

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Report to the UW Board of Trustees September 9, 2022

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources has continued to foster sustainable landscapes and livelihoods by expanding efforts to engage and have impact on the state of Wyoming's needs in environmental and natural resource issues.

Development News

- A \$1.0M legacy gift established an endowed chair in International Wildlife Conservation

New Faculty

- Asst Prof Curt Davidson joins us adding expertise in the health impacts of outdoor recreation
- Asst Prof Tarissa Spoonhunter joins us with a joint appointment in the CAS and directorship of HPAIRI with expertise in tribal natural resource management

Graduate Student Numbers

- 25 graduate students are enrolled in the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Concurrent Graduate Major; JD/MA: 8 currently enrolled
- Our new MS in ENR&S Graduate Degree (Environment Natural Resources & Society) is off to a rousing start with 16 enrollees and 2 more anticipated to start in Spring 2023

Field & International Programming

- We successfully returned to field/international programming with 24 students participating in our Winter Ecology Grand Teton National Park field course in January, and 18 students joining us for Canyonlands Culture & Climate to explore the histories and futures of the Colorado River in July
- We awarded \$58,000 in field/international scholarships in 2022, supporting 44 students
- In 2023, we offer a field course in the Tetons and courses in Chile, Spain, and Australia, with internal scholarship support of \$50,000 for 75 students

Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Tourism and Hospitality (WORTH) Update

- Hiring is underway in Tourism Extension, CBEA economist and a Sustainable Tourism faculty in Haub.
- Research is being developed with the WY Office of Tourism and WY Hospitality & Travel Coalition.
- The BS in Hospitality Management study has been reviewed by Dean Beaulier and the COB & WORTH are developing proposals for the Trustees to consider.
- New office space in the Business building was approved for WORTH move-in is being coordinated.

Ruckelshaus Institute

- Dr. Melanie Armstrong joins us in 2023 as Assoc Professor and Director of the Ruckelshaus Institute. Her research emphasizes western public lands management and policy, with a focus on the governance.
- Dr. Wes Eaton joined us as Asst Visiting Professor. He teaches core courses in the environment and natural resources curriculum and is active in community engagement and collaborative governance.
- We are hosting, with community partners, Mullen Days, an interdisciplinary event October 15 and 16 for Laramie community members to reflect on living with wildfire in a changing world.

Saddle Up and First Year Experience Updates

- We welcomed 22 1st-year students earning their degree in the Haub School to our Saddle Up program, redesigned from our perennial 1st-yr field week that involves >30 Haub School faculty/staff/students.
- Additionally, we are running a Living & Learning Community with a First-Year Experience course this fall – the 20 students participating with us throughout the semester hail from Wyoming to New York.
- Following research-driven, evidence-based practice, we emphasize relationships—to people, places, and communities—and skills development, which data from over 12 years of programs indicates students appreciate and value, and impact our retention and academic success data. Highlights include:
 - Academic sessions—in both the classroom and field—taught by Haub School faculty on topics in environmental complexity/values, collaborative process & decision-making, sustainability, land management, ecology, environmental data analysis, and outdoor rec resources.
 - Field-based experiences, including an afternoon at Vedauwoo, an outdoor science lab exercise on campus, and a full day in the Snowy Range and at the Brush Creek Staddle Camp facility (generously donated for our use by Haub School Advisory Board member Beth White)
 - 75% of students reported “relationships” as most important aspects of the learning experience.
 - 70% of students reported the weeklong experience increased or greatly increased their interest
 - 88% reported they were “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” with the experience.