



## Academic Programs and Student Services

- We celebrated 15 Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources **winter graduates** in December.
- Dean Koprowski is leading a course this month in Nepal. **UW students are exploring Nepal's diverse ecosystems** during this immersive conservation program, developed with the Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation. Students are experiencing examples of the complex relationships between people, wildlife, and land while developing an understanding of Nepal's unique conservation approach through both scientific and community perspectives.
- UW students are also experiencing a **winter ecology course in the Tetons** this month where they are learning winter naturalist skills, exploring snowpack dynamics and snow science, and learning about wildlife and plant adaptations in the cold.
- Haub School students are **investigating environment and natural resources opportunities in Spain's Canary Islands** this month with Associate Professor Jake Hochard. Students are exploring the island ecosystems on Tenerife in an immersive program that explores island environments and communities. Students are collaborating with faculty from the Universidad de La Laguna to explore innovative conservation practices, tourism practices, development opportunities, and community-based adaptation strategies that are applicable in Wyoming and other global settings.
- Assistant Research Scientist **Birch Malotky** is teaching a **writing course** this semester for students who will contribute articles to *Western Confluence*. The next edition will feature articles about the full fuel cycle of **nuclear energy development** from uranium mining to spent fuel storage
- Seats are available for the following 2026 **field and global programs**:
  - [Expedition Leadership](#) • Canyons, UT • Spring Break 2026
  - [Canyonlands: Climate, Water, Culture](#) • Grand Canyon National Park • Summer 2026

## Faculty and Staff Updates

- Assistant Professor **Grete Gansauer** was elected as a trustee of the Regional Studies Association, a leading global academic society in regional studies and economic geography. She is the first early career researcher to hold a trustee position in the 60-year history of the Association!
- Associate Dean **Temple Stoellinger** and Associate Professor **Bryan Leonard**'s article on state trust lands won a national honor when it was recognized by the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review as **one of the top environmental law and policy articles of 2025**.
  - <https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2025/12/uw-experts-article-on-state-trust-lands-wins-national-honor.html>
- **Richard Vercoe** was selected as a faculty fellow for **UW's Community Engaged Faculty Institute** and as a faculty fellow who serves as a **mentor for members of the UW Graduate School's Graduate Teaching Assistant Learning Community**.
- **National Parks Traveler** covered a study led by Senior Research Scientist **Hilary Byerly Flint** who works in the Haub School's MacMillan Private Lands Program. "Park Visitors Are Willing to Pay More to Support National Park Wildlife"
  - <https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2025/11/park-visitors-are-willing-pay-more-support-national-park-wildlife>
- A WyoFile article about **virtual fencing** references some of the work of the Haub School's MacMillan Private Lands program and highlights Haub School/ College of Law alum Travis Brammer and his current work at The Property and Environment Research Center (PERC):
  - "Virtual Fences Keep Cows In And Barbed Wire Out On Wyoming Ranches"
  - <https://wyofile.com/virtual-fences-keep-cows-in-and-barbed-wire-out-on-wyoming-ranches/>



- Haub School scientists are front-and-center in a four-part television series, **“Saving Yellowstone with Dennis Quaid,”** now airing on Animal Planet.
  - Graduate students **Ellen Yee, Emily Davis, Macy Jacobsen, and Lauren Wetterau** are truly the stars of the show.
  - Haub School faculty members **Ellen Aikens, Joe Holbrook, John Koprowski, and Kevin Monteith** provide expertise on lesser-known animal species that play important roles in conservation of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
  - [Read More](#)
- Haub School Assistant Professor **Tarissa Spoonhunter** is featured in the PBS documentary **“Generation Warrior”** that follows Wind River young people navigating early adulthood.  
<https://www.pbs.org/show/generation-warrior/>

### Biodiversity Institute

- In November we hosted “Science on Tap” in Laramie featuring research from graduate student speakers
  - Alexis Hollander: Wyoming's Mighty Mussels
  - Emily Shertzer: "The varied migrations of Wyoming songbirds"
  - Renee Lile: "Bats as Habitat - Exploring Parasites of Bats"
- The Institute’s new Associate Director, **Erin Bently**, began work in early January.
- On February 1<sup>st</sup> we will host a Science Cafe in Jackson featuring Dan Coles, Meredith Journey, Lindsey Gapinski, and Chuck Williams
- On February 7th & 8th grab a friend and snowshoes and participate in the annual Winter Moose Day in Laramie [Registration](#)
- On March 1<sup>st</sup> we will host a Science Cafe in Pinedale featuring Olivia Beaudette, Lindsey Mitchell, and Lauren Wetterau
- On April 4<sup>th</sup> we will host a Science on Tap in Cody featuring Walker Bensch and Marguerite Trost

### Save the Date

- On March 26th The Haub School will host our **Wild and Working Lands Film Festival** in Laramie (short film entries are due Jan 30<sup>th</sup> [Find more information on Film Freeway](#)).
- On April 1-2 in Jackson, Associate Professor Jake Hochard and the Haub School will host **“Data X Power Jackson Hole 2026”** Co-led with Paul Turner and Paul Bonifas as a follow-up of last summer's Wyoming Resource and Policy Forum at Ucross event. The event will convene 30 senior leaders from hyperscalers, data center developers, energy utilities, regulators, and financiers for an off-the-record, solutions-focused dialogue called “Where Hyperscalers Meet the Next Generation of Energy.”
- [On April 13th & 14th](#) The Ruckelshaus Institute’s next **Emerging Issue Forum** will be in Laramie on **nuclear energy development in the state.**