



# GWS ParkForum 2025

A conservation solutions workshop

University of Montana, Missoula

October 20–23, 2025

[georgewright society.org/parkforum-2025](http://georgewright society.org/parkforum-2025)

UNIVERSITY OF  
MONTANA CONFERENCE CENTER

## Program

### Welcome to GWS ParkForum 2025

The George Wright Society and the University of Montana are delighted to welcome you to the Missoula campus for the inaugural GWS ParkForum! This is the first in a series of annual conservation solutions workshops that will be held at universities across the country each fall. We are gathering here to share innovations and tested solutions to the challenges facing parks, protected/conserved areas, cultural sites, and other forms of place-based conservation. Our work is more important now than ever before, and GWS ParkForum is designed to help you achieve your goals in the company of supportive peers.

We're glad you're here! If you need assistance, see us at the Registration Desk anytime.

Download this Program and the complete presentation Abstracts at [georgewright society.org/parkforum-2025-program](http://georgewright society.org/parkforum-2025-program)

Names and presentations in green are planned as Remote Presentations

### Monday, October 20 10:00a–1:30p REGISTRATION, POSTER SET-UP

### 1:30–5:00p OPENING PLENARY SESSIONS

#### Plenary Session I

UC Theater, 1:30–3:30p

Format: Invited speakers

#### Welcome from the George Wright Society and the University of Montana / Introduction to Today's Plenary Sessions

Fred Herling, GWS President; Chad Bishop, Director, Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana

#### The Future of Climate Action in the Y2Y Region: Connecting Indigenous Leadership, Western Scholarship, and Community Engagement

**Germaine White**, Native American Engagement Director at the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana

**Whisper Camel-Means**, Manager, Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Graham McDowell**, Director of Science and Knowledge, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y)

*Moderator:* Jenn Thomsen, University of Montana

We begin GWS ParkForum 2025 with a session that situates us within the place/region we are meeting: the Traditional Territory of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (and the Kalispel Nation) and the greater Yellowstone to Yukon Region. We have invited leaders from CSKT and Y2Y to share how they are making connections between Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Western science, and community aspirations to rise to the challenges of climate change.



**Germaine White** was born on the Flathead Indian Reservation and raised by the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness, and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She is the Native American Engagement Director at the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana, and formerly served as the Information and Education Program Manager for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Natural Resource Department. Germaine is passionate about the work of cultural bridge-building and bringing people together to protect the places that sustain us all.



**Whisper Camel-Means** is the Division Manager of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation within the Natural Resources Department of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. An enrolled CSKT member, she is affiliated with the Qlispé people. Trained as a wildlife biologist, Whisper earned her Master of Science degree from Montana State University. In her current role, she oversees a wide range of biological programs and works extensively in collaboration with internal teams, partner organizations, and outside agencies to support conservation and resource management efforts.



**Dr. Graham McDowell** is the Director of Science and Knowledge at the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), where his work focuses on large-landscape conservation, nature positive climate solutions, and knowledge co-creation with Indigenous Peoples. He has extensive experience related to environmental change in mountain regions, including leading studies in the Nepal Himalaya, Peruvian Andes, Rocky Mountains, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic; founding and leading the [Canadian Mountain Assessment](#); and serving as an author with UN's [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#).

### REFRESHMENT BREAK 3:30–4:00p Cold beverages

#### Opening Plenary Session II

UC Theater, 4:00–5:00p

Format: Invited speaker

#### Parks Canada — An integrated approach to conservation

**Ernie Gladstone**, Executive Director, Indigenous Stewardship and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada

*Moderator:* Michelle Bowden, Director, Conservation Programs Branch, Parks Canada / George Wright Society Board Member

Parks Canada is the federal agency that protects and manages national parks, marine conservation areas, national urban parks and national historic sites in Canada. Parks Canada's approach to conservation integrates key global conservation priorities to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, take climate action and support Indigenous stewardship. Through the effective and equitable management of protected areas, Parks Canada is achieving positive impacts that are inspiring hope for biodiversity and people.



**Ernie Gladstone** began his Parks Canada career in 1992 and became the agency's first Haida Field Unit Superintendent in 2001. For over 20 years, he co-chaired the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board, advancing cooperative governance with the Haida Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. In 2008, he received a Public Service Award of Excellence for his contributions to Gwaii Haanas. As Executive Director of the Indigenous Stewardship Branch, Ernie led the development of Parks Canada's first Indigenous Stewardship Policy, created in collaboration with Indigenous leaders across the country. The policy, rooted in reconciliation and supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, was formally adopted in ceremony by the Indigenous Stewardship Circle in October 2024. Ernie has shared the story of the Haida-Parks Canada partnership nationally and internationally and was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

### WELCOMING RECEPTION 5:00–6:00p Light hors d'oeuvres, non-alcoholic beverages

**Tuesday, October 21 8:30–9:45a PLENARY SESSION Coffee & tea**

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|--|---|
| <b>Plenary Session III</b><br>UC Theater<br><br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation | <b>Youth Aspirations for Climate Change Action: Building on the <i>Held</i> Decision</b><br><i>Moderator:</i> Tom Olliff, GWS Board Member<br><i>Panelists:</i> <b>Nate Bellinger</b> , Supervising Senior Staff Attorney, Our Children's Trust; <b>Lander Busse</b> , Student, University of Montana<br><i>Held v. State of Montana</i> is a landmark 2023 case where 16 young plaintiffs, represented by the organization Our Children's Trust, sued the state of Montana, arguing that its policies violated their right to a clean and healthful environment under the Montana state constitution. The Montana Supreme Court ultimately affirmed a lower court's decision, ruling that the state's actions did indeed violate the plaintiffs' constitutional rights. In this Plenary session, two participants in this case will discuss how to build on the precedent to support young people in their search for solutions to the climate crisis, followed by a discussion with the audience. |
|--|---|

**Nate Bellinger** has worked at Our Children's Trust since its inception, starting as a volunteer in 2010. He has been a part of the organization's sustained growth over the past 14 years and now supervises staff attorneys and leads cases. He is the lead attorney in *Held v. State of Montana*, the first-ever constitutional climate case to go to trial, and won a historic ruling against the state. The court established that every additional ton of greenhouse gas pollution is causing constitutional, human rights injuries to young people, and made clear that ending the era of fossil fuel energy systems is essential to protecting the life, health, and dignity of every child, everywhere.

**Lander Busse**, now a student at the University of Montana, is one of the plaintiffs in *Held v. State of Montana*. You can read more about him and some of his fellow plaintiffs in this [article from The New York Times](#).

**REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING TIME 9:45–10:30a (45 minutes) Coffee & tea**

**10:30a–12:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

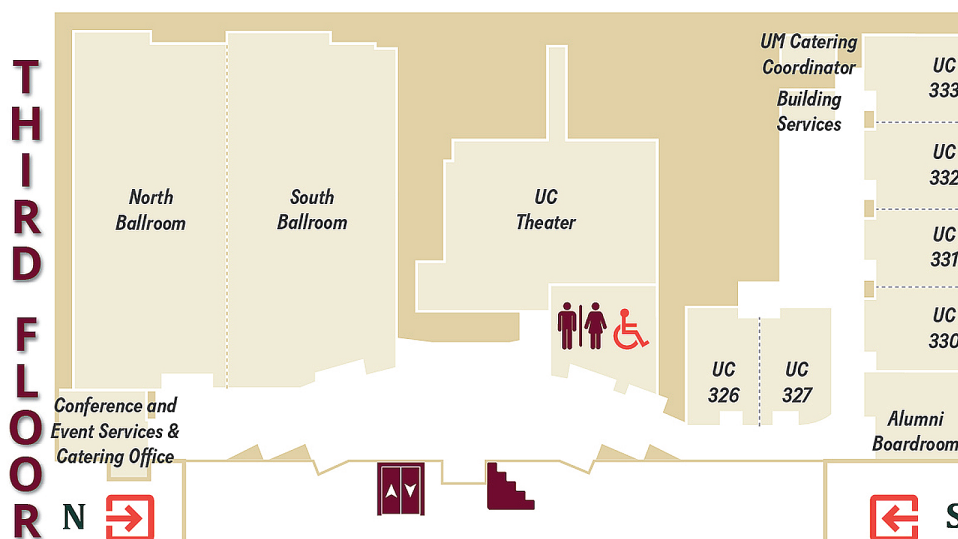
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| Session #1<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation                                     | <b>Humanities as a Bridge: Lessons from the ACE Mellon Program</b><br><i>Workshop leader:</i> Perri Meldon, National Coordinator, ACE Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program<br><i>Presenters:</i> Helen LaCroix, Communications Consultant, ACE Mellon Program; Meagan Harden, ACE Mellon Fellow, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area; Frank Schmitz, ACE Mellon Fellow; Varpu Lotvonen, ACE Mellon Fellow; Ione Quigley, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Rosebud Sioux Tribe<br>The American Conservation Experience (ACE) Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program places recent PhDs with historic sites, museums, and humanities organizations across the nation. ACE Mellon Fellows work with partners to conduct original research and develop new interpretive and educational products and programming. In this session, ACE Mellon participants share their experiences bridging enduring yet illusory divisions between natural and cultural heritage. Attendees will leave this session with creative, cost-effective methods for telling fuller, place-based stories rooted in public lands history. |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #2<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Hands-on Activity   | <b>Evaluating Ecological Intervention Proposals in Wilderness</b><br><i>Workshop leader:</i> Rob Burrows, NPS Wilderness Training Manager • <i>Co-organizers/co-presenters:</i> Jimmy Gaudry, Director, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Jaclyn Rushing, Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute<br>An ecological intervention in Wilderness is an action that alters, restricts, controls, or manipulates the earth and its community of life. This session will include an overview of ecological threats, requirements from the Wilderness Act, processes and tools to work through those requirements, and then a hands on activity with a theoretical case study. In small groups, attendees will explore factors to evaluate ecological interventions in wilderness through hands-on activity that helps point to conservation solutions and tradeoffs. Attendees will be able to identify key factors in considering ecological intervention proposals in the National Wilderness Preservation System.  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #3<br>UC 330–331<br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Informal Discussion   | <b>DEI in Environmental Stewardship: Past and Present Challenges</b><br><i>Convenor:</i> Yonit Yogev, Retired NPS Seasonal / Unaffiliated Researcher<br>Join an informal open discussion on the evolving challenges facing those who want to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential elements of environmental stewardship. My DEI journey began in 2013 when I began researching the National Park Service's history of addressing DEI, its dark history, and slowness to mitigate the systemic racism within the service. As we all are aware, today there is a full-on backlash against DEI. Come share your experiences and insights as we talk about ways we can move forward together..  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #4<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Sharing Circle  | <b>Connecting People and Place</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Shawn Johnson, Director, UM Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy<br><i>Co-organizers:</i> Travis Anklam, Richard Forbes, Alexis Gibson, Nick Maya, Heather Stokes, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy<br><br>How do you build trust, foster long-term relationships, and overcome participation barriers? How do you welcome conflict and ensure community input shapes complex decisions? This sharing circle is for those actively engaging the public or seeking to connect with others who are. Through participatory discussion, we'll explore experiences, challenges, and best practices for impactful, inclusive engagement. Attendees will share insights, build connections, and explore strategies for inclusive, meaningful community engagement.  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | <b>Session Title &amp; Chair</b>   | <b>10:30–10:45α</b>  | <b>10:45–11:00α</b>  | <b>11:00–11:15α</b>   | <b>11:15–11:30α</b>  | <b>11:30–11:45α</b>  |
| Session #5<br>UC Theater<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers  | <b>Fees &amp; Economic Value in Parks / Chair:</b> Fred Herling  | Recreation Fees in Parks and Protected Areas / Sharon Suiwen Zou | Recreational Value and Park Attributes: A Non-Market Valuation Approach / Clemens Wilson | Assessing the Impact of Idaho House Bill 93 on Idaho State Parks / Chris Zajchowski | Values and ecosystem services shape environmental concern in Alaska, USA / Shi Xue | Exploring Economic Impacts of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail / Ryan Sharp |
| The economic value of parks and protected areas is immense, but often difficult to pin down. Presentations in this session explore how to do that. |  |  |  |   |  |  |

**LUNCH BREAK 12:00–1:30p (90 minutes)**

## Tuesday, October 21 1:30–3:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS

|   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Session #6<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation  | <b>National Conservation Lands: Past, present, and future of lands beyond and between National Parks</b> • <i>Leader:</i> Chris Hill, CEO, Conservation Lands Foundation • <i>Panelists:</i> Carrie Hamblen, CEO, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce; John Leshy, DOI Solicitor (retired); John Todd, Wild Montana; Bob Wick, BLM (retired)<br>Beyond and between National Parks lies another conservation jewel: Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Lands. For 25 years, National Conservation Lands have conserved, protected, and restored nationally significant lands and waters that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values. This panel brings together retired agency staff, Tribal and conservation leaders, and economic development experts to explore the past, present, and future of this unique and ever-evolving conservation lands system. Attendees will explore how NCLs management may evolve and innovate in concert with increasing development, climate and recreation pressures.   |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #7<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation   | <b>Applying Cyclist Behavior and Backgrounds to Inform e-Bike Policy on Public Lands</b> • <i>Leader:</i> Colby Parkinson, PhD Candidate, Penn State University<br><i>Paper Presenters:</i> Colby Parkinson: Recreation Specialization's Influence on Cyclists' Spatial Behaviors in the Age of e-Bikes in Grand Teton National Park; Abigail Fuesler: Identity and Attitudes in Public Comments Regarding e-Bikes on Federal Land; Cait Henry: Trail users' perceptions of recreational E-bike use in Michigan<br>Cycling is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the U.S. Yet, the emergence of e-bike technology has instigated conflict among e-bikers and other park visitors, in part since e-bikers behave differently and have more diverse backgrounds than analog cyclists. This session will present data focused on perceptions, behaviors, and backgrounds of e-bikers to inform recreation planning. Paper presentations followed by audience interactions in the form of breakout groups and a panel composed of all paper presenters and at least one practitioner. Audience members will understand perceptions, behaviors, and backgrounds of e-bikers and gain insight into cyclist science, policy, and planning. |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #8<br>UC Theater<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation   | <b>Protected Areas: Everything Including the Carbon Sink</b><br><i>Leaders:</i> Alice Yue, Ecosystem Scientist, Parks Canada; Trevor Shiomi, Sustainability Manager, Parks Canada<br><br>This session will share Parks Canada's ecosystem carbon accounting approaches; policies and directions for conservation and enhancement of carbon sinks and sequestration; and examples of the integration of approaches in park through management planning and restoration activities. Outcomes from the session will help to inform the development of coherent and effective approaches for protected area practitioners. Attendees/audience members will better understand effective ecosystem carbon accounting approaches in protected areas.  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Session #9<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Sharing Circle   | <b>Focus Group for Updates to Digital Wilderness Management Educational Resources</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Miranda Foster, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Montana • <i>Session Co-Organizers:</i> Jaclyn Rushing, Heidi Blair<br>This sharing session will present Wilderness Connect, an interagency website and an authority for wilderness-related information. The site hosts a variety of toolboxes aimed at supporting practitioners and serves as a virtual repository for information sharing, skills, and practices related to various dimensions of wilderness management such as fire management, cultural resources, soundscapes, and partnerships. Through active audience feedback and guided discussion, this session seeks to identify any needs, limitations, and opportunities to improve the format, content, and breadth of the Wilderness Connect toolboxes. Attendees will learn about Wilderness Connect and its Toolboxes for wilderness management and assist on-going efforts to improve the resource.  |  |  |   |  |  |
|   | <b>Session Title &amp; Chair</b>   | <b>1:30–1:45p</b>  | <b>1:45–2:00p</b>  | <b>2:00–2:15p</b>   | <b>2:15–2:30p</b>  | <b>2:30–2:45p</b>  |
| Session #10<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers  | <b>Reimagining Park Values by Listening to All Voices</b><br>/ <i>Chair:</i> Ashley D'Antonio  | Repetitive Compulsions of Trauma: Perpetuating White Masculinity at U.S. Civil War Battlefields / Cait Henry | Visit with Respect: An Indigenous, and distinctively American, Outdoor Recreation Ethic / Levi Tenen | Haints: Ruptures of normativity in conservation stories of a forest in the United States' South / Taylor Parker | Adirondacks: We Were Here, We Are Here, We Have Every Right to Be Here / Benita Law-Diao | Inclusive conservation in the Denali region of Alaska / Carena Van Riper |
| It is imperative that parks continue to pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion, both as ideals and as ways to connect with the whole spectrum of the public. |  |  |  |   |  |  |

