

Healthy Public Lands Project
INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

June 1-3, 2022
University of Utah
S.J Quinney Law School



Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, June 01

8:00 AM	Arrive, register, visit, get coffee, get seated.....	Welcome and Land Acknowledgments (Madeleine Carey, Dustin Jansen, and Bob Keiter)
8:30 AM	Welcome! HPLP moderator Madeleine Carey, Dustin Jansen, Utah Valley University, and Bob Keiter, Distinguished Professor, U. of Utah College of Law, and Director, Wallace Stegner Center of Land Resources and the Environment.	
9:00 AM	Panel: It's a matter of debate: science and grazing impacts to western ecosystems	
9:00 AM	Multiple pressure points: the need to change public land grazing in the American West Bob Beschta, Oregon State University	Moderator: Allison Jones
9:20 AM	Incorporating uncertainty into science-based mgt decisions Naomi Louchouart, University of Wisconsin	
9:35 AM	Faith-based Range Management Dave Stricklan, Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund	
9:50 AM	The Duck Creek case: agency deference overshadows science Allison Jones, Allison L Jones LLC	
10:05 AM	Panel Discussion with audience	
10:30 AM	BREAK	Get more coffee!
10:45 AM	Panel: And justice for all: Indigenous perspectives on wildlife, public lands, and the role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge	
10:50 AM	Davina Smith - National Parks Conservation Association - Organizer/Tribal Coordinator in Southeastern Utah	Moderator: Josh Osher
11:00 AM	Dustin Jansen - Utah Valley University	
11:10 AM	Eirene Hamilton	
11:30 AM	Panel Discussion with audience	
12:00 PM	LUNCH	By: Bombay House
12:50 PM	Panel: The Great Drying: Assessing livestock grazing in the new normal for the American West	
12:50 PM	Aridification: the new normal Dan McCool, University of Utah Emeritus	Moderator: Mary O'Brien
1:05 PM	Grazing as a drought intensifier: implications for the West's water Dennis Willis, Sierra Club Grazing Team	

1:20 PM	Tools for evaluating drought impacts on vegetation Matt Reeves, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station	
1:35 PM	Panel Discussion with audience	
1:55 PM	STRETCH AND TRANSITION TO NEXT PANEL	
2:00 PM	Panel: Responding to new challenges: Public Lands Management for the 21st Century and beyond	
2:00 PM	The Foundation of public land management and its implications for Land Health Laura Welp, Western Watersheds Project, and Peter Lattin, PEER	Moderator: Mary O'Brien
2:30 PM	Introduction of panelists: 1. Matt Preston, Deputy Director for Resources, UT BLM State Office	
2:35 PM	2. Chuck Oliver, USFS Range Program, W.O.	
2:40 PM	3. Pat Shea, Former director of the BLM (Clinton Administration)	
2:45 PM	Panel Discussion with audience	
3:15 PM	BREAK	
3:30 PM	Panel: Coexistence: Is there a place for livestock on public lands?	
3:30 PM	Coexisting and rewilding with North America's carnivores Michelle Lute, Project Coyote	Moderator: Greta Anderson
3:45 PM	Mexican gray wolves: Roadblocks on the road to recovery Cyndi Tuell, Western Watersheds Project	
4:00 PM	Building Nonlethal Solutions to Livestock and Wolf Conflicts Suzanne Stone, Wildlife Coexistence Network	
4:15 PM	Panel Discussion with audience	
4:45 PM	LAW SCHOOL PORTION OF CONFERENCE CONCLUDES - MAKE WAY TO SQUATTERS BREWERY	
5:15-10:00 PM	Squatters Brewery Social: Complementary apps, open cash bar, screening of "Rewilding a Mountain" with follow-up discussion led by Bob Beschta	

Thursday, June 2nd		
8:15 AM	Arrive, register, visit, get coffee, get seated.....	Welcome! (HPLP MC Madeleine Carey)
8:45 AM	Welcome by Madeleine Carey: run-down of days' schedule, and tomorrow's field trip	

9:00 AM	Panel: Grass Fed Lies: The truth behind regenerative agriculture and how to feed the world while protecting the planet	
9:00 AM	The theology of regenerative grazing Jason Hannan, Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Communications at the University of Winnipeg	Moderator: Josh Osher
9:15 AM	The regenerative ranching racket Spencer Roberts, Ecologist, engineer, musician, and science writer from Colorado	
9:30 AM	Cow-bombing a hell of a lot of land for hardly any beef: The equitable end to livestock grazing on federal public lands Andy Kerr, the Larch Company	
9:45 AM	Panel Discussion with audience	
10:15 AM	BREAK	Get more coffee!
10:30 AM	Panel: Connecting the dots: Public lands extremism to the Capitol insurrection	
10:30 AM	A history of domestic terrorism in the American West Erik Molvar, Director, Western Watersheds Project	Moderator: Erik Molvar
10:45 AM	The revolutionary war and modern extremism Jacqueline Keeler, Author of <i>Standoff: Standing Rock, the Bundy Movement, and the American Story of Occupation, Sovereignty, and the Fight for Sacred Lands</i>	
11:00 AM	From Malheur to 1/06: connecting the dots on anti-conservation extremism. Aaron Weiss, Center for Western Priorities	
11:15 AM	Panel Discussion with audience	
11:45 PM	LUNCH	By: Chanon Thai
12:45 PM	Keynote Address	
12:45 PM	A landscape of disruption and response Rob Davies, Utah State University	Moderator: Madeleine Carey
1:30 PM	New World Coming Alastair Lee Bitsóí and Brooke Larsen, Env Humanities Program, University of Utah	
1:55 PM	Questions for Rob, Brooke and Alastair, discussion with audience	
2:05 PM	BREAK	
2:20 PM	Panel: Even in the Wilderness?: The untold story of commercial grazing in our most protected places	
2:20 PM	Dana Johnson, Wilderness Watch	Moderator: George Nickas
2:35 PM	Gary Macfarlane, Friends of the Clearwater	

