## Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Report to the UW Board of Trustees May 2025



The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources supports students as well as citizens, stakeholders, and decision makers by giving them the skills and tools they need to build durable, inclusive solutions to our most pressing environment and natural resource challenges

# **Advisory Board News**

- We mourn the passing of Advisory Board Emeritus Member and former U.S. Senator **Alan K. Simpson**, a longtime friend of the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute who was instrumental in our founding and success over the last 30 years.
- The advisory board is holding its spring meeting in Jackson on May 8th & 9th
- We welcome **Rob Wallace** as new advisory board member and look forward to tapping into his expertise in energy, natural resources, and public lands issues. Rob served in the US Department of the Interior from 2019 2021 as the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Originally from Evanston he now lives in Teton Village.
- We say farewell to **Joe Evers** who joined the advisory board in Fall 2019 and began serving as advisory board chair in May 2022. We are grateful for his service to the School.

# **Undergraduate Programs**

- We are celebrating 51 undergraduate students who are graduating with Haub School degrees
- The Haub School's **first cohort of Tomé Scholars** are graduating this May. Congratulations to graduating seniors:
  - o **Benjamin Piña** | BS Environmental Systems Science / Environment & Natural Resources, Honors Program. Hometown: Kingwood, TX
  - Iris Kurz | BS Environmental Systems Science/ Environment & Natural Resources, Honors Program, minors: Reclamation & Restoration Ecology, Native American & Indigenous Studies. Hometown: Wylie, TX
  - O Jennifer Bautz | BS Environment & Natural Resources / Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management, Honors Program, minor: Outdoor Leadership. Hometown: Lander, WY
  - Addison Potts | BS Energy Systems Management & Development / Environment & Natural Resources.
     Hometown: Cheyenne, WY
- Haub School faculty member Sara Ghezzi organized the **Pulte Gateway To Hospitality Student Innovation Challenge** on May 7<sup>th</sup>. This Challenge features four student teams presenting their strategic hospitality initiatives to a panel of judges, competing for \$20,000 in cash prizes.

### **Graduate Programs**

- We are excited to announce the launch of an **online M.S. in Environment Natural Resources & Society** (ENRS) in August 2025!
  - This fully remote program is an opportunity to fulfill the University's land grant mission for accessible education and reach a wider population of current and emerging natural resource professionals.
     Expanding our graduate program offerings grows the community of learners and builds capacity in ENR leadership across the state, nation and globe. This professional degree is designed especially for working professionals and career changers.
- Our Online **Graduate Certificates** are awaiting approval from the Trustees
  - Online **Collaborative Practice** Graduate Certificate (9 credit hours)
    - Addressing a pressing need for advanced skills in collaborative governance, this program equips learners with interdisciplinary tools to tackle complex challenges across environmental management, natural resources, and public administration. By preparing professionals to lead effectively, resolve conflicts, and build consensus, the program empowers them to drive meaningful and durable solutions.
    - Online Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Law and Policy Graduate Certificate (Designed to meet the growing regional and national need for specialized legal and policy expertise in environment and natural resource management, this program provides learners with foundational knowledge of environmental law and policymaking. Participants will apply these principles to real-world challenges in public lands, wildlife, water resources, and energy development.
- The Trustees will also consider first-stage approval for a new online **Global Environmental Futures certificate**, offered at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

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### **Student Services**

- Haub School Career Services officially launched a **virtual career center** haubcareers.uwyo.edu which contains sample career paths, resources for professional development, and a job board. The long-standing ENR Jobs Board will remain active. Haub Careers has had 6,000 views from 1,500 users in its first quarter.
- This semester **Haub School Career Services** hosted events with partners Brush Creek Ranch, Wyoming Game & Fish, Wyoming State Parks, Wyoming Conservation Corps, UW's Outdoor Program, and the Wyoming Business Council, drawing 88 students. These events focused on interview skills, resume writing, and developing your personal mission.
- This summer, students will complete a range of **professional and applied experiences** including:
  - o Forestry Research Assistant, Germain Lab research in Grand Teton National Park
  - o Groundwater Division Intern, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
  - o Visitor Services Intern, Albany County Tourism Board
  - o Forest Service Partnership Intern, Friends of Bridger-Teton
- Some of our **student's professional and applied experiences have been defunded, postponed, or canceled** due to federal staffing and budget cuts. Haub School Career Services staff are working to build partnerships in other sectors to help students find new opportunities. Recent connections include CM Ranch, Little America, Friends of Bridger-Teton, Xscindo, and HWA Wildlife Consulting.
- We are excited to have 16 undergraduate and graduate students join our faculty-led global program this summer: *Mongolia: Wild & Working Lands*, led by Haub School Dean John Koprowski this May and June. The group will journey across Mongolia's diverse landscapes, from the rolling steppes to the Gobi Desert, and engage with nomadic families, wildlife researchers, and conservation practitioners to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Mongolia's wild and working lands and examine parallels with Wyoming!
- Another field-based course offering this summer is Natural Resource Management on Western Indian
  Reservations (Riverton area), led by Tarissa Spoonhunter, Haub School Assistant Professor and Director of the
  High Plains American Indian Research Institute.

