



# WYOMING OUTDOOR RECREATION *Summit*

**April 18-20, 2024**

CASPER, WY



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# Welcome to the 2024 Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Summit.

**WORS aims to create a space for the outdoor recreation industry to come together to discuss issues, celebrate, learn from successes and challenges, and work cooperatively to build Wyoming outdoor recreation in a responsible and sustainable way.**

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Outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Wyoming and has been for decades. Wyoming's variety of landscapes and recreational challenges serve as inspiration to those who live here and those who visit. Serving as the second-largest economic sector in the state, the tourism and hospitality sector provides jobs, income, and a whole lot of fun.

The growth of the outdoor recreation economy must be considered in tandem with the health and prosperity of Wyoming's landscapes and its people. The 2024 WORS aims to address the successes and challenges that come with a growing industry, including how local communities have come together to build outdoor recreation opportunities, ways to increase the accessibility of outdoor recreation, and strategies to increase stakeholder buy-in to outdoor recreation development.

# About us...

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Wyoming Outdoor  
Recreation, Tourism and  
Hospitality Initiative  
(WORTH)

## Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative

The mission of the WORTH Initiative is to support, expand, and diversify Wyoming's economy through outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality industries. The WORTH Initiative achieves its mission by:

1. Delivering timely and relevant applied research for WORTH industries
2. Supplying diverse workforce training products and services to students and working industry professionals
3. Providing extension and outreach to the tourism industry across Wyoming

Learn more at [uwyo.edu/WORTH](http://uwyo.edu/WORTH)



## Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation

The Office of Outdoor Recreation aims to diversify Wyoming's economy by expanding, enhancing, and promoting responsible recreational opportunities through collaboration, outreach, and coordination with stakeholders, landowners, private industry, and public officials.

Learn more at [wyorec.com](http://wyorec.com)



# Our Sponsors

We extend our gratitude to the following organizations for their generous sponsorship of this event.

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## AllTrails

AllTrails was founded on the idea that we're all made better by spending time in nature. Today, AllTrails continues to be driven by the desire to share the outdoors with as many people in as many places as possible—and to do so responsibly and respectfully.



## Casper College, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program

Wyoming is the perfect place to experience the exciting and growing outdoor recreation and tourism industry. This new academic program at Casper College offers a blend of outdoor recreation and tourism that focuses on business, people, culture, environmental and natural resources, recreation, and tourism.



## Discover Carbon County

Are you seeking adventure and escape from the hustle and bustle of city life? Look no further than Carbon County, Wyoming! Nestled between the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountains, Carbon County offers breathtaking natural beauty and outdoor activities year-round. Adventure Out!



## Natrona County Weed and Pest

Natrona County Weed and Pest is a government agency that works to protect Wyoming lands, wildlife, and agricultural resources from degradation by invasive species. NCWP aims to find a balance between communities and wildlands to keep them available for future generations to benefit.



## SE Group

We help clients reimagine their future through integrated planning and design services. SE Group was formed in 1958 in New Hampshire as the first company established for the sole purpose of designing ski resorts. Since that time, our company has evolved to include comprehensive community planning, environmental and land-use planning, multi-season recreation and trails planning, community planning and design, parks and open space planning, and public lands cooperative planning for natural areas, rural communities, and recreational development.

# Agenda

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## Thursday, April 18, 2024: Outdoor Recreation Sessions

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**7:30-8:30 am:** Check-in and breakfast

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**8:30-9:00 am:** Welcome from the conveners and questions for attendees: Why are you here and why is this important to you?

*Dan McCoy (Director, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative)*

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**9:00-9:50 am: Keynote:** Crossing the Trillion Dollar Threshold—Strategies to Ensure the Outdoor Recreation Economy Benefits Society for Generations to Come

*Chris Perkins (Vice President of Programs, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable)*

Chris Perkins is Vice President of Programs at the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, where he works to promote the sustainable growth of the outdoor recreation economy. This work focuses on rural economic development through outdoor recreation, outdoor recreation infrastructure, state outdoor recreation advocacy, the outdoor recreation workforce, and building a more inclusive outdoor recreation community. Chris received a master's in environmental management and master's in business administration at the Yale School of the Environment (YSE) and Yale School of Management (SOM).



