OUR SHARED PLACE:
THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF RECREATION IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE
APRIL 23-24, 2018
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AGENDA

8:30 AM - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Scott Christensen, Master of Ceremonies and Director of Conservation, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Dr. Nicol Rae, Dean, College of Letters and Science, Montana State University
Dr. Mark Fiege, Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies, Montana State University

8:45 AM - THE STATE OF GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM RECREATION
Brooke Regan, Special Projects Organizer, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

9:15 AM - WHY WE GO OUTDOORS: STORYTELLING
Ed Guza, Local Recreationist
Dave Laufenberg, Graduate Student, Montana State University

10:15 AM - WHY WE GO OUTDOORS: STORYTELLING (BALLROOM A)
Ellie Dunn, Mountain Biker, Teton Regional Composite Team
Francine Spang-Willis, Local Indigenous Recreationist, Earthtone OutsideMT
Manoah Ainuu, Earthtone OutsideMT

11:30 AM – LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK

1:00 PM - CHANGES IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM
Dr. Cathy Whitlock, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Montana State University
Dr. Ray Rasker, Executive Director, Headwaters Economics
Christina White, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Yellowstone National Park
Wendi Urie, Recreation Program Manager, Bozeman Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest
2:45-5:00 PM - CONCURRENT PANEL DISCUSSIONS (Attend 2 of 3)

PLACE-BASED COLLABORATIONS
Christian Appel, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and Gallatin Forest Partnership
Josh Fairchilds, Friends of Hyalite
Karahntia Harrison, Wyoming Public Lands Initiative
Brandon Hoffner, Henry's Fork Watershed Council
Wade Kaufman, Skyliners Motorized Club
Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Gallatin Forest Partnership

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE
Jason Baldes, Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Aly Courtemanch, Wyoming Game and Fish
Kerry Gunther, Yellowstone National Park
Dr. Kimberly Heinemeyer, Round River Conservation Studies
Dr. Sarah Reed, Wildlife Conservation Society and Colorado State University

HELPING AGENCIES FACE CHALLENGES
Mike Blymyer, Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen
Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Jeff Gildehaus, Beartooth Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest
Joe McFarlane, Teton Basin Ranger District, Caribou Targhee National Forest
Linda Merigliano, Bridger Teton National Forest
TUESDAY, APRIL 24

8:30 AM - OVERVIEW AND OBSERVATIONS OF “OUR SHARED PLACE”

8:40 AM - THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE
Dr. Rebecca Hale, Assistant Research Professor, Social Ecological Science, Idaho State University
Tim Hawke, Copper City Trails Project Manager, Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association
Vasu Sojitra, Adaptive Sports Director, Eagle Mount Bozeman and Professional Athlete
Garrett Long, Sponsors and Exhibits Manager, Wild Sheep Foundation
Sandra Mitchell, Public Lands Director, Idaho State Snowmobile Association and Executive Director, Idaho Recreation Council
David Samollow, Earhtone OutsideMT and Video Producer

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
with David Diamond, Executive Coordinator, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee
Caroline Byrd, Executive Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest
Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Earhtone OutsideMT and Montana Racial Equity Project
Frances Kim, Earhtone OutsideMT
Dr. Nicol Rae, Dean, College of Letters and Science, Montana State University
Rachel VandeVoort, Director, Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation
Dank Wenk, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

12:00 PM - CLOSING REMARKS
BACKGROUND

The mission of Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) is to work with people to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). As outdoor recreationists, GYC recognizes the important role that outdoor recreation plays in the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of places like the GYE. In light of the potential challenges that rising visitation, regional population growth, and limited agency resources might pose for balancing rising recreational demands with conservation of the resources that make the GYE special, GYC endeavors to ensure that all stakeholders work in an integrated fashion to responsibly plan for outdoor recreational access. GYC identified the need for an inventory of recreational use patterns, benefits, and challenges as being an important first step. A shared vision for recreation in the GYE must start with a common understanding of what is known and not known about the state of outdoor recreation in this region. GYC compiled an inventory of outdoor recreation in the GYE to identify what is known about: 1) where, how, and to what extent people are recreating in the GYE, 2) the benefits and impacts of recreation in the GYE, and 3) examples of solutions to challenges at the intersection of conservation values and recreation priorities.

The information identified in the inventory was used as context for a symposium hosted in partnership with Montana State University on April 23-24, 2018 entitled Our Shared Place: The Present and Future of Recreation in Greater Yellowstone. The gathering explored how to balance rising recreational demand with the conservation needed to ensure a healthy GYE. The goal was to bring together stakeholders and decision-makers in the recreation, conservation and land management communities to share knowledge and identify next steps for building a vision around recreation planning and management in the GYE. This symposium was step one in an effort to develop a shared vision among land managers, recreationists, and conservationists on best recreation practices and engage in a coordinated, integrated approach to recreation management and planning on public lands in Greater Yellowstone.

You can find the full inventory at greateryellowstone.org
THE STATE OF GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM RECREATION

Brooke Regan, Special Projects Organizer, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

• In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, recreation infrastructure is abundant in several hotspots relative to the rest of the region.
• These hotspots coincide with the urban interface areas of the landscape (Bozeman and Big Sky, MT, Teton region of ID and WY, and Cody, WY) and corroborate proxies of recreation demand.
• Data on the actual spatial patterns of recreational use are sparse.
• Hotspots of recreation infrastructure and demand intersect with sensitive areas for wildlife, including important connective corridors and occupied grizzly bear habitat.
• There is growing concern about the challenges of increasing visitation and use among recreational users and land managers.
• The recreational users we talked to value the wildlife, solitude, and natural history of Greater Yellowstone.
• The land management agencies are up against major challenges with budgets for effectively managing recreation.
• The literature on recreation impacts and benefits highlights gaps in knowledge around quantitative relationships between recreational use and wildlife response, as well as the impacts of recreation on ecological patterns and processes across multiple spatial scales or higher levels of ecological organization than individual wildlife.
WHY WE GO OUTDOORS: STORYTELLING

Florence Williams, Author of The Nature Fix:

A major theme in Ms. Williams's story was the importance of connecting to nature at a young age. She believes without those experiences as a child, it is very difficult to build a lifelong connection to nature. Florence grew up in New York City where her mother was hyper urban and hated nature. Ms. Williams grew up in the 70s and 80s when the stock market was booming and argued that everything in New York City was, and still is, driven by materialism. She described summer wilderness trips with her father. Specifically, to the Dumoine River in Canada when she was an 11-year-old middle school student where it rained the whole time (6 or 7 days straight). Ms. Williams described middle schoolers as in a phase where they are forming self-concept, playing with identities, and telling stories to themselves about who they are. She posited that wilderness opportunities are especially important during these formative times in a child's life. She explained that rites of passage are pervasive across human cultures over time and are particularly important during times of transition. Ms. Williams asserted that today we are missing these rites of passage. She asserted that young people today are taught that adulthood equates to pleasure, fun, earning money, and doing what they want. As a result, young people are not moving into the responsibilities of adulthood. For Ms. Williams, time in the wilderness was her rite of passage and came at a critical time, especially in the context of growing up in New York City. Her father had a van called, “Guzzy” that they would use for their summer road trips. Her father modeled for her the importance of going into the wilderness. Every summer they would drive out west and spend 4 weeks canoeing wilderness rivers.

At Christmas Ms. Williams's father would make a book about the adventures from their previous summer - translating their adventures into story. This was very important for

Ms. Williams during this time when she was trying to understand who she was. Her father wrote, “This year more than ever I am finding extraordinary solace in these odysseys with my daughter. Burdened by increasing responsibilities of work. My face lined with tension and weariness not seen before. Early in the trip, my head was still full of dilemmas yet to be resolved. I was less accessible, quicker to anger. Yet as the events of the trip developed, my anxieties became less severe. And I started to feel some measure of balance. And I appreciated Florence's gentle presence, which always fills me with wonder and awe.” Ms. Williams said she knows her father clearly understood the benefits of nature. It was his place to recover.

She described that in nature, self-renewal is what so many are able to seek. She described loving that her father used the word odysseys. For Odysseus, the adventure was difficult, but he had to become the man he was...it was part
of his becoming. Ms. Williams also described loving that her father used the words “awe” and “wonder,” and not in connection with the landscape, but in connection with her. She appreciates that more now as she takes her own children on outdoor adventures. She feels she has completed the circle by introducing her children to the river.

Ms. Williams concluded by mentioning that she is not ready to pass the baton. She is still in need of solace and rites of passage. Rites of passage have several components, including solitary reflection, hardship, and mentorship or support by elders or others in one’s community. As a middle-aged woman, Ms. Williams said she is in the midst of her own transition and currently planning her wilderness solo...two weeks on the Green River. She described continuously looking to find her own urban nature fixes in her home of Washington D.C.

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**Ed Guza, Local Recreationist:**

Mr. Guza began his story by asking how many dirt bikers (motorized) were in the audience; several raised their hands. Mr. Guza stated that he fully admitted his preference of recreation was not popular in the room. He described suppressing 47 years of desires to speak out against daily commentary he didn’t agree with in the newspaper. He could not suppress that desire any longer when someone submitted an opinion editorial entitled, “No room for motorcycles on Middle Cottonwood Trail” in the local newspaper. Mr. Guza responded with a rebuttal entitled, “No room for hikers on Middle Cottonwood Trail” arguing that eliminating one group from an area may lead to unintended impacts elsewhere. Mr. Guza asserted there is no need to restrict a few user groups when the current situation works for most. He believes motorized recreation has a place in our national forests.