## REFRESHMENT BREAK 3:00–3:30p (30 minutes) Cold beverages



## 3RD FLOOR

### Administrative Offices

1. Building Services
2. Conference and Event Services & Catering Office
3. UM Catering Coordinator

### Meeting & Event Space

4. Alumni Boardroom
5. North Ballroom
6. South Ballroom
7. UC 326
8. UC 327
9. UC 330
10. UC 331
11. UC 332
12. UC 333
13. UC Theater

| Tuesday, October 21 3:30–5:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS  |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Session #11<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation   | <b>Transboundary Connectivity Conservation: Experiences in North America and Around the World</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Gabriel Oppler, International Policy & Partnerships Specialist, Center for Large Landscape Conservation • Aaron Laur, International Connectivity Program Manager, CLLC<br><br>Ecological connectivity conservation often requires working at large scales, transcending political borders. Transboundary initiatives require collaboration between institutions and individuals who sit on opposite sides of the border or speak different languages, but have common values and concern for the ecosystems they share. Hear about experiences and lessons learned from advancing connectivity conservation in North America and around the world. Presentations will be followed by discussion on long-standing and newly emerging challenges and opportunities in transboundary cooperation. Attendees/audience members will learn how ecological connectivity can be safeguarded between neighboring countries despite barriers. |   |   |   |   |  |
| Session #12<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Core Workshop Session: Presentations + Audience Interaction  | <b>Adapting to rapid change – on the ground and in the water</b> • <i>Organizers:</i> Nicholas Fisichelli, President & CEO, Schoodic Institute • <i>Presenters/Panelists:</i> Chris Nadeau, Senior Scientist, Schoodic Institute; Mark J. Biel, Natural Resources Program Manager, Glacier National Park<br>Stewarding park resources in the midst of rapid change is a critical conservation challenge today. There has been a proliferation of decision support tools, frameworks, and associated best practices for responding to rapid change. Yet, empirical evidence for on-the-ground and in-the-water adaptation solutions is sorely lacking, and the pace of change in parks is outpacing the ability of managers and scientists to respond. Come hear from leading scientists and practitioners who are testing the solutions and advancing the leading edge of adaptation. Share your experiences, perspectives, and questions in this interactive session and build your network.   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Session #13<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Invited Papers  | <b>National Park and Wildlife Refuge Visitor Perceptions of Climate Change</b> • <i>Leader:</i> Shawn Davis, Associate Professor, Slippery Rock University<br>Based on the theme of responding to climate change, each of the four papers will cover a different aspect of a comprehensive survey effort of 20 different national parks and 12 different national wildlife refuges during the spring and summer of 2025.<br>Paper 1: The Six Americas of National Parks and Wildlife Refuges / Shawn Davis, Associate Professor, Slippery Rock University<br>Paper 2: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, and Visitor Behavior / Rosie Mousseau, Graduate Student, Northern Michigan University<br>Paper 3: Climate Change Messaging Strategies for Parks and Refuges / Mackenzie Geary, Northern Michigan University<br>Paper 4: Visitors’ Perceptions of Climate Change in National Parks & Wildlife Refuges / Sam Kearney & Carson Piette, Northern Michigan University  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Session #14<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Sharing Circle  | <b>Striving for meaningful engagement in climate adaptation planning of ancestral heritage sites</b><br><i>Co-organizers:</i> Erin Seekamp, Professor, North Carolina State University; Michael Durglo, Jr., Climate Change Coordinator, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes<br><br>Hear about our journey toward meaningful engagement and share your stories of setbacks and success. Our journey emerged from a pilot project with members of the Kootenai and Séliš-Qlispe Culture Committees about climate adaptation planning of traditional use areas stewarded located within Glacier National Park.. We will also share lessons we learned along the way, such as co-creating shared terminology. Attendees/audience members will learn and share guidance for meaningful engagement in climate adaptation planning efforts.   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   | 3:30–3:35p  | 3:35–3:40p  | 3:40–3:45p  | 3:45–3:50p  | 3:50–3:55p  | 3:55–4:00p   |
| Session #15<br>UC Theater<br><br><b>Three-Minute Research (3MR) Competition for Emerging Researchers</b><br><i>Chair:</i> Will Rice<br><i>Judges:</i> Clara-Jane Blye, Wayde Morse, and Carena Van Riper  | A Shared Responsibility: The Environmental Political Economy of a Zero-Waste Banff National Park / Audrey Roy   | Electrifying Perspectives: Cyclist Perspectives Concerning E-Bikes on Multi-Use Singletrack / Abigail Fuesler | Beyond the Average Visitor: Refining Photo Norms for Crowding Perception on the Water / Adalyn Vergara            | Land and the American Dream / Ande Peersen  | Insights on Managing Residents and Tourists during a Disaster in a Nature-Based Tourism Destination / Colby Parkinson | Measuring angler intra-site place attachment based on survey responses and GPS tracking / Trevor Ross          |
|   | 4:00–4:05p  | 4:05–4:10p  | 4:10–4:15p  | 4:15–4:20p  | 4:20–4:25p  | 4:25–4:30p   |
|   | Caring for Those Who Care for Parks: Exploring Mental Health Resource availability across the NPS / Elizabeth Himschoot   | Beyond science and regulations: Hidden factors shaping recreation management decisions / Kika Bradford        | Proceeding with Sound Judgment: Applied Sensory Biology and Wilderness Character / Julia Daniell                  | California’s Delta in Motion: the state of the recreation economy and community wellbeing / Isaac Sanchez   | Motivations behind social trail usage at Delta Lake in Grand Teton National Park / Emma Keinath-Lopez                 | Shifting Landscapes: How Recreation-Based Economies Redefine Sense of Place in Trail Communities / Ava Worbets |
|   | 4:30–4:35p  | 4:35–4:40p  | 4:40–4:45p  | 4:45–4:50p  | 4:50–4:55p  | 4:55–5:00p   |
|   | Visual Semiotics in Parks: Assessing Pictorial Symbol Effectiveness in Outdoor Recreation Settings / Miranda Foster   | Pathways to Camping Access in the Rural American West: An Application of Access Theory / Hayley Johnson       | Impacts of Aquaculture Policy and Adaptive Capacity in Social-Ecological System of Chilika Lagoon / Adyasha Nayak | What’s In a Name? Reimagining the Geography of Naming Designations in the U.S. N.P.S. System / Seth Kannarr | WRAP-UP   |  |
|   | Student and early-career researchers have three minutes to convey the key points of their work in a friendly competition designed to hone presentation skills.  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Poster Reception & Stand-by Time 5:00–6:00p Dry snacks, non-alcoholic beverages (UC Ballroom North)   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| AFFINITY MEETING 5:30–6:30p   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| UC 326–327 • <b>LGBTQIA2S+: Fostering Community by Sharing Faced Challenges and Successes–Working Group Soft Launch</b><br><i>Convenors:</i> Cait Henry, Michigan State University, & Brian Forist, Indiana University<br>We are living through extraordinary and trying times in the U.S. and beyond. A variety of conditions pose significant challenges to LGBTQIA2S+ folks involved in place-based conservation and adjacent fields. By federal executive orders, discriminatory laws, internal policies, and actions taken by states, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and businesses there has been a calculated and deliberate marginalization and disappearing of LGBTQIA2S+ voices and experience. To counter this, a virtual community for Queer folks in the field is proposed. Participants in this sharing circle will be asked to articulate their needs in the intersecting arenas of learning and support. Initial plans for this virtual community will be shared and thoughts on its future format, content, and individual roles in its design will be discussed by all. LGBTQIA2S+ folks will leave knowing they are part of and a potential designer of a supportive community dedicated to ongoing learning and support. |   |   |   |   |   |  |

## Wednesday, October 22 8:30–10:00a PLENARY SESSION Coffee & tea

**GWS Awards Ceremony**  
(8:30–8:45a)

**Plenary Session IV**  
UC Theater  
Format: Panel Discussion  
(8:45–10:00a)

**Presentation of George Wright Society Achievement Awards in Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Social Science** • Lydia Kiewra & Linda Mazzu, GWS Board Members

**Ways of Knowing: The Intersection of National Park Advocacy and Indigenous rights**

**Organizer:** **Alan Spears**, Senior Director for Cultural Resources, National Parks Conservation Association • **Additional NPCA Panelists:** **Michael Jamison**, Crown of the Continent Campaign Director; **Katie Shea**, Tribal Policy Fellow; **Ahwahnee Williams**, Western Indigenous Fellow

This panel will feature three NPCA staffers who have spent years promoting Indigenous rights and the protection of our public lands and national parks. Through personal and professional reflections, and an examination of policies and laws, the “Ways of Knowing” panel will examine how NPCA has succeeded in this work, where the organization has fallen short, and what’s been learned in the process.



**Alan Spears** (Moderator) serves as the senior director for cultural resources for the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). He is based in Washington, DC. Alan also serves a board member for the George Wright Society.



**Michael Jamison** (panelist) is a writer and conservationist based in Whitefish, MT. He has worked for NPCA since 2010, and currently serves as Northern Rockies campaigns director. His work centers on partnership with First Nations in the United States and Canada, protecting, connecting and restoring cultural landscapes throughout the traditional territories of the transboundary Blackfoot Confederacy and Ktunaxa Nations.



