

# HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING 2012

## Energy Mitigation Initiative launches first publication Primer will inform future natural gas wildlife mitigation projects

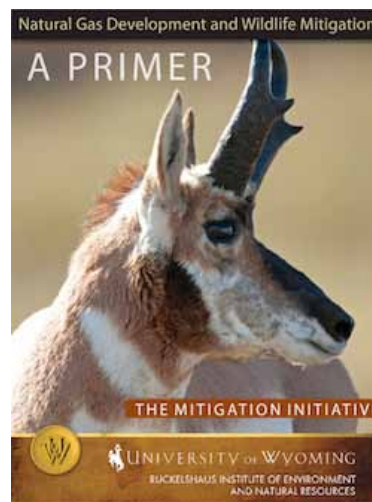
This May, the Ruckelshaus Institute released the first publication of the new Energy Mitigation Research and Outreach Initiative. "Natural Gas Development and Wildlife Mitigation" provides a common foundation of terms and understanding for what "mitigation" and its associated activities mean in the context of natural gas development in Wyoming. The publication is meant to help land and wildlife managers, decision makers, industry and the public better understand the context of mitigation for energy development's impacts to wildlife.

"As more natural gas projects are considered in Wyoming and across the West, productive conversations about future wildlife mitigation will require a shared understanding of mitigation terminology and practices," says Anne Jakle, interim assistant director of the Ruckelshaus Institute and author of the primer.

One analysis using Bureau of Land Management data projects oil and gas development will directly impact 5.7 million acres in the Intermountain West over the next 20 years, with over 100,000 new wells anticipated.

As energy development expands, habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse and other key species faces disturbance, conversion and fragmentation. While Wyoming has led the field with innovative mitigation strategies such as off-site mitigation funds in the Upper Green River Basin, there is still uncertainty as to how mitigation

should be practiced or how to quantify its effectiveness. Wyoming has the opportunity to lead the country in effective wildlife mitigation practices.



The Ruckelshaus Institute's new Energy Mitigation Initiative is an effort to gather, synthesize, and deliver information on mitigation practices intended to ameliorate consequences to wildlife from landscape-scale energy development. "Natural Gas Development and Wildlife Mitigation" provides definitions of key terminology, a description of where and how mitigation planning can fit into a development project and an

overview of emerging approaches for wildlife mitigation. A second primer, "Wind Energy Development and Wildlife Mitigation," is scheduled for release later this summer.

Download the primer >> [UWYO.EDU/ENR](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR)



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*The Environment and Natural Resources Program advances the understanding and resolution of complex natural resource challenges through the Haub School, Ruckelshaus Institute and Wyoming Conservation Corps.*

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Over the past year, a number of Ruckelshaus Institute publications have caught the attention of stakeholders ranging from Wyoming landowners and government leaders to conservationists and managers. "Commercial Wind Energy Development in Wyoming: A Guide for Landowners" and the "Private Lands Conservation Toolkit" both distill crucial information for people trying to steward their property in the face of sometimes staggering development pressures. As you'll read later in this newsletter, the latest publication of the Open Spaces Initiative has already influenced the state government to commit funds for wildlife habitat protection. If you missed any of those reports, you can download them from our website or call us to request a hard copy.



"Natural Gas Development and Wildlife Mitigation: A Primer" is the latest resource we've produced to help Wyoming citizens, managers and decision makers understand and address the complexities of wildlife habitat impacts from energy development. As a neutral convener and trusted source of sound information, the Ruckelshaus Institute is pleased to inform efforts to responsibly manage our natural resources.

The research that goes into these reports is just one way we strive to advance understanding and resolution of environment and natural resource challenges in Wyoming and the West. Read on to learn about the additional good work of our students, faculty and conservation corps volunteers. We invite you to contribute to our mission by attending one of our summer workshops in collaborative decision making, volunteering with a WCC crew for a day or supporting our program with a donation.

Thanks for your interest in and support of the Environment and Natural Resources Program at UW.