Mr. Guza grew up in Great Falls, Montana where he rode bikes, took long hikes, and loved that wildness existed only a few yards from a given trailhead. He characterizes his parents as environmentalists who didn’t believe there was room for dirt bikers. As a child, he learned from his parents that dirt bikers had negative impacts and were lazy. Despite these things, he wanted to ride a dirt bike. At the age of 10 he borrowed his cousin’s dirt bike at their family cabin. He loved the sound, the speed, the wind. He didn’t fully commit to dirt biking until the age of 37. For him dirt biking created discipline, patience, skill, new friends, pain, and physical endurance. It was a rewarding pursuit that took him away from the constant stress of being a lawyer. Through dirt biking, he was able to experience a lot of the GYE that he wouldn’t get to see otherwise.

Mr. Guza described knowing and understanding that dirt biking has impacts and didn’t enjoy when dirt bikers passed him while he was hiking. He recognized there are issues with soil erosion, compaction, and associated runoff. He recognized dirt biking can introduce invasive plant species and some areas are particularly sensitive to dirt bikes. But Mr. Guza stated that he hoped we all recognize that we all have negative impacts. He understands the Earth will eventually heal and swallow up all signs of man.

Mr. Guza explained the biggest complaints he hears with dirt biking are those related to the sounds, smell, and fire danger. He recognized these things negatively impact other people’s experiences and wildlife. He pointed out that the smell, sound, and fire danger of dirt bikes may soon be obsolete. He stated that companies like Alta Motorcycles are at the forefront of building battery operated dirt bikes. Mr. Guza then demonstrated an electronic dirt bike for the audience as much quieter than a gas dirt bike and odorless.
Mr. Guza believes that we need to carefully plan motorized recreation, but not eliminate the use. He opined it is important that all have a stake in protecting our wild places and coming up with solutions. He concluded by describing his love of wild country as much as anyone else, stating he believes all have a right to enjoy our national forests responsibly.

Dave Laufenberg, Graduate Student, Montana State University:

Mr. Laufenberg began his story by pointing out that he was one of the people that raised his hand in response to Mr. Guza’s question about dirt bikers in the audience. Mr. Laufenberg’s story is one of 3 friends with a shared love for their home, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), who ran across the GYE as a way to showcase their support for public lands. They began their journey on Henry David Thoreau’s birthday in late July and started their adventure by reciting Thoreau’s, “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” Mr. Laufenberg believed this quote resonated with the audience and mentioned it has endured the test of time. The geographic stage of Mr. Laufenberg’s story was Bozeman, MT east to Red Lodge, MT. Most of the area they traveled on their run was national forest land and Yellowstone National Park with large sections as federally designated wilderness. Most of their route was single track trail. Mr. Laufenberg, with his friends Anthony and Zach, began the run from their front door in Bozeman, MT. He described the route with the first few nights in Hyalite, Tom Miner Basin, and Mammoth Hot Springs. On their 4th day they headed east across Yellowstone National Park through the Northern Yellowstone Winter Range where they encountered many bison, some in rut. He described running past animals weighing a couple thousand pounds and crashing up against one another. He said it was a fascinating spectacle. They ran 40+ miles every day and started each day where they finished the last. On their 5th day, they arrived in Cooke City where they took a photo outside the Miner Saloon. He described the photo as everyone looking tired and beat up. The next day, they headed north toward East Rosebud Reservoir when the conditions changed quickly as they descended the Beartooth Plateau and a massive lightning storm set in.

Mr. Laufenberg described trail running as mostly trail hobbling with a lot of time for breaks and reflection. He and his friends found that opportunities for reflection in our public wildlands offer some of the best mental and physical medicine around. He and his friends also realized that the GYE is comparatively small. In their time traveling around this ecosystem, he had built a mental map and began to recognize how close things are to one another and grappled with the meaning of that reality.

They concluded their adventure in Red Lodge, MT where he described the experience as fun, having never laughed more in his whole life. He quoted text from a book he read before his journey, “To laugh is to live profoundly.” He stated that being in wild places brought him so much joy and believes recognizing this joy is an inherent value of wild places and why they are so important.

He concluded his story by thanking all his friends, family, and physical therapists for their support of this trail run. A film was produced of the run, entitled, “Common Ground,” and would be available for free online at a later date (commongroundmt.com).
Ellie Dunn, Mountain Biker, Teton Regional Composite Team:

Ms. Dunn grew up hiking and skiing in a very “outdoorsy” family. One year her father got her a mountain bike for Christmas. She loved the idea of it but spent a lot of time biking around on pavement before visiting a real trail. She quickly learned that mountain biking was hard! Her first mountain bike ride was rough and involved tears. But the next time she went, her father took her to an easier trail and she realized mountain biking was fun. At the time, there were no organized youth mountain biking groups. Her dad didn’t have a baseline on what trails are good for kids. As a result, Ms. Dunn’s first couple years of mountain biking involved a lot of trial and error with her mom, dad, and brother.

In 2015, a high school mountain bike league was formed in Idaho. Ms. Dunn joined this group and it was then that she realized the depth of her love for the sport. The group gave her the opportunity to expand her skills with other kids like her. She absolutely loved having people to ride with. The group grew rapidly; in 2 years 6 riders turned into 60. Her group was the fastest growing chapter in the nation. Her team is very young, indicative of it being only recently that these sorts of organized opportunities are available. If kids don’t get involved during the transformative middle school years where they are looking for a friend group or hobby, it is less likely that they will get involved later. Kids who have never mountain biked before are joining the team. The team is creating a future full of strong, excited, and conscientious riders. They learn not only how to ride mountain bikes, but also how to be responsible trail users. They learn to be kind trail users, and the coaches encourage and teach these skills, while the kids model them well.

Ms. Dunn described mountain biking as a lifelong activity. As a result, organized outlets for mountain biking gives kids an opportunity to grow into a world of responsible outdoor recreation. Mountain biking is more a skillset than a sport, and through her involvement she has found a community. Her relationships with her coaches are ones of mutual support. She has learned about giving back to the community through trail work. Trail maintenance practices are just as heavily attended as normal practices. Ms. Dunn described mountain biking as a big part of her community. The local mechanic helped her disassemble her bike to understand the mechanics of how bikes work. The coaches are also teachers. Ms. Dunn is involved in a bike maintenance club that fixes donated bikes and gives them back to people who need them in the community. Overall, mountain biking is a large part of her life. It is Ms. Dunn’s primary way of getting outdoors and connects her to all the people in this beautiful region.

Francine Spang-Willis, Local Indigenous Recreationist, Earthtone Outside MT:

Ms. Spang-Willis is a descendant of Pawnee Woman and Morning Star. Morning Star helped the Northern Cheyenne people obtain the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The Northern Cheyenne flag reflects the Morning Star symbol. Ms. Spang-Willis described herself as the descendant of a pioneer who came out west and married a Northern Cheyenne woman. She was raised on the Northern Cheyenne reservation by her grandparents. Growing up, she was encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible. She rode bikes, swam, and played in the dirt. She went fishing with her dad. She gathered with her family members who played
music outside. She went berry picking and helped her grandmother with canning. She also helped her grandmother with drying deer meat and tanning hides. In the winter, she went snowmobiling and sledding. Her favorite thing was the annual family pow-wow. She camped in her grandmother’s teepees. She described fond memories of falling asleep in the teepee, listening to the sound of the drums. Ms. Spang-Willis felt happy and safe outside on the Northern Cheyenne reservation, and was happy to be able to be with her family and friends. She understood the sacrifices of her ancestors.

Ms. Spang-Willis eventually married a man named Rusty Willis. He is an alpinist. In their first year together, she summited Granite Peak and started ice climbing. She joined him in Nepal and went trekking in the Khumbu Himalayas. She learned how to ice and rock climb and finished her first lead climb with her stepson. Her stepson is becoming an alpinist like his dad. They moved to the valley of the flowers (aka Bozeman) in 2010. Ms. Spang-Willis received a master’s degree from Montana State University. After moving to Bozeman, she got more involved in other outdoor activities. She spent more time outside by herself hiking and trail running. She was unsure of being alone at first but soon realized she felt strong, free, and alive. Being outside gave her space without societal structures and expectations.

Eventually, Ms. Spang-Willis started working with the Heritage Program at the Custer Gallatin National Forest. In this role, she realized her connection to the land is much deeper than she ever imagined. Her Native American ancestors engaged with every aspect of the land. This was no longer an abstract idea that she heard stories about from tribal members or read about in books. While working for the Forest Service, Ms. Spang-Willis discovered a new prehistoric site.

The following spring, a National Geographic photographer wanted to talk to her about indigenous connections to the land. Ultimately, the story did not make it into the National Geographic Yellowstone issue. However, her experiences were captured in David Quamman’s book about Yellowstone. Ms. Spang-Willis’s experiences deepened her resolve to share her indigenous perspective.

