

April 19-23, 2023

#SEJ2023

BOISE,
IDAHO

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



CROSSING THE DIVIDE

URBAN GROWTH & THE WILD



HOSTED BY **BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

ANDRUS CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Former four-term Idaho Governor and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus built his long and successful public career around solving problems.

The Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State advances his legacy issues — wise use of our environmental resources and public lands, ensuring our children enter the classroom ready to learn, and cultivating leadership from all segments of our society.

Andrus Center research and analysis serves as “common ground” for civil, serious discussion about public policy and some of the major issues of our time.



boi.st/PublicLandRecreation

SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Idaho was among the five states with the most acres burned by wildfires in 2022. Wildfires that blaze through towns and cities burn and release substances like lead into the air.

Researchers are discovering long-term repercussions from chronic exposure, potentially including neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Boise State University's newly formed School of the Environment will focus on this and other environmental issues critical in the West.



Four Corners Fire, Cascade, Idaho, Aug. 18, 2022, National Interagency Fire Center



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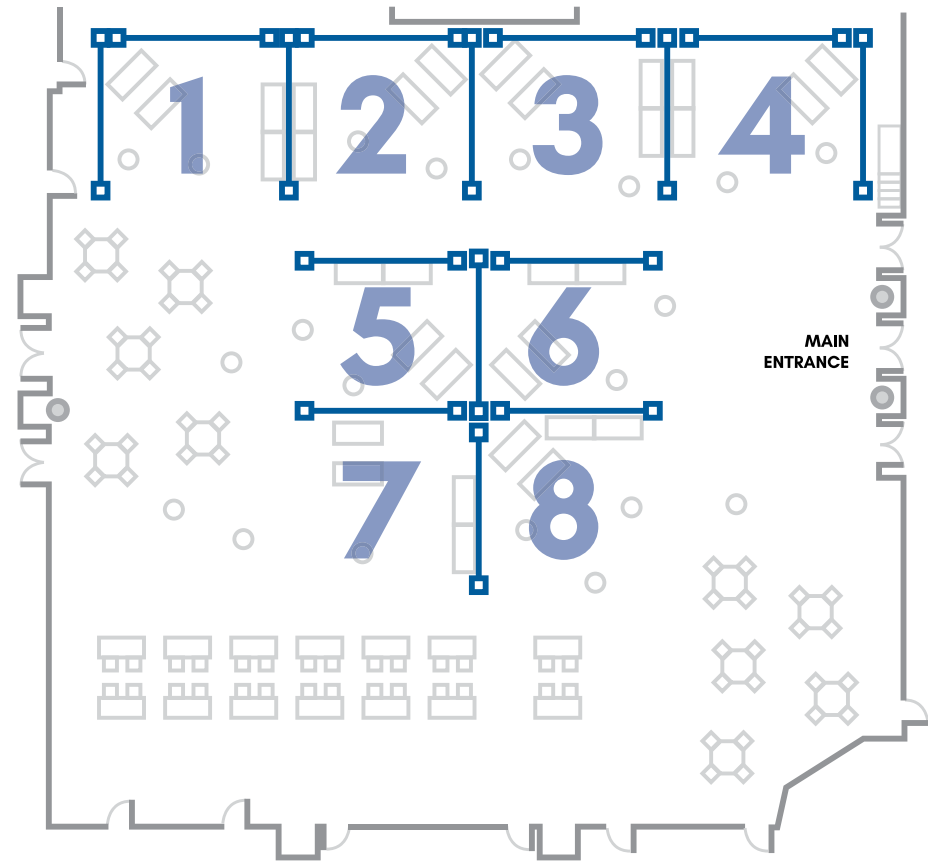


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URBAN GROWTH & THE WILD

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Cover images courtesy of Boise CVB

Welcome to Boise! #SEJ2023

After two decades of wooing, and a half-dozen years in booking, planning, rethinking, rescheduling, recovering and rebooking after COVID, SEJ Boise is on!

Enriched by all the time we've had to shape it, our program will showcase key regional and national issues set against Idaho's staggering natural beauty. Rimmed by the Northwest's emerald corridor and riven by the Continental Divide, the Gem State is where the Rockies meet the plains of the Great Basin.

SEJ's Boise conference has seen an unprecedented surge of enthusiasm. It was first evident a year ago in Houston, when people already were buzzing about going to Boise a year out. Maybe it's because so many of us were ready to bust out of lockdown, maybe because Idaho is an exotic location if you live on the East Coast or in the Midwest, and maybe because SEJ itself is changing in remarkable ways. Conference attendees are trending significantly younger, and — thanks to a partnership with the Uproot Project — more reflective of the country's diversity. New members are revitalizing SEJ and helping SEJ veteran volunteer leaders navigate a generational transformation with renewed energy.

Like many states in the West, Idaho is politically crimson red with some blue spots, like in its capital city. And Boise is a boomtown — one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Rapid growth in science and technology has outpaced Idaho's historic economies of ag and natural resource extraction.

Some of you have asked, why come to a place that has made headlines for banning abortions and banning books? Because the state is studded with stories of both environmental conflict and cooperation. Our theme has never changed. Idaho is a state of contradictions. The strong anti-government streak in Idaho is coupled with an equally strong commitment to the landscape and ecosystems. As a result, conservationists and resource extractors have found ways to bridge the divide and find common ground. And that's a blueprint other places might do well to follow.