Sincerely,

Indy Burke, ENR Director



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# ENR welcomes newcomers

In the last year, four new staffers and three board members joined the Environment and Natural Resources Program, bringing experience in fields ranging from energy and agriculture to facilitation and outdoor education.

**Mary Hogarty** became a Research Scientist for the Ruckelshaus Institute in March. She grew up in Wyoming and has worked as a facilitator for Building the Wyoming We Want and as a liason for the town of Pinedale. She has a master's degree in Sustainable Development from SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont.

**Brittany Thompson** came on board as Project Coordinator for the Wyoming Conservation Corps last October. Previously, she worked with conservation corps crews for the U.S. Forest Service in southern Colorado. She has a degree in environmental education and conservation biology with a minor in horticulture from Colorado State University. She also studied outdoor education with the National Outdoor Leadership School, Rocky Mountain Branch.

**Darrin Lutz** first joined the Wyoming Conservation Corps as a crew member in '09. He went on to become a crew leader in '10 and joined the WCC staff last year. He earned his BA in geography and ENR from the University of Wyoming in '10.

**Emilene Ostlind** joined ENR in February as Public Relations Coordinator. After earning her MFA in conjunction with an ENR major from the Haub School in '10, she spent two years reporting on environmental issues in the West for publications including *High Country News* and *WyoFile*.

>> [UWYO.EDU/ENR/ABOUT-US](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR/ABOUT-US)

## New board members



**Norm Christensen** is Research Professor of Ecology and Founding Dean of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. His research includes studies of natural and human-caused ecosystem change.



**Jim Magagna** is Executive Vice President of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association. A lifelong sheep rancher, he represents agriculture on several councils and advisory boards.



**Randy Teeuwen** is Community Relations Advisor for EnCana Oil and Gas USA, Inc., Wyoming's largest producer of unconventional natural gas and one of the state's largest producers of crude oil.



**Mary Hogarty**  
Research Scientist  
Ruckelshaus Institute



**Brittany Thompson**  
Project Coordinator  
Wyoming Conservation Corps



**Darrin Lutz**  
Senior Field Supervisor  
Wyoming Conservation Corps



**Emilene Ostlind**  
Public Relations  
Coordinator



## HAUB SCHOOL OF ENR The class of 2012

### Outstanding Haub School graduates

**Chris Michael** B.A. in Political Science and ENR with a minor in Environmental Values, a finalist for the Tobin Award for UW's outstanding male graduate, *cum laude*, one of the College of Arts and Sciences Top Twenty students, a Political Science Outstanding Senior, Phi Beta Kappa

**Tom Hesse** B.A. in Journalism and ENR, honors, *magna cum laude*, studied the ecological impact of the next Olympic Games in Russia

**Julia Behr-Lausch** M.A. in International Studies and ENR, 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student

**Diem Pham** M.S. in Zoology/Physiology and ENR, recipient of the 2012 Ellbogen Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award

### ENR celebrates a class of diverse, accomplished and terrifically smart graduates

We are incredibly proud of the Haub School's 2012 graduates. This class of 53 — the largest in the School's 18-year history — includes students representing six of UW's colleges and 22 distinct degree programs. Four Haub School graduates belong to the University Honors Program, two graduated *magna cum laude* and *cum laude* and one is the newest inductee to Phi Beta Kappa. Among these students are our first graduate from the Crow Tribe and a master's student from Vietnam. Six earned a joint JD/MA in law and ENR.

On May 4, we celebrated the graduates at the Historic Train Depot in downtown Laramie. Parents, staff and board members congratulated the ENR students as they leave the university for careers and experiences addressing the world's toughest environmental challenges.

We wish these students well as they depart for lives as graduate students, wildland firefighters, environmental consultants and much more. Good luck!

View graduate student thesis titles, covering topics from narrating energy landscapes to the economics of critical habitat

>> [UWYO.EDU/ENR/Haub-SCHOOL](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR/Haub-SCHOOL)

Student advisor Maggie Bourque with graduate students Julia Stuble, American Studies and ENR, and Ben Johnson, Natural Science Education and ENR, during the capstone course experience abroad in Tenerife, Canary Islands (above).