2:50 PM	Madeleine Carey, WildEarth Guardians	
3:05 PM	Felice Pace, Grazing Reform Project	
3:20 PM	Panel discussion with audience	
3:45 PM	LAW SCHOOL PORTION OF CONFERENCE CONCLUDES, SEE YOU FOR FIELD TRIP TOMORROW	
Friday, June 3rd (FIELD TRIP)		
7:30 AM	Meet at the downtown Crystal Inn to arrange into carpools for Utah's West Desert	
8:45 AM	Brief stop where So. Skull Valley allotment permittee stages cattle. Overview of allotment, season of use, stocking rates, etc.	Led by Erik Molvar
9:15 AM	"How to read an Ecological Site Description 101" and overview of BLM's Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands	Led by Dave Stricklan and Jonathan Ratner
10:00 AM	The interactions (and confounding effects) with livestock and wild horses, and problems related to this.	Led by Erik Molvar and Jonathan Ratner
10:30 AM	The interaction of post-treatment grazing with mechanical vegetation treatments	Led by Laura Welp and Allison Jones
11:15 AM	The effects of cattle and sheep grazing on sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats	Led by Erik Molvar and Allison Jones
11:45 AM	Why is the South Skull Valley allotment failing the Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands?	Led by Erik Molvar and Jonathan Ratner
12:30 PM	Field trip completed, proceed in the carpools back to Crystal Inn	

For those interested, here is a link to a [pdf portal](#) with additional reading materials for the conference.

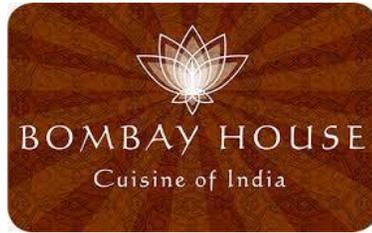
Sustainability commitment: This inaugural conference has been organized to be sustainable as possible, despite the need to hold this conference in person (including long drives and plane flights to get to Utah with carbon emission implications), to achieve the best possible outcomes with essential in-person group energy and concomitant action towards change. Held in the Law School building at the U (a **Platinum** level LEED certified building), an electronic program designed to save paper, no single use plastic at all with any of our food or beverage services, and 100% vegan and/or vegetarian meals and snacks provided, are just a few initiatives.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



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The Healthy Public Lands [Project](#)

Mission: The Healthy Public Lands Project is a network of groups and organizations working to improve the way livestock grazing is managed on our public lands so that watersheds and wildlife habitat are healthy and thriving.

Vision: Public Lands are managed to prioritize healthy ecosystems for wildlife and present and future generations.

Issues associated with livestock grazing on public lands:



CLIMATE
CHANGE



BIODIVERSITY



WATER



& MANY
MORE

Learn more at <https://www.healthypubliclands.org>.

Consider making an additional donation today to offset the costs of the conference! (in order to make the conference very affordable for all to attend, and students for free, this conference was heavily subsidized by HPLP partner organizations such as Western Watershed Project, WildEarth Guardians, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, etc). Thank you! :

<https://www.westernwatersheds.org/?form=HPLPCONFERENCE>

Panels and Speakers, in order of Schedule

(Wednesday June 01)

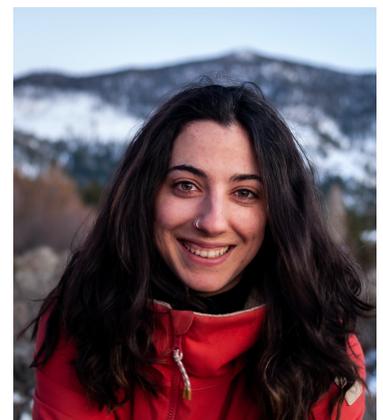
Panel: It's a matter of debate: science and grazing impacts to western ecosystems

Bob Beschta has been at Oregon State University (OSU) since 1974 where he currently is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. At OSU he has been involved in teaching, research, and extension programs related to the effects of land use practices on a variety of watershed process and conditions, including such topics as the hydrology of old-growth forests, precipitation and runoff of mountain slopes, restoration of riparian areas, effects of forest practices and grazing upon riparian functions, channel morphology, water quality monitoring, hydrology of wetlands and riparian areas, and others. In recent years his research has focused on the effects of apex predators, such as wolves and cougar, on plant communities and streams in the western US.



Beschta will be presenting “Multiple pressure points: the need to change public land grazing in the American West.” His talk provides an overview of how livestock grazing on public lands in the American West often conflicts with a variety of ecosystem components and process: including soils and hydrology, biodiversity, carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions, and desertification as well as the recovery of apex predators and beavers. If public land grazing is to continue, the challenge to livestock managers is to minimize/eliminate these conflicts as much as possible. Overall, livestock removal represents perhaps the most effective approach for recovering biodiversity and increasing the resilience of western ecosystems to climate change.