**9:50-10:00 am:** Break

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**10:00-10:50 am:** Wyoming's Future Outdoors: Unveiling the 2024-2028 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

*Lindsay Romaniello (Associate Planner, SE Group) & Catherine Winnop (Environmental Planner & Analyst, SE Group)*

Lindsey Romaniello is an associate planner with the consulting firm SE Group. Her list of planning related interests is diverse, ranging from historic preservation to long-range community strategies to recreation planning. But no matter the project, Lindsey approaches the process with optimism, enthusiasm, and a keen eye for the big picture.



Catherine Winnop is a Wyoming native, receiving her bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming Haub School, in Environmental Systems Science in 2020. She is an Environmental Planner and Analyst with the consulting firm SE Group. She has a deep knowledge of National Environmental Policy Act permitting, Wilderness areas, climate change, and collaborative decision-making processes. She loves complex projects and finds fulfillment when working collaboratively with others. Catherine loves a good ice cream cone, riding single track on her mountain bike, or finding the best swimming hole.



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**10:50-11:00 am:** Break

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**11:00-12:30 pm:** Bureau of Land Management's Blueprint for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Outdoor Recreation, RAPTOR Updates, and Inflation Reduction Act project opportunities

*Michael Coyne (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lander BLM Office), Doug Mayes (Restoration Coordinator, WY BLM State Office), & Blaine Potts (Assistant Field Manager, Kemmerer BLM Office)*

Michael Coyne began his BLM career in 2004 working seasonally in the Wildland program before eventually becoming an Assistant Engine Captain in 2009. In 2013, he transitioned to Range and in 2014 began working as an Outdoor Recreation Technician in the Recreation Department. Mike currently serves as the Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Lander Field Office. In his free time Mike loves to explore the great outdoors with his wife and daughter. He is also active in his community as a member of the fire department, where he has volunteered for the past 14 years, during which he has served in many positions including Chief.



Doug Mayes serves as the Restoration Coordinator for the BLM Wyoming State Office. He has been with BLM for seven years in roles ranging from GIS Specialist to Renewable Resources Branch Chief. Prior to joining BLM, Doug was engaged in Red-cockaded Woodpecker recovery and Longleaf Pine ecosystem restoration on the coastal plain of South Carolina.



Blaine Potts is the Assistant Field Manager for the Kemmerer Field Office BLM. Prior to this appointment, Blaine served as the Outdoor Recreation Planner at Craters of the Moon National Monument, Shoshone, and Bruneau Field Offices in Idaho, and in the Wells Field Office in Elko, Nevada. Since he was 13, Parks and Recreation has been his lifelong passion. He started by helping his uncle with tasks like cutting grass, building playgrounds, and organizing events for municipal departments in northern Utah. Blaine's family loves exploring Wyoming and they enjoy all the adventures there are to be found in this great State.



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**12:30-1:25 pm: Lunch**

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**1:30-2:25 pm: Breakout Sessions**

**Grand Ballroom A-C:**

Open Sessions for Bike Parks, Water-Based Recreation, Motorized Recreation, & Shooting Sports

*Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Collaboratives*

**Grand Ballroom**

**D:** Healing in the Great Outdoors: A Collaborative Vision for Inclusive Recreation

*Marc Homer, Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado & Wyoming; Jessica Baxter, Our Camp; Laurel Henry, Wyoming Department of Education; Ashley Littleton, Camp Hope; Eric Distad, Outdoor Mindset*

**Jackson Hole Hall B:**

Keeping Wyoming in the Dark

*Jessica Moore, Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites*

**Jackson Hole Hall B:**

Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Pathfinder Program

*Laurel Stephens, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation*

**Jackson Hole Hall C:**

Outdoor Recreation's Double Whammy of Benefits: Attracting and Growing Wyoming's Gear Manufacturing Industry

*Steff Kessler, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance; Lindsay Olson, Atmosphere Mountainworks; Aaron Davidson, Gunwerks; Kelsey Ball, Brunton International LLC*

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**2:30-3:25 pm: Breakout Sessions**

**Grand Ballroom A-C:**

Happy Trails: Building Successful Partnerships with Land Managers and Communities

*Michael Kusiek, Wyoming Pathways*

**Grand Ballroom**

**D:** Solving Problems with Data and Communication

*Pitt Grewe, AllTrails*

**Jackson Hole Hall B:**

Keep Wyoming Wild and Beautiful

*Matt Jolivet, Natrona County Weed and Pest*

**Jackson Hole Hall**

**C:** Tale of Two Trails: Opening Private Lands for the Public to Choose the Trail Less Travelled

*Nita Tallent, Ph.D., Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources*





