



Laramie, WY
June 7-11 2026

Landscapes in Reclamation





ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECLAMATION

Since 1979, Rocky Mountain Reclamation has been a trusted leader in environmental consulting, reclamation, and revegetation services across the Western and Midwestern United States. Based in Laramie, Wyoming, we deliver competitive, high-quality solutions for revegetation, erosion control, and environmental contracting. Our team partners with clients in energy, construction, and land management to restore landscapes, control erosion, and ensure long-term sustainability.



- Service Provided
- Revegetation
 - Landscaping
 - Environmental Consulting
 - Weed Control
 - Erosion Control
 - Drone Seeding & Spraying

Our Unwavering Commitment

- Protecting Our People: Ensuring the well-being of our highly skilled team.
- Safeguarding Our Clients: Conducting all work to minimize risk on your property.
- Environmental Responsibility: Protecting the natural surroundings on every project.
- Exceeding Standards: Going beyond federal and state safety regulations.

ASRS 43rd Annual Program



All events take place at Marian H Rochelle Gateway Center unless otherwise noted. Scan for more details:

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday			
Breakfast on own 6:30am-8:00am		Haulin' ASRS 6:30am-7:30am	Haulin' ASRS 6:30am-7:30am	Haulin' ASRS 6:30am-7:30am	*Tour Shirley Basin 7:30am-5:30pm			
		Breakfast at UW 6:30am-8:00am	Breakfast at UW 6:30am-8:00am	Wild Women Reclamation Breakfast 6:30am-8:00am			Breakfast at UW 6:30am-8:00am	TD Breakfast Meeting 6:30am-8:00am
Reclamation 101 8:00am-12:00pm	Reclamation 201 8:00am-12:00pm	Opening Plenary Session 8:00am-10:00am	Plenary Session 8:00am-10:00am	Technical Session 8:00am-10:00am			*Tour McIntosh 7:30am-5:30pm	
		Break 10:00am-10:30am	Break 10:00am-10:30am	Break 10:00am-10:30am				
		Technical Session 10:30am-12:00pm	Technical Session 10:30am-12:00pm	Technical Session 10:30am-12:00pm				
Lunch on own 12:00pm-1:30pm		Annual Awards & Business Meeting Luncheon 12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on own 12:00pm-1:30pm	Student Awards Luncheon 12:00pm-1:30pm				
WY AML Seeding Certification Class 1:30pm-4:00pm	NEC Opening Meeting 1:30pm-5:00pm	Technical Session 1:30pm-3:00pm	Technical Session 1:30pm-3:00pm	NEC Wrap Up 1:30pm-2:30pm	Optional Local Tours 1:30pm-5:00pm			
		Break 3:00pm-3:30pm	Break 3:00pm-3:30pm					
*Bike Tour		Technical Session 3:30pm-5:00pm	Technical Session 3:30pm-5:00pm					
Welcome Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm	*Monday Social @Territorial Prison 5:30pm-9:00pm	*Poster Session @Wildcatter 5:30pm-7:30pm	*Early Career Professionals Social @Ranch Club 7:30pm-9:30pm	Happy Hour Social TBD	Social Activities Workshops/Presentation Food Breaks/Lunches Tours Another location (*)			



Annual Meeting Chairs

Brenda Schladweiler
BKS Environmental Associates, Inc.