**Katie Shea** (panelist), a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is the Tribal Policy Fellow at the National Parks Conservation Association. Where she leads efforts to strengthen understandings of Tribal engagement in public land stewardship. Her work includes developing co-management guidance in partnership with the Native American Rights Fund and fostering long-term relationships between Tribal Nations and the National Park Service.



**Ahwahnee Williams** (panelist), is an enrolled citizen of the Bishop Paiute Tribe where she was born and raised on her tribal homelands in California. Ahwahnee is the Senior Western Indigenous Engagement Fellow for NPCA Northern Rockies region. Ahwahnee is active in engaging and connecting tribal partners throughout the region. Ahwahnee is a graduate of Salish Kootenai College and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Tribal Historic Preservation. She currently resides in Northwestern Montana with her children.

## REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING TIME 10:00–10:30a (30 minutes) Coffee & tea

### 10:30a–12:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session #16  
UC Ballroom South  
  
Information Sharing Session  
Format: Invited Papers

**Taking Stock During a Watershed Moment in Recreation Allocation**

**Workshop leader:** Hayley Johnson, Research Assistant University of Montana • **Co-organizers:** William L. Rice, Abigail Fuesler, University of Montana

This session will include four complementary paper presentations focused on recreation allocation.

1. Assessing the efficacy of reservation systems and effects of climate extremes on recreational access presented by Jeffrey Jenkins, University of California, Merced; et al
2. Diversity in the rationing outcomes of U.S. recreation resources: A decision tree analysis presented by Bing Pan, Pennsylvania State University; et al.
3. Investigating recreation rationing and camping access through the lens of access theory: A case study in the rural American West presented by Hayley A. Johnson, UM; et al.
4. Visitor preferences regarding allocation of day-use wilderness permits in two national forests presented by Abigail Fuesler, UM

Session #17  
UC 332–333  
  
Core Workshop Session  
Format: Presentations + Audience Participation

**GenAI for conservation: Exploring opportunities and challenges in parks and recreation**

**Leader:** Kika Bradford, Social Scientist and Research Associate, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research

This interactive workshop explores how generative AI (GenAI) can support research and practice in conservation and outdoor recreation. We'll break down what GenAI is, where it can help—from literature reviews and study design to data analysis and outreach—and where it falls short. Using examples from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, this workshop will feature live demos, real-world case studies, and hands-on activities to explore GenAI's potential, limitations, and ethical dimensions. Attendees will explore GenAI's opportunities and challenges, gain hands-on experience, and reflect on its ethical use in recreation and conservation. Attendees are asked to bring their laptop to the session.

| Session Title & Chair   | 10:30–10:45a   | 10:45–11:00a  | 11:00–11:15a  | 11:15–11:30a   | 11:30–11:45a  |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity / Chair:</b> David Reynolds  | Reducing Bear Conflicts Through Attractant Prioritization / Anna Baize | Scaling up and scaling out: engaging wildlife managers in system-wide visitor use thinking / Lydia Kiewra | Transdisciplinary Research for Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas of the Chihuahuan Desert / Xochizeltzin Castaneda-Camacho | Climate-driven factors and mountain goat declines in Glacier National Park/ William Janousek | Human visitation limits the utility of protected areas as ecological baselines / Wesley Sarmiento |
| <i>The breadth of issues related to wildlife management and the protection of biodiversity are represented by the presentations in this session..</i> |  |   |   |  |   |

Session #19  
UC 326–327  
  
Information Sharing Session  
Format: Contributed Papers

**Monitoring Park Resources: Persistence and Partnerships / Chair:** Linda Mazzu

A Tale of Two Rivers: A decadal comparison of visitor use at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore / Shelby Marocco

Protecting the waters of Montana through a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program / Chloe Czachor

Learning From Burning: Connecting Fire Managers and Fire Scientists / Taylor Parker (presenting on behalf of Elizabeth Baldwin)

Lessons from the Summits: Evaluating Vegetation Management Effectiveness Using Remote Sensing / Min Kook Kim

Q&A

*Monitoring: not flashy, but always essential — it's the backbone of park resource management.*

Session #20  
UC 330–331  
  
Information Sharing Session  
Format: Contributed Papers

**Lessons from Conservation History / Chair:** Eleanor Mahoney

Making a Difference: Nathaniel Langford and George Wright—National Park Creation and Transformation / Bill Youngs

Planting the Seeds: The Roots of Modern Forest Conservation in Colonial America / Greta Helfenstein

What's In a Name? Reimagining the Geography of Naming Designations in the U.S. N.P.S. System / Seth Kannarr

The Monsters We Create: A Discussion about Misinterpretations of Wilderness / Michelle Reilly

*The Social and Political Impacts of Zoning in Protected Areas - Case Study, Corbett Tiger Reserve / Rajiv Bhartari*

*Like any other endeavor, the field of conservation is filled with successes and failures — a trove of lessons that can help us navigate today's challenges..*

## LUNCH BREAK 12:00–1:30p (90 minutes)



## Wednesday, October 22 1:30–3:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS

|  |   |  |   |   |   |                   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Session #21<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Invited Papers            | <b>CANCELED</b>   |  |   |   |   |                   |
| Session #22<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation | <b>Accessibility for All on Forest Preserve Lands?</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Benita Law-Diao, Commissioner, Adirondack Park Agency<br>The NYS Adirondack Park Agency (APA) develops long-range land use plans for both public and private lands, within the boundary of the Adirondack Park. We are currently working on updating the NY State Land Master Plan (SLMP). The APA and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have a policy limiting the number of roads in the park's wild forest lands. The policy states that there should be no "material increase" in the number of miles of roads in the wild forest land. People with disabilities are pushing for accessibility to our forest preserve lands, while environmental groups are voicing concerns about wilderness preservation. Stakeholders concerned about "unprecedented changes" proposed to policies governing forest preserve lands will cause great harm. Attendees will learn about the issues associated with granting people with disabilities access to Adirondack Park's forever preserve.  |  |   |   |   |                   |
| Session #23<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Panel Discussion                 | <b>Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Evacuation for National and State Parks</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Bing Pan, Professor, Penn State University • <i>Panelists:</i> Haizhong Wang, Professor, Clemson University; Colby Parkinson, Doctoral Candidate, Penn State University<br>Climate change increases natural disasters, posing risks to national and state parks in the increasingly populated Wildland-Urban Interface. Our workshop synthesizes research on emergency evacuation and disaster preparedness from Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), and South Beach State Park (SBSP). We explore how agent-based modeling and participatory research improve disaster preparedness and evacuation. RMNP used microsimulations to analyze evacuation times and traffic conditions to identify prominent bottlenecks. WRST assessed risks and evacuation challenges along McCarthy Road to identify unique disaster response processes in a remote tourism destination. SBSP conducted tsunami evacuation drills to validate models and test efficacy of signage.                   |  |   |   |   |                   |
| Session #24<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation | <b>Economy, Community, Policy, and Promise: The Past, Present and Future of National Conservation Lands</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management (retired)<br>A recent Backpacker Magazine article sums up the importance of images in building recognition of the once underappreciated lands managed by our nation's largest public land steward, the Bureau of Land Management. While the article profiled me – I served for decades as BLM's unofficial photographer – what I primarily want to share with workshop attendees are my experiences in documenting these special places and some techniques anyone can use to take better photos of their special places. First, I will share background on the emergence and growth of the BLM's National Conservation Lands with examples of the integral role of image use in the protection and management of these special places. I will then share tips and techniques for making a good image (including post processing) and making them available & easy for media use. This will be a discussion where participants can bring questions and share their own ideas. |  |   |   |   |                   |
|  | <b>Session Title &amp; Chair</b>  | <b>1:30–1:45p</b>  | <b>1:45–2:00p</b>   | <b>2:00–2:15p</b>   | <b>2:15–2:30p</b>   | <b>2:30–2:45p</b> |
| Session #25<br>UC Theater<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers               | <b>Spatial Analysis: People and Parks</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Ashley D'Antonio  | Getting fishy: Using animal-movement theory to predict angler movement on a reservoir / Adalyn Vergara | Friend or Foe? Understanding the Spatial Distribution of Benefits and Burdens Provided by Urban Birds / Devin Goodson | Drivers of Residential Development around U.S. Protected Areas / Rachel Layko | Geospatial tools for collaborative climate adaptation planning at NPS mid-Atlantic battlefield parks / Kate Jones | Q&A               |
|  | <i>Hear how spatial analysis uses location-based data to improve planning and resource management at parks, protected/conserved areas, and historic sites.</i>  |  |   |   |   |                   |

## REFRESHMENT BREAK 3:00–3:30p (30 minutes) Cold beverages

## FIELD TRIPS 1:00–5:00p

Gather outside main entrance to Conference Center at 1:00p (for the Walking Tour, gather at 3:30p; Bike Tour TBA) • Except for Butterfly House, must sign up in advance and pay fee (if any)