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### 3:30-4:25 pm: Breakout Sessions

#### Grand Ballroom A-C:

COG in the Machine:  
Implementing Effective  
Structure for Volunteering  
on Public Lands

*Nicole Foss, Common  
Outdoor Ground; Aaron  
Voos, Common Outdoor  
Ground; Willow Belden,  
Common Outdoor  
Ground; Dr. Sara Ghezzi,  
University of Wyoming;  
Michael Kusiek, Wyoming  
Pathways; Jonathan  
Brooks, United States  
Forest Service*

#### Grand Ballroom D:

Using Economics to  
Make the Case for Trails

*Megan Lawson, Ph.D.,  
Headwaters Economics*

#### Jackson Hole Hall

**B:** Neighbors to  
Nature: Wildlife and  
Recreationist Co-  
existence in the Front  
Country of the Bridger-  
Teton National Forest

*Courtney Larson, Ph.D.,  
the Nature Conservancy;  
Linda Merigliano,  
Bridger-Teton National  
Forest*

#### Jackson Hole Hall C:

Adaptive Trail Design  
Considerations

*Caleb Carter, Weston  
County Natural Resource  
District; Quinn Brett,  
Dovetail Trail Consulting;  
Joe Stone, Dovetail Trail  
Consulting*

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**4:30-6:00 pm:** University of Wyoming student poster presentations & happy hour

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**7:30-9:30 pm:** Film screening at Frontier Brewing (150 W 2nd St, Casper, WY) (optional)

*"In the Dirt" (Dir. T.C. Johnstone)*

*"Wyoming Pathways" (Wyoming Pathways, Gannett Peak Sports, & Wind River Shuttle)*

## Friday, April 19, 2024: Outdoor Recreation Sessions

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**7:30-8:30 am:** Check-in and breakfast

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**8:30-9:25 am: Plenary:** Granola & Gasoline: Full Send over the Great Divide

*Mandy Fabel, Leadership Wyoming*

Mandy Fabel loves breaking stereotypes. She got married on top of Pingora Peak in the Wind River Mountains and is a sponsored athlete for Polaris Snowmobiles as a small female rider. She previously worked for NOLS as a hiking, climbing, and winter course instructor and now serves as the Executive Director to Leadership Wyoming. She lives in Lander with her husband Brian and two-year old son Stokes.



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**9:30-10:25 am: Keynote:** Avoiding the Amenity Trap: How to keep our trail towns from being loved to death

*Megan Lawson, Headwaters Economics*

Dr. Megan Lawson leads Headwaters Economics research in outdoor recreation and public lands. She uses economic and statistical analysis to better understand the issues that communities face such as the economic potential and impacts of housing and land use policies, economic diversification, and public land management. Equal parts scientist and communicator, Megan uses data to conduct actionable research that illuminates solutions. She applies analytical skills to land use, natural resource, and public health topics, with an emphasis on the unique needs and opportunities for rural communities.



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**10:30-11:25 am: Breakout Sessions**

**Grand Ballroom A-C:**

Connecting Communities with Motorized Trails

*Mark Tesoro, Southwest Offroad Trails; Forrest Kamminga, Wyoming State Trails Program; Justin Smith, Tensleep Nowood Trailbreakers*

**Grand Ballroom D:**

Dispersed Camping Inventory Protocol: Findings and Possible Management Actions

*Kristi Murphy, United States Forest Service; Jonathan Brooks, United States Forest Service; Vsevolod Shperun, United States Forest Service*

**Jackson Hole Hall**

**B:** Prosper Wyoming: Crafting Experiential Events to Foster Community Growth

*Beth Brennan, Tread Agency; Ally Palmer, Tread Agency*

**Jackson Hole Hall**

**C:** Making the Great American Rail-Trail a Reality in Wyoming

*Kevin Belle, Rails to Trails Conservancy*

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**11:30-12:30 pm: General Session:** Skin in the Game: Buying in to outdoor recreation

*Patrick Harrington, Wyoming Outdoor Recreation; Marc Hildesheim, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Coalition; Jessi Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Association; Forrest Kamminga, Wyoming State Trails Program*

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**12:30 pm:** Lunch





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**1:00 pm:** Optional Casper-based field trips