Haub School Assistant Director Courtney Carlson congratulates student Erin Daley, B.S. in Geography and ENR, at the graduation party as board member Dick Davis and Associate Director Nicole Korfanta look on (below).



## RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE Projects and publications further our mission

### Open Spaces Initiative

In December, the Open Spaces Initiative — a collaborative effort of the Ruckelshaus Institute to improve the effectiveness of Wyoming citizens in maintaining our state's open spaces — produced its latest report, "Economic Contributions of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust."

The publication was distributed widely among policy makers, the public and others. Last winter Gov. Matt Mead recommended that the legislature appropriate \$21 million to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, mentioning the Ruckelshaus Institute report in his State of the State speech. The legislature did approve the funding, bringing the Trust closer to its \$200 million cap.



### Upper Green River Basin Air Quality Citizens Advisory Task Force

Since February, Spicer Chair for Collaborative Practice Steve Smutko and Public Policy Mediator Elizabeth Spaulding have been facilitating meetings of the Upper Green River Basin Air Quality Citizens Advisory Task Force for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in Pinedale. The task force aims to bring transparency and innovative solutions to the process of reducing ground-level ozone in the region.

### Cline Chair receives research grants

Cline Chair of Engineering and ENR, Fred Ogden, is leading the University of Wyoming portion of a collaborative project to build a high-resolution model of water resources in the West. With funding from the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), scientists and engineers from Utah and Wyoming will develop high performance computational models to understand how future water resources will be impacted by shifting land use, climate variability and population growth.

In addition, the Defense Department awarded Ogden a grant to purchase an instrument that will measure subsurface hydrologic flows in soil.

*"Whether you hunt or fish, whether you are a stockgrower, or stockbroker, or just a person who relishes the outdoors and all it offers in Wyoming, our quality and way of life are tied to successful conservation efforts."*

- Gov. Mead, in reference the Open Spaces Initiative publication during his 2012 State of the State address

Learn more about our work

>> [UWYO.EDU/ENR/RUCKELSHAUS-INSTITUTE](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR/RUCKELSHAUS-INSTITUTE)



## WYOMING CONSERVATION CORPS WCC alumni explore the world

As they move on to new experiences, Wyoming Conservation Corps alumni reflect on the values and skills they gained.

**Patrick Harrington** (left), crew member in '10 and crew leader in '11, will spend this summer building mountain bike trails for Wyoming State Parks. "I wouldn't have even known

jobs like this existed if not for the WCC," he says. In his free time he looks forward to testing the trails he builds.

**Jake White**, crew leader in '10 and '11, is now a research assistant for a graduate student studying American martens on Kuiu Island in Alaska. He says he wishes everyone could participate in WCC not just because it is so much fun, but also for the leadership skills it teaches.

**Amy Healy** (right), crew member in '10 and crew leader in '11, begins 27 months as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania this June. "WCC helped me to realize just how important volunteerism is to being a well rounded person and a good citizen," she says. "I know I will reference experiences and things I learned with WCC for the rest of my life."

*"WCC taught me how to live outside, lead groups to accomplish projects, communicate in tense situations, and be a responsible worker. It's hard to put into words how valuable WCC was to me."*

- Jake White, WCC crew leader during the summers of 2010 and '11

Learn more

>> [UWYO.EDU/ENR/WCC](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR/WCC)

### 2012 WCC Field Schedule

Throughout the summer, Wyoming Conservation Corps crews will be completing projects around the state. Come meet a crew and volunteer for your public lands for a day!