Naomi Louchouart started her research career as an undergraduate at McGill University, chasing red squirrels through the Northern spruce forests of Canada's Yukon territory in the name of science. Since then she has completed a Master's of environmental science and management at UC-Santa Barbara's Bren School. There she focused on Conservation Planning and developed an interest in human-wildlife conflict, particularly how to reconcile human and wildlife interests to create successful coexistence. Her Doctoral research has focused on human-carnivore conflict in the North American west. She completed the first gold-standard experiment examining the effectiveness of range riders to protect cattle from carnivore attacks. She has also studied the effects of lethal control policies on endangered Mexican wolf mortality and poaching. She plans to continue her research on how people and carnivores can coexist on North America's public lands.



Louchouart will be presenting “Incorporating uncertainty into science-based mgt decisions” and discuss how uncertainty can aid in the proper use of precautions in wildlife management. When the science is not conclusive or uncertainty exists, the result is too often cherry-picking of the data that best suits the interests of those exerting the most political pressure. That is rarely, if ever, the non-human beings being managed. In such cases, uncertainty becomes weaponized as an excuse for poor management. Naomi will discuss why this need not be the case, and will present an example of uncertainty being used as an excuse for poor management with wolves in Wisconsin. Using this example she will demonstrate how the uncertainty present in the system could have been used to set guardrails for management, and how lessons learned from this example can apply throughout the U.

Dave Stricklan is a Sagebrush Specialist for the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund and Western Watersheds Project. Previously he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Animal and Range Science Department at New Mexico State University. He also worked for fourteen years as Biology faculty member at Brigham Young University – Idaho where he was honored as the Service Learning Faculty of the Year. Before working at BYUI he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service for twelve years. He was named the FS Region 4 T&E Species Biologist of the Year and the Public Land Steward of the Year by the Utah Chapter of the Foundation for Wild Sheep. He is a former President of the Friends of Camas National Refuge and Board Member of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. He also served as President of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Dave has degrees in Range Science and Wildlife Management from Brigham Young University – Provo and a Ph D in Range Management from New Mexico State University. He has published papers in the Journal of Mammalogy, The Wildlife Society Bulletin, Rangeland Ecology and Management and other journals..



Stricklan will be presenting “Faith-based Range Management” and discuss how federal land management agencies regularly and routinely fail to use the best available science when managing public rangelands. This is because: 1) Economic interests normally overpower ecological interests 2) There is a shifting baseline syndrome that incorrectly recognizes the current degraded ecological condition of public rangelands as the normal and natural ecological state 3) Disproportionate influence by grazing interests and ally’s and 4) An almost universal and unrecognized acquiesce to grazing by non-native, privately owned livestock as a foundational natural ecological state and application of scientific principles only after the foundation of livestock grazing is implemented on the landscape. I discuss the limited actions that can be taken in response to the current untenable public lands grazing model.

Allison Jones received her B.A in Environmental Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz under the guidance of her mentor and advisor, Michael Soule. She then completed her M.S in Conservation Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1996. Her Masters study analyzed the effects of cattle grazing on small mammal communities in the Great Basin. Allison then went on to work as an endangered species specialist for ecological consulting firms both in Denver, and then her new home in Utah, where she completed habitat analyses and surveys for endangered riparian plants, birds and mammals, as well as wetland delineations. Allison then went to work as the staff conservation biologist for the Wild Utah Project in late 1999, where she provided to conservation partners ecological analyses ranging from literature reviews, to status reviews of rare species, to analyses of various federal land management plan revisions and other actions. Working alongside WUP founder Jim Catlin, Allison worked on innumerable projects related to studying the impacts of, and working to improve, public lands livestock grazing management. After 20+ years at Wild Utah Project (including as director from 2014-2020), Allison currently serves as principal of [Allison L Jones, LLC](#), where she currently assists conservation NGOs in many ways.



Jones will be presenting “The Duck Creek case: agency deference overshadows science.” In 2008, Western Watersheds Project and the Wild Utah Project appealed the Bureau of Land Management’s (northern Utah) Duck Creek Environmental Assessment, which would have, instead of addressing the real problem on the allotment (overstocking), sought to install fences to create a four pasture deferred rotation system as well as a pipeline for many new water troughs to spread grazing impacts further over the uplands. What commenced in 2009 to 2011 was the most lengthy and extensive grazing case in the history of the Departmental Cases Hearings Division of the Interior Bureau of Land Appeals. This was due in part to the plaintiffs presenting mountains of their own field data (using a sanctioned BLM method) that plainly showed that the allotment was degraded and BLM’s subjective monitoring failed to identify it (and so the BLM really needed to address stocking rates, not shuffle cows around on the land). Although WWP/WUP was successful at the first level in 2013, with the decision of the IBLA Administrative Law Judge (who accused the BLM of an arbitrary and capricious decision that did not use objective data collection), the BLM successfully appealed the 2013 decision to a 3-judge IBLA panel that in 2017 reversed the ALJ’s good 2013 decision. Allison will explain why, if WWP is not successful in the last hope to have the bad 2017 decision reversed again in federal district court, we will have lost an unprecedented opportunity to apply the Duck Creek decision on other western BLM allotments that are not monitoring conditions objectively.

And justice for all: Indigenous perspectives on wildlife, public lands, and the role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Davina Smith is a member of the Diné (Navajo) tribe, originally from Monument Valley, Utah. She belongs to the Ta'chii' nii (Red Running into the Water) clan and is born to the Ta' baa ha' (Edgewater) clan. She is a consultant with the National Parks Conservation Association as their Organizer/Tribal Coordinator in Southeastern Utah. Her focus is assisting with the Protection of Cultural Landscapes of Southeastern Utah, in addition to building supportive the coalitions with the development of a proposals to protect the area between Hovenweep, Canyons of the Ancients, and Bears Ears National Monuments known as the "Lands Between".