In 2013, Ms. Spang-Willis and her husband built an off-grid cabin 8 miles from Cooke City, MT. For her, this was a new way of being outdoors. She helped build their cabin out of trees. She fetched water from the spring in the meadow, caught fish from nearby pristine lakes, watched wildlife, and picked berries for immediate enjoyment. She offered tobacco and gave thanks to the Earth. She collected sweat rocks to bring to the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

Ms. Spang-Willis described knowing that she is only visiting this shared space and gets to be part of something bigger for a short while. She feels grateful. Being outside connects her to everything she loves…it connects her to the past, present, and future.

Manoah Ainuu, Earhttone OutsideMT:

Mr. Ainuu began his story by thanking his parents for all their hard work that gave him the opportunity to pursue education at Montana State University and develop his passion for climbing. There are 4 pillars that describe Mr. Ainuu’s relationship with the outdoors, and human connection has ties to them all. Mr. Ainuu is a rock and ice climber. When climbing, human connection occurs in the form of belaying. The person belaying literally has the climber’s life in their hands. Climbing is an opportunity for Mr. Ainuu to spend time with other people. Mr. Ainuu showed photos of the first rock he ever climbed with his
friend and belaying his sister at the same place. He loves the opportunity to share his passion for climbing with his family. Mr. Ainuu also described taking his dad climbing at Vantage in central Washington when the family was driving out to Seattle. His dad had just been diagnosed with cancer. Sharing rock climbing with his dad at that time was powerful.

For Mr. Ainuu, climbing is also an opportunity to learn. Rock climbing is intense and dangerous. He described learning how to climb traditionally as significant and an opportunity to step outside his comfort zone. Mr. Ainuu felt lucky to have the friendship and mentorship of climbing legend Conrad Anker and described an important part of climbing is the mentorship.

Mr. Ainuu explained that for him, climbing is an important component of living. He described climbing as his passion and how it has become his life…it is how he connects with the earth and his soul. He quickly became obsessed with ice climbing from his first swing of an axe into frozen water. He climbs before and after work. Climbing can sometimes mean a matter of life and death and this is when Mr. Ainuu feels most fulfilled. He enjoys the abundant and proximate climbing opportunities in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Given his passion for the outdoors, Mr. Ainuu finds the fact that politicians are trying to take away access to places like Bears Ears very offensive. The outdoors unites many and provides so much satisfaction.

Mr. Ainuu described the final pillar for why he spends time outside as love. He loves the outdoors and loves building a relationship with the earth. He feels connected to the earth when he is outside. He met his fiancé through outdoor pursuits and enjoys opportunities for growth together in the outdoors. He enjoys helping his fiancé build her climbing skills. He always wanted to have a connection with a partner related to the outdoors. In short, our shared space is where Mr. Ainuu has had the most growth in his life.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT:

For Ms. Regan (regarding inventory/background): Did you see any differences as you were out talking to people in terms of ages? Were there different perceptions between younger people and older people in terms of how they are thinking about recreation in Greater Yellowstone?

- Disconnect between generations in terms of perceived values of the other
- Emphasis on wildlife and solitude from most
- In some cases, there was disconnect between values and awareness of impacts

For Ms. Spang-Willis: The vast majority of visitors to our national parks are white. How can the conservation and recreation community do a better job of addressing diversity and inclusion?

- Allies with people of color in organizations that are managing these landscapes. Need to make an effort to not only acknowledge the insights of those people, but also include them at the table during planning before decisions are made
- Marketing - seeing people like you recreating, etc. helps
- Programs that provide an entry point for people of color to get outside and see what amazing resources we have

For Mr. Guza: Do you think dirt bike riders will embrace e-bikes and new technology?

- Will be a generational shift
- The essence of a dirt bike is “brap”
- Will take time
- E-bikes aren’t prevalent yet
**For Ms. Williams:** In writing the Nature Fix and talking with a lot of people about getting outside, what is your sense about the up and coming generation and their thoughts on their nature fix or not?

- Generalized cultural anxiety about addiction to technology
- Young people know they are too plugged in
- Yearning for authentic experience
- Nature is emerging as an alternate reality
- A lot are disconnected, challenges lie ahead, but recreation is increasing
- Kids might also be looking for the social aspects of the outdoors

**For Mr. Laufenberg:** Conflicts with wildlife in the backcountry... how did you guys deal with that issue when running through a slice of Greater Yellowstone? What does it mean to be recreating in places where there are wild bison in rut?

- These things have to be on your mind
- Wouldn’t have been able to go without at least 3 people (because of permitting restrictions)
- Carry bear spray
- Awareness
- This ecosystem requires you to show some humility; you are a temporary visitor
- Ed: not necessarily the equipment but the human presence that frightens the animals (based on his experience)
- Ms. Spang-Willis: Cognizant when out

**For Ms. Regan:** How do you think we approach the funding challenge? In doing the inventory, did you get a sense for how people interact with the public land managers?

- If we all agree that’s an issue, then we need to put our heads together about how we collectively address that problem
- Ideas include lobbying congress, new recreation taxes
- A lot of awareness around challenges land managers are up against
- User groups helping with trail maintenance, etc.
- A lot of frustration at the same time

**For Mr. Ainuu:** How have you gotten involved in your advocacy for recreation and conservation?

- Honestly, not much
- Signing petitions, spreading the word
- Make our voices heard through voting

**For Mr. Guza:** What views do you have about different forms of motorized use?

- There are divisions within the motorized community
- Opinions that ATVs cause more damage
- Snowbiking and snowmobiling have divisions (avalanches, impacts)
- Sometimes differences in ability levels
Q for all: As each of you think about outdoor recreation and conservation, what is on the forefront of your mind?

- Mr. Laufenberg: Loving the place to death; this paradox is tough
  - Seasonal restrictions/use restrictions in special management areas across the GYE
  - Outdoor recreation equipment tax to generate funds for land management agencies
- Ms. Dunn: communication at a lot of different levels is a way to find that common ground
  - Among recreation and conservation groups
  - Among agencies
  - Among users on the trail
- Ms. Williams: We need to provide access to nature for all children…it’s a social justice issue
  - Helps us build a constituency that loves and protects these places
- Ms. Spang-Williams: diversity and inclusion
- Mr. Guza: closing off access should not be the mentality (especially when it’s just one group of users)
  - Can mitigate issues with behavior
- Mr. Ainuu: access and agree with what everyone has said
- Ms. Regan:
  - Exploring creative ways to fill the information gaps we have identified (e.g. Strava)
  - GYE inhabitants need to develop a culture of how we recreate in Our Shared Place (e.g. Leave No Trace 2.0)

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:

1. Does GYC have a program related to climate change?
2. What do you think about increased user fees for Yellowstone park?
3. Aren’t you worried about more encounters between people and bears? Conflicts seem to be increasing.
4. What is the goal of this symposium?
5. How are GYC & other organizations/agencies in the room trying to address the fact that visitors in our national parks are disproportionately non-Hispanic white?
6. Do you support mountain biking in wilderness areas?
7. Why do you think that Island Park did not show up as a recreational hotspot? It seems to be very busy with recreation for much of the year.
8. PEW: “[Millennials] have higher levels of student loan debt, poverty & unemployment, & lower levels of wealth, personal income than any other generation”
9. To Florence, are you sure millennials are in “prolonged adolescence?”
10. Can dirt bikers be conservationists?
11. Does the increase in use correlate to the same percentage of a population that’s growing or is a greater percentage of the population recreating? Or both?
12. How expensive are electric dirt bikes and how likely is it that there will be a large-scale shift towards more eco-dirt bike options?
13. I would like to see the USFS data that Ed Guza quotes regarding motorized being the fastest growing user group.
14. Do you think dirt bike riders will embrace electronic bikes?

15. For Brooke- What are the misconceptions and disconnects between generations?

16. Why was horseback riding not included??

17. Not a question, but a comment. You are all very brave to include these challenging perspectives. I appreciate the positive focus.

18. Is it fair to describe outdoor recreation as anti-consumerist? What are the economic interests of the outdoor recreation industry in this conversation?

19. To Ed Guza: I enjoyed your presentation. What views do you have about different forms of motorized use (ATV, snowmobile, etc.) and their impact?

20. For Brooke: what can be done about the fact that agencies are underfunded?

21. For Brooke: you mentioned the paradigm shift to frameworks. How is the management direction defined? And who gets to define it?

22. For Mr. Ainuu: how will you register your opinion on the changes to the Bears Ears National Monument? Did you write to your Congressman or Senator?

23. Motorized users directly pay into trail creation/maintenance through registration and trail passes. How can other users help with funding rec opportunities?

24. For Ms. Spang-Willis: what are your biggest concerns about human uses of the GYE?

25. How do we speak for the most underrepresented group here - those not born - specifically related to climate change and biodiversity loss in the 21st century?

26. For Dave: can you connect your studies at MSU with conservation efforts? Is there a way MSU can help further this work?

27. How can tour companies better serve as conservation assets in the parks? I.e. what can we do or change to promote tourism while limiting impact on nature?

28. Is there a disconnect between academia, general public recreationists, and public land managers. Has the panel experienced this and can you speak to this topic?

29. Where can one find literature identifying the need to sustain and maintain developed rec sites to support the increasing overflow of visitors from Yellowstone?

