

# AGENDA



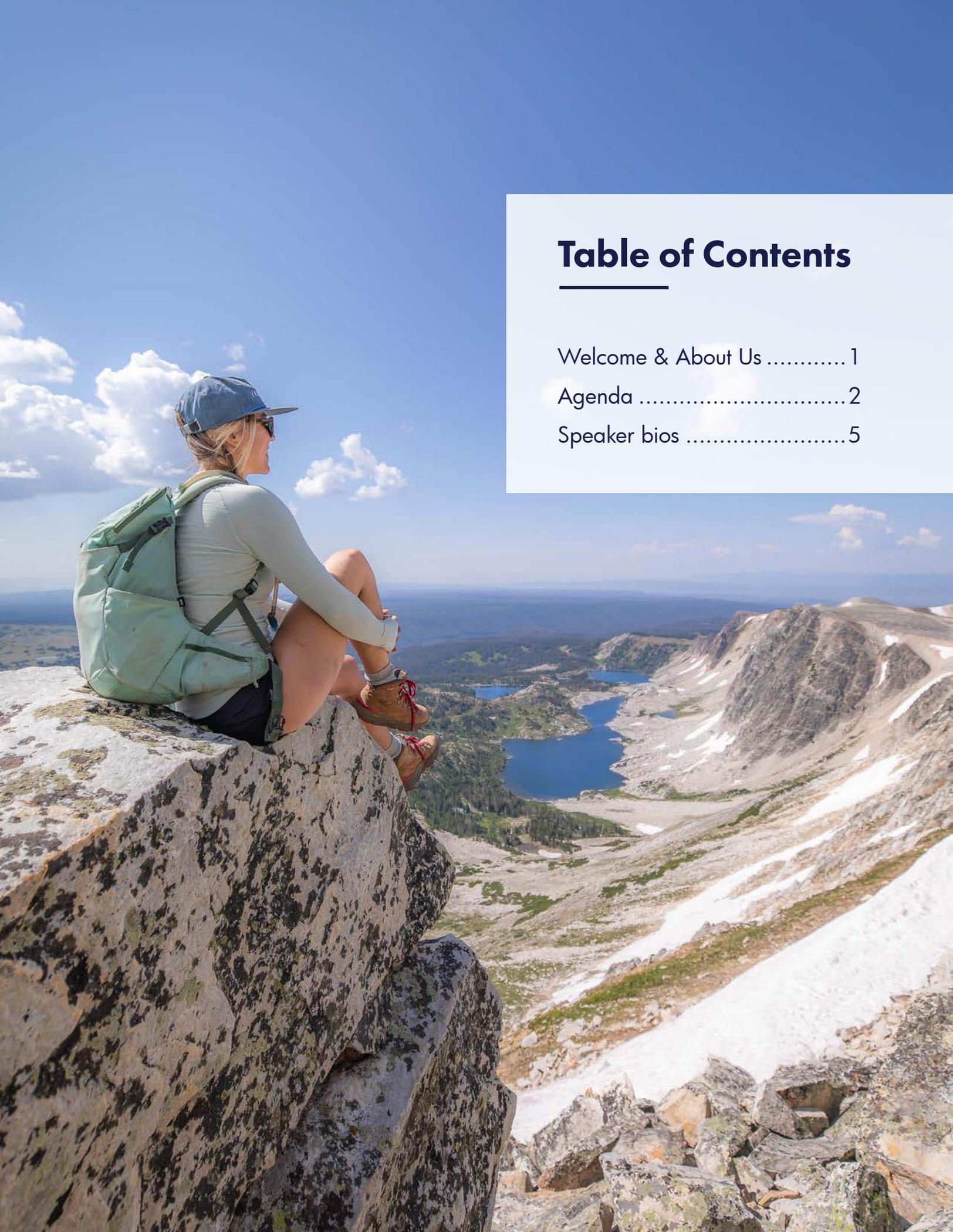
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Jay Kemmerer  
WORTH Institute



## MAY 3, 2025

MARIAN H. ROCHELLE GATEWAY CENTER  
LARAMIE, WYOMING



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# Welcome to the 2025 Wyoming Search and Rescue Conference.