Paul Griswold
Peabody

Planning Committee

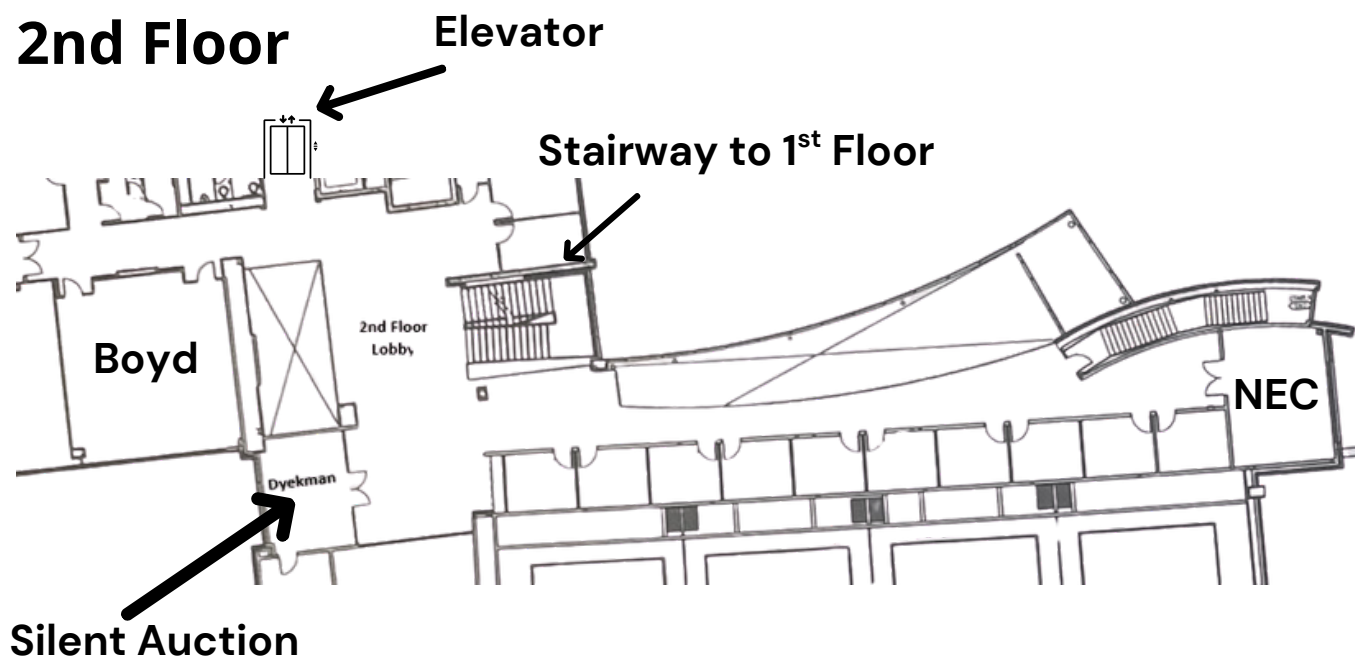
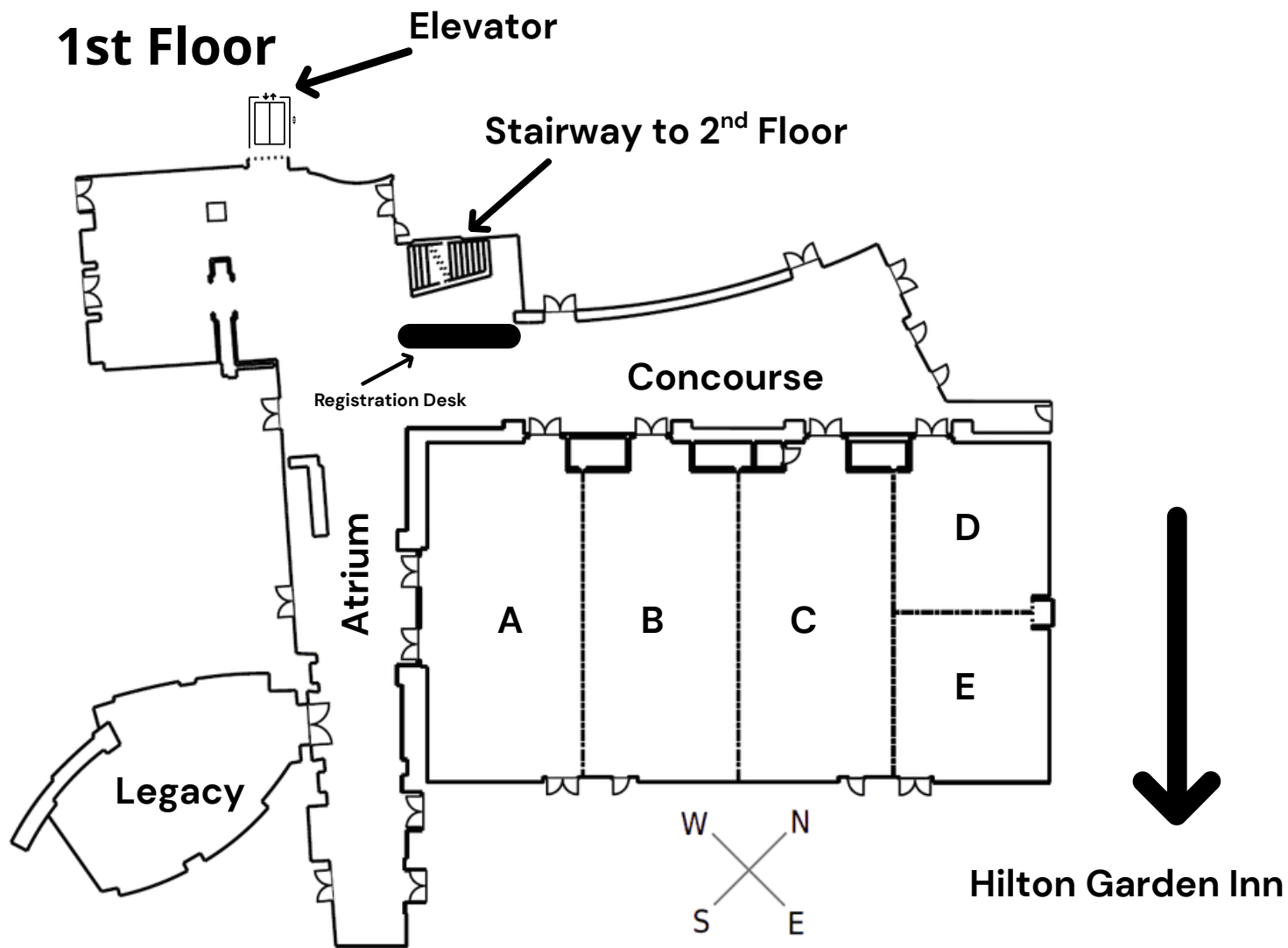
Allen Wellborn - Navajo Transitional Energy Company
Amy Blyth - Trihydro
Andrea Summers - Bridger Coal
Anna Krzyszowska Waitkus - Consultant
Brandon Holzbauer-Schweitzer - Jacobs Engineering
Christine Reed - University of Wyoming