30. Ed talks about divisions in the motorized community. There are large schisms in the conservation community as well!

31. Who is doing the collaborative planning well? That kind of round table that Ms. Dunn talked about.
Dr. Cathy Whitlock, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Montana State University:

Dr. Whitlock presented on climate change and the implications for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The climate is warming 0.3 degrees Fahrenheit per decade, and this will mean 0.19 inches more rain per decade in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Dr. Whitlock cited an article by Marsicek et al. (2018) where the authors found 2016 was 99% warmer than any other year in the last 11,000 years. Under current climate projection models, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem will be 6-13 degrees warmer on average in both the winter and summer. According to Dr. Whitlock’s recent Montana Climate Assessment, these projections translate to a 20-60% decrease in snowpack across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. There will be a steady loss of snow over time. Currently, peak runoff occurs 2-3 weeks earlier than in 1948 and will continue to happen earlier. Climate change will result in animals shifting their ranges. Some species will respond well to climate change, while others will experience increased mortality. Insect outbreaks will occur at higher elevations and there will be more wildfires in the midst of a longer fire season. Climate change will have impacts on winter recreation, due to shorter seasons, less stable snow conditions, and greater chance of flooding. Climate change will mean a lengthened summer recreation season, which will have implications for the number of visitors and infrastructure use. There will likely be more wildlife-human interactions as wildlife shift their ranges. Higher water temperatures and lower flows will result in fish diseases in Montana rivers, resulting in angling and boating restrictions. More wildfires will have health and safety implications for recreationists. Dr. Whitlock suggested that given these potential challenges, climate change should be elevated in all decision making; with thought put toward building resiliency in the face of potential changes.

Dr. Ray Rasker, Executive Director, Headwaters Economics:

Dr. Rasker presented on the economy of Greater Yellowstone. There are 4 main categories of personal income in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Non-labor income (retirement, social security, Medicare) comprises 46% of total income in the region. Of this income, 34% is investment related, 8% is age related, and 3% is hardship related. Dr. Rasker hypothesized this sector will keep growing, given that in 5 years from now, 1 out of every 4 people will be 55 years or older. Service jobs (doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants, etc.), government employment, and non-government employment (construction, manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, agriculture, etc.) are the other 3 main categories of income in Greater Yellowstone. The GYE is comprised of 467,822 people and 63% of the growth in the region is occurring in Gallatin County (Bozeman, MT) and Bonneville County (Idaho Falls, ID). Agriculture comprises more than 10% of the jobs in 21% of the GYE counties. Mining comprises 13% of all jobs in Sweetgrass, Stillwater, Caribou, Lincoln, and Sweetwater counties. The service sector is most important in Park, Gallatin, Teton (ID), Teton (WY), Madison, and Bonneville counties, creating more than 65% of the jobs in those places. Non-labor income drives more than 40% of total personal income in all but 5 of the GYE counties. In Teton County, WY non-labor income is responsible for 76% of total income. Overall, the economic drivers in the GYE are diverse.
Recreation is important nationally, as more than 143 million people participate. Recreation creates 6.1 million jobs in the U.S. and comprises 2% of national GDP (which is twice the size of mining or the automobile industry). In the West, 1.9 million jobs are directly related to recreation. National park visitation has increased. Recreation can be measured using socially generated data from applications like Strava, Flickr, Mapmyride, and trailforks. Headwaters Economics purchased data from Strava in the Whitefish area of Montana and paired it with trail counter data in select locations to estimate recreational use throughout the entire study area. Measuring recreation in this way helps with identifying where people want to go, where use is intersecting with sensitive areas like riparian habitat, and where illegal trails exist. Dr. Rasker suggested that perhaps a similar methodology could be used to estimate recreational use across all of Greater Yellowstone.

Christina White, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Yellowstone National Park:

Ms. White presented on the challenges and opportunities of increasing visitation in Yellowstone National Park. Visitation to Yellowstone has increased 50% since 2000, with a 0% increase in staffing. Staff in the park are reporting more crowding and feeling burned out earlier in the peak season, are overwhelmed, and have to respond to more safety incidents and reports of resource violation. A 2016 visitor use study revealed 96% of survey respondents came to Yellowstone for the scenery, 83% to view wildlife in their natural habitat, 78% for geysers and hot springs, 72% for experiencing wild places, and 52% to hear natural sounds. While 84% of visitors surveyed were satisfied with their experiences, 67% reported a concern about lack of parking, 57% stated there were too many people in the park, 55% felt there were too many cars, and 41% expressed that lines are too long. Most (45%) Yellowstone visitors use the West entrance of the park. Many roads are over capacity (29%), and most visitors spend 70-80% of their time directly following another car. Current projections suggest all roads will exceed capacity by 2023. Restrooms cannot accommodate current visitation rates. Safety is an increasing concern, with an 850% increase in motor vehicle rollovers between 2014 and 2016, a 60% increase in emergency vehicle transport, and a 129% increase in search and rescue responses. Yellowstone staff and first responders are working more back to back shifts, operating on less sleep, and being forced to be more reactive than proactive. Turnover rates are higher and more time is spent training new staff as a result. The busiest months for the park are June, July, and August. However, shoulder season visitation is increasing and staffing is lower during the off seasons. The number of tour buses entering Yellowstone has increased 130% in the last 5 years. There is an increasing proportion of total visitation by international visitors, with over one third of international visitors coming from China. Most (68%) visitors stay outside of the park boundaries and spend $524 million in local communities, supporting 8,000 jobs. Yellowstone is in need of more information about human visitation and the park is beginning the process of summer use planning.

Wendi Urie, Recreation Program Manager, Bozeman Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest:

Ms. Urie presented on sustainable recreation in Greater Yellowstone National Forests. The Forest Service has a multiple use mandate that includes uses ranging from mining, grazing, and timber harvest to recreation. Sustainable recreation requires managing settings and opportunities in
an ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable manner. Almost half (49%) of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is comprised of National Forest Service lands. Of the Forest Service lands in Greater Yellowstone, 36% of them are designated wilderness. On the Custer Gallatin National Forest, 68% of the land is designated wilderness. On the Custer Gallatin National Forest there are a diversity of recreation opportunities, including climbing, backpacking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, ice climbing, snowmobiling, ATV use, motorcycling, and dispersed camping. People value the ability to do things in an unconfined way and on the Custer Gallatin National Forest they can also stay at cabins or lookouts, ski at ski areas, or stay at summer resorts. There are approximately 7 million visitors to Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem National Forests, with 3.1 million people visiting the Custer Gallatin National Forest annually in the most recent estimate. There was a 39% increase in visitation to the Custer Gallatin National Forest between 2008 and 2013, with an associated increase in garbage. Most visitors to the Custer Gallatin National Forest travel less than 50 miles to visit the forest. Gallatin County has grown 212% since 1970, and Montana State University has grown 50% since 2000. Most visitors to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem say their primary activity is hiking (60%). The top 10 activities in Greater Yellowstone include hiking, skiing, hunting, viewing natural features, fishing, snowmobiling, biking, cross country skiing, driving for pleasure, and relaxing. All of this visitation and variety of use types creates conflicts among users and conflicts with wildlife.

There are some commonalities among recreational users. Most people want a greater emphasis on recreation as a use type of the forest, better trail systems and maintenance, improved signage, education, and communication and better access. People also want the forest to be more responsive to emerging technology, are more concerned about safety, want to protect and enhance natural resources, and want to conserve wildlife habitat. The Forest Service works to manage recreation demands through public education, collaboration with the public, landscape level planning efforts, and partnerships. Management strategies that work well include travel management (as it generates a lot of community discussion), scenarios where there is Forest Service presence on the ground and identifying the limits of acceptable change to designated wilderness areas. National Visitor Use Monitoring helps illuminate planning processes and the Forest Service is getting better at leveraging funds and grants. Trail ambassador programs are a great way to shift ethics among users. The ecosystem-wide approach to grizzly bear protection and human safety in the GYE has been very effective. A major challenge is resources within agencies; there has been a significant reduction in non-fire staff at the Forest Service nationwide. Partnerships and collaboration are important for building a public lands constituency. They also generate capacity and provide potential for community-based solutions. There are many partnerships and collaboratives where the challenge becomes finding overlapping goals. There is a need for partnership in a more coordinated fashion.
CHANGES IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

• Climate change must be elevated to the surface as context in decision making about any issue.
• The economic drivers of Greater Yellowstone are diverse.
• Recreation is an important economic driver nationally, and there are ways to model recreational use with socially generated data.
• Current visitation to Yellowstone exceeds the infrastructure capacity of the park and there are not enough resources or staffing to proactively mitigate challenges.
• A lot of people are recreating on the Custer Gallatin National Forest in a lot of different ways, and partnerships/collaborations that develop community-based solutions and ownership are key.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT:

For Dr. Cathy Whitlock: As you’ve been collecting data, what has been your personal response to the climate warming trends? What broad cultural shifts need to happen for us to mitigate climate change?

• Climate change is alarming and is the biggest worry for me
• Climate change affects everything and we need climate change elevated as a topic in everything
• We need to change our mindset to not being afraid to talk about it and planning for what it’s going to mean...there will be a lot of opportunities and also a lot of challenges.

For Christina White: Is there a movement to shift transportation in Yellowstone to a bus-based system?

• All potential systems are on the table and there is no silver bullet
• We need to understand how people move around the ecosystem better first (and we can do that with large cell phone datasets)

For Dr. Ray Rasker: Does Strava track only running or biking? Can it capture other uses like dirt bike or horseback riding?

• Anyone who uses a device that records their movements on Strava can be captured on Strava (which are usually bikers and runners)
• It is possible to use cameras, trail counters, and Strava data in conjunction to build a model and extrapolate what might be happening on other trails.