*Bike through Casper via the Great American Rail-Trail with Kevin Belle*

*Enroll in complimentary Seizure First Aid Certification Training with Marc Homer*

*Enjoy a self-guided tour of the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center*

*Take a self-guided stroll along the Platte River Pumphouse Trail Walk*

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## Saturday, April 20, 2024: Search and Rescue Conference

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**8:00-8:30 am:** Check-in & breakfast

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**8:30-8:45 am:** Welcome remarks

*Ken Blackburn, Big Horn County*

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**8:45-8:55 am:** Wyoming's 84th Civil Support Team Introduction

*Members from Wyoming's 84<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team*

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**9:00-9:50 am:** Fundraising

*Tim Ciocarlan, Teton County Search and Rescue*

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**9:50-10:00 am:** Break

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**10:00-10:25 am:** Be 307 Aware: How we got here and where we are today

*Jim Mitchell, Sublette County Emergency Management and Homeland Security*

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**10:30-10:55 am:** Building Capacity for Wyoming Search and Rescue Teams

*Mitchell Knock, Erik Olson, & Abigail Whitman, University of Wyoming*

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**11:00-11:55 am:** Where are we with Wyoming SAR? What do we need?

*Wyoming Office of Homeland Security; Ken Blackburn, Wyoming Search and Rescue Council; Sen. Brian Boner, Wyoming State Legislature; Col. Dane Rogers, Wyoming Military Department; Wyoming County Commissioner, Dave Lankford, Tip Top SAR*

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**12:00-12:55 pm:** Lunch

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**1:00-1:50 pm:** Accessing Specialized State Assets

*Wyoming Office of Homeland Security; Col. Dane Rogers, Wyoming Military Department; Dave Lankford, Tip Top SAR*

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**1:50-2:00 pm:** Break

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**2:00-2:50 pm:** Breaking Down County and State Lines

*LaRae Dobbs, Big Horn County Emergency Management; Aaron Appelhans, Albany County Sheriff's Office*

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**2:50-3:00 pm:** Break

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**3:00-3:50 pm: Breakout Sessions**

**Jackson Hole Hall B:** Wilderness First Responder Training: Increasing your team's capabilities and patient outcomes

*KC Bess, Wounded Bear Medicine; Anthony Stevens, Wounded Bear Medicine*

**Jackson Hole Hall C:** Tracking Workshop: Providing the toolkit for managing a search incident

*Peak Rescue*

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**4:00-4:50 pm: Breakout Sessions**

**Jackson Hole Hall B:** Lawsuits and Legal Liability for SAR Squads

*Micah Rush, Peak Rescue*

**Jackson Hole Hall C:** Recruitment and Education for Volunteers

*Clint Becker, Wyoming Volunteer Retirement Council*

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**5:00-6:00 pm:** Happy Hour with appetizers and drinks (optional)





# Speaker Bios: Outdoor Recreation Sessions

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**Kelsey Ball:** Kelsey, a native of Casper, holds a BA in Recreation and Tourism Management. Raised in a family that cherished hunting, hiking, and fishing, she found her way back to Wyoming for rock climbing after college and traveling. With experience as a wilderness instructor, at the Lander Chamber of Commerce, and as an events planner, she now thrives at Brunton, engaging with recreation buyers and enthusiasts from all around the world.

**Jessica Baxter:** Jessica is a self-labeled “Data Geek” with a love for building relationships, envisioning possibility, and helping others. Serving for 30+ years at Our Camp has been a foundational aspect of Jessica’s views on inclusion, equitability, and quality of life.

**Willow Belden:** Willow Belden is a founding board member of Common Outdoor Ground. She’s an avid hiker, Nordic skier, and cyclist, and she’s conquering her fear of heights by learning to rock climb. Willow’s passion for nature extends beyond recreation to her work as a journalist. Formerly a reporter for Wyoming Public Radio, she now hosts the award-winning podcast Out There, which uses stories about the natural world to help listeners make sense of life.

**Kevin Belle:** Kevin Belle is the project manager for the Great American Rail-Trail at Rails to Trails Conservancy. He is a trained trail planner and assists communities around the country in trail development and maximizing the potential of trails for local and visitor benefits.