Dan Guy - Biomost Inc.
Daryle Bennett - Granite Seed & Erosion Control
Denise Boyd - KC Harvey Environmental LLC
Dustin Frost - Energy Laboratories Inc.
Dustin Wasley - Haley & Aldrich
Eric Brandjord - Pace Analytical
Harold Hutson - BRS Engineering Inc.
Jana Heisler White - Battelle

Jennifer Bell - University of Wyoming
Josh Sorenson - Jonah Energy LLC
Kelsea Green - Biomost Inc.
Kenton Sena - University of Kentucky
Kyna Christensen - Tetra Tech
Logan Triplett - WYO-BEN
Mike Curran - Abnova Ecological Solutions LLC

Peighton Hayes - University of Wyoming
Pete Stahl - University of Wyoming (Retired)
Rio Franzman - KC Harvey Environmental LLC
Scott Gamo - WYDOT
Tanner Smith - WYDOT
Wanda Burget - Accord Resource Solutions LLC

Marian H Rochelle Gateway Center



Technical Sessions - Monday, June 8, 2026

	Ballroom D	Boyd	Legacy	Ballroom E
	Abandoned Mine Land Section 1 Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center	Water Quality Issues Section 1 Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center	Wildlife Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center	Oil and Gas Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center
1:30pm-2:00pm	Temporal Projections Of Land Use Patterns And Ecosystem Service Valuations For Mine Closure Alternatives: A Case Study J. Li* <i>China University of Mining and Technology-Beijing, Beijing, China</i>	Electro-Biochemical Treatment For Selenium And Trace Metals In Coal-Affected Waters E. Hotz* <i>WesTech Engineering, Salt Lake City, UT</i>	Incorporating Wildlife Habitat In Mine Reclamation Design T. S. Cross* <i>Herrera Environmental Consultants, Casper, WY</i>	St. Clairsville, Ohio—Carbon Dioxide Gas Investigation O. M. Beckford* <i>US Office of Surface Mining, Pittsburgh, PA</i>
2:00pm-2:30pm	Dynamic Cost Effectiveness And Recovery Trajectory Estimation In A Post-Mining Reclamation Chronosequence In Central Wyoming R. Coupal* <i>University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</i>	Speciation And Sequestration Of Manganese In Organic Wetland Substrates A. M. Hardgrave* <i>Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK</i>	Tracking Reclamation Progress—A Wildlife Approach P. L. Hunter* <i>Herrera Environmental Consultants Inc, Casper, WY</i>	Restoration Of Oil And Gas Pads In The Chihuahuan Desert Of West Texas K. E. Christensen* <i>Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX</i> , ² <i>Borderlands Research Institute, Alpine, TX</i>
2:30pm-3:00pm	From Field Metrics To Decisions And Refinements: Scalable Reclamation Portfolio Monitoring, Analysis, And Refinement J. Schroeder* <i>Tetra Tech Inc, Lander, WY</i>	Leaching Tests Suggest That Lake Dredge Could Have Positive Chemical Outcomes For Coal Mine Reclamation J. Pensky* <i>Ohio University, Athens, OH</i>	Coexisting With Industry: Ferruginous Hawk Nesting At A Navajo Mine Trevor Harvey* <i>NTEC, Fruitland, NM</i>	Net Primary Productivity And Native Vegetation Cover Exceed Reference Conditions Three Years After Reclamation On Abandoned Roads And Well Pads In A Semi-Arid Natural Gas Field In The Powder River Basin, Wyoming M. F. Curran* <i>Abnova Ecological Solutions LLC, Laramie, WY</i>
Break - Main Ballroom - 3:00pm - 3:30pm				
	Abandoned Mine Land Section 2	Water Quality Issues Section 2	Seed Availability Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center	Data Innovation in Reclamation Sponsored by The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center
3:30pm-4:00pm	High-Resolution Microgravity For Detection And Delineation Of Abandoned Mine Voids: A Rapid, Non-Intrusive Tool For Optimized Subsidence Risk Assessment L. Steele* <i>Tetra Tech Inc, Lakewood, CO</i>	Improving The Accuracy Of Mineral Scaling Risk Assessments: Insights From A Northwestern Colorado Coal Mine K. Wright* <i>Trihydro Corporation, Austin, TX.</i>	Increasing Native Seed Availability For Restoration Through The Wyoming Seed Partnership A. Nelson* <i>The Institute for Applied Ecology, Lander, WY.</i>	Improving Visibility And Professional Engagement In Reclamation Through Social Media L. Van Hise* <i>Speak Media, Columbus, NJ</i>
4:00pm-4:30pm	Design Of Bat Gates And Culverts To Protect Bat Habitat On Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Projects A. J. Pontzer* <i>Kleinfelder, State College, PA</i>	Geochemical Ensemble Modeling For Bracketing Uncertainty In Pit Lake Water Quality Predictions M. Blair* <i>Barr Engineering Company, Duluth, MN</i>	The Role Of The Wyoming Seed Strategy In Improving Reclamation Outcomes M. Eshleman* <i>The Nature Conservancy, Lander, WY</i>	Coupling Optimized Sampling Algorithms With Gis And Cell Phone Technologies To Rapidly Collect And Report Data Over Vast Linear Features Z. D. Farrmer* <i>Abnova Ecological Solutions, Laramie, WY</i>
4:30pm-5:00pm	Evaluating Effects Of Legacy Hard-Rock Mining On A Watershed Scale J. I. McCann* <i>University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK</i>	Life Cycle Analysis Of An Almost 37-Year-Old Amd Passive Treatment System K. J. Green* <i>Bio Most Inc, Mars, PA</i>	The "Art Of The Possible": Enhancing Biodiversity Through A Dedicated Native Seed Nursery S. Jensen* <i>EcoPoint, Rifle, CO</i>	Quantifying Ecosystem Services In Post-Mining Pit Lakes: A Meta-Database Function Transfer Approach Z. Iranmanesh* <i>University of Nevada, NV</i>
Monday Night Social Wyoming Territorial Prison - 5:30pm - 9:00pm				