For Dr. Ray Rasker: How would this idea for measuring recreational use work when people don’t want to give you data?

• People don’t always want their devices to pick up where they are going.
• We picked illegal trail use, etc. when we tested this data collection concept in Whitefish, MT. We didn’t want to share this data and suggest others go there, but it was helpful in identifying problem spots.
• As a user, you don’t have to make where you go public. That’s a choice you make.

For Wendi Urie: What are things potential volunteers or partners can do to make coordination simpler?

• We need to expand our staffing capabilities
• Partnerships need clear goals
• It may be time for a wider effort to track users on trails
**For Christina White:** You talked about the ripple effect on local communities of decisions that you make on the park. Do you have good data from counties surrounding the park so that you understand where people are staying and what they are doing before and after they visit the park?

- This is a big opportunity for us, conversations are starting, and we will be working on this

**For Dr. Cathy Whitlock:** Are there people doing research on the spread of invasive species like cheatgrass?

- There is a lot of research going on in the GYE
- Climate change will favor species like cheatgrass
- This is an important area of research

**For all presenters:** How will resource managers determine the limits of acceptable change that result from recreation? Are there limits and if so how do we determine them?

- We can’t make that decision in a black box and the best way to do that is to start figuring out what we do and don’t know.
- We’re getting to that point but is a discussion that needs to happen among a community of users
- Climate change needs to be elevated to the surface of any planning effort

**For all presenters:** Part of what we’ve learned through the inventory is that there’s a lot that we don’t know. Can you describe one area that you see as an opportunity for us to start finding a common agenda for shrinking the gaps in our knowledge?

- We know a lot more about where people go with user informed apps like Trailforks, Strava, etc.

**AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:**

1. Dr. Whitlock: What might be the single most important thing an individual can do to address climate change?

2. For Dr. Whitlock: How would you respond to a climate change skeptic who would see this heavy winter as counter evidence to your conclusions?

3. For Whitlock, the USFS expends large resources for White Bark cone collection and planting. Based on your graphs, this appears irresponsible. Your thoughts?

4. For Yellowstone National Park or other great parks. Is there future planning on road infrastructure to incorporate trains or buses? Example Denali National Park

5. Dr. Rasker: Water moves out of the GYE and powers huge agricultural economies. How would you incorporate that into your discussion?

6. Dr. Rasker: Given that most of the wealth belongs to the baby boomer generation, how sustainable is it to have that population control the economy of the GYE?

7. Has there been research incorporated to help stop invasive weeds? Example large cheatgrass, burning and then spreading of native seed grasses/plants.
8. Is there a movement to shift to a bus system in Yellowstone to address transportation challenges, similar to Denali and Zion NPs?

9. Christina: Can you speak about visitor demographics? 82% of visitors in the park are white (report by NPS 2016) Non-Hispanic whites make up 61% of the population.

10. Christina White: was all the data you shared specific to summer?

11. How do you balance the necessity of the parks being accessible to all with the reality (pros and cons) of increasing numbers of visitors?

12. Christina- Do you have the data of where visitors camp outside the park?

13. Christina White: what do you see as solutions to exceeding road capacity? Is there support for restricting motor vehicle use or increasing guided tours?

14. Dr. Rasker: how might the trail data from headwaters that you discussed be useful in conjunction with climate data for the state of Montana?

15. The Forest Service predicts a 47% loss in cold water habitat by 2060 due to climate change. How are resource agencies addressing anthropogenic CO2 emissions?

16. Dr. Ray Rasker- Does Strava map only running and biking? Is there a way to break that data down to say hiking, horseback, etc.?

17. What is YNP doing to collaborate with local government in gateway communities to develop transit & transportation demand management planning?

18. Ray Rasker: is it known how skewed the non-labor income is? Presumably a few individuals are responsible for most of that income.

19. Is there a way to calculate the average amount of CO2 emitted to reach YNP (In weight)? 1 gallon of burned gas releases 20lb of CO2.

20. What ethic can we create to not only interact with each other, but with the land itself?

21. Dr. Whitlock: How do the findings of your research make you feel? What broad cultural shifts do you believe need to happen to mitigate climate change?

22. How can we balance growing demand in YNP with goals of diversity and inclusion? Is there a responsible way to encourage underrepresented communities to visit?

23. What efforts are the national forest and parks taking to try to increase staff in correlation to the significant increase to user visitation?

24. How can Outdoor recreationists influence policy makers so fees collected on Park Service & Forest Service lands in the GYE are re-invested where collected?

25. How can we manage overdoses of traffic in the parks? I.e. shuttle system?

26. For Christina: Are their daily maximum visitation quotas in YNP? Has the park discussed no-vehicle days for bike, foot and public transit? Other solutions?

27. For the panel at large: how will resource managers determine the limits of acceptable change that result from recreation growth and pressures?
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

- Public lands are key to who we are in the West
- Public lands provide many economic benefits for Montana
- Public land transfer is a real threat, and for many of us it’s personal
- The power of public lands drives people/westerners home and to stay home

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT:

What are your thoughts on a recreational use tax?

- Always worth exploring other areas of funding
- Need to be considering funding
- Efforts that begin in places like this symposium as opposed to Helena are much more successful

How do we or how would you work with our Indigenous communities regarding public land issues?

- Government to government relationships
- I would hope that it is realized that it isn’t a check-the-box afterthought but often times where we begin when it comes to these issues

How can young people be more influential in policy making and keeping the ball rolling?

- If ages 18-30 all voted you would decide every single election
- VOTE
- Make us (whoever is in charge) listen
- You will have a more receptive audience if you show up

What is your stance on the Yellowstone Gateway Mines in Paradise Valley?

- There are magical places in this state that need to be protected
- Businesses come together…this is good for what we want
- Ground up efforts are powerful
PLACE-BASED COLLABORATIONS

PANELISTS:
- Christian Appel, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and Gallatin Forest Partnership
- Josh Fairchilds, Friends of Hyalite
- Karinthia Harrison, Wyoming Public Lands Initiative
- Brandon Hoffner, Henry’s Fork Watershed Council
- Wade Kaufman, Skyliners Motorized Club
- Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Gallatin Forest Partnership

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:
- Collaborations take time to build trust, good data, and the ability to accept imperfection.
- Collaborations lead to durable solutions.
- Collaborations fail when stakeholders don’t engage or are not ready to give something up.
- Collaborations need to bridge the gap between outdoor recreation, retail manufacturers, and conservation organizations.
- Successful collaborations require a willingness to compromise and acknowledge the needs of those who are absent.
- We need to identify our shared values and interests around what is important about this landscape.
- Collaboratives are most successful when people learn something new about someone else in the room that changes their perspective.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:
1. How do you involve the voice of the population of color and people with disabilities within your collaborative efforts?
2. Do you think having a diverse population to collaborate with is important? Why?
3. I’m interested to hear how collaboratives have to be different when they include consumptive uses, like hunting and skiing powder, for example...
4. Karinthia, what are the odds that Cheney’s bill will fail? If it does, will the WPLI continue?
5. For Josh: what would incentivize outdoor brands/companies to be more invoiced in and also financially support non-profits?
6. What have you done wrong when trying to collaborate with a marginalized group? What are specific actions that you will do to try to help them grow?
7. Joe, reading the room, I think we need to address this: What have you done to elevate the voice of the indigenous population through your collaborations?
8. Share a time that you wish you’d done something differently in a collaborative and what you learned from it and/or how the process recovered from it, if it did
9. What have we learned from successful vs not successful collaboration efforts?
10. Does your org generally agree that climate change, as Cathy Whitlock argues, is our top current challenge and, if so, how do you collaborate on solutions?
11. Sometimes collaboratives see ways to share the pie/meet interests in a way that the agency doesn’t see as feasible. How to ensure solutions are sustainable?

12. If Congresswoman Cheney hadn’t introduced her bill, would Karinthia still say WPLI process was failing?

13. For all: how do you meet the challenge of collaboration with younger generations that may have similar goals but different social culture and ideas?

14. Darcie: what wisdom have you derived about critical factors for success from your vast experience with collaboration?

15. What makes a coalition or group of people a “collaborative,” and what best practices are needed to make an effective one? What makes them fail?

16. What advice do you have to move past failures with positive momentum?

**AUDIENCE/PANELIST DISCUSSION:**

- Collaborations are durable because everyone can live with the end results
- We must recognize that the ability to participate in a collaborative is a privilege
- With this privilege comes responsibility
- To build trust requires overcoming our need for invulnerability
- Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care
RECREATION AND WILDLIFE

PANELISTS:
- Jason Baldes, Eastern Shoshone Tribe
- Aly Courtemanch, Wyoming Game and Fish
- Kerry Gunther, Yellowstone National Park
- Dr. Kimberly Heinemeyer, Round River Conservation Studies
- Dr. Sarah Reed, Wildlife Conservation Society and Colorado State University

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:
- Bison are an important Native American food source and component of indigenous history in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; we need to improve tolerance of bison.
- Winter recreation results in less suitable habitat for both bighorn sheep and wolverines (because of avoidance behavior) and increases movement rates during a particularly vulnerable season.
- When biologists work with the recreation community to create solutions, a community ethic can emerge (e.g. Don’t Poach the Powder).
- Despite a large amount of visitation to Yellowstone National Park, there is only around 1 grizzly bear death per year in the park related to humans. The challenges in the park revolve around bears habituating to people along roads and in campgrounds and getting people to carry bear spray.
- Recent projects have shown a lot of willingness within recreation communities to help with data collection to better understand the potential impacts of recreation.
- A recent global review of recreation impacts to wildlife revealed that in 93% of studies, recreation had effects on wildlife, and most of the time (66% of studies), those effects were negative (i.e. had some consequence for wildlife behavior, habitat use, abundance, reproduction, or species diversity).