Davina Smith's personal mission is advocating for Native families, in both her rural and urban communities, in addition to preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources of ancestral Native American lands to benefit and bring healing to people and the Earth." Davina has had a plethora of work experience in Utah such as, the former Director of Operations for Utah Diné Bikayah (UDB), American Indian Education Coordinator for Salt Lake School District, Fourth Street Clinic, and Program Director for the American Indian Teacher Training Program (AITTP) at the University of Utah and Arizona State University. She is also a Board member with Grand Staircase Escalante Partners and CEO of Haseya Native Initiatives LLC.



Dustin Jansen is an enrolled Navajo. He was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in the community of Coyote Canyon, New Mexico. Dustin is currently a Professor of American Indian Studies at Utah Valley University and also currently serving as the Director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs. Dustin earned an Associate Degree in Science from Utah Valley University; Bachelors in History from Brigham Young University; and, his Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah, SJ Quinney College of Law. Since 2006 Dustin has worked in Indian Law and Policy as an Attorney or Judge. Dustin is married to Chauma Kee-Jansen, who is Sioux-Assiniboine, and they are about to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary. They have 4 children and currently reside in Mapleton, Utah.



Utah Navajo **Eirene Nakai Hamilton** is a continuous San Juan River valley resident. She retired from 30 years of teaching, most years spent teaching her first language: Diné Bizaad, Navajo. Now, she devotes time to writing, gardening, ethno-botany and artistic ventures.



The Great Drying: Assessing livestock grazing in the new normal for the American West

Daniel McCool is Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah. Professor McCool's research focuses on water resources, and Indian voting and water rights. His books include: *River Republic: The Fall and Rise of America's Rivers* (Columbia Univ. Press 2012); and *Native Waters: Contemporary Indian Water Settlements and the Second Treaty Era* (University of Arizona Press 2002). His most recent book, co-edited, is: *Vision and Place: John Wesley Powell and Reimagining the West* (Univ. of California Press, 2020).



McCool will be presenting "Aridification: The New Normal." In an era of increasing aridification, the nexus between land management and water management is critical and changing.

Dennis Willis is the co-chair of the Sierra Club Grassroots Network Grazing Team. He earned a degree in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Nevada Reno. Dennis retired after 35 years of public service with the BLM. Half of his career was working in the range program at field offices in Winnemucca, Nevada and Price Utah. He currently works as a freelance consultant, working on a variety of public lands issues around the west and grazing issues on the Colorado Plateau.



Willis will be presenting "Grazing as a drought intensifier: implications for the West's water." The other speakers on this panel are pointing out the dire situation we are in with the great drying of the West. As bad as conditions are, livestock grazing on the public lands in the West makes them worse. We will discuss how grazing is a drought intensifier, making drought conditions and impacts worse on local and regional levels.

Matt Reeves is a Research Ecologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, where he specializes in application of remote sensing and modeling to characterize ecological dynamics of rangelands. His research follows three basic themes including climate change, vegetation and fuel dynamics, and decision support tools.



Reeves will present "Tools for evaluating drought impacts on vegetation." When it comes to drought we are overwhelmed by too many tools, and not enough time leading to confusion and ineffective communication and decision making. Oftentimes this is because we don't even know where to start looking for answers or even what questions to ask. If we insist on using the wrong tool for the right question, we get poor answers. In this vein, the more succinct our questions become, the easier it is to select appropriate tools and analysis frameworks. In this presentation we examine a hand selected set of tools and work flows aimed at answering commonly asked drought questions.

Responding to new challenges: Public Lands Management for the 21st Century and beyond

Laura Welp grew up in Alaska, where she received her bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. She worked on monitoring studies in national parks and wildlife refuges in Alaska, California, and Utah until she went back to school for her Master's degree in Botany from the University of Wyoming. After graduating she worked as a field scientist and data manager for the Wyoming National Diversity Database until the red rock deserts called her to Utah. For four years, she was a botanist with the Bureau of Land Management Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, where she developed a broad working knowledge of grazing in the desert southwest and its effects on upland and riparian ecosystem function. This led her to change her career emphasis and work with the Grand Canyon Trust and Wild Utah Project with their grazing and habitat restoration programs. She joined Western Watersheds Project in 2012, where she continues to pursue her interest in public lands management, especially how grazing intersects with the vast vegetation treatments recently being conducted across the West.



Peter Lattin is an environmental scientist and landscape ecologist focusing on land health and disturbance, GIS spatial analysis, and remote sensing. Recently, his emphasis has been on broad scale impacts of livestock grazing on health of public lands. He has worked on both sides of natural resource issues from time as a commercial fisherman to scientific research in support of management and conservation in fisheries, forest, and rangeland resources, and was project lead on several BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments. Peter has a B.S. in Fisheries Science and an M.S. in Forest Science from Oregon State University and studied Conservation and Natural Resource Management at Wageningen University, in the Netherlands.