#### May 28 - June 6 (nearest town)

- Crew 1 Whiskey Basin Conservation Camp maintenance (Dubois)
- Crew 2 Tamarisk removal, Boysen Bridge (Thermopolis)
- Crew 3 Fence removal and conifer mitigation (Meeteetse)
- Crew 4 Lake Owen campground cleanup and fencing (Laramie)
- Crew 5 Guernsey State Park bark beetle mitigation (Guernsey)
- Crew 6 Laramie Rivers Conservation District cleanup (Laramie)

#### June 11 - June 20

- Crew 1 Blue Gultch Trail and River Campground repairs (Casper)
- Crew 2 Thunder Basin NG prairie dog dusting and fencing (Douglas)
- Crew 3 Sinks Canyon State Park bark beetle mitigation (Lander)
- Crew 4 Curt Gowdy State Park bark beetle mitigation (Laramie)
- Crew 5 Rawlins BLM/Devon Energy lease area fencing (Rawlins)
- Crew 6 Thunder Basin NG prairie dog dusting and fencing (Douglas)

#### June 25 - July 4

- Crew 1 Glendo State Park trails (Glendo)
- Crew 2 Trail building, Johnny Behind the Rocks (Lander)
- Crew 3 Medicine Bow NF wilderness trails (Laramie)
- Crew 4 Trails and signage on Green River (Pinedale)
- Crew 5 Medicine Bow NF thinning and maintenance (Laramie)
- Crew 6 Glendo State Park trail building/maintenance (Glendo)

See the complete summer schedule at [UWYO.EDU/ENR](http://UWYO.EDU/ENR). Contact WCC Assistant Director Kendall Peacock at (307) 766-6436 or [kpeacoc1@uwyo.edu](mailto:kpeacoc1@uwyo.edu) to volunteer.



## 2012 Summer Workshop Series

The Ruckelshaus Institute offers the 2012 Summer Workshop Series in natural resource negotiation, facilitation and collaborative decision making. These interactive workshops cover how to resolve complex issues, reduce conflict and create value around natural resources challenges. Open to anyone who would like to attend, the trainings are designed for natural resource managers and planners. Steve Smutko, ENR's Spicer Chair in Collaborative Practice, organizes and instructs the workshops along with other nationally recognized experts in natural resource management.

Introduction to Collaborative Natural Resource Decision Making  
**JUNE 22** Jackson, WY

Basic Negotiation in Natural Resource Management  
**JUNE 26-27** Jackson, WY

Advanced Negotiation in Natural Resource Management  
**JUNE 28-29** Jackson, WY

Strategic Communications in Natural Resource Management  
**JULY 30-31** Casper, WY

Essentials in Facilitating Controversial Issues  
**AUGUST 1-2** Jackson, WY

Structured Decision Making Methods for Management and Policy  
**AUGUST 8-9** Laramie, WY

Introduction to Collaborative Natural Resource Decision Making  
**AUGUST 14** Cody, WY

Find more details and register >> [WWW.UWYO.EDU/ENR](http://WWW.UWYO.EDU/ENR)

## GET INVOLVED

### Special Event

The Environment and Natural Resources Program is pleased to host environmental luminaries William D. Ruckelshaus, John Turner and Al Simpson in a conversation moderated by former Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan.

**August 13, 2012**  
**Buffalo Bill Historic Center, Cody, WY**

Contact Mary Hogarty at (307) 766-5146 or [mhogarty@uwyo.edu](mailto:mhogarty@uwyo.edu) for details.

### Donate to ENR using UW's secure server

N12NR

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## ALUM SPOTLIGHT

### Kelsey Beck, '11 Science Instructor, Wind River Tribal College

Kelsey Beck, originally from Littleton, Colo., earned her B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology Management and ENR in '08 and her M.S. in Botany with a certificate in Reclamation and Restoration Ecology in '11. As a student at the University

of Wyoming, she also worked for ENR and volunteered for the Wyoming Conservation Corps.

After graduating, she took a job as a science instructor at the Wind River Tribal College in Ethete, Wyoming. There she teaches science as well as the college's capstone course, where students complete an in-depth research project and public presentation. She is also helping to create a campus garden that will provide hands-on learning for students while producing fresh vegetables for the Diabetes Foundation and Senior Center to use in meals.

"ENR taught me collaboration and the importance of having an open mind," she says, skills that help her work with various organizations on the reservation. In addition to raising students' awareness of surrounding natural resources, she also enjoys learning about their cultural perspectives on the environment.

Know an alum we should spotlight? Email suggestions to [SEN@UWYO.EDU](mailto:SEN@UWYO.EDU).