Wyoming is blessed with endless outdoor recreation endeavors for anyone looking for life-changing experiences outdoors, and this has been reflected in the general increase in tourism and outdoor recreation development across the state. While beneficial for many Wyoming communities, this increase comes with its challenges, particularly for Wyoming's Search and Rescue teams, who are tasked with rescuing individuals from disaster, emergency, or hazard, many of which happen in Wyoming's unpredictable wild places. This conference aims to serve as a place for Wyoming's search and rescue community to come together and share perspectives and experiences that can help address these challenges.

## GOALS:

1. Provide relevant programming for personal and professional development
2. Increase engagement and relationship-building between search and rescue teams
3. Share experiences and resources for the benefit of statewide search and rescue endeavors

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## About Us



The mission of Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute is to support, expand, and diversify Wyoming's economy through outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality industries.



The Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation champions responsible outdoor recreation to improve communities and diversify Wyoming's economy.



The goal of the Wyoming Search and Rescue Council is to assist Wyoming sheriffs, who are charged by state statute to conduct SAR operations, with the execution of this mandate by fostering quality search and rescue resources throughout the state and providing reimbursement for eligible expenditures.

# Thanks to our steering committee members

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- Dan Hutchison, Albany County Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue Council
- Dan McCoy, Jay Kemmerer WORTH Institute
- Ken Blackburn, Bighorn County Sheriff, Search and Rescue Council
- Michael Cavalier, Natrona County Sheriff's Office
- Mike Lujan, Carbon County Search and Rescue
- Richard Kaumo, Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue Council

## Agenda

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### Saturday, May 3

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**8:00 am: Check-in and breakfast**

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**8:30 am: Welcome remarks** (*Tim Ciocarlan, Teton County Search and Rescue*)

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**9:00 am: Outdoor Recreation & Search and Rescue: Updates and Insights** (*Clint Becker (Converse County Sheriff), Brynn Hirschman (Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation), Dan Hutchison (Albany County SAR), Richard Kaumo (Sweetwater County Search and Rescue), and John Linn (Tip Top SAR)*)

This panel discussion will kick off the conference with a roundtable conversation about how the growth of the outdoor recreation and tourism sector impacts statewide SAR efforts. This conversation will also feature insights about the inner workings of Wyoming's Search and Rescue Council and feature legislative updates.

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**10:00 am: Break**

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**10:30 am: Search and Rescue in Wyoming: Student Research Update** (*Annalee Galley, Benjamin McBride, and Katie Prochnow, University of Wyoming*)

This session will highlight the semester-long research efforts by a University of Wyoming student group focused on interview data from Search and Rescue community members.

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**11:00 am: Mental Health for Search and Rescue Teams** (*Dr. Shaina Smith, Smith Psychological Services*)

This session, led by Dr. Shaina Smith, will focus on support resources for Search and Rescue volunteers, commanders, and other affiliated agencies.



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**11:45 am: Break**

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**12:00 pm: Lunch**

*Tim Ciocarlan and Doug van Houten (Teton County) and Sergeant Chris Just (Campbell County) will present notable rescues from their counties.*

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**1:00 pm: Concurrent Sessions**

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**Tools for Stress Resilience in SAR** (*Griffin Lawrence, Lander Responder Alliance*)

This session will provide an overview of tools and best practices for stress resilience and trauma mitigation. This session will also review international guidelines, free resources, and training best practices for teams. Lastly, this session will open discussion about possible next steps for training plans and regional support between teams.

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**Tough Stump Technologies: Overcoming Challenges in Force Tracking & UAS Integration**

(*Zeb Jaillet, Tough Stump Technologies; Michael Cavalier, Natrona County SAR; Jimmy Larsen, Tough Stump Technologies; Jarrett Heavenston, Tough Stump Technologies*)

Michael Cavalier and Jimmy Larsen will provide opening comments and a brief overview of the Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK). Zeb Jaillet will provide an overview and live demonstration of the ATAK, and Jarret Heavenston and Michael Cavalier will open it up for questions.

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**2:00 pm: Break**

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**2:20 pm: Concurrent Sessions**

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**Splinting Improvisation** (*Peter Blessing, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Wilderness Medicine*)

This hands-on session will cover splinting techniques for musculoskeletal injuries using limited supplies. Participants will explore creative methods and principles to enhance patient comfort, pain management, and psychological care. Attendees are encouraged to bring extra clothing or random items to experiment with while building innovative splints for real-world scenarios.