Together Laura and Peter will be presenting "Grazing Permit Renewals and NEPA: How Agencies Evade Standards for Rangeland Health and Public Accountability." BLM Standards for Rangeland Health were instituted in 1993 in response to widespread rangeland deterioration throughout the West. When allotment grazing permits came up for renewal, usually every 10 years, BLM was required to assess the health of soils, hydrology, vegetation, and water quality to see if the Standards were being met or if management changes were needed. The results were used in preparing NEPA documents for the public to review prior to permit renewal. It didn't take long for the BLM to fall behind on these land health evaluations, so Congress allowed the agency to temporarily reissue permits without conducting assessments or preparing NEPA documents. Temporary became permanent in practice. WWP's story map shows how this has led to permit renewals without rangeland health assessments across the West, including some of our most

treasured conservation lands.

Matt Preston is the Deputy State Director for the Bureau of Land Management's Utah State Office. He previously served as the Field Manager for the BLM's Salt Lake Field Office, in addition to a variety of roles in BLM Headquarters, including as the Branch Chief for Wildlife Conservation, the Acting Division Chief for Wildlife Conservation, Aquatics, and Environmental Protection, the BLM mitigation lead, and the science advisor for the National Conservation Lands. Matt has a Bachelor's degree in biology (Univ. of Colorado), and a Master's degree and PhD in anthropology (Univ. of California-Davis).



Chuck Oliver is currently serving as Deputy Director for Rangeland Management and Vegetation Ecology at the Washington Office. He attended college at the University of New Mexico and then at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces NM. He spent his summers working on the Kiowa National Grassland working as a Range Technician. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Rangeland Management and an MS in Agriculture Economics. That same year he received an appointment as a Range Conservationist in Butte, Montana.



Chuck worked as a Range Conservationist in Butte for two years before he went on to work at the Deerlodge Supervisors Office as an Operations Research Analyst until the Deerlodge Forest merged with the Beaverhead Forest. From there he went to the Gila National Forest in Reserve, New Mexico as a Range Staff for the Reserve Ranger District. Next he went on to serve as District Ranger on the Parks Ranger District of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland in Walden CO. After four years there he went on to serve as the District Ranger on the Darby Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest, where he remained for 11 years before moving to Baker City Or. He served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman NF in Baker City, Oregon where he spent 5 years before moving to the Washington office.

Pat Shea is a native Utahan, and lived in Utah up until he attended Stanford University, then Oxford University and then Harvard Law School. Once back in Utah, Pat ran for Governor of Utah and for the U.S. Senate against Sen. Orrin Hatch. Pat served in the Clinton Administration as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management through 1997 and 1998, as well as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior for Lands and Minerals while in Washington, D.C. Outside of his stint in Washington, Pat was also an Adjunct Professor of Agronomy at Kansas State University, an adjunct professor at BYU Law School. He is currently an Associate Research Professor of Biology at the University of Utah, as well as practicing law in Salt Lake.



Coexistence: Is there a place for livestock on public lands?

Michelle Lute is the Conservation Director for Project Coyote overseeing the organization's programs and campaigns across the country. Dr. Lute is a conservation scientist and advocate with over fifteen years' experience in biodiversity conservation on public and private lands around the globe. She dedicates her professional life to promoting human-wildlife coexistence through effective public engagement, equitable participatory processes, and evidence-based decision-making.



Lute will be presenting “All Good Things Are Wild And Free: Coexisting and rewilding with North America's carnivores.” Human-wildlife coexistence requires grassroots action, top-down policy reform and implementation of best practices on-the-ground. Project Coyote’s work to promote coexistence includes all these elements, from reforming government programs to effectively work for humans and wildlife to exploring just transitions for sustainable rural livelihoods. To further our mission of coexistence, we are now launching a new initiative to rewild, restore and reconnect shared landscapes across North America. Dr. Lute will discuss how rewilding public (and private) lands through cores, corridors, carnivores and coexistence will help conservationists, working families, rural economies and all life increase resiliency in the face of societal disruption, climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

Cyndi Tuell is an attorney and the Arizona and New Mexico Director at Western Watersheds Project. Cyndi has more than a decade of experience protecting federally managed public lands in the Southwest. She holds both a bachelor of science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a law degree from the University of Arizona. While in law school Cyndi researched conservation issues related to grazing on state trust lands and co-authored two publications on state trust lands in the West. Cyndi was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, the lands of the Tohono O’odham and Yoeme people, where she enjoys bicycling, hiking, camping, and local music. Cyndi is an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, is on the board of directors of Wilderness Watch, and is an elected member of the board at her youngest child’s parent-teacher organization.



Tuell will be presenting “Mexican gray wolves: Roadblocks on the Road to Recovery.” This presentation will provide a brief history of the recovery efforts for the Mexican gray wolf and explore roadblocks to recovery in the Southwest, including impacts from livestock grazing operations and the development of a new ESA 10(j) rule for Mexican wolves.

Suzanne Asha Stone is the Executive Director of the International Wildlife Coexistence Network and can be contacted at Suzanne@wildlifecoexistence.org or 208-861-5177. On the Western front lines of wolf restoration since 1988 including the 1990s Idaho/Yellowstone wolf reintroduction teams, Suzanne developed many of the nonlethal methods used around the world today to minimize wolf and livestock conflicts. She is the founder of the Wood River Wolf Project, a 15-year demonstration study that has proven the effectiveness of nonlethal coexistence strategies over traditional lethal control of wildlife. She is a member of the IUCN Canid Specialist Task Force, the world's chief body of scientific and practical expertise on the status and conservation of all canid species.