Technical Sessions - Tuesday, June 9, 2026

	Ballroom D	Boyd	Legacy	Ballroom E
	Reclamation by, with, and for Indigenous Communities Sponsored by BKS Environmental Associates, Inc.	Coal Reclamation Section 1	Rare Earth and Critical Mineral Recovery Section 2	Technology and Innovation
1:30pm-2:00pm	Community Engagement In Winter Grazing And The Native Seed Program At Kayenta Mining Complex A. L. Taugher* <i>HMI, LLC, Englewood, CO</i>	Influences Of Reclaimed Mines On Landscape-Level Ecosystem Services: A Case Study From Appalachia J. A. Franklin* <i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN</i>		Engineered Wood Strand Erosion Control Mulch: Technical And Performance Update From 20 Years Of Use J. Dooley* <i>Forest Concepts, LLC, Auburn, WA</i>
2:00pm-2:30pm	Restoring Hozho On The Navajo Nation With Geomorphic Reclamation D. Jacquez* <i>NTEC, Fruitland, NM</i>	Theory, Principle, And Key Technologies Of Concurrent Mining And Reclamation Z. Hu* <i>China University of Mining and Technology, Xuzhou, Jiangsu, China</i>	Computational Approaches Assist In Critical Mineral Recovery And Remediation Effort Prioritization Within Mining-Affected Systems R. R. Terra* <i>Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, ²National Energy Technology Laboratory, Pittsburgh, PA</i>	The Use Of Polymers For Dust And Erosion Control On Mine Sites J. Vermillion* <i>Environmental Products and Applications</i>
2:30pm-3:00pm	Blending Indigenous Knowledge And Ecological Restoration In Mine Reclamation R. Benally* <i>NTEC, Fruitland, NM</i>		Recovery Of Critical Minerals From Mining-Influenced Water During Legacy Superfund Site Remediation: Advancing Innovative Technologies Through The Emrtai J. Heisler-White <i>Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH</i>	
Break - Main Ballroom - 3:00pm - 3:30pm Sponsored By: Granite Seed and Erosion Control				
	Post Large-Scale Disturbance Issues Sponsored by Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources	Geospatial Issues Sponsored by BKS Environmental Associates, Inc.	Vegetation Issues	Reclamation: A Long-Term View
3:30pm-4:00pm	Designing For Recovery: Streambank Restoration On The Pigeon River After Helene T. L. Wishart* <i>University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Knoxville, TN</i>		Effectiveness Of Sagebrush Reduction Treatments For Greater Sage-Grouse In Wyoming Big Sagebrush Habitats J. L. Beck* <i>Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</i>	What Can The Reclamation Industry Learn From Organic Farmers? C. Youngquist* <i>Dirt Works Wyoming, Worland, WY</i>
4:00pm-4:30pm	Flood Mitigation Planning In A Heavily Mined Community: Insight From A Community Driven Planning Process N. A. Kruse Daniels* <i>Ohio University, Athens, OH</i>	A Remotely Sensed Approach To Assess Riparian Vegetation Development And Flow Pathways In Relation To Remediation Approaches At A Historic Bentonite Mining Site P. Kozak* <i>Center for Sustainable Solutions at South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City, SD</i>	Reclamation And Noxious Weed Control On A Large-Scale Wind Energy Project N. J. Wojcik* <i>SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), Oak Creek, CO</i>	40 Years Of Revegetation Monitoring And Success At Kayenta Mine Complex R. F. Bay* <i>HMI, LLC, Englewood, CO</i>
4:30pm-5:00pm	Sharing Is Caring: How Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Accelerates Hurricane Helene Restoration D. Mills* <i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN</i>	Machine Learning Integration With Remote Sensing For Reclamation Planning And Restoration Monitoring At Mining Sites A. C. Reicks* <i>CDM Smith, Milwaukee, WI</i>	Vegetation Change Along A Post-Mining Reclamation Chronosequence In Central Wyoming M. V. Oreshkina* <i>University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</i>	Mastering Reclamation Cost Estimates With Sherpa K. Noyes* <i>Costmine Intelligence, Spokane Valley, WA</i>