**Beth Brennan:** Beth Brennan is a marketing and project manager in the outdoor industry with an interest in market research, economic development and sustainable and responsible growth. Beth has experience working for destinations such as Jackson Hole Resort Association, Durango Tourism Office and Aramark Parks & Leisure. She is also active with conservation and land stewardship groups such as Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Public Land & Water Association.

**Quinn Brett:** Quinn, originally a professional climber, transitioned into an avid hand-cyclist following a climbing accident in 2017. She made history as the first known hand-cyclist to conquer the Tour Divide, a grueling +3000-mile bike ride from Jasper, Canada, to Antelope Wells, New Mexico. Her experiences before and after the accident, coupled with her work background, have honed her expertise in adaptive recreation. Quinn has contributed her skills to both the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife, focusing on wilderness preservation and accessibility. Her specialty lies in bridging the gap between sustainable trail development and adherence to wilderness and accessibility laws, particularly for adaptive hiking and aMTB (adaptive mountain biking).

**Jonathan Brooks:** Jonathan Brooks is the Recreation Program Manager for the Laramie Ranger District of Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest through the United States Forest Service.

**Caleb Carter:** Caleb is the District Manager for the Weston County Natural Resource District. He has been able to combine this role with his passion for outdoor recreation through the development of local trails. He has also been a part of efforts to expand access to local trails in the area to a wider audience, including adaptive riders.

**Aaron Davidson:** Aaron has been involved in long range shooting since he traded in his high school Camaro for his first precision rifle. As a mechanical engineer, his training and experience has given him a unique insight into solving the problems presented with long range shooting. His inventions range from award winning rifles to the world's smartest rangefinders and riflescopes. Aaron is the founder and CEO of Gunwerks, based in Cody, WY.

**Eric Distad:** Eric is a board member at Outdoor Mindset. He is currently VP of Clinical Development at a start-up researching a new therapy for epilepsy. Eric is passionate about ski-mountaineering, climbing, trail running and mountain biking.

**Nicole Foss:** Nicole Foss is the Program Manager for Common Outdoor Ground (COG). After receiving both her BA and MA in English from the University of Wyoming, she is thrilled to bring her communication skills to the nonprofit and outdoor recreation sectors. Nicole enjoys camping, gardening, plant identification, foraging, walkabouts, and downhill skiing, but she is most excited to spend her summer participating in the sustainable stewardship of public lands.

**Sara Ghezzi:** Sara Ghezzi, Ph.D, is an assistant professor of practice at the University of Wyoming in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources with the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management program. She has been a COG Board Member since 2022.

**Pitt Grewe:** Pitt has been working in the outdoor industry for 20 years. From resort operations to public service, he has always focused on helping people get outside and find a connection with our public lands. As the Head of Public Land Partnerships, he helps land managers reach AllTrails users with critical information and get access to important trail user data trends to keep people safe and protect our public lands. Before joining AllTrails, Pitt served as the Director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation in the state of Utah. He loves working with the many outdoor recreation stakeholders to increase funding, harbor collaboration and educate communities on the benefits of getting outside. He is always up for an adventure on a trail, a river, a cliff face, or in the snow.

**Patrick Harrington:** Patrick graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in Environment and Natural Resources and has spent his professional career as a leader in this field. Patrick is the manager of the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Office, bringing his prior experience as superintendent of Curt Gowdy State Park and the Director of the Wyoming Conservation Corps. Patrick enjoys fly fishing, mountain biking, trail building, hiking, skiing and anything else that lets him spend time outside with his family.

**Laurel Henry:** Laurel is a Vision Outreach Consultant for the Wyoming Department of Education with 18 years of experience assisting clients and their families adjust to vision loss, teaching the use of assistive technology, and helping clients develop independent living skills. She believes high expectations and a positive view of vision loss increases the chance individuals will succeed.

**Marc Hildesheim:** Marc is the executive director of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Coalition. The NOHVCC develops and provides a wide spectrum of programs, materials and information, or "tools", to individuals, clubs, associations and agencies to further a positive future for responsible OHV recreation. Marc has built a career as a leader in the motorized trail communities in Idaho and New Mexico before becoming the CEO of NOHVCC.





**Marc Homer:** Marc is Wyoming Director at Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado & Wyoming, providing programs and services including outdoor summer camps and retreats. Marc is a UW alumnus and is passionate about cross-country skiing, mountain-biking, music and travel.