Stone will be presenting about how while livestock losses to wolves represent a small fraction of overall livestock mortality, the response to these widespread conflicts undermines and threatens wolf conservation and recovery. A variety of nonlethal methods have proven effective in reducing livestock losses to wolves in small-scale operations, but large landscape level nonlethal methods were until recently presumed ineffective or infeasible. For 15 years, we have demonstrated that nonlethal techniques are as or more effective on large landscapes than traditional lethal control when non lethal predator deterrents and animal husbandry techniques are strategically applied on an adaptive basis (i.e., based on terrain, proximity to den or rendezvous sites, avoiding habituation to deterrents that could result in wolves losing their fear of that device, etc.).

Panels and Speakers, in order of Schedule, Cont. (Thursday June 01)

Grass Fed Lies: The truth behind regenerative agriculture and how to feed the world while protecting the planet

Jason Hannan is Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Communications at the University of Winnipeg. He is the author of *Ethics Under Capital: MacIntyre, Communication, and the Culture Wars* (2020) and editor of *Meatsplaining: The Animal Agriculture Industry and the Rhetoric of Denial* (2020), *Truth in the Public Sphere* (2016) and *Philosophical Profiles in the Theory of Communication* (2012). His current book projects include *Trolling Ourselves to Death: Democracy in the Age of Social Media* (forthcoming with Oxford University Press), *Reactionary Rhetoric: The Denial of Reality*, and *New White Saviours: The Colonial Mythology of Meat*.



Hannan, in his presentation of “The Theology of Regenerative Grazing,” examines the theology of regenerative grazing. To that end, it provides a critical genealogy of the very idea of regeneration. First, it discusses the popular idea of regenerative grazing today. Second, it discusses the broader idea of regenerative agriculture and even a “regenerative way of life,” introduced in the 1980s by Robert Rodale, a key figure in the Rodale Institute and the movement for green consumerism. Third, it considers the etymological origins of the idea of regeneration in the New Testament, which speaks of *παλιγγενεσία*, or palingenesis, a term denoting both rebirth and regeneration. Stressing the historical link to the New Testament and to the born-again theology so prevalent among ranching communities today, this paper argues that regenerative grazing is premised on the unscientific logic of salvation—the false hope of supernatural possibility and miraculous redemption. Put bluntly, regenerative grazing belongs to the halls of Sunday School, not to environmental science and agricultural public policy.

Spencer Roberts is an ecologist, engineer, musician, and science writer from Colorado. His writing focuses primarily on deconstructing corporate science greenwashing, which naturally led him to regenerative ranching. He also writes about deceptive public relations strategies employed by the fishing, drilling, and logging industries. His work can be found in *Wired*, *The Intercept*, *Jacobin*, *Current Affairs*, *Blue Planet Society*, and *Sentient Media*. Most recently, he collaborated with Western Watersheds Project to author an investigation in *The Intercept* into the use of fraudulent cattle predation reports by USDA Wildlife Services to justify capturing and killing endangered Mexican wolves from public lands in the Gila and Apache National Forests.



Roberts will present “The Regenerative Ranching Racket.” To understand the origins of the regenerative ranching myth, we’ll travel back to the throes of the Rhodesian Bush War, where a young officer named Allan Savory developed guerrilla warfare methods to fight Zimbabwean revolutionaries. We’ll recount how the fall of Rhodesia led to the exile of Savory to the United States, where he published his treatise on “holistic rangeland management,” a technique he developed to heal the land from what he saw as the abuses it suffered under tribal pastoralists. From there, we’ll discover how this theory was catapulted to fame through the publicity of figures like Robert Rodale and Ted Turner and the investment of corporations like Shell Oil, McDonald’s, and General Mills. We’ll examine how these corporations funded not only hit documentaries and public relations campaigns, but also academic research promoting the lie that ranching can help fight climate change. We’ll also discuss the wolf investigation, the brave whistleblower within USDA and the brilliant sleuths at Western Watersheds. We might even get to hear about Spencer and his wife’s fake regenerative dairy farm in rural Wisconsin and its long, tumultuous stint on the website of Regeneration International.

Andy Kerr (andykerr@andykerr.net) is the Czar of The Larch Company (www.andykerr.net) and consults on environmental and conservation issues. The Larch Company is a for-profit non-membership conservation organization that represents the interests of humans yet born and species that cannot talk. Kerr is best known for his two decades with the Oregon Wild (then Oregon Natural Resources Council), the organization best known for having brought you the northern spotted owl. He began his conservation career during the Ford Administration. Through 2019, Kerr has been closely involved with the establishment or expansion of 47 Wilderness Areas and 57 Wild and Scenic Rivers, 13 congressionally legislated special management areas, 15 Oregon Scenic Waterways, one proclaimed national monument (and later expanded). He has testified before congressional committees on several occasions. He has lectured at all of Oregon's leading universities and colleges, as well as Harvard and Yale. Kerr has appeared numerous times on national television news and feature programs and has published numerous articles on environmental matters. He is a dropout of Oregon State University. Kerr authored *Oregon Desert Guide: 70 Hikes* and *Oregon Wild: Endangered Forest Wilderness*.



Kerr's presentation, "Cow-Bombing A Hell of a Lot of Land for Hardly Any Beef: The Equitable End to Livestock Grazing on Federal Public Lands," examines the amount of land in the United States dedicated to livestock production and the disproportionately small amount of meat that comes from federal public lands. It will also summarize recent research (by others) that the environmental and climate impacts of grazing on public lands is disproportionately higher than on private lands. It concludes with some site-specific examples of voluntary federal grazing permit retirement and how such is climate friendly, ecologically imperative, economically rational, fiscally prudent, socially just, and politically pragmatic.