Poster Session/ECP Social
5:30pm - 7:30pm/7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sponsored By:

- Peabody
- BKS Environmental Associates, Inc.

Technical Sessions - Wednesday, June 10, 2026

	Ballroom D	Legacy	Ballroom E
	Mine Reforestation	Abandoned Mine Land Section 3	Post-mining Soil Issues
8:00am-8:30am	Native Tree Community Establishment In A 17-Year Old Fra-Reclaimed Coal Mine S. K. Klopf* <i>Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA</i>	Long-Term Review Of Reclamation And Vegetation Management At Colorado's Underground Coal Mine Fire Sites J. Nuttall* <i>Tetra Tech, Gillette, WY</i>	Uranium Mine Soils And Spoils: Characterization And 3D Modeling S. M. Cude* <i>Rockwell Science, Lexington, KY</i>
8:30am-9:00am	Assessing The Taxonomic And Functional Response Of Soil Microbial Communities To Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Efforts In Grand Teton National Park D. M. Romero* <i>University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</i>	From Remedial Investigation To Remedy Focus, Lessons Learned At An Abandoned Mercury Mine S. Dent* <i>CDM Smith, Helena, MT</i>	From Model To Field: Constructible Soil Planning C. J. Sloan* <i>Herrera Environmental Consultants, Cheyenne, WY</i>
9:00am-9:30am	Beaver Dam Analogs For Stream Reclamation: Influences On Food Web Structure, Function, And Water Quality M. Milbrath* <i>University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</i>	Remediation Efforts Of Abandoned Mine Land In Central Idaho E. M. Hurley* <i>Alta Science & Engineering, Inc, Boise, ID</i>	Impact Of Biochar On Reclaimed Mine Soils A. Hass* <i>West Virginia State University, Institute, WV</i>
9:30am-10:00am	Identification And Spatial Characterization Of A Novel Autumn Olive Pathogen In Southwestern Virginia S. K. Klopf* <i>Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA</i>	Abandoned And Active Coal Mine Reclamation Using Micronutrient Fertility Strategies To Improve Soil Health T. Tafi* <i>CO Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, Denver, CO</i>	Reclamation With Biotic Soil Media R. Reynolds* <i>Profile Products LLC, Denver, CO</i>
Break - Main Ballroom - 10:00am - 10:30am			
	Sagebrush Reclamation Impacts on Wildlife	Weed Management on Reclaimed Areas Sponsored By: IMAGINE	Stream and Forest Restoration
10:30am-11:00am	Modeling Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Suitability, Habitat Potential, And Risks In Wyoming Through An Interactive Web-Based Map G. Kenney* <i>Tetra Tech, Inc, Lander, WY</i>	Is Indaziflam A Good Fit For Weed Control On Reclamation Projects? B. A. Mealor* <i>University of Wyoming Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems, Sheridan, WY</i>	Tree Establishment And Growth In An Fra-Reclaimed Mine 17 Years Post-Establishment C. W. Fields-Johnson* <i>Davey Institute, Kent, OH</i>
11:00am-11:30am	Restoring Big Sagebrush Islands With Wildling Plantings And Microtopography To Enhance Sage-Grouse Habitat N. J. Wojcik* <i>SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), Oak Creek, CO</i>	Cheatgrass Monoculture Treatment In Coal Mine Reclamation A. Wellborn* <i>¹Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Decker, MT, ²Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT</i>	Clark Fork River Operable Unit (Cfrou) Reach A Phase 7: Building On Decades Of River Remediation And Restoration To Advance Streambank Stabilization R. English* <i>Tetra Tech, Helena, MT</i>
11:30am-12:00pm		Sustained Cheatgrass Suppression Using Rejuvra In Bentonite Mine Reclamation In The Big Horn Basin, Wyoming D. H. Call* <i>Wyo-Ben Inc, Greybull, WY</i>	Process-Based Design (Pbr) As An Integral Part Of Post-Fire Disturbance Recovery C. Barry* <i>Ayres Associates, Fort Collins, CO</i>