- **Departing 1:30** • Marshall Mountain Park (*Leader: Abi Fuesler*) • Visit Marshall Mountain Park (MMP) for a hike through Missoula County's mountain adventure park. Along the way, learn the story of the park's acquisition and its management in partnership with the City of Missoula, explore the adaptive mountain bike trail, and take in views from a scenic overlook while hearing about the forest management plan. (fee for transport via mini-van)
- **Departing 1:30** • Blackfoot Watershed (*Leader: Jenn Thomsen*) • Learn about how broad-scale collaboration is leading a comprehensive effort to protect and restore this iconic watershed east of Missoula (fee for transport via mini-van)
- **Departing 1:30** • Rattlesnake Dam Removal Restoration Project and Universal Trail (*Leader: Will Rice*) • Come see the impressive ecological results from the nationally recognized removal of a dam on Rattlesnake Creek and the development of a new universal trail on the site (fee for transport via mini-van)
- **Departure time TBA** • Bike Tour (*Leader: Jaclyn Rushing*) • Explore bike trails near Clark Fork River. (bike rental fee)
- **Departing 3:30** • Walking Tour (*Leader: Adalyn Vergara*) • Get to know Missoula better on this walk to the downtown where we will stop at various points of interest along the Clark Fork River. (no fee)
- **On your own – depart anytime** • Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium • With a tropical greenhouse filled with butterflies from around the world and an exhibit area featuring a wide array of insects, arachnids, millipedes, centipedes, and crustaceans, this is a place that celebrates "the little things that run the world" (transport via Mountain Ride, Missoula's free public bus system; \$10 admission fee)



## Wednesday, October 22 3:30–5:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Session #26<br/>UC Ballroom South</p> <p>Information Sharing Session<br/>Format: Invited Papers</p> | <p><b>Navigating ecological transformations: Social Aspects of Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) decisions</b><br/><i>Co-organizers:</i> Amanda Cravens, Research Social Scientist, US Geological Survey; Jaclyn Rushing, Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute</p> <p>The RAD framework helps managers respond to climate change and navigate transforming ecosystems by defining a broad decision space that includes resisting ecological trajectories, consciously accepting such change, and directing trajectories towards preferred new conditions. RAD is intended to help managers expand their thinking beyond traditional approaches. Recent interdisciplinary and cross-agency research has integrated social sciences to explore how and why managers are making RAD decisions. This session will highlight findings and implications from five papers at the forefront of RAD research. Attendees will better understand the RAD Framework and how it is being used by managers to navigate climatic and ecological change.</p> <p>Paper 1: Setting the stage: Putting RAD in the broader context of agency adaptation / Amanda Cravens • Paper 2: Engaging with RAD across jurisdictions in the Missoula Valley / Caroline Bean, University of Montana and Laurie Yung, University of Montana • Paper 3: RAD in Wilderness / Jaclyn Rushing • Paper 4: Navigating uncertainty and ecological transformation at U.S. National Parks / Amanda Cravens and Natalie Bennett • Paper 5: RAD Ethics / Christopher Preston, University of Montana</p> |
| <p>Session #27<br/>UC 326–327</p> <p>Information Sharing Session<br/>Format: Sharing Circle</p>        | <p><b>Publishing for Beginners</b><br/><i>Co-organizers:</i> Craig Shafer, NPS Ecologist (retired); Christine Schonewald, Ecologist (retired)</p> <p>Trying to publish an article in an outside venue for the first few times can be an intimidating experience unless you have an experienced co-author or graduate advisor to help you along. Many questions arise. What is the topic? What type of article should I write: original research, review, case study, or essay in a peer-reviewed journal, a book chapter if the opportunity arises, a law article, or a magazine article? Which journal or other venue should I submit to? How to deal with journal gatekeepers (the ones who determine if your submission is good enough to send on to the editor). How to encourage editor's interest so he /she wants to send your article out for review. Dealing with reviewer comments and possible rejection. And so on. There are books on this topic that cover more ground and we plan on recommending one of them.</p>   |
| <p>Session #28<br/>UC 330–331</p> <p>Information Sharing Session<br/>Format: Invited Papers</p>        | <p><b>Protected Areas and Environmental Justice</b> • <i>Co-organizers:</i> Isaiah Tuolienue, Research Assistant, University of Montana; Keith Bosak, Professor, University of Montana</p> <p>This session's presentations explore the intersection of protected areas and environmental justice and ways to promote social and environmental justice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Complementary Role of Justice and Social Capital in Influencing Just Outcomes in Resource Conflicts: The Case of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve, Ghana. Isaiah Tuolienue</li> <li>2. Social-Ecological Justice Approach to Ecotourism: Examples from Cockpit Country, Jamaica. Boo Curry, MS Graduate, University of Montana</li> <li>3. Drivers and Dynamics of Collaborative Environmental Governance in Chilean Patagonia. Zac Hummel, MS Graduate, University of Montana</li> <li>4. Exploring Ways to Foster Belonging and Connection for Collaborative Landscape Stewardship and Environmental Justice. Shawn Johnson, University of Montana</li> <li>5. Exploring the Protected Areas, Ecotourism and Environmental Justice Nexus: An Overview and Synthesis of Case Studies. Keith Bosak, University of Montana</li> </ol>   |
| <p>Session #29<br/>UC 332–333</p> <p>Information Sharing Session<br/>Format: Sharing Circle</p>        | <p><b>Exploring the Benefits of the National Wilderness Preservation System</b><br/><i>Co-organizers/co-presenters:</i> Rob Burrows, NPS Wilderness Training Manager, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Jimmy Gaudry, Director, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Jaclyn Rushing, Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute</p> <p>The National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) was created in 1964 with the passage of the Wilderness Act, codifying the legal concept of designated wilderness. Today, the NWPS includes over 111.8 million acres in 806 wilderness areas across the US and Puerto Rico. Section 2(a) of the Act states, "it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." This session will facilitate exploration of wilderness values and benefits in the context of the wilderness character concept. Attendees will identify personal values and biocentric and anthropocentric benefits offered by wildlands and designated Wilderness in the US.</p>   |
| <p>Session #30<br/>UC Theater</p> <p>Information Sharing Session<br/>Format: Panel Discussion</p>      | <p><b>Examining drivers and impacts of subalpine meadow change on wildlife species in three national parks</b><br/><i>Leader:</i> Rebecca McCaffery, Research Biologist, US Geological Survey; <i>Panelists:</i> Meghan Halabisky, Remote Sensing Ecologist, University of Washington; David Selkowitz, Research Geographer, USGS; Tabitha Graves, Research Ecologist, USGS; T. Roy Sando, Research Physical Scientist, USGS</p> <p>Our understanding of how mountain meadows are changing, how temperature and precipitation relate to those changes, and how this will impact sensitive wildlife species in park landscapes is limited. We examined these questions at Olympic, Mount Rainier, and Glacier National Parks. We will present and discuss the results, uses, and implications of our interdisciplinary research, and how to apply this approach in other systems.</p>  |

## AFFINITY MEETINGS 5:00–6:00p

UC 326–327 • **Strengthening the partnership between GWS and students/young professionals in 2025 and beyond** / Leaders: Fred Herling, Cait Henry & Evelyn Peat

The George Wright Society is re-evaluating its programs aimed at students and people at the beginning of their careers. This listening and discussion session will play an important role in the meaningful refocusing of how the GWS can best support students and young professionals. Developing and taking action on strategies is especially important in light of the many unprecedented, harmful actions of the current US federal administration. GWS and session participants can play a leadership role in this conversation and in developing solutions with a wide range of partners.

## EVENING EVENT 5:30–7:00p University Center Gallery

### Welcome to Wilderness: Trout and Tradeoffs

*An art-in-science approach to understanding public perceptions of wilderness character at the nexus of fisheries management*

Join Adalyn, a current PhD student at UM, and her collaborators, to get a sneak peek at her research and explore the dynamics of wilderness character and fisheries management using visual communication to portray science and policy driven concepts. Her study has occurred over the last month, interviewing both users and observers of wilderness and how they value wilderness character using the case of fisheries management. On October 22nd from 5:30–7:00p, there will be a reception in the University Center Gallery to view the art and design that went into this project. There will be no charge and food will be provided. This will be a wonderful opportunity to explore a young researcher's work and dive into great conversation in the world of fisheries and wilderness. Reach out to Adalyn for any questions at [adalyn.vergara@umontana.edu](mailto:adalyn.vergara@umontana.edu) or please join her at the reception and ask her questions then!