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**Water Searches Then and Now** (*John Linn, Tip Top Search and Rescue*)

This session will explore the evolution of water search techniques in Sublette County and Wyoming, focusing on safety, efficiency, and advancements in search management. Historically, searches involved dragging hooks and human divers, but with the development of underwater cameras and sonar technology, the approach has drastically improved. The introduction of SideScan sonar in the mid-1990s revolutionized search efforts, offering enhanced accuracy and safety by scanning the water's bottom from the surface. TipTop Search and Rescue's sonar team now provides professional-grade equipment for water searches statewide. Learn more in this session!

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**3:20 pm: Break**

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**3:40 pm: Concurrent sessions**

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**Wyoming State Trackers Capability Briefing** ((Terry Browder, Wyoming State Trackers Association; Lynn Buskohl, Wyoming State Trackers Association; and Brenna Hutchison, Albany County Search and Rescue)

An introduction to Wyoming State Tracking association will be given by President Terry Browder, who will discuss why and how to use WYSTA, and the importance of using certified trackers. Brenna Hutchison will then give a PowerPoint debriefing on a case from Albany County, WY, demonstrating how tracking was used in an actual missing person's case, the type of information that trackers can provide, and the benefits to resource management and alignment. Lastly, Lynn Buskohl will present some examples of how man-tracking has assisted law enforcement in criminal cases for Weston County.

**Drone Workshop + Demo** (Aaron Hutchison, Uinta County Sheriff's Office)

In this session, attendees will learn about the different types of drones available on the market and customization options, and changes in the past few years as technology has changed to assist in Search and Rescue operations (i.e., "toy or tool?"). This session will also examine the pros and cons as they apply to cost and operations. Lastly, attendees will review changes with the FAA as it applies to emergency operations and how it may affect team policy and procedures, and how to develop a P&P if there isn't one readily available.

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**4:40 pm: Networking break**

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**5:00 pm: Closing remarks, gratitude**

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# Speaker Information

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**Clint Becker** was elected the 21st Sheriff of Converse County in 2006 and currently serves in that role. Sheriff Becker values teamwork, community outreach, training and professionalism. He relies on citizen input and community partnerships in his commitment to community-oriented policing. He also fosters a “participatory management” philosophy, in which all his employees are given a voice in the operation of the Sheriff’s Office. These beliefs and philosophies have led to him being reelected multiple times. In 1986, Becker moved to Converse County to start his law enforcement career with the Wyoming Highway Patrol. He served for 20 years with the Patrol, entirely in the Converse County area. Upon retiring with the Wyoming Highway Patrol, he decided to run for Office of Sheriff to continue his service to the people of Converse County. Sheriff Becker is currently on the Governor’s appointed SAR Council and Wyoming Volunteer’s Retirement Board, representing the SAR volunteers.

**Peter Blessing** has been working in outdoor and experiential education for over 45 years. He has worked as a field instructor and an administrator in the Expeditions program at NOLS (formerly National Outdoor Leadership School) and currently works as an instructor for NOLS Wilderness Medicine. He has also run a university outdoor education program and lead study abroad programs. Peter has 20 years of experience working in East Africa, both for NOLS and as a mountain and safari guide. He holds an MSc degree in zoology and has worked as a field biologist.

**Terry Browder** is a Sign Cutter in the Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services (JHPTS) program and President of the Wyoming State Trackers Association. Terry is a 4th generation rancher in Niobrara County and runs a cow/calf and yearling operation. He took his first class with Joel Hardin in 2005 and has been with the JHPTS program ever since. He’s an active member of the Niobrara County Search and Rescue, and one of the founders of the Wyoming State Trackers Association, an association of JHPTS trained trackers who can respond to searches and crime scene investigations when called on by law enforcement. Terry is also a tracking instructor for JHPTS and travels nationwide to teach the art of man tracking.

**Lynn Busskohl** is an Apprentice Level Tracker with Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services. Lynn moved to Newcastle, Wyoming and joined the Search and Rescue team in 1981, and took her first tracking class from Ab Taylor in 1985. She has been the Captain of Weston County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue since 2004. Lynn joined the Wyoming State Trackers Association in 2017.