Connecting the dots: Public lands extremism to the Capitol insurrection

Erik Molvar is a wildlife biologist and Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project, an organization that has played a key role in holding public lands extremists and scofflaw ranchers accountable. He has a long history of watchdogging public lands extremists, and coordinated media responses to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge insurrection and bids for Bureau of Land Management directorship by Karen Budd-Falen and William Perry Pendley, as well as overseeing litigation involving land seizure efforts. He is the author of 17 books on western public lands, and his scientific publications focus on the behavioral ecology and foraging impacts of Alaskan moose. He will be presenting "A history of domestic terrorism in the American West."



Jacqueline Keeler is a Diné/Dakota writer living in Portland, Oregon. Her writing has appeared in *The Nation*, NBC News, New York Times, Indian Country Today, Sierra Magazine, Conde Nast Traveler, and many other publications. Keeler has been interviewed on PRI's *The World*, BBC, MSNBC, and Democracy Now. Her 2021 book, *Standing Rock, the Bundy Movement, and the American Story of Sacred Lands*, contrasts the heavily militarized response to Lakota and allies' nonviolent fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline to the more measured response to the armed occupation led by Ammon Bundy of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Oregon in 2016. Kirkus Reviews called *Standoff* "An eye-opening narrative of two standoffs with the U.S. government that played out very differently. Though these events took place four years ago, Keeler's book is also timely. "I hope this book will provide some basis," she writes, "to understand the 58 percent of white voters who voted for Trump in 2016 versus the broad coalition of Americans who did not." By turns compelling and frustrating, this is required reading for those who would call this land home." In 2023, Torrey House Press is releasing *Letters to Oppenheimer From the Fourth World* about the impacts of Uranium mining on Indian Country. Keeler also edited *Edge of Morning: Native Voices Speak for the Bears Ears*, released in 2017. She is also working now on her first work of fiction, a Native American coming-of-age novel called *Leaving the Glittering World* set on the Columbia River amidst the discovery of an ancient 10,000-year-old skeleton and sacred lands become nuclear wastelands. She will be presenting "The Revolutionary War and Modern Extremism."



Aaron Weiss joined the Center for Western Priorities in 2015 after 14 years as a journalist and broadcast news producer, executive producer, and news director. He hosts CWP's podcast, *The Landscape*, and works to expand the Center's reach among reporters and the general public. A native of Tucson, Arizona, Aaron grew up exploring the Sonoran Desert, and now enjoys hiking with his kids and impersonating a skier in the Rocky Mountains."



Conference Keynote Addresses

Dr. Rob Davies' is a physicist whose work focuses on global change, complex systems, and human vibrancy. He has delivered hundreds of public lectures — to policymakers, business leaders, civic organizations and faith communities — and his “performance science” theatrical collaboration *The Crossroads Project | Rising Tide*, co-created with the Fry Street Quartet, has been performed across the U.S. and in three countries. He has served as a scientific liaison for NASA; as a project scientist with Utah State University’s Space Dynamics Laboratory; and as an officer and meteorologist in the United States Air Force. Dr. Davies has served on the faculty of three universities, is a past Associate of the Utah Climate Center, and is currently Associate Professor of Professional Practice with Utah State University, where he holds a joint appointment in the Dep’t of Physics, USU’s Ecology Center, and the Caine College of the Arts.



Davies will be presenting “A Landscape of Disruption & Response.” “If a problem is *too big to be solved*,” said Dwight Eisenhower, “*make it bigger.*” As scientists, citizens and policymakers continue to plan our public lands' future, it’s more important than ever that our work takes place through a lens that sees the full landscape, horizon to horizon. In doing so, we enlarge the solution space dramatically. We now inhabit a suite of ecological and social crises, fully and tightly entangled and emergent from the same underlying institutions and mindsets. The rapidly developing framework of Planetary Boundaries and Social Foundations connects the dots of the issues this conference seeks to address — and in doing so allows us to see this work more fully and better ask: what are the environmental challenges that are co-extant with public lands; *what are the concomitant social challenges; and what are the solution pathways that synergistically address, rather than exacerbate, other environmental and social challenges?*

Brooke Larsen is a community organizer, writer, and narrative strategist. She is the community engagement coordinator for the U of U Environmental Humanities Program, where she also received her MA. Brooke is the co-editor of *New World Coming: Frontline Voices on Pandemics, Uprisings, and Climate Crisis*, and a recipient of the Bell Prize from *High Country News*. She was the co-founder of Uplift, a youth-led climate justice organization in the Southwest, and a youth delegate to the UN Climate Change Conference with SustainUS.



Alastair Lee Bitsóí is from the Navajo Nation community of Naschitti, below the Chooshgai Mountains on the New Mexico–Arizona state line. He has been an award-winning news reporter for the *Navajo Times* and is currently the Southern Utah reporter for *The Salt Lake Tribune*. Alastair is the co-editor of *New World Coming: Frontline Voices on Pandemics, Uprisings, and Climate Crisis* and was a 2021 Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis. He has a master’s degree in public health from New York University and is an alumnus of Gonzaga University.



Together, they will share grassroots solutions and visions for a regenerative future from their book *New World Coming: Frontline Voices on Pandemics, Uprisings, and Climate Crisis*. They will highlight the ways communities across the Southwest are responding to the climate crisis by listening to lessons from elders and the imagination of the rising generation. Alastair and Brooke will share stories and read excerpts from the anthology's contributors who are leaders in the movement for climate justice.