*The UC Gallery is located in the far northwest corner on the 2nd floor of the University Center – in other words, one floor down from where we are meeting.*

## Thursday, October 23 8:30–10:00α BREAKOUT SESSIONS Coffee & tea

|  |  |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Session #31<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Invited Papers  | <b>The valiant effort to collaboratively plan for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Chris Armatas, Research Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute<br>This session introduces the ALW with select portions of a professionally-developed movie, which will be followed by three paper presentations outlining nearly four years of effort focused on collaboratively planning for the integration of natural and cultural heritage of the ALW.<br>1. The arc of the Alpine Lakes Collaborative / Chris Armatas<br>2. The Alpine Lakes Collaborative experience: A qualitative study of participating members / Lauren Redmore, Research Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute<br>3. Collaboration, consultation, and tribal involvement in wilderness planning / Stephanie Barron, ORISE research fellow, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute  |  |   |  |  |   |
| Session #32<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Invited Papers   | <b>Teaching About National Parks: National and International Experiences</b> • <i>Co-leaders:</i> Randall Wilson, Gettysburg College; Michael Pretes, University of North Alabama<br>This session centers on strategies for teaching about national parks and protected areas in both the undergraduate classroom and to the public writ large.<br>1. National Parks and “Mission Essential”: Teaching About Protected Areas at the U.S. Air Force Academy / Michael Pretes, University of North Alabama; Jason Lackey, US Air Force Academy<br>2. What is the Purpose of the National Parks?: Teaching History of America’s National Parks / Michael Childers, Colorado State University<br>3. Teaching Protected-Area Conservation to “Africa’s Potential Leaders” / Terence Young, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona<br>4. Teaching Experiential Learning and Field Data Collection in U.S. National Parks and UNESCO Sites / Yolonda Youngs, California State University, San Bernardino<br>5. Frameworks and Ladders – National Parks and Protected Areas in the College Classroom / Randall Wilson |  |   |  |  |   |
|  | <b>Session Title &amp; Chair</b>   | <b>8:30–8:45α</b>  | <b>8:45–9:00α</b>   | <b>9:00–9:15α</b>  | <b>9:15–9:30α</b>  | <b>9:30–9:45α</b>   |
| Session #33<br>UC Theater<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers   | <b>Climate Impacts and Responses</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Jenn Thomsen  | Co-Creating an Integrated Climate Impact Assessment in the Little Rocky Mountains / Jennifer Thomsen | Co-creating Climate Adaptation Strategies for Indigenous Communities in Western Canada / David Sauchyn            | Profit and Pollution: Evaluating Cap-and-Trade’s Impact on Global Warming and the Environment / Brian O’Riley    | Climate change and fire alter biotic interactions and tree growth in wilderness treeline forests / Josh Beisel | Prescribed Fire Decision-Making: Implications for Parks and Protected Areas / Jazzelle Elias    |
| <i>Climate change is arguably the overarching issue of our time; presentations in this session tackle, assessment, adaptation, management, and more.</i>                           |  |  |   |  |  |   |
| Session #34<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers   | <b>Managing the Visitor Experience—Virtually and On the Ground</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Ashley D’Antonio  | Managing the Great Divide Trail / Regan Coyne  | Hyper Reality in Wall-E and Modern Life: Outdoor Recreation Management Implications / Mark Douglas                | Fear of a Digital Planet: Wireless Politics in U.S. National Parks / Sam Kellogg                                 | An Updated Model of Park Experience and Spiritual Outcomes / Paul Heintzman                                    | Do Themes Improve Visitor Outcomes In Interpretive Programs? / Amber Hawes, University of Idaho |
| <i>Visitors now routinely experience parks in two parallel – and sometimes conflicting – realms: on the ground and online. Managers are rethinking things in order to respond.</i> |  |  |   |  |  |   |
| Session #35<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Contributed Papers   | <b>Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management</b> / <i>Chair:</i> David Reynolds  | A systematic scoping literature review of social identity in wildlife research / Brianna Lipp        | Social identity activation contributes to unnecessary polarization of attitudes toward wolves / Alexander Metcalf | Visitor Impacts and Experiences Related to Roadside Wildlife Viewing in Yellowstone National Park / Morgan Crump | Impacts of Coastal Aquaculture Act and Adaptive Capacity in Chilika’s Social-Ecological System / Adyasha Nayak | Q&A   |
| <i>Presentations in this session explore the complexities of understanding how humans interact with wildlife.</i>  |  |  |   |  |  |   |

## REFRESHMENT BREAK 10:00–10:30α (30 minutes) Coffee & tea

### Please upload your presentation to the ParkForum Workshop Virtual Library

As you probably know, there are a number of colleagues who were planning to join us in Missoula but now cannot because of agency policy changes, funding constraints, and so on. To share your learnings, experiences, and solutions with these folks, and, more widely, with the general public, please upload your presentation(s) to the GWS ParkForum 2025 Virtual Workshop Library (VWL)

The VWL is a shared folder on Box where you, as a registrant, can upload a PDF of your presentation. The VWL will be curated by Program Team Member Dr. Ashley D’Antonio of Oregon State University. Ashley will organize the uploads into subfolders corresponding to the workshop sessions. Only Registrants will get the upload link; the download link will be advertised to the public after the workshop once the VWL is populated.

We are looking for any and all types of presentations to be uploaded to the VWL, such as:

- PowerPoint presentations in any session
- Speaking notes for oral presentations that don’t involve PowerPoints
- Plans/materials used in hands-on workshop sessions
- Notes by Session Leaders documenting key points made in Sharing Circles and other workshop sessions
- 3MR presentations
- Posters

Please save your file (including Word .docx and PowerPoint .pptx files) as a PDF and name it this way: Last name, short topic, type\_of\_presentation.pdf. For example: mylastname\_humanities\_contributed\_paper.pdf • mylastname\_wilderness\_poster.pdf • mylastname\_visitor\_use\_workshop\_plan.pdf mylastname\_climate\_change\_speaking\_notes.pdf • mylastname\_dei\_sharing\_circle\_notes.pdf • etc.

The link for you to upload your file to the VWL is: <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/f/f746032a7c4649e2a581ffb58af43fef>  
The public link to view the files in the VWL is: <https://oregonstate.box.com/s/z5dzhe7ymecfieii7btzhxjcqn67m>

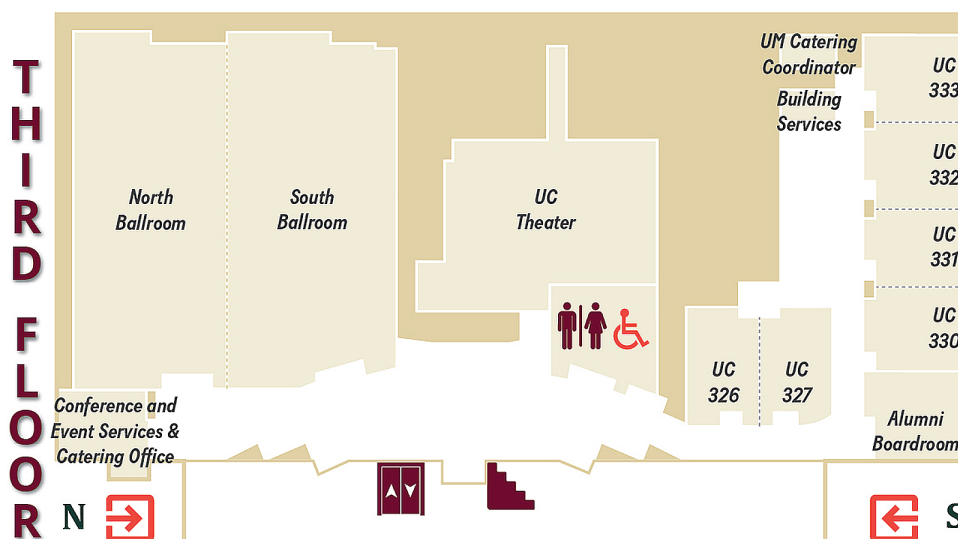
Thanks in advance for sharing!