**Michael Cavalier** serves as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Natrona County, through the Natrona County Sheriff’s Office, in addition to volunteering locally as an EMT and Wildland Firefighter. His Sheriff’s Office duties extend into many operational areas. Within Search and Rescue, Michael works alongside others to coordinate the Natrona County Search and Rescue volunteers and program; building program standardization, qualifications, recruitment, and retention. In addition to his leadership and coordination responsibilities, Michael remains actively involved by participating and maintaining qualifications in Conventional SAR, SAR K9s, and Hoist Rescue operations.



**Tim Ciocarlan** grew up in Casper, Wyoming and moved to Jackson, Wyoming in 1978. Tim is a founding member of Teton County Search and Rescue, which started in 1993, and served as the team director from 1994 to 2019. Time has been actively involved in over 1,000 SAR related missions.

**Annalee Galley** is a Senior in the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Undergraduate Program at the University of Wyoming. Prior to her college education, she worked as a Children's Ski Instructor for two years. She plans to stay in Wyoming after her graduation.

**Jarritt Heavenston** is the founder and CEO of Tough Stump Technologies. Jarrett founded Tough Stump Technologies with a vision to revolutionize tactical mapping and enhance operational effectiveness. With 25 years of distinguished military experience, he specializes in optimizing mission-critical capabilities for organizations dedicated to justice and integrity. As an FAA Part 107 certified remote pilot, Jarrett integrates advanced technology with real-world operational expertise, ensuring precision, efficiency, and reliability in every mission. Raised in Northern California, Jarrit now lives in Carthage, NC with his wife and two kids. Jarrit enjoys great concerts and working on his farm.



**Brynn Hirschman** is the Grant Coordinator for the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation. Raised in the rolling hills of Northeast Ohio, Brynn has always had a passion for the outdoors and animals. She attended the University of Wyoming, where she earned a B.S. in Animal Science in 2018 and a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management in 2020. She began her career with the State of Wyoming's Outdoor Recreation Office in 2020 as an OREC Specialist. Currently, she serves as the Grants Coordinator, collaborating with partners across the state to manage both federal and state grant funds. In the Fall of 2024, Brynn joined the Board of Directors for the Wyoming Community Foundation.

**Doug van Houten** grew up in Sheridan, Wyoming, and a couple years after completing college, moved to the Tetons in 2001. Doug started his Search and Rescue career in 2007, volunteering with a local SAR team before joining Teton County Search and Rescue in 2015. He currently serves as TCSAR's Logistics Advisor.

**Aaron Hutchinson** has been employed by the Uinta County Sheriff's Office for the past 26 years and is currently serves as the Director of Special Operations. Deputy Hutchinson supervises the Uinta County Court Supervised Treatment Program and serves as Uinta County's Treatment Coordinator. Additionally, Deputy Hutchinson oversees the Uinta County Sheriff Office's Mounted Patrol Program as well as the Drone Program and is the Commander/Lead Liaison for the Uinta County Search and Rescue Program. Deputy Hutchinson was awarded the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor in 2009 for capturing a fleeing murder suspect outside Carter Wyoming. Deputy Hutchinson lives in Evanston, Wyoming, with his wife Amanda and two kids.

**Brenna Hutchison** is a member of Albany County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (ACSSAR). Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Brenna moved to Laramie, WY in 2013 after working as a quantitative biologist in Ireland and South Africa. Passionate about the outdoors and an avid hiker, backpacker, and kayaker, she joined ACSSAR, serving as a member of the Board of Directors from 2014-2020 and again from 2024 through the present. While she has worked across nearly all ACSSAR's specialty teams, she specializes in K9 training, man-tracking, and new member instruction.



**Dan Hutchison** grew up in Riverton, WY, spending much of his time in the Wind River Mountains hunting, fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling. In 1997, he moved to Laramie to attend the University of Wyoming, earning a degree and beginning a career in software development in 2001. In the spring of 2010, he joined Albany County Sheriff's Search and Rescue after participating in several snowmobile searches as a concerned citizen. In 2012, he was elected to the ACSSAR Board of Directors, and from 2014-2022 served as President of the organization. In 2021, Dan was given the opportunity to serve the SAR community throughout the state of Wyoming by becoming a member of the Wyoming SAR Council.