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:
1. How can we manage lands according to natural phenomena like migration routes, where corridors buffer zones are needed, etc. instead of artificial boundaries?
2. What is the potential for wildlife crossings in the region for maintaining connectivity and improving safety for wildlife and humans? How are crossings funded?
3. I’d love to hear more from Jason about plans on the Wind River Reservation has regarding the bison/buffalo.
4. Jason: Amazing work—how do you wish conservation organizations/agencies would collaborate with tribal entities on wildlife conservation?
5. How does recreation affect transference of disease between different sheep populations?
6. Kerry - What about wildlife that leave the park? What are your thoughts about Wyoming’s resolution to have some Park fees go to the states for wildlife?
7. Why doesn’t the Park make bear spray mandatory for day hikers and Backcountry in YNP?
8. How can we make bear spray more readily available to visitors who may be reluctant to spend $50 on something they can’t take home with them if they fly?
9. For all: How can we increase awareness of recreation’s impacts on wildlife and motivate people to practice some degree of self-restraint in the future?
10. What are some practical management systems for bison, specifically brucellosis?

11. How is the park planning for management of increased visitors? Are there threshold limits for what the park can handle or is the sky the limit?

12. Is there a way to get ahead of brucellosis/ vaccinate against and possibly move YNP and GTNP bison to Wind River?

13. Could implementing a shuttle system decrease roadside and animal crossing fatalities in YNP and GTNP?

14. We have limited tolerance for bison, grizzlies and wolves. At what point would we limit recreation when the populations are trending toward extinction?

15. What are the implications of habitat avoidance for wildlife?

16. For Aly: how did don’t poach the powder get started? What does it take to build that kind of shared community ethic?

17. How can managers better communicate why area closures are in place? How can recreationists better engage with land managers to understand these regulations?

18. For Aly: Do you have data on how the disruption of wildlife varies between motorized use, mountain bikers, skiers who do not require snowmobiles, hikers, etc.?

19. Have any of you explored using data from digital applications like Strava to answer questions about recreation impacts to wildlife?

20. Mr. Baldes: How has the increase of big game impacted your community and what more needs to be done to revitalize traditional Native food ways?

21. For Kimberly: Are some of the negative migration trends related to climate change w/r to wolverines actually more affected by human activity?

22. What were some of the positive effects of recreation on wildlife?

23. Mr. Baldes: What are the biggest pieces of Indigenous knowledge about wildlife management that you would like to be heard and implemented?

24. What is the effect of habitat fragmentation caused by second-home and vacation development in prime areas like the Paradise Valley, Madison Valley, etc.?

25. Jason, how best can conservation groups work with tribes in a constructive, collaborative way?

AUDIENCE/PANELIST DISCUSSION:

- There is a strong need to center indigenous knowledge in conservation planning
- Government to government relationships are a starting point for engaging tribes
- Relatively little is known about the implications of wildlife habitat avoidance, however management should err on the side of caution (i.e. we don’t know everything about the impacts of any land use)
- Wildlife impact studies that engage the recreation community are far more effective in creating buy in and support for any management applications that may result from the findings
HELPING AGENCIES FACE CHALLENGES

PANELISTS:

- Mike Blymyer, Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen
- Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Jeff Gildehaus, Beartooth Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest
- Joe McFarlane, Teton Basin Ranger District, Caribou Targhee National Forest
- Linda Merigliano, Bridger Teton National Forest

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

- Partnerships and acquiring/leveraging grants are key to meeting the challenge of major growth in use of GYE forests in conjunction with substantial declines in appropriated funds for managing recreation.
- Recreational user groups like the Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen are helping with deficient Forest Service trail budgets through volunteer work/trail maintenance.
- Recreation managers are shifting to working more with recreational users and adapting/adjusting to their needs; this is very different than capacity-based management.
- There are on the ground examples of the agencies working with non-profit partners to improve recreation and conservation; e.g. bear-proofing 164 campgrounds in the GYE to keep people safe and bears alive.
- Good visitor use management determines the right uses in the right locations at the right times and avoids jumping to a solution without first understanding the problem.
- There are many myths about the impacts of recreation and these myths are not productive in generating collaborative approaches to problems.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:

1. Mr. Blymyer: If a shrinking workforce is a problem, what are you doing/what do you want to happen to reverse that?
2. Mike Blymyer: How frequently is Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen communicating with local ranger districts? How are areas of trail maintenance needs identified?
3. Given that the federal budget is unlikely to improve what creative solutions exist for filling $ gaps?
4. How can foundations, individuals, & orgs help?
5. How do sensationalized events like the grizzly bear attack video/image affect agencies?
6. Do you see friction between visitors and locals in terms of what they want out of their experience and how they are using the trails?
7. All: is there a public database of needs/priorities for the management agencies? Would this be useful as a way of highlighting issues to potential partners?
8. How will agencies and partners determine the balance between rec and conservation/preservation?
9. For Jeff, Joe, Linda: are you forced to shift agency resources to front country rec sites or backcountry sites? Where is the critical need today?
10. What can young people do to support agencies in addressing the issues facing the GYE?
11. How do you involve the voice of the population of color and people with disabilities within your agencies?
12. We continue to hear about the problems of funding shortfalls, what are some potential solutions?
13. What role can public-private partnerships play in helping manage increased visitation with limited budget?
14. Are you supportive of increased user fees or a backpack tax to help overcome the funding shortfall?
15. Mike, has SBH reached out to other recreation groups like hikers to get help with the labor?
16. Do you have to ride a horse to join/volunteer for Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen?
17. How can the public help with PR / get involved to increase funding?
18. How do you propose changing user behavior?
19. Will lack of funding reduce user/recreation access?

AUDIENCE/PANELIST DISCUSSION:

- Mutually beneficial partnerships with balanced responsibility between agencies and partners are a way to get work done in the face of budget declines
- We need to better define the questions that need to be answered, but we also need to know if we are achieving desired conditions in areas with recreational use
- We also need to better understand user expectations
- A central repository for data and information and a group of people to tie it together would be a great next step after the symposium
- There is a lack of capacity for data analysis within the Forest Service
- We need an ecosystem wide model for conservation and recreation
- Creative mechanisms for generating new funding from recreational users would be helpful
- The agencies need to do a better job in outreach to wrap in more people of color and millennials to have a seat at the table during planning

THE GOOD NEWS

PANELISTS:

- Dr. Rebecca Hale, Assistant Research Professor, Social Ecological Science, Idaho State University
- Tim Hawke, Copper City Trails Project Manager, Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association
- Vasu Sojitra, Adaptive Sports Director, Eagle Mount Bozeman and Professional Athlete
- Garrett Long, Sponsors and Exhibits Manager, Wild Sheep Foundation
- Sandra Mitchell, Public Lands Director, Idaho State Snowmobile Association and Executive Director, Idaho Recreation Council
- David Samollow, Earthtone OutsideMT and Video Producer

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

- It is difficult to quantify where and how people are recreating, but possible to model recreational use on the landscape using geotagged social media data.
- Bear spray is effective at keeping both people and bears safe, and the hunting community is ripe for shifting to a culture where carrying bear spray is the norm.
- Mountain biking interests in southwest Montana have created opportunities for new access on BLM lands in the Gallatin Valley in light of giving up and losing access in portions of the Gallatin Range.
- More people are realizing that collaboration and finding ways to responsibly share the landscape will create a bright future that works for the economy, natural resources, and people.
- There is a newly formed group in the GYE dedicated to promoting inclusivity of outdoor recreation and conservation for people of color.
• Nationally and in our communities, organizations and people are promoting the abilities of the disabled population through adaptive equipment. These groups are working to make our shared public lands accessible to everyone.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT:

For Dr. Hale: What is the potential bias of using data that comes from social media (which are large corporations)?

• There are a lot of biases across social media platforms
• Privacy settings on Facebook may skew data
• But overall, they are fairly similar
• Flickr overestimates scenery viewing relative to the National Visitor Use Monitoring
• Flickr underestimates active recreation, hunting, fishing, foraging
• There may be differences in terms of the type of people who use the social media platforms; we don’t have much information on this

For Mr. Long: What is the reception to the message you are bringing to the hunting community? What elements best support your message?

• Very complicated and emotionally charged
• Hunters are used to using their firearms to protect themselves
• The statistics around bear spray are effective with messaging
• There is room to grow in terms of conservation-oriented messaging
• In terms of human preservation, the messages are effective

For the panel: Reaction to Ms. Mitchell’s message and how can we work together in our shared place?