## Thursday, October 23 10:30a– 12:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS

|  |   |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Session #36<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Invited Papers  | <b>Wild, Bright, and Noisy: Exploring subtle “footprints” of recreation</b> • <i>Leader:</i> Julia Daniell, Master's Student, University of Montana<br>Through a mixture of methodologies and disciplines this session examines the effects of sensory pollutants and spatiotemporal recreation fluctuations on humans and wildlife.<br>1. Proceeding with Sound Judgment: Applied Sensory Biology and Wilderness Character / Julia Daniell<br>2. Sensory Pollutants in U.S. Parks and Protected Areas: A synthesis of visitor use management in relation to natural sounds and night skies / Peter Newman, University of Vermont<br>3. Exploring visitor support for management of artificial light and behavioral spillover in Acadia National Park and related ecological impacts / Morgan Crump, University of Vermont<br>4. Exploring NPS staff perceptions of artificial light in Great Smoky Mountains National Park- Functionality, Safety, and Conservation/ Morgan Crump, University of Vermont<br>5. Managing Human Disturbance: Mandatory Closures and Loon Nest Success in the GYE / Kelsey Cronin, University of Montana  |  |   |   |  |   |
| Session #37<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Panel Discussion   | <b>Indigenous Stewardship: Conservation Through Relationships</b> • <i>Moderator:</i> Michelle Bowden, Director, Conservation Programs Branch, Parks Canada<br><i>Presenters:</i> Ernie Gladstone, Executive Director, Indigenous Stewardship, Parks Canada; Cindy Boyko, Co-Chair, Indigenous Stewardship Circle, Parks Canada; Carla Morse, Manager of Indigenous Engagement on Collections, Parks Canada<br>Parks Canada has embarked on a process of organization-wide renewal, centered around a vision of protected heritage area management and governance that is respectfully aligned with Indigenous ways of stewarding lands, water, and ice. At its core is the Indigenous Stewardship Framework and Policy, which respectfully advances reconciliation and support implementation of the UNDRIIP. Done in collaboration with Indigenous Leaders, the Indigenous Stewardship Policy (ISP) seeks to support the continuity of Indigenous cultures and advance how the priorities of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples alongside Parks Canada's mandate can be accomplished together to advance environmental, economic and community well-being. This session will share both Parks Canada and Indigenous perspectives of the ISP, key lessons learned and next steps. |  |   |   |  |   |
|  | <b>Session Title &amp; Chair</b>  | <b>10:30–10:45a</b>  | <b>10:45–11:00a</b>   | <b>11:00–11:15a</b>   | <b>11:15–11:30a</b>  | <b>11:30–11:45a</b>   |
| Session #38<br>UC Theater<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format:  | <b>Planning Strategies for Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites and Protected Areas</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Tom Olliff   | Assessment of Conservation Planning in South Dakota: Challenges and Opportunities / Vivian Hulugh  | Environmental Assessments and Strategic Sustainability Planning for Historic Sites / Jeremy Linden                | Global Biodiversity Data for Place-Based Conservation / Hilary Faxon                                      | Balancing Prairie Stewardship and Recreation Access / Chris Zajchowski                                     | Getting Managed Access Right: Planning for Equitable Design of Visitor Use Management Systems / Adam Auerbach |
| <i>Planning for parks, protected/conserved areas, cultural sites, and other forms of place-based conservation has never been more important – or challenging. Learn why in this session.</i> |   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Session #39<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format:  | <b>Are You “In” or “Out”?</b><br><b>Inclusivity &amp; Exclusivity</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Lydia Kiewra  | Building a Community of Conservation: Inviting the Public to Participate in Wildlife Research / Taylor Parker (presenting on behalf of Seth Gibbons) | “It’s a different culture here”: Fostering inclusive recreation through affinity safe spaces / Jaclyn Fox Rushing | Trophy Hunting and Ecological Colonialism in Botswana / Joseph Mbaiwa                                     | Parks and citizenship, access, and identity / Clara-Jane Blye  | Gendered Barriers to Working in Conservation: A Comparative Case Study in South Korea and Mongolia / Nari Lee |
| <i>With the world seemingly awash in polarization, it's critical for the parks community to grapple with how and why some people feel included and others do not.</i>                        |   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Session #40<br>UC 332–333<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format:  | <b>Recreation: Assessing Impacts, Managing for Sustainability</b> / <i>Chair:</i> Cait Henry  | The cleanup crew: valuing camp host litter interventions in Northern Idaho recreation areas / Mary Engels  | Outfitter perceptions of workforce development on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River / Nate Moody                | Informing human waste management strategies in parks & protected areas: Lessons learned / B. Derrick Taff | Companion displacement as a novel social dimension of recreation adaptation coping mechanisms / Cait Henry | Urban Trails, Wild Spaces: A Model for Sustainable Recreation in Redmond, Oregon / Curt Davidson              |
| <i>Recreation activities in parks continue to evolve and expand, calling for a continual re-evaluation of management strategies.</i>   |   |  |   |   |  |   |

## LUNCH BREAK, POSTER TEAR-DOWN 12:00– 1:30p (90 minutes)



## 3RD FLOOR

### Administrative Offices

1. Building Services
2. Conference and Event Services & Catering Office
3. UM Catering Coordinator

### Meeting & Event Space

4. Alumni Boardroom
5. North Ballroom
6. South Ballroom
7. UC 326
8. UC 327
9. UC 330
10. UC 331
11. UC 332
12. UC 333
13. UC Theater

| Thursday, October 23 1:30–3:00p BREAKOUT SESSIONS   |  |
|---|--|
| Session #41<br>UC Ballroom South<br><br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Presentations + Audience Participation   | <b>Engagement Best Practices for Place-Based Conservation, Adaptation, and Inclusion</b> • <i>Co-organizers/presenters:</i> Shawn Johnson, Director, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy; Travis Anklam, Collaborative Learning Program Director, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy; Heather Stokes, Director of Practice, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy; Jennifer Thomsen, Program Director, UM Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management; Alexis Gibson, Sr., Project Manager, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy<br>This interactive workshop will equip participants with best practices for weaving cultural, economic, and ecological viewpoints into engagement strategies that enhance resilience, equity, and connection to place. Case studies at local, regional, and national scales will showcase approaches for fostering inclusive, informed dialogue. Participants will then explore strategies for engaging diverse stakeholders in co-developing conservation solutions and leave with practical tools to overcome barriers and build more inclusive initiatives. |
| Session #42<br>UC 326–327<br><br>Information-Sharing Session<br>Format: Presentation + Audience Interaction   | <b>The Monsters We Create: Misconceptions about Wilderness in the US</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Michelle Reilly, Wilderness Liaison, USFWS, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center<br>The history of the Wilderness Act is not without struggle and despite the growth of the system, criticisms have persisted for decades, arguing that the Act is “dualistic, ethnocentric, and static.” One critic states the definition of wilderness offered in the Wilderness Act of 1964, “assumes, indeed it enshrines, a bifurcation of man and nature. This session investigates two criticisms: that the Wilderness Act perpetuate a dichotomy between man and nature and that Wilderness intimates a purity of the land and people. Where do these criticism stem from and are they warranted? Throughout the session, participants can interact via questions in a gaming platform on their phones (BravoZone) and 2 short video/audios will be played and asked for comment.   |
| Session #43<br>UC 330–331<br><br>Information Sharing Session<br>Format: Panel Discussion  | <b>The Wild Next Door: Between City Limits and Sacred Lands</b><br><i>Leader:</i> Lauren Redmore, Research Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute • <i>Panelists:</i> Mitchell Clark, Society for Wilderness Stewardship Fellow, filmmaker and CEO of Destroy Collective; Chris Armatas, ALWRI Research Social Scientist; Olga Helmy, ALWRI science communications specialist<br>This session will show a 45-min film (currently in edit) followed by a Q&A with movie directors, producers, and experts. The film is about the Alpine Lakes Wilderness (ALW) located outside of Seattle, WA. As recreational use increases, the Forest Service grapples with declining budgets to ensure wilderness character is preserved, though much on-the-ground work gets picked up by NGO partners. Tribal rightsholders grapple with the impacts of recreational use and the growing need to work with diverse NGO partners to influence visitor behavior. This film addresses questions of: what is wilderness, what is the ALW, what are the challenges facing urban proximate wilderness, and what are potential solutions.                                    |
| Session #44<br>UC Theater<br><br>Information-Sharing Session: Presentations + Audience Interaction  | <b>Homelessness and nature across landscapes and disciplines</b><br><i>Leaders:</i> Seamus Land, Adjunct Professor, University of Montana; Monika Derrien, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA<br>The social-ecological dynamics of homelessness in parks and protected areas have become increasingly apparent to land managers, conservationists, social workers, scholars, and members of many communities across the US. To help connect a fragmented dialogue across the academic literature, we present findings from a literature review we conducted across a broad range of disciplines. We observed an increasing focus on understanding homelessness drivers, impacts, and solutions through a coupled social-ecological systems lens. To help mobilize around needs and opportunities, we propose the development of a research agenda to identify priorities for better attending to the complex and contested challenges of homelessness across landscapes, and we invite audience insights on how to ensure social and environmental justice in this endeavor.   |
| Session #45<br>UC 332–333<br>Core Workshop Session<br>Format: Hands-on Activity   | <b>The Art and Science of Signage: Two examples and a design charrette</b><br><i>Presenters:</i> Jeremy Shellhorn, University of Kansas; Miranda Foster, Will Rice, Adalyn Vergara, all University of Montana; Marilee Movius, The League to Save Lake Tahoe<br>This session will introduce a new way of thinking about how we design effective signs in parks and protected areas. We'll begin with two presentations, which will serve to demonstrate a data-driven approach to signage design and testing. The first presentation will share findings from a signage experiment conducted on a beach in Lake Tahoe in summer 2025, in collaboration with the League to Save Lake Tahoe. The second presentation will share findings from a two-part study conducted in 2024 and 2025 on the effectiveness of universal symbol signs used in campgrounds, and proposes a set of redesigned symbols for improved communication. The latter half of the session will consist of a design charrette, wherein participants will team up to apply the findings of these studies to applied park signage challenges, including redesigning universal symbols.                        |
| REFRESHMENT BREAK 3:00–3:30p (30 minutes) Cold beverages  |  |
| Thursday, October 23 3:30–4:45p CLOSING PLENARY SESSION   |  |
| <b>Closing Plenary Session V</b><br>UC Theater<br><br>Format: Invited speaker   | <b>The Fight to Keep America's Public Lands in Public Hands</b><br><b>Land Tawney, Co-Chair, American Hunters and Anglers Action Network</b><br><i>Moderator:</i> Will Rice, University of Montana<br><br>Public lands advocate Land Tawney will share his thoughts on his new organization, the American Hunters and Anglers Action Network, which is positioned on “The Front Line in the War on Public Lands.” Mobilizing the hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation communities, the Network fights against any effort to sell off public lands. “We have a simple mission: to deliver accountability to all elected and unelected policymakers and special interests who threaten our hunting, fishing and outdoor heritage.”   |
|  <p><b>Land Tawney</b> is a 5th generation Montanan who grew up hunting, fishing, berry picking, skiing and hiking on public lands and waters. He learned his conservation ethic from his parents, and earned a bachelors degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. Land's 25 year career in conservation policy and grassroots engagement has led to building multifaceted constituencies across North American and testifying in Congress. Today, Land is the proud father of two future conservation leaders and Co-Chair of American Hunters &amp; Anglers.</p> |  |
| Friday, October 24 9:00a–2:30p Field Trip, National Bison Range   |  |
| Gather outside main entrance to Conference Center at 8:45a • Box lunch provided   |  |