## **Faculty Updates**

- Congratulations to Maggie Bourque for being selected as the 2025 Haub Fellow at Ucross
  - The Haub Fellow at Ucross is a partnership between the Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources and the Ucross Foundation. The partnership provides two-week residency at Ucross for one recipient with ties to the UW's Haub School to develop and advance their project. The residency will take place during Ucross's fall session
  - Maggie was also nominated by first- and second-year students and is one of this year's Promoting
     Intellectual Engagement (PIE) Award recipients. <a href="https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2025/04/uw-selects-top-first-year-course-instructors.html">https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2025/04/uw-selects-top-first-year-course-instructors.html</a>
- The Haub School is hosting an **exchange visitor research scholar from Taiwan**, **Dr. Chung-Ting (Peter) Pan**, who is working with Dr. Corrie Knapp and Dr. Melanie Armstrong. Peter received a prestigious fellowship to study how climate emotions impact actions amongst university students in Wyoming and Taiwan.

## **Ruckelshaus Institute**

- State Trust Land: An Emerging Issue Forum
  - On April 22-23, the Ruckelshaus Institute hosted an Emerging Issue Forum with more than 120 attendees at the Rochelle Gateway Center in Laramie. We partnered this year with the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments around the topic of state trust lands.
- Natural Resource Leadership in Complex and Uncertain Times: 2025 Collaboration Symposium
  - Each year, the Collaboration Program in Natural Resources brings together alumni, guest faculty, friends, and partners as well as practitioners from across the region to connect, learn, and grow together. The fifth Collaboration Symposium was held April 11 in Jackson. About 50 participants gathered to learn from each other in conversation and workshops around the question of how to bring people together to collaborate around environmental and natural resource issues during times that seem increasingly polarized and divisive.
- Collaboration Program in Natural Resources (CPNR)
  - o In April, CPNR graduated 12 trainees from this professional development training program that expands collaborative capacity around environment and natural resource challenges across the West. This year's



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cohort engaged participants from a range of public and private organizations in Wyoming, including Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming State Parks, UW, Wyoming Game and Fish, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Wyoming State Forests.

# **Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute**

- The WORTH Institute's new strategic plan can be found here <a href="https://www.uwyo.edu/worth/\_files/worth-strategic-plan.pdf">https://www.uwyo.edu/worth/\_files/worth-strategic-plan.pdf</a>
- WORTH co-hosted the <u>Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Summit</u> on May 1-2 in Laramie and hosted the <u>Wyoming</u> Search and Rescue Conference on May 3.
- Our resident sentiment about tourism work continues with a contract with the Wind River Visitors Council to survey residents in Fremont County and the Wind River Indian Reservation in May.
- Our five Outdoor Recreation Knowledge Exchange webinars attracted 400 people from 28 states.

# **Biodiversity Institute**

- The BI hosted a **Science Cafe** at the CWC Outreach Center in Lander on April 25.
- Mullen Fire Community Science Initiative Love hiking in national forests and interested in wildfire recovery? Join the Mullen Fire Community Science Initiative to help combat cheatgrass and study the effects of wildfire on ecosystems. Sign up for sites in the Medicine Bow National Forest and visit once this summer (June–September).
- **How You Can Help Bumble Bees!** This spring and summer, community scientists from across WY, CO, UT and NV are heading out to find and photograph bumble bees as part of the Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas.
- Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton, & Routt National Forests. Look for amphibians this summer! Registration is now open!
- Salamander Sightings Report salamander sightings from anywhere in WY.
- <u>Vulture Watch Wyoming</u> Help us monitor turkey vulture activity across the state through fall.
- Wyoming BioBlitz Seminoe State Park- Camp, explore, and record biodiversity at this family-friendly event from June 27–29. Registration opened May 1.

### **Wyoming Conservation Corps**

• We have 20 projects planned from May through August with partners throughout the state and are currently negotiating the federal pause in funding.

### **Save the Date**

- May 16, 4-7pm: **Haub School Spring Graduation Celebration** in Laramie at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center Trustees are welcome. Rsvp to Anastasia Brady abrady2@uwyo.edu
- September 30: An Evening with the Black Mambas in Jackson, WY
- October 1 & 2: Managing Wildlife in Large Landscapes, Jackson, WY