• Mr. Hawke: grew up hiking, biking, dirt biking
  □ There used to be a friendly attitude on the trails in Montana
  □ Then the attitude shifted to, “What I’m doing in the mountains is better than what you’re doing.”
  □ But that attitude is changing again - people are starting to be more open-minded
  □ Everybody deserves their place and there is a growing friendliness which is a positive
• Mr. Sojitra: people need to be willing to make sacrifices so everyone can use our shared places
• Mr. Long: he was born and raised in Montana and recreates in many ways
  □ People who are out recreating in different ways are out there for the same reasons
  □ We need to try to relate
• Mr. Samollow: it’s good to not take our public lands for granted here
  □ People need to keep coming together over a shared respect for this place

For Mr. Samollow: When and how did Earthtone OutsideMT form?

• First meeting in December 2017
• Came about on Facebook
• Someone asked if there were any groups for people of color
• There was a lot of backlash - accused of reverse racism
• Decided to form a group in response
• This symposium is their first big public appearance
• They will be starting a Facebook page and Instagram account
Any people of color who are curious about ways to be more involved in recreation and conservation can come to Earthtone for resources

**For Mr. Hawke:** What’s the backstory on the Copper City Trails project?

- He loves trails and wanted to make one!
- First pitched an idea to the BLM
- No piece of land is uncontested
- Started making a lot of connections to landowners, agency staff, city decision makers, other recreation groups
- He moved to Three Forks because he wants the project to benefit the community
- People don’t know what to make of him (they don’t like Bozeman), but people are seeing that the project is getting their kids off the couch
- The community is starting to realize the economic benefits of the project
- They are starting to see that this will be a real success

**Mr. Long and Mr. Hawke:** How have you navigated making this a mountain bike destination when there was a historical use there (target shooting)?

- There was no organized shooting group
- It required making one-on-one connections with folks on the ground
- He is also a target shooter
- The last thing he wanted to see was for the area to be shutdown to shooting
- There was room to share
- Working to have the county lease a piece of land to develop a designated shooting area and put in the right infrastructure
- The effort to make it more organized will actually improve the shooting opportunities

**For Ms. Mitchell:** Based on your experiences with the numerous collaboratives you are involved with and your idea of responsible shared use, how do we keep that ethic moving forward?

- Crucial we keep moving forward
- We are making progress
- Recreational groups are morphing
- Most people cross-recreate
- We need to respect each other
- Every group has their 10% that are jerks
- No one holds the moral high ground
- It’s not the mode of transportation that causes impacts, it’s the people
- We can’t manage our public lands based on the minority of jerks

**AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLI.DO:**

1. Rebecca: what responsibility do you think the social app companies have for sharing their data for research purposes?
2. Rebecca: Why did you choose Flickr over Instagram or Facebook which have more users?
3. Having bear spray is different than knowing how to use it. How can we train people to know how to effectively use bear spray?
4. Garrett: is the hunting community receptive to the bear spray campaign? Have you encountered any negative reactions or lack of trust from them?
5. Vasu: How do you wish the conservation community reach out to the disabled community to ensure your voices are heard?
6. Collaboration requires a lot of time and resources to be effective. How inclusive is it for diverse populations? How effective is it?

7. A comment: Thank you EOMT for all your hard work, asking the hard questions, and pressing the conservation community to be more inclusive.

8. It seems the social media/GIS approach to measuring recreation use is fairly accurate and relatively inexpensive to produce. Have conversations started with federal agencies to take this approach in lieu of antiquated systems currently used?

9. Do people of color feel physically unsafe or simply uncomfortable visiting public lands like National Parks, being alone with a bunch of white people?

10. Vasu and David: We’ve talked about social media and film as platforms to engage with the outdoors, and we’ve also talked about diversifying the outdoors—are film and social media tools that are accessible to everyone and do they offer an equitable platform to engage with outdoor enthusiasm?

11. Can the panelists share any examples of good news for conservation? In other words, examples where their work or collaboration has resulted in positive outcomes for wildlife, ecosystems, or other natural resources?

12. Tim: How have the residents of Copper City received SWMBA’s trails project? What is the projected economic benefit?

13. In the Cody area G&F hands out free bear spray before hunting season. Plus, SNF has a bear aware program. Do you think these programs are working?

14. As an “elder” I resent the implication that we need special accommodations (i.e., motorized vehicles) to access the outdoors. Great Old Broads for Wilderness has more than 7,000 members who participate in the boots on the ground stewardship and advocacy without special assistance.

15. Garret—Have you spoke to the outfitting and guide community to see how they feel if carrying bear spray was a requirement on their permit?

16. Has EOMT reached out to an outdoor school like NOLS to host a course for people of color? They have had great success running a women-only course. Perhaps having access to their permits, equipment and experience could jumpstart getting more people of color into the mountains.

17. I thought purpose of panel was also to identify next steps for shared vision and solutions to address increase pressure/volume of people. Are we going to discuss solutions on how to address the elephant in the room? The rapid growth we have and how we are well on our way to loving his place to death.

18. “Born and raised in Montana” is a phrase I hear a LOT here in Bozeman—and the GYE—and the context usually leads me to believe that the speaker puts more value on being from here than having moved here. How do we address the attitude that being “from” a place means your voice is more important?

19. David and Vasu: Moving Forward, how can outdoor companies and conservation groups include the people of color community without tokenizing the community or person?
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

PANELISTS:

- Caroline Byrd, Executive Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest
- Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Earthtone OutsideMT and Montana Racial Equity Project
- Frances Kim, Earthtone OutsideMT
- Dr. Nicol Rae, Dean, College of Letters and Science, Montana State University
- Rachel VandeVoort, Director, Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Dan Wenk, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

SUMMARY/KEY THEMES:

- There are substantial information and data gaps.
- Conversations about conservation and recreation need to be more inclusive (the “Our” in “Our Shared Place” does not include people of color) if conservation is to be successful in the future.
- Diversifying conservation must go beyond conversations.
- Funding is a challenge for recreation management.
- The GYE needs a Leave No Trace 2.0 ethic in light of growing recreation demand.
- There is a lot of common interest in building collaborative solutions.
- There needs to be some limits to recreation, as resources are not infinite.
- Partnerships are key for the agencies to manage recreation resources.
- “For every complex problem, there is a simple solution that’s wrong.” - Dan Wenk
- Montana State University is a great resource for bringing the needed data for decision making to bear.
- Recreation is a topic that can bring people together and ultimately lead to identifying who we are as communities.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT:

Question and answer activity on index cards: What is your bold-yet-practical idea for keeping the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem extraordinary AND accessible? What is a first step?

Top ten ideas (based on audience generated scores):

- Create affordable public transportation for urban populations into the GYE – not just local.
- Take action on climate change now. None of it will be extraordinary or accessible if we ignore climate change.
- Bring more low-income areas and people to the outdoors. Fund a weekend program that would bring people into the GYE and provide guiding to them.
- Create funding for access to parks. Take the senior discount and apply it to those who qualify for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and low-income benefits.
- Engage diverse young people and hands on service to connect with public lands. Improve funding for conservation corps.
- Continue to develop a community based GYE mass transit system.
- Create new positive social norms for public land, embracing inclusion, harmonious appreciation
- Center indigenous voices immediately! They have the traditional knowledge that has been suppressed and long ignored.
To Ms. Byrd and Dean Rae: what’s next?

- GYC will continue this conversation with MSU in a way that is inclusive and identify a road map moving forward
- MSU is committed to engaging more in issues important to the community and can dive into the topics that need to be studied

For Ms. Kim and Ms. Gonzalez-Aller: “Our Shared Place” has been powerfully looming over the entire discussion. You reference a feeling of not being welcome and not being part of that shared place. Could you expand on that?

- Acts of exclusion and feelings of being unwelcome go under the radar in a homogenous population
- People of color deal with very negative experiences when recreating here
- People of color feel unwelcome and uncomfortable, as well as physically unsafe
- We’ve been hearing about growing this ethic, but that means growing use. How does that play out within your individual agencies?
- Collaboratives are key for building plans that reduce user conflict and provide resource protection
- Recreation is a topic that spurs people to be proactive; as a result, there is a big opportunity to identify what we want as communities

Have we arrived at a shared ethic? Does the past day and a half indicate to you that there is a set of common values for this resource?

- No and there is a long way to go; the ethic needs to inform behavior
- Social interactions will change behavior over time
- The federal agencies are trying to implement shared goals around a common ethic within their respective missions
- Perhaps we need a “Friends of the GYE” group that connects communities, agencies, and user groups
- There is need for better communication that all are welcome on public lands and all have a say in how they are managed
- A new ethic must make outdoor spaces more inclusive and accessible
- There is a lot of common ground
- We need more information and knowledge
- Indigenous history needs to be raised to the surface, and there needs to be a widespread recognition of our privilege

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA SLIDO:

1. How are your entities perpetuating the homogeneity of outdoor rec and conservation...
2. ...and how are you working to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment?
3. Your offices hold a lot of influence over the GYE (and beyond) in regards to images and messages on who is a recreationist and who is a conservationist.
4. As a community, have we defined a shared ethic across these spaces? And, on what moral authority do we enforce our values across this ecosystem?
5. An implicit assumption of these discussions is that getting people outside is good for conservation, that participating in outdoor recreation helps people to form a conservation ethic. What if that’s not true?
6. It’s clear we need more public land funding. How do you propose we get that?
7. What comes next?
8. Would it be possible to implement some sort of fee model for recreation, to raise revenue for conservation and enforcement? What would that entail? How could we ensure that marginalized or low-income communities were not excluded?