## POSTER SESSION Monday, October 20, 1:30p through Thursday, October 23, 12:00p

### Poster Session

UC Ballroom North

Set-up: Monday, October 20,  
10:00a–1:30p

Posters available for continuous  
viewing between Set-up and  
Tear-Down

Poster Reception and time for pre-  
senter to stand by their posters:  
Tuesday, October 21, 5:00–6:00p

Tear-down: Thursday, October 23,  
12:00–1:30p

- Having Reservations? The Impact of Recreation.Gov on Visitor Experiences at Acadia National Park / Isabelle Kostelnick, Oregon State University
- Connections to Nature and Knowledge: An Ecofeminist Analysis of Fly-Fishing Guiding / Paige Fery, University of Utah
- Alternative Parking Management Strategies: Implications for Visitor Use Management in Gatineau Park / Ashley Padvaikas, University of Ottawa
- The influence of novel communication interventions on overnight park visitors / Clara-Jane Blye, University of Utah
- A Rapid Review of Participatory GIS Scholarship Centering Tribal Sovereignty / Brey Weygandt, University of Idaho
- Lessons from the Summits: Evaluating Vegetation Management Effectiveness Using Remote Sensing / Min Kook Kim, Stockton University
- Conservation Behind the Scenes: Stress, Interpersonal Relationships, and Job Satisfaction in the NPS / Elizabeth Himschoot, Penn State University
- The Role of Educational Programming in Indigenous Peoples' Experiences in Protected Areas / Kole Lundstrom, University of Alberta
- Harnessing Remote Sensing Technologies to Monitor Tourism Impacts in the Antarctic Peninsula / Natalia Jaramillo, University of Idaho
- Addressing the Funding Gap in Private Lands Conservation in Global Biodiversity Hotspots / Susan Pierce, Hotspot Patrons
- Multiple Use and Sustained Yield and the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System / Tom Heinlein, Bureau of Land Management
- The National Landscape Conservation System: An Overview / Sean MacDougall, Bureau of Land Management
- Optimizing Vegetation Indices for Enhanced Management of Parks and Protected Areas / Min Kook Kim, Stockton University
- Co-Producing the Department of Interior's Bison Shared Stewardship Strategy / Travis Anklam, University of Montana
- Predicting Park Conservation Support via Livelihood Security and Human-Wildlife Conflict Assessment / Mercy Chepkwony, The Pennsylvania State University
- National Park Studies at Eastern Washington University / Bill Youngs, Eastern Washington University
- What is the interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center? / Michelle Reilly, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Recreating Together: Displacement Types and How they Vary in Multigenerational Households / Sarah Krzemien, Michigan State University
- Assessing pollinator communities in national parks / Tabitha Graves, US Geological Survey
- Who should own public lands—Individual states, the Feds, or Tribes? / Levi Tenen, Virginia Wesleyan University
- Responding to ecological transformation: Comparing protected areas in the US and Australia / Ruby Olsson
- Identifying recreation participation patterns and trends using the ORAPS / Wayde Morse, Auburn University
- A citizen science approach to early detection and monitoring / Kyle Lima, The Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park
- Valuing Ecosystem Services to improve Place-based Conservation: A Study of Sagebrush Steppe in U.S. National Parks / Tori Bugni, NPS Scientist in Parks Post Doc Fellow
- Data-driven design for more effective Wilderness trailhead signage / Will Rice, University of Montana
- The Blue Mesa Timeline: A Data Dashboard / Trevor Ross, University of Montana
- JTLab and Parks Modern / Rebecca Lowry (set of 4 Posters), Joshua Tree Creative Lab
- U.S. Biosphere Network / David Reynolds, U.S. Biosphere Network & George Wright Society
- Roles of Art in Science Communication and Outreach / Ashelee Rasmussen
- Misinterpretations of Wilderness in the US Public Lands System / Michelle Reilly, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Beyond Secretaries, Hostesses, and Cooks: The Women Who Battled to Save Wilderness / Michelle Reilly, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Exploring Visitor Perceptions of Summit Vegetation Restoration in Acadia National Park / Margaret Bogner, University of Maine/Friends of Acadia
- Loved to Death: Evaluating degraded areas along the Manistee River Trail / Cait Henry, Michigan State University
- A Road Runs Through It: Assessing Road Mitigation Options for Wildlife in Kafue National Park and Greater Kafue Ecosystem, Zambia / Katie Deuel, Ctr for Large Landscapes Cons
- Whose Parks? How to Meaningfully Consult Interest Holders in Managing National Parks / Audrey Roy, University of Ottawa
- Building the path forward: USFS partnership enables post-fire restoration of SoCal multi-use trails / Lynne Cherchia, USC & Mount Wilson Bicycling Association
- North American Marine Protected Areas Network / Lauren Wenzel, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
- Getting Managed Access Right: Equitable Design of Visitor Use Management Systems / Adam Auerbach, Next Interior

**POSTERS WILL BE ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LEAD AUTHOR'S LAST NAME**

### Gratitude

First and foremost, the George Wright Society thanks the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Kalispel Nation, on whose Traditional Territory we are meeting, for taking care of these lands and waters down the centuries. GWS also thanks our host institution, the University of Montana, for welcoming us to the campus for the inaugural GWS ParkForum conservation solutions workshop.

GWS ParkForum 2025 was planned by a Program Team convened by the GWS. We are deeply grateful to the following Team members, who spent many hours over the past year putting the program together, including evaluating submissions, arranging field trips, and much more:

Suzanne Copping • Ashley D'Antonio • Abigail Fuesler • Cait Henry • Fred Herling • Lydia Kiewra • Sean MacDougall  
Linda Mazzu • Dave Reynolds • Will Rice • Jaclyn Rushing • Alan Spears • Jenn Thomsen • Adalyn Vergara

### About the George Wright Society

GWS honors the legacy of [George Meléndez Wright](#), who founded the science program of the US National Park Service and was the first person of Hispanic heritage to hold a professional position in the agency. GWS supports parks, protected/conserved areas, cultural sites, and other kinds of place-based conservation by encouraging communication among and convenings of researchers, managers, educators, practitioners, and the public to facilitate informed decisions and actions that embrace our values. Founded in 1980, we strive to be the premier organization connecting peoples, places, knowledge, and ideas to foster excellence in cultural and natural resource management, research, protection, and interpretation in place-based conservation. Drawing on core values of integrity, respect, inclusion, and collaborative curiosity, we unite diverse communities around a common passion for protecting Earth's natural and cultural heritage. If you aren't already a GWS member, please consider joining! Visit us at [georgewright society.org](https://georgewright society.org).

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