**Jessi Johnson:** Jess Johnson leads Wyoming Wildlife Federation's efforts to advocate on behalf of wildlife and wild places through policy and local advocacy and is a fixture of the Wyoming State Capitol during legislative sessions. Beyond her work with WWF, she's a co-founder and advisory board member of Artemis Sportswomen and serves as the policy seat on the board of directors for 2% for Conservation.

**Matt Jolivet:** With a decade of experience in invasive species management, Matt Jolivet brings a wealth of expertise to the field. His passion for hunting and fishing makes him a natural fit for the mission of Wyoming Weed and Pest, where he works to protect our lands, wildlife, and agricultural resources from the threats posed by invasive species. Drawing from his studies in agroecology, which explore the interaction between humans and ecosystems, Matt strives to strike a balance that serves both communities and wilderness areas, ensuring they remain accessible and beneficial for generations to come.

**Forrest Kamminga, Wyoming State Trails Program, Manager:** Forrest has a passion for outdoor adventures including fishing, hunting, and dirt bike riding, along with his favorite activity – snowmobiling. Forrest started with the Wyoming State Trails program as a seasonal employee before becoming the Regional Trails Supervisor in charge of snowmobile and ORV trails across western Wyoming. Now, as the manager, Forrest oversees all activities of the Wyoming State Trails Program.

**Steff Kessler:** Steff Kessler's journey in Wyoming began in her early 20s when she joined NOLS as a wilderness guide. Her adventures took her across the Rocky Mountains, Alaska, Mexico, and Kenya. Later, she transitioned into NOLS administration, focusing on staffing and development. Steff's diverse career also includes roles as the former executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, Fremont County Commissioner, and the first Wyoming director for The Wilderness Society. As a seasoned nonprofit and conservation policy consultant, she has made significant contributions to environmental causes. Currently, she serves as the Interim Coordinator for the Wyoming Outdoor Business Alliance, championing the economic potential of outdoor recreation.

**Michael Kusiek:** Michael Kusiek is the Executive Director of Wyoming Pathways, a statewide organization dedicated to human-powered transportation and recreation. Michael has over twenty-five years of experience in project management for health care, education, conservation, and public lands concerns. Michael earned a B.A. in Multicultural Studies/History and a master's in education focused on Total Quality Management.

**Courtney Larson:** Courtney Larson, Ph.D., is a conservation scientist with The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming. Her current work focuses on recreation and wildlife coexistence, low-tech stream restoration techniques, and mapping and spatial analysis. Courtney completed a PhD and MS in Ecology at Colorado State University, focusing on the effects of recreation on wildlife, and a B.A. in Environmental Studies and International Studies from Colby College.

**Megan Lawson:** Megan Lawson, Ph.D., leads Headwaters Economics research in outdoor recreation and public lands. She uses economic and statistical analysis to better understand the issues that communities face

such as the economic potential and impacts of housing and land use policies, economic diversification, and public land management. Equal parts scientist and communicator, Megan uses data to conduct actionable research that illuminates solutions. She applies analytical skills to land use, natural resource, and public health topics, with an emphasis on the unique needs and opportunities for rural communities.

**Ashley Littleton:** Ashley Littleton is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. She is the Food Service director for Camp Hope for kids with diabetes on Casper Mountain. She is a Wyoming native and currently lives in Douglas with her two kids and wonderful husband.

**Linda Merigliano:** Linda is a recreation program manager for the Jackson Ranger District and the Bridger-Teton National Forest public engagement specialist. She began working as a wilderness ranger in the Teton Range in 1979 and quickly decided to move and stay for the long-term. Her work focuses on forest planning, visitor use issues, partnerships, and promoting responsible, respectful use. In 2020, she coordinated a multi-partner effort to investigate recreation-wildlife co-existence to help address tension between recreation and conservation interests and inform the forest plan revision.

**Jessica Moore:** Jessica Moore is the Superintendent at Sinks Canyon State Park. She grew up in Michigan where she started her career as an Interpretive Ranger with the National Park Service, moved to Washington State where she spent 18 years working as an educator at a 725-acre wildlife park, and was hired on with Wyoming State Parks in the fall of 2022. Jessica has had a lifelong passion for nature and conservation and now enjoys spending time in beautiful Sinks Canyon.