Student Award Luncheon
12:00pm - 1:30pm

Sponsored By:

- Navajo Transitional Energy Company
- Merit Energy Company
- Central Wyoming Section of SME

Yellowstone Sponsorship



Devil's Tower Sponsorship



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College of Agriculture, Life Sciences
and Natural Resources

Wyoming Agricultural
Experiment Station

Grand Teton Sponsorship



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William T. Plass Award

Peter Beckett



Peter Beckett has a PhD in wetland ecology from King's College London (London, UK). With 50 years of service at Laurentian University (Sudbury, ON, Canada), Beckett is now a professor emeritus of environmental reclamation, restoration, and wetland ecology in the School of Natural Sciences and a senior fellow at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre. He loves plants, especially mosses and lichens. Beckett is a longtime chair of VETAC, the City of Greater Sudbury's Advisory Panel on Landscape Regreening. He is a founding member and director of the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, which is dedicated to returning ecological integrity to the Sudbury urban creek. Beckett, with numerous graduate students, has worked on reclamation projects on many mine sites and around smelter locations across northern Ontario. He participates with colleagues from several universities on peatland restoration projects in Sudbury and has taught courses at the undergraduate and graduate level in restoration ecology, reclamation science, plant ecology and biostatistics, wetland ecology, and other botanical topics.

Beckett has been the president and director of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) and holds a Noranda Award for outstanding achievements in reclamation. The CLRA awarded him the Watkin Award for Reclamation in 2016, and he has received a Pioneers in Reclamation Award from ASRS. Beckett is an honorary member of the China Land Reclamation Society. He leads numerous field trips for local, national, and international visitors to local wetlands, forests, and restored and reclaimed sites. Beckett has given numerous invited presentations on and participated in conferences discussing aspects of the Sudbury Regreening Protocol and wetland ecology worldwide, including in Canada, the United States, Peru, Chile, Hong Kong, Australia, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and other European countries. In May 2025, he received a King Charles III Coronation Medal for services to community reclamation.

As an outdoor enthusiast, Beckett serves on the Board of Rainbow Routes, Sudbury's trail Association. He has promoted cross-country skiing and snowshoeing with the BioSKI club in the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area for more than 50 years.

Richard I. & Lela M. Barnhisel Reclamation Researcher of the Year Award

Sara Klopf



Sara Klopf earned a BS from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in integrative biology and an MS in plant biology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she studied peatland reclamation after oil sands mining in northern Alberta. While continuing to work full time, she is also currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Virginia Tech studying the effects of mine soil reconstruction practices on soil properties, vegetation establishment, and hydrologic regimes. Since 2012, she has worked at Virginia Tech, where she works on projects related to revegetation and reforestation of coal, sand, and gravel, and heavy mineral sands mines; urban forestry and bioretention; forest genetics; American chestnut restoration; investigation of a novel autumn olive pathogen; and assessment of utility-scale solar development impacts. Her first American Society of Mining and Reclamation/American Society of Reclamation Sciences meeting was in Laramie, Wyoming, in 2013. She has served two terms on the National Executive Committee, is an associate editor for Reclamation Sciences, and currently co-chairs the Wild Women of Reclamation. When she's not working, she's most likely found in the garden or on a hiking trail with her husband and five-year-old son.