**Zeb Jaillet** is the director of marketing for Tough Stump Technologies. Since 2019 he has developed advanced SUAS training, ATAK instruction, is the PM for TST's online ATAK training program and maintaining a 100% pass rate as lead instructor for the FAA Part 107 course. A 24-year Air Force Combat Controller veteran, he specializes in aerial operations and communications. Zeb holds bachelor's degrees in marketing and business administration. Raised in New Hampshire, Jaillet now lives in Pinehurst, NC with 2 kids. He enjoys golf and endurance races.



**Chris Just** is the Search and Rescue commander for Campbell County (will likely add more)

**Richard Kaumo** is a Wyoming native that grew up doing just about everything outdoors and sports. His passion for the outdoors led him to completing his bachelor's degree in Outdoor Education. Not too long after graduating college, he found his calling for a career in law enforcement. Kaumo has been in law enforcement for over 18 years and has the great opportunity to wear many hats, including serving as a part of Sweetwater County's Search and Rescue team. Currently, Kaumo serves as the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant over the Detention Center and is the county's Search and Rescue Commander. In 2023, Kaumo was appointed by Governor Gordon to serve as the peace officer role on the Wyoming SAR Council. Kaumo and his family enjoy the outdoors and everything Wyoming has to offer.



**Jimmy Larsen** works in business development for Tough Stump Technologies. Jimmy is a 20-year Air Force Combat Controller veteran with a distinguished career in precision operations and leadership. Transitioning from the battlefield to business development, he now drives strategic growth for Tough Stump, leveraging his operational expertise to deliver innovative solutions. With a strong focus on relationship-building and mission success, Jimmy excels at developing partnerships and advancing Tough Stump's vision in the industry. Born in Panama and raised in Washington State, Jimmy now lives in Southern Pines, NC with his wife and two dogs. He enjoys rugby, pickleball and golf.



**Griffin Lawrence** is a Lander-based rescuer and educator. He works as Director of Responder Alliance, leads the Lander Search and Rescue Resilience Team, and teaches wilderness medicine for NOLS. Between missions he can be found climbing or skiing in the Wind Rivers with his dog Acorn.

**John Linn** is a lifelong resident of Sublette County, Wyoming. A retired businessman, Linn has been a member of Tip Top Search and Rescue since 1984. He serves as the lead of Tip Top's Water Search Team and is a previous Ice Rescue and Swiftwater rescue instructor.

**Ben McBride** is a senior at the University of Wyoming, originally from Minnetonka, Minnesota. He is pursuing a degree in Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management and has a strong passion for sports and traveling. Ben thrives in hands-on environments and brings valuable experience from roles at Curt Gowdy State Park, where he worked on the maintenance team, and McArdle's Resort in Bena, Minnesota, where he served as a dockhand. These positions have given him practical knowledge in state park operations, hospitality, and outdoor leadership. Ben is committed to creating meaningful outdoor experiences for people of all ages. He is certified as a Wilderness First Responder and has developed key skills in park management, trail maintenance, emergency response, and equipment handling—all essential for Search and Rescue operations.

**Katie Prochnow** is a senior at the University of Wyoming, studying Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management with an emphasis in sustainability and human sciences. A lifelong nature lover and free spirit, Katie is passionate about protecting the Earth and helping the people who explore it. Her recent work on this search and rescue project combines these values, highlighting the importance of safety, community, and stewardship in outdoor spaces. With dreams of building a career rooted in care for both people and the planet, Katie works to bring heart, insight, and a strong sense of purpose to everything she works on.

**Shaina Smith** is a licensed clinical psychologist with a PhD in clinical psychology from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, and a Masters of Christian Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has worked in numerous settings, including Veterans Affairs, university counseling centers, community mental health, and private practice. Dr. Smith specializes in police and public safety psychology, having worked with patrol, detention, corrections, and dispatch agencies, as well as with EMS, full time fire, volunteer fire, as well as wildland fire, and for city, county, state, and federal agencies. She conducts pre-employment evaluations, and fitness evaluations, as well as crisis management, consultation for agencies as well as therapists, annual wellness checks, peer support training, therapy, and agency wellness trainings. Dr. Smith has expertise in trauma treatment, and is trained in Brain Spotting, Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Dr. Smith utilizes neuroscience to inform treatment, and incorporates psychoeducation, as well as a psychodynamic Object-Relations framework and interpersonal process theory to help her clients create change in their daily experience.







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