**Kristi Murphy:** Kristi Murphy is the Recreation Program Manager for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland. Prior to her current duty station in Laramie Wyoming, Kristi worked in the field of Outdoor Recreation Management on several National Forests (Chequamegon National Forest, National Forests in Mississippi, Superior National Forest, and Rio Grande National Forest) and with the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado. Over her 31-year career, she has completed large-scale recreation projects and improved recreation outcomes by working closely with and listening to the needs of local communities, recreation visitors and partner groups.

**Lindsay Olson:** Lindsay is a Laramie native with degrees from UW including a Masters involving research with small-scale Peruvian farmers in the High Andes. In 2018, Lindsay and her husband bought Atmosphere Mountainworks, a Laramie company for more than 20 years, which makes one-of-a-kind bags and apparel. Lindsay chooses to live in Laramie because of its close access to the mountains for hiking and mountain biking.

**Ally Palmer:** Ally Palmer, originally from Wyoming and holding an MS in Innovation and Management from Montana State University and dual BS degrees in Marketing and Professional and Technical Selling from the University of Wyoming, is a dynamic marketing coordinator. Outside of work, she is an avid outdoor enthusiast, which inspires her to create compelling campaigns that connect with audiences. Ally effectively merges technical expertise with creativity to develop impactful marketing campaigns.

**Vsevolod (Sevi) Shperun:** Vsevolod (Sevi) Shperun is the Recreation Manager on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District on the Medicine Bow National Forest. Sevi manages 13 campgrounds, 10 day use sites, multiple trailheads, hundreds of miles of summer and winter trails, 2 Wilderness areas, and dispersed recreation. He started his career with the United States Forest Service in 2012 working in Forestry and in



2022, Sevi moved into the Recreation Manager position on the Medicine Bow National Forest. Sevi holds a degree in Biology from the Temple University.

**Justin Smith:** Justin Smith grew up between Ten Sleep, WY and Friday Harbor, WA before tripping around for school in Colorado and Texas and work in Texas and Oregon. In 2013 he moved back to Ten Sleep to start the Ten Sleep Brewing Company with his Dad, while keeping one foot in the engineering world. Justin's passion is two wheeled dirt and dual sport travel, although he'll also pedal if he has to. He tries to stay involved with outdoor rec advocacy via the Tensleep Nowood Trailbreakers and was proud to play a (very) small part in helping with the Wyoming BDR. At this point, Justin feels extremely fortunate to be surrounded by millions of acres of public land in Wyoming.

**Laurel Stephens:** Born and raised in the heart of Georgia, Laurel fell in love with the West many years ago and has called the Bighorn Basin home since 2019. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in English from Middle Georgia State University, Laurel has assumed a variety of roles throughout her professional career that have focused on marketing and communications in the hospitality and tourism industry. Laurel has worked for the Wyoming Office of Outdoor Recreation since 2021.