Reclamationist of the Year Award



Jasmine Allison

Jasmine Allison is the director of government and regulatory affairs for PureWest Energy. With nearly 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, she has held a wide range of environmental and regulatory roles with companies including Shell, Ultra Resources, and PureWest, building deep expertise at the intersection of policy, operations, and environmental stewardship.

She holds a degree in environmental management, is National Environmental Policy Act certified, and is a licensed drone pilot, providing a strong technical foundation for her work. Her many years of hands-on experience advancing projects reflect her longstanding commitment to environmentally responsible and sustainable energy development. Throughout her career, Allison has focused on advancing effective reclamation and a wide range of environmental practices and initiatives across the West, particularly in Wyoming.

Allison currently serves as chair of the Public Lands and Legislation Committee for the Western Energy Alliance and co-chairs the Operational Integrity Committee for the American Exploration & Production Council. She also serves on the Wyoming Governor's Working Group for the Sublette County Antelope Herd Migration Corridor and is a member of the board of directors for the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. She is known for advocating for practical, real-world solutions and bringing a thoughtful, holistic approach to complex regulatory and environmental challenges.

Distinction in Reclamation Award

The Wild Boar Complex's Big Creek Project



One of Peabody Energy's core values is "We take responsibility for the environment, benefit our communities, and restore the land for generations that follow." The Wild Boar Complex's Big Creek Project is a prime example of this value in operations.

Big Creek is an intermittent stream on the eastern portion of the permit that becomes perennial by the time it leaves the project area. Prior to mining, the affected portion of the creek had a watershed of 28,960 acres and consisted of approximately 23,100 linear feet. It had little to no access to its floodplain and had been directly impacted by agriculture, pre-Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) mining, and post-SMCRA mining. Only 13 acres of jurisdictional wetlands were identified prior to mining, with only eight of those being natural.

The Big Creek Project was one that involved strategic coordination and critical timing. Two separate Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits governed its mining, mitigation, and replacement. Peabody Energy had to be conscious of all reclamation requirements as well as maintain channel flow during mining. Mining through Big Creek required not only the 1:1 replacement of each linear foot disturbed, but also enhancements to avoidance sections of the creek and restoration of part of the creek from a dredged ditch to a pre-existing paleochannel. The channel was first mined through in 2015, and water was put back through the 37,300 feet of completed and restored channel in 2024. The end product of mining is now a much more stable creek that can access its floodplain with higher ecological function overall than what was previously in place, showing that not only was the reclamation successful, but it also far exceeds what had been in place before Wild Boar and West 61's mining began.

Early Career Award

Hannah Angel



Hannah Angel, PhD, is a lecturer in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and the director of undergraduate studies for the Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) program at the University of Kentucky's (UK) Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. A UK alumna, she returned to her alma mater after earning an MS from Stephen F. Austin State University and a PhD from Virginia Tech. Angel leads instruction for a range of introductory and upper-level courses, where she integrates professional development into the NRES curriculum. Her research background in reclamation science—spanning surface mines in East Texas, the Central Appalachians, and Virginia's Upper Coastal Plain—informs her pedagogy. Her doctoral work was focused on analyzing temporal and spatial trends in the physical and chemical properties of mine soil in Virginia. By leveraging nearly a decade of field and laboratory experience, she helps students navigate complex environmental problems through restoration-based solutions. Angel is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of environmental professionals in her current position at UK.

Pioneer of Reclamation Award

Ron Schreibeis has been involved in the field of reclamation and revegetation across the western United States for over five decades. He received a bachelor of science in agricultural economics and a master of science in range management from the University of Wyoming. Early in his career, Schreibeis focused his energy on quantifying environmental conditions in pre-mining landscapes, focusing on vegetation, to establish a scientific baseline for restoration efforts.

To not only meet but exceed reclamation standards, Schreibeis founded Rocky Mountain Reclamation, a company that rose to prominence under his leadership. His innovative spirit led to the invention of specialized equipment designed to enhance revegetation outcomes, setting new benchmarks in the industry. Schreibeis attributes much of the company's success to the unwavering dedication of his Rocky Mountain Reclamation team and the collaborative partnerships forged with clients.

Throughout his career, his energies focused on advancing reclamation technology and restoring native rangelands. Schreibeis assisted in shaping reclamation practices, guiding engineering and environmental consulting firms and mining companies through complex revegetation challenges. His involvement is reflected in numerous pre-ASRS symposium presentations by others and the authorship of many revegetation procedure documents and manuals, adopted by engineering companies, consultants, mines, municipalities, and states.