9. I’d like to know what each of your groups is doing to promote diversity (racial, not recreational) in the outdoors.

10. Dean Rae: How can we best work with MSU to help fill in those gaps of knowledge and data? What responsibility does MSU have to contributing to the recreation-conservation dilemma?

11. We have discussed a lot of problems, increasing demand with limited resources, in particular. What do you recommend to increase funding for public land recreation management, understanding that the history of Congressional appropriations is dismal?

12. How does using an equity lens to look at recreation and conservation policies affect the outcome?

13. What is the Montana way of life?

14. Is it time for all outdoors users to contribute to paying for their play, as hunters and anglers have since 1930s?

15. Soon it will be time to pass the conservation leadership baton to the next generation. What steps need to be taken to make sure this transition is successful?

16. Rachel: How do you or the MT office of Outdoor Recreation define access? What other words can we use?

17. Angelina: How do you define access? What barriers exist and how do we overcome these together?

18. Frances, how do you propose to attract more students of color to Environmental Studies, Ecology and other relevant university departments?

19. How should we use the word access?

20. Is it sufficient to simply diversify the outdoor recreation industry and conservation movement? Or how do outdoor recreation and conservation need to change to be more inclusive and broadly representative?

21. How do we invite people of color and other under-served people to the table without making them feel tokenized (as Vasu Sojitra mentioned on the previous panel)

22. How specifically, do you increase diversity in the outdoors, public lands, conservation, etc.

23. How can groups interested in contributing to the discussion of diversity and inclusion on our public lands contact Earthtone Outside MT? How does the group envision partnering with the organizations and agencies here today, and what do you need or want from these entities now and moving forward?

24. What specific steps can state and national parks take to improve diversity and inclusion? Please, don’t be shy with your recommendations.

25. What can conservationists do to address the socio-economic disparity that often accompanies issues of diversity?

26. When should Yellowstone limit the number of vehicles in the park with a shuttle or similar transit system?

27. For Angelina and Frances: For those managing public lands recreation and conservation advocacy organizations in small, rural gateway communities, like myself, where racial diversity is minimal and inclusion is implied, where is a good starting point for encouraging and supporting your mission?
28. I would love to hear a comment of all panelists on Angelina and Frances’s talk.

29. Christina talked about buses in Yellowstone as a new idea. I remember hearing about buses instead of cars in the park as an option that was shelved 15 years ago. Is there a continuing discussion among the Park’s administration about removing cars?

30. Will you initiate this conversation with other GYE communities?

31. Superintendent Wenk talked about preserving this place “unimpaired.” But can we improve this place, including places for responsible recreational use that are supported by science?

32. Can anyone speak to whether this upward trend in tourism is equally affecting other public lands, is this a trend on a national level?

33. Dan Wenk, that was one of the best responses from a white man I have ever heard. It was such an amazing public display of open alliance, vulnerability, and humbleness. Frances and Angelina beautifully shared emotional and hard stories and I appreciate that you acknowledged that.

34. In a one sentence response from each panelist: In your mind, what is the single most important action or change that must occur if we are to protect the future of recreation in Greater Yellowstone?

35. How does preservation adapt going forward as climate change drastically affects the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem?

36. Will the presenters’ slides be posted to the conference Web site after the conference?
NEXT STEPS

Below are several key themes that surfaced throughout the process of producing the recreation inventory (described in the background section of these proceedings) and throughout the symposium, with a series of questions that should be considered in efforts to build solutions moving forward.

VALUES:

Is it problematic that several major hotspots of recreation infrastructure (and probably recreation demand) in the GYE coincide with areas important to landscape scale ecological processes (e.g. important connective corridors)?

What do we value as GYE inhabitants and where and when do these values conflict? How do we handle those conflicts?

If wildlife, wild places, and solitude are important values, then where in the GYE is new recreation infrastructure appropriate and where should we be cautious in allowing new recreational opportunities?

POLICY AND FUNDING:

What are some policy changes that would allow recreation managers to more effectively manage the recreation opportunities we currently have in ways that might ensure more recreation resources aren't needed?

Is there a role for the outdoor industry in advocating for mechanisms for generating new sources of funding for conservation?

Can partnerships for stewardship and funding bias land management agencies in policy or project decisions?

DATA AND TOOLS:

Are the spatial patterns of actual recreational use in the GYE correlated with the places where infrastructure is most abundant (i.e. where are the wildest places in the GYE)?

Can data that describes spatial patterns enable managers to plan for where new recreational access is or is not appropriate?

How do we ensure landscape or ecosystem level integrity with increasing access and demand?

What tools do land managers and decision makers need to adapt to and accommodate growing recreation pressures?

What types of data or information about growing recreational pressures can most effectively inform tools for mitigating the cumulative impacts of growth?

ETHICAL AND CULTURAL SHIFTS:

In light of increasing visitation and recreational demand, is there a need for a new ethic among those who live and recreate in the GYE?

What does a new ethic look like (i.e. what are some best recreation practices) and what would it do?

What communities have historically been underrepresented in outdoor recreation and conservation and how do we ensure that building a shared vision for recreation in the GYE is inclusive?

If we are to build a new ethic, how do we collectively change our expectations in a way that ensures our recreational pursuits and conservation values align?

How do we change our expectations in ways that acknowledge constraints of public land managers?

How could these expectations inform current management frameworks?
APPENDIX:

POLL AND SURVEY RESULTS
Results from Sli.do polls and surveys can be found at greateryellowstone.org.

ONLINE SURVEY SENT MAY 3RD TO ALL SYMPOSIUM REGISTRANTS:

1. The overarching goal of Our Shared Place was to bring together diverse interests to share knowledge and identify next steps toward building a vision around recreation planning in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Do you think this goal was met?
   a. Strongly agree – 17%
   b. Agree – 67%
   c. Disagree – 16%
   d. Strongly disagree – 0%

2. Reflect on your expectations of the symposium and planned contributions. Do you think your expectations and planned contributions were met?
   a. Strongly agree – 6%
   b. Agree – 72%
   c. Disagree – 22%
   d. Strongly disagree – 0%

3. Do you think increasing recreational demands in Greater Yellowstone poses a conservation challenge?
   a. Strongly agree – 94%
   b. Agree – 6%
   c. Disagree – 0%
   d. Strongly disagree – 0%

4. To balance increasing recreational demands with conservation values, diverse interests at which levels should help identify solutions (select all that apply)
   a. Local level
   b. Regional level
   c. State Level
   d. Multi-state or ecosystem level

5. What do you think are some viable next steps or solutions worth exploring? (open ended)
   a. Find ways to foster people’s care for the intrinsic values of the GYE
   b. Open invite public discussions
   c. Public land related campaigns
   d. All types of recreational uses that impact wild lands should have to pay for conservation funds
   e. Look to solutions developed in other states (e.g. gas tax in WA)
   f. Address wildlife conflicts and recreation impacts to wildlife
   g. Solutions that consider alternative funding mechanisms
   h. Collect more data and information in partnership with MSU using citizen science
   i. Let current processes like forest plan revision play out
   j. Emphasize wildlife and wildland conservation in any recreation related solutions
   k. Backpacker tax
   l. Concentrate use in the front country
   m. LNT 2.0 - A deeper discussion about recreational ethics
   n. Community discussions about what people are willing to sacrifice to protect their public lands
   o. Disseminate information from the symposium and work in small localized groups to implement some solutions
   p. Seasonal wildlife closures
6. How do you recreate in the GYE? (select all that apply)
   a. Backcountry skiing
   b. Bicycling on paved roads
   c. Boating
   d. Camping
   e. Climbing
   f. Cross-country skiing
   g. Driving for pleasure
   h. Fishing
   i. Gathering mushrooms, berries, firewood, etc.
   j. Hiking
   k. Horseback riding
   l. Hunting
   m. Mountain biking (single track/gravel and dirt roads)
   n. Nature study
   o. Off-highway vehicle travel (OHVs)
   p. Photography
   q. Paddling
   r. Picnicking
   s. Running
   t. Snowmobiling
   u. Snowshoeing
   v. Target Shooting
   w. Wildlife watching
   x. Other

8. After attending the symposium, are you more apt to: (select all that apply)
   a. Help leaders make decisions around recreation issues
   b. Stay in touch with people you met
   c. Spread the word about recreation in the GYE
   d. Get more involved with MSU
   e. Get more involved with GYC

9. Please provide any additional comments. (open ended)
   a. Roundtable seating made it hard to get around and could make drop ins feel unwelcome
   b. Fostering the relationship between GYC and MSU is a positive
   c. There should have been more emphasis on wildlife conservation
   d. Working more on solutions and associated trade-offs is an obvious next step
   e. Participation of Earthtone OutsideMT was an important piece of this symposium
   f. Pleasantly surprised by the lack of conflict
   g. Could have had less speakers on the panels, although it did keep things moving
   h. Please keep this snowball moving!
   i. A lot of attendees were conservation minded/it would have been good to get the developers to attend
   j. The symposium did not capture enough diversity; NGO community in the GYE needs to be more inclusive and intersectional in future efforts
   k. This symposium was impressive, especially considering how many different interests had to be pulled together
   l. There was a sense that the discussion could be open and respectful
   m. The recreation inventory provided helpful context for following discussions
   n. Hoping to hear from the Earthtone OutsideMT group more regarding their thoughts about how to balance growing recreation pressures with the health of the GYE and wildlife as a whole