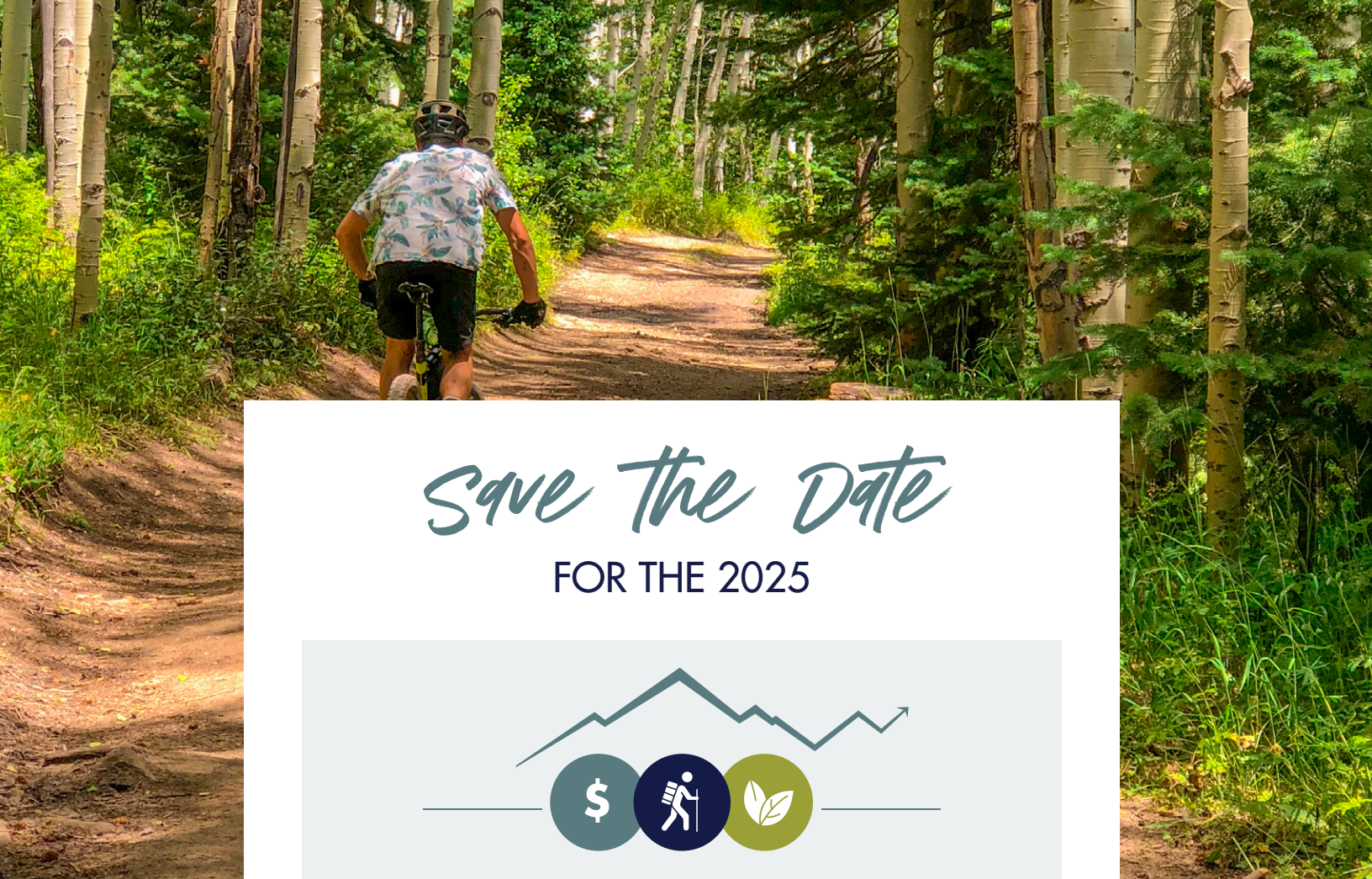
**Joe Stone:** Prior to joining Dovetail Trail Consulting, Joe served as the Executive Director at Teton Adaptive in Jackson Hole, WY. With extensive experience as an adaptive mountain biker and hiker, he has worked nationwide with trail crews, land management agencies, mountain bike festivals, and various nonprofits dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities. Joe is a passionate advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities. His expertise lies in program development, staying abreast of emerging technologies, and understanding the desires of the disability community in expanding opportunities.

**Nita Tallent:** Nita Tallent, Ph.D., is a retired federal research scientist (US Environmental Protection Agency) and natural resource & environmental law & policy professional (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, & Federal Emergency Management Agency). Concurrent with her professional career, Nita is an alumna of the University of Nevada Las Vegas where she earned a MS and Doctorate in biological sciences specializing in plant succession, restoration, and invasive species ecology. Following her federal service Nita has returned to academia to earn a MS in Environment, Natural Resources & Society as a member of the MacMillan Private Lands Stewardship Program exploring private land conservation and outdoor recreation.

**Mark Tesoro:** Mark Tesoro founded Southwest Wyoming Off-road Trails, also known as SWOT, in early 2020. SWOT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting communities in Wyoming with off-road motorized trails as a means of economic development. He lives with his wife in Evanston and manages a sporting goods company. He also serves on the board of the Wyoming Office of Tourism for District 4 covering Uinta, Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties.

**Aaron Voos:** Since 2010, Aaron Voos has worked with the Public Affairs program on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland. According to Voos, working with collaborative groups like COG is one of the most enjoyable and valuable aspects of his job. He has been involved with COG since inception. Voos lives in Laramie with his wife Marla and two sons, Jack (17) and Will (12). When not hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, playing tennis, landscaping, or otherwise doing something active, he can be found coaching youth baseball or traveling around the region/country to his kids' sporting events.





*Save the Date*

FOR THE 2025



**WYOMING OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
*Summit*

**MAY 1-3, 2025**

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center  
Laramie, WY



Wyoming Outdoor  
Recreation, Tourism and  
Hospitality Initiative  
(WORTH)

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