Now enjoying semi-retired life with family, friends, and his involvement in his hobbies, community, and church, he continues to lend his experience in revegetation planning, seed mixture design, weed control, and wetlands management while maintaining strong ties with the new owners of Rocky Mountain Reclamation LLC.

Schreibeis hopes his legacy is one of innovation, leadership, and an enduring commitment to environmental stewardship.



Ron Schreibeis

Kyle J. Wendtland

Pioneer of Reclamation Award



Kyle J. Wendtland is the deputy director and interim acting director of fossil fuel development for the Wyoming Energy Authority. He previously served as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Land Quality Division Administrator. Prior to this, he was an environmental engineering manager for the coal industry. Wendtland has held a wide range of environmental and engineering positions and has extensive experience in mining and mineral extraction. He began his career with the Montana Department of State Lands in 1991, moved to private industry in 1993, and then to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in 2015. Wendtland holds a master of science and bachelor of science in range management with a focus in disturbed land reclamation from the University of Wyoming. He has been recognized for his contributions to the mining industry and for advancing reclamation science at the state and national levels. He resides in Cheyenne and grew up in Casper and Dubois, Wyoming.

Student Scholarship Awards

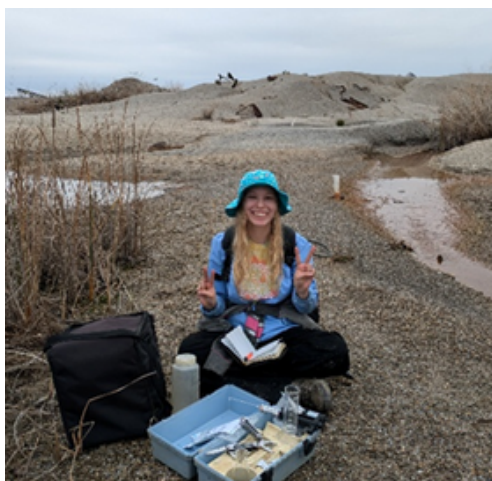
PhD Winner: Rowan Terra

Rowan Terra is a biology PhD candidate and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education fellow advised by Dr. Nancy Trun at Duquesne University and by Dr. Djuna Gulliver at the National Energy Technology Laboratory, both in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Their doctoral research combines microbiology, geochemistry, and computer science to study the potential for critical mineral and material recovery from abandoned coal mine drainage systems in the Appalachian Basin. Current projects include spatiotemporal surveys of abandoned mines, biomining from remediated precipitates, computational prospecting for specific metal feedstocks, and biogeochemical modeling. Portions of the research have extended beyond Appalachia to active mines such as Mountain Pass and San Miguel. Terra hopes to one day lead a research team in industry, government, or academia. Outside of the lab, they enjoy gardening, lapidary work, metalsmithing, and cat herding.



MS Winner: Viktoria Stallings

Vikky Stallings is a graduate student pursuing an MS in environmental science at the University of Oklahoma. She is advised by Dr. Robert Nairn, and is a graduate research assistant at the University of Oklahoma Center for Restoration of Ecosystems and Watersheds (CREW). Her academic foundation includes a BS in both freshwater science and psychology from Northeastern State University (NSU), where she worked as an undergraduate research assistant for the Grand River Dam Authority-NSU Scenic Rivers and Watershed Research Lab throughout her entire undergraduate career. Now, she is working on a thesis where comprehensive stream assessment will be used to evaluate the water quality of a significant Oklahoma stream. In her spare time, she likes to frolic outside, create art, and join her fellow CREWbies in their fieldwork adventures.



Undergraduate Winner: Grace Belcher

Grace Belcher is a recent summa cum laude graduate from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SD Mines), where she received her BS in environmental engineering, as well as minors in sustainable engineering, environmental science, and occupational safety. As an undergraduate at SD Mines, she was president of the Environmental Change and Sustainability Club, president of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society, and a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. She was also a member of Women in Science and Engineering, Graduate Women in Science, and the SD Mines Orchestra.

Her undergraduate research this past semester, titled "Assessment of Remediation Techniques for a Bentonite Mine Using Imagery-Driven Analysis," has strengthened her passion for reclamation and conservation, especially as related to mining sites. This summer, she will join a research program at the University of Madrid, expanding her understanding of mining reclamation challenges.

In the fall, Belcher will be continuing her MS work at SD Mines, with her thesis focusing on process-based remediation, looking specifically at engineering and design approaches to cost-effectively implement a remediation plan of the historic bentonite mine she researched as an undergraduate. Her research is part of an ongoing Bureau of Land Management remediation planning project. Belcher is committed to learning and developing reclamation practices that protect water resources and restore ecological function.



