist and showcases his artwork throughout the southwest. Mr. Woods is an active member in IEEE, PMP, and AISES.

Vivie Melendez, General Manager, Helium, Navajo Energy Transitional Company, LLC



PANELIST

Vivie Melendez is member of the Navajo tribe. She holds the distinction of being the first General Manager (GM) of NTEC Helium and the first woman to assume a GM role within NTEC. Vivie attended New Mexico State University, where she obtained both a Bachelor and Master of Science Degree in Rangeland Management. This comprehensive academic background equipped her with a deep understanding of environmental stewardship and natural resource management.

Her career progression started as a college intern at Navajo Mine during several summers where she gained valuable experience before being hired full time in January 2006 as a Revegetation Specialist. Over the years, she held various pivotal roles at Navajo Mine, including Six Sigma Black Belt Coach, Assistant to the General Manager, Permitting Specialist, Archaeology Specialist, NEPA Special Projects, and Revegetation Supervisor of a workforce crew. She has over 15 years of mining experience, including management roles in the Environmental and Safety departments at Navajo Mine, where she managed budgets, ensured compliance with regulations, policies, and permitting authorities, and achieved numerous safety and environmental awards for the company.

Lisa Yellow Eagle,



MODERATOR

Lisa Yellow Eagle (Diné/ Sicangu) is the Tribal Water Attorney for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, where she represents the Tribe on all water issues, including representing the Tribe's interests with the Animas-La Plata Project, the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, the Ten Tribes Partnership, and the Colorado River Basin Tribal Coalition

Lisa serves as a Board member for the Colorado Water Congress and as a Commissioner for the Navajo Nation Bar Association Board of Bar Commissioners.

Michael Ute, Vice Chairman, Eastern Shoshone Business Council, Commissioner, Wind River Energy Commission



PANELIST

Michael "Mike" Ute is the Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council with over 10 years of experience in the non profit sector with a lateral emphasis on business strategy. He was involved in the creation of, and then appointed to the Wind River Energy Commission, which oversees the Tribes of the Wind River Reservations energy resources' development and management. During his term, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes have successfully entered into a (first of its kind) non-lease oil operation with their own resources. Outside of work, Mike enjoys photography and graphic design. He is passionate about helping community members and offers non profit activities in the areas of fitness and screen printing.

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Teresa HisChase, Councilwoman, Northern Arapaho Business Council

Teresa HisChase is a council member on the Northern Arapaho Business Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and an associates degree in tribal management, and graduated from United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck in May 2015. Teresa grew up on and around the Wind River Reservation and currently works as an administrative assistant for the United Tribes Technical College.

HisChase regularly works to preserve Northern Arapaho culture, language and history. She has worked on creating the first ever Arapaho language app.

PANELIST

Devin Pehrson, President and CEO, Ute Energy Exploration

Devin Pehrson is the President & CEO of Ute Energy Exploration and Marketing. Ute Energy is a diversified energy development business entity for the Ute Indian Tribe. Ute Energy seeks to leverage the Tribes unique sovereign position in the Uintah Basin of Northeastern Utah to develop upstream, midstream, oil field services, electrical power and fresh water. Ute Energy plays an important role for the Ute Tribe by diversifying business interests while creating additional revenue streams for the Tribe. During Devin's tenure as CEO, Ute Energy has experienced revenue growth of 4x.

Devin has had the privilege of working with the Ute Tribe for 15 years, 6 years at Ute Energy and 9 years as the Ute Tribal Government CFO. Devin serves on many governing and advisory boards in his role as CEO including Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative as its Treasurer. Devin has a BS in Accounting and a MAcc from Weber State University.

PANELIST

Elizabeth Helvey,

Elizabeth Helvey has over 30 years of experience designing stakeholder engagement strategies related to the transportation of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and the siting of nuclear facilities. Ms. Helvey specializes in working with state and tribal governments to prepare emergency responders, elected officials, and the general public along the routes used for shipments of SNF. She has supported the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) efforts with the National Transportation Stakeholder Forum and the Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation working group as well as private industry clients siting nuclear facilities. Her experience includes support to the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator's effort to site an interim storage facility in the 1990s, leading a team that supported DOE's consent-based siting effort in 2015-17, leading a team advising Southern California Edison on strategic considerations to move their SNF off-site from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, as well as working with a micro nuclear reactor company.

MODERATOR

Demi Morishige, Financial Analyst, Red Cedar Gathering Company

Demi Morishige, a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, currently serves as a Financial Analyst at Red Cedar Gathering Company. With over ten years of experience in the tribal energy sector and a Master of Science in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado Denver, Demi's financial expertise is complemented by a steadfast commitment to environmental compliance and sustainability.

As a former member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Commission, she contributed to initiatives that promote environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance within the community. Demi is passionate about bridging the gap between finance and sustainability, advocating for the economic development and environmental protection of tribal communities.

PANELIST

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Wes Martel, Senior Wind River Conservation Associate, 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.

PANELIST

Brian Williams, Commissioner, Wind River Energy Commission

Brian Williams is a commissioner for the Wind River Energy Commission, which is a relatively new entity formed by the Wind River Inter-tribal council. He was appointed to represent the Northern Arapaho and is one of five commissioners in the organization. Williams has an extensive background in the Oil and Gas industry with over 30 years of experience, and has worked with the Tribe's assets. He is a leading voice in advocating for specialized education among tribal members, so that they may be empowered to run their own energy projects.

PANELIST

Thank you to all of our incredible speakers and panelists!

About the Gina Guy Keynote on Government Service

Launched in 2022 as part of the Landscape Discussion on Energy Law and Policy Conference, this keynote has become an annual opportunity to recognize and celebrate legal professionals who have dedicated a significant portion of their careers to public service.

The keynote is named for Gina Guy, a 1975 graduate of the University of Wyoming College of Law. Guy spent decades of service as a lawyer for the U.S. Department of the Interior.