

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Report to the UW Board of Trustees January 2024

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources supports students as well as citizens, stakeholders, and decision makers by giving them the skills and tools they need to build durable, inclusive solutions to our most pressing environment and natural resource challenges.

Governor's Task Force on the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan

The Ruckelshaus Institute facilitated public workshops and a stakeholder task force to provide consensus-based recommendations for the Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM RMP). The task force met four days in person and five times virtually to develop, propose, and vote on proposals for revising the RMP in ways that met their various interests. The final report includes 25 agreements in principle and more than 100 management prescriptions on topics including the Greater Little Mountain area, trona mining, management in the "checkerboard," motorized access, grazing, and key cultural and natural resources. Governor Gordon, BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning, BLM Principal Deputy Director Nada Culver, and BLM State Director Andrew Archuleta received the task force recommendations on January 5 in Rock Springs. Professors Temple Stoellinger and Steve Smutko provided excellent leadership in the process, with support from faculty in the Haub School, School of Energy Resources, and College of Agriculture/UW Extension. The full report, including outcomes of the task force and the public meetings, can be found on the project website at www.uwyo.edu/rmp.

Self-study completed; External Program Review arrived

One of the final steps of our required Program Review/Self-study is the receipt and response to a report by the External Review Team. Our report arrived in December 2023, and we have a faculty/staff meeting 17 January to discuss and develop our response for the Provost. The report is quite positive but also has stimulated discussion about ways to continue to improve and maximize our reach. Such external reviews and constructive criticism is critical to expanding our impact and providing strong service to the state.

Investing in Recruitment and Career Services

In our continuing effort to actively recruit students to Laramie from within and beyond Wyoming, we focused on 3 key efforts in recent months.

1. We formed a recruitment committee and are developing an action plan to target students from our strongest markets.
2. We welcomed two new career professionals, who assist students with professional experiences and manage employer relations.
3. A curriculum review was conducted with faculty to identify coursework in relation to program learning outcomes.

A Move to Crane Hall for Partial Consolidation and an Intermediate-term Solution

With the support of the Provost Carman and VP Mai, we completed the move of our Bureau of Mines and Ross Hall teams to Crane Hall where they will combine with two new WyACT NSF-EPSCoR teams in the Laboratory of Regional Earth Systems Modelling (Dr. Melissa Bukovsky) and the Center for Climate, Water and People (Dr. Corrie Knapp). This will provide sorely needed space for growth of burgeoning research programs and start a 5-to-10-year goal of consolidating the Haub School into less than the 7 buildings that we now occupy. The transition has gone well, and the benefits of collocation are already being realized.

30 years of Interdisciplinary Efforts

Our 30th anniversary of an interdisciplinary unit focused on novel approaches to our wild and working lands is cause for celebration; Fall 2024 will celebrate the 30th year of formal courses being offered. Over the next 2 years we will have events that commemorate and celebrate our increased impact in teaching, research, and service to our state over the last 3 decades.