Even in the Wilderness?: The untold story of commercial grazing in our most protected places

Dana Johnson has practiced environmental law since 2010 and has been Wilderness Watch's staff attorney since 2014. She coordinates Wilderness Watch's overall litigation strategy and represents Wilderness Watch and other conservation groups in federal litigation affecting the National Wilderness Preservation System. Dana's more recent work includes campaigning for revision of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines and closing vacant allotments in designated Wilderness.



Johnson will be presenting “Grazing in Wilderness: The Legal Landscape and Implications on the Ground.” Livestock are authorized to graze over a quarter of the 52 million acres of protected Wilderness in the lower 48 states. Due to grazing language in the 1964 Wilderness Act and its 1980s-era corollary, the Congressional Grazing Guidelines, grazing has been a presence in Wilderness for over half a century. We'll take a landscape-scale look at grazing in Wilderness, including the evolution of law and policy, effects on the National Wilderness Preservation System, and opportunities for change.

Gary Macfarlane is a Utah native who has lived mainly in north-central Idaho for the past three decades. Gary recently retired from Friends of the Clearwater, a grassroots conservation group based in Moscow, Idaho. He is currently a board member of Wilderness Watch, Friends of the Clearwater, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, and participates in the Wildlands Wilderness Team of the Sierra Club. He first backpacked in what is now the High Uintas Wilderness in the 1960s and was involved in wilderness designation and grazing issues in the Uintas with the Utah Wilderness Association in the 1980s and early 1990s.



Macfarlane will discuss some history and current problems with livestock grazing in the High Uintas Wilderness. The High Uintas, Utah's largest Wilderness, contains the largest contiguous alpine zone in the Central Rockies, but also has the most permitted grazing of any area in the National Wilderness Preservation System, according to Forest Service data. Gary's presentation will rely on the work of Dr. John Carter and Jason Christensen from Yellowstone to Uintas Connection, neither of whom were able to attend the conference, but have monitored grazing-related impacts for decades in the High Uintas.

Felice Pace was born on January 10th 1947 into the working class Italian Community in South Philadelphia. He holds a BA in Economics from Yale U., an MA in Education from Montclair State University and a life-time California teaching credential. He has worked as a teacher/educator, laborer, Outward Bound instructor, social services administrator and for Native American tribes. For fifteen years Felice worked for and led the Klamath Forest Alliance as Program Coordinator, Executive Director and Program Director. Currently Felice engages as a Klamath River, clean water and streamflow activist and pursues a number of writing project. Felice blogs on Klamath River issues at www.KlamBlog.org. He has lived in Northwest California's Klamath River basin since 1975 and currently resides at Klamath Glen near the mouth of the Klamath River.



Pace will focus on the impact of national forest grazing on headwaters and headwater wetlands which, in the American West, are mostly located within designated national forest wilderness. I will discuss the findings from long-term Forest Service monitoring of vegetation transects on national forest grazing allotments stretching from the Modoc NF in NE California through the Sierra Nevada Range. That monitoring finds a long-term loss of wetland obligate plants indicating a loss of wetlands. I will use a couple of photos to show that the Grazing Reform Project has documented the destruction of headwater wetlands within Klamath Mountains national forest wilderness. Finally, I will argue that the costs of headwater/wilderness national forest grazing in reduced water supplies, streamflow and water quality far outweigh any benefits of that grazing and that, in order to secure water supplies and streamflows, headwater wilderness national forest grazing

should end.

**(JUNE 3 FIELD TRIP HANDOUT) : Chief “Decreaser”
species we should see on So. Skull Valley allotment:**



Bluebunch wheatgrass



Pseudoroegneria spicata



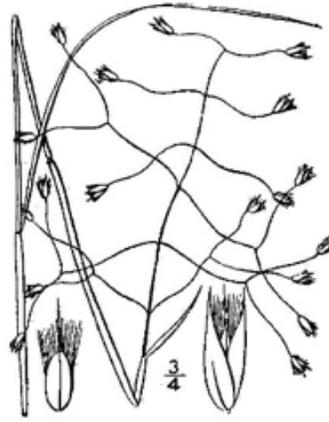
Needle & thread



Hesperostipa comata



Indian ricegrass



Achnatherum hymenoides

Chief “Increaser” species we will see on So. Skull Valley Allotment



Sandberg bluegrass



Poa secunda



Galleta grass



Pleuraphis jamesii



Foxtail



Hordeum jubatum



Broom snakeweed



Gutierrezia sarothrae



Littleleaf horsebrush



Tetradymia glabrata



Big sagebrush



Artemisia tridentata



Rabbitbrush



Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus

Chief invader species we will see on So. Skull Valley allotment



Cheatgrass



Bromus tectorum



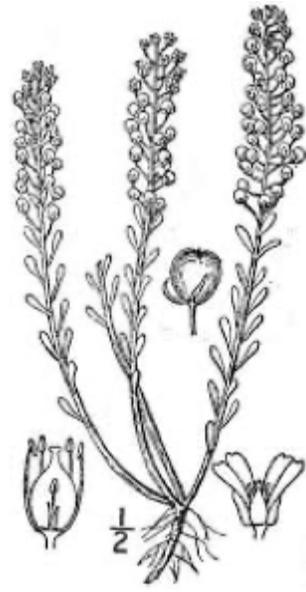
Russian thistle



Salsola Kali



Desert madwort



Alyssum desertorum



Burr buttercup



Ranunculus testiculatus

Thank you for Attending!