We kick off with the president of Boise State University and the mayor of Boise, representing our two co-hosts this year. We'll hear from the Idaho governor, as well as Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, who is trying to change the debate on Northwest salmon and dams, and from his partner, Nez Perce tribal leader Shannon Wheeler. On our signature Thursday all-day field trips, you'll learn about wolves, wildfires, agricultural workers, new mining efforts and birds of prey.

You will hear from Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native American cabinet secretary in U.S. history. Together we'll watch the new Ken Burns documentary American Buffalo, meet SEJ's Board of Directors, examine the intersection of gender and environment, hear about Idaho's connection to Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique and ponder environmental fiction. That's just a sampling of what you'll find in this year's conference, which is true to its theme of "Crossing the Divide: Urban Growth and the Wild."

Welcome to Boise!

Your co-chairs,

Tom Michael, General Manager Boise State Public Radio and Mountain West News Bureau
Managing Director

Christy George, News Editor, KUOW Seattle and Northwest News Network



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

**BOLDLY BLUE.
PROUDLY
INNOVATING.**

Leonora Bittleston is an assistant professor in biological sciences. Her research helps us learn more about life on our planet and the interconnectedness of ecosystem processes, communities and species.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH IMPACTS LIVES

Welcome to Boise State University.

Sagebrush is iconic in the West. Thanks to some breakthrough research at Boise State, we are learning just how important it is in estimating how climate change is impacting our ecosystem — both for humans and animals. Boise State researchers have been able to sequence the sagebrush genome — 2.3 times larger than the human genome and far more complex — for the first time.

On our campus, the complex and dense genome of the sagebrush is a metaphor for how our faculty are branching out, connecting and taking interdisciplinary approaches to solve real problems. This kind of innovation is helping us make a positive impact in our state and in the world.

We hope you benefit from the experiences you will have on our beautiful campus. Thank you for your work,

Dr. Marlene Tromp
President, Boise State University



boi.st/sagebrush

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will take place at BSU's Student Union Building, 1700 W. University Drive, Boise, ID 83725, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

SEJ Registration and Info Table

7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials. Sign up here for Thursday afternoon tours and Saturday mini-tours (included in your registration fee). Find information about SEJ, our award winners and current contest (May 1 deadline), membership and other services. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at the Idaho State Museum or Sunday breakfast at Zoo Boise, there might still be room (ticketed events with extra fee) – check with registration and sign up there.

All-Day Workshops

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Workshop 1. Covering Biodiversity: Saving All the Parts

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (\$75 fee includes lunch, beverages and snacks)

Room: Simplot AC

Ours is a living planet, but its critical biodiversity is under threat. From the global policy efforts like 30 by 30 and the Convention on Biological Diversity, to Indigenous

environmental knowledge and nature-based solutions, we'll examine the actions needed to protect biodiversity and the countless living systems it fuels. We'll dive deeper into biodiversity conservation success stories, like the jaw-dropping ecological recovery of Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park. And we'll learn from the work of other journalists, as they share insights from their reporting on new ways to frame stories on imperiled species and the human communities with whom they co-exist. **SEJ members and journalists only. Space is limited; preregistration required.**

This workshop supported in part by a grant from the BAND Foundation.

8:00 a.m. Coffee/snacks available

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, Questions

Emcee: Jennifer Bogo, Vice President, Content, Audubon and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Global Efforts To Slow the Biodiversity Crisis on Land and Sea

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

This past year ended with a landmark agreement to slow the accelerating rate of extinctions. Why does biodiversity matter? How does what the UN calls the "biodiversity crisis" intersect with the "climate crisis"? Where are these species and how will the people living in their centers of origin be compensated, if at all? We'll consider the intersection of conservation with environmental justice and Indigenous rights, plus who gets to decide what 30% of land or water will be protected. And, finally, we'll take a look at an even more recent global agreement, this one to protect marine biodiversity in international waters. All promise abundant possibilities for journalists.

Moderator:

Mark Schapiro, Investigative Journalist, Author, Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:

Charles (Chip) Barber, Director, Natural Resources Governance and Policy & Senior Biodiversity Advisor, World Resources Institute

Norma Kassi, Adviser, Indigenous Leadership Initiative

Bethanie Walder, Executive Director, Society for Ecological Restoration

Beverage Break

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

The National Landscape for Preserving Biodiversity

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

The U.S. Environmental Species Act has hit a notable milestone; this year marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic legislation. We'll bring together experts to discuss the act's strengths and weaknesses, as well as efforts to make it better suited to the task ahead. We'll look at other tools, like the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for preserving America's biodiversity. And we'll examine how variables like climate change are poised to shape the outcome for its most imperiled species.

Moderator:

Dino Grandoni, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Climate Reporter, The Washington Post

Speakers:

Brett Hartl, Government Affairs Director, Center for Biological Diversity

Issistsáakiiksi/Cristina Mormorunni (Métis/Blackfoot/Sardo), Co-Founder and Director, INDIGENOUS LED

Wendy Palen, Professor, Ecology of Aquatic Communities, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University

Lunch

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Grab lunch and sit back and enjoy an eye-opening presentation on Gorongosa National Park's restoration. Then learn about a tool that provides near real-time information on where and how global forests are changing.

Moderator:

Jennifer Bogo, Vice President, Content, Audubon and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:

Anika Berger, Research Analyst, Global Forest Watch, World Resources Institute

Gabriela Curtiz, Guide, Gorongosa National Park and Student, Boise State University

Gregory Kaltenecker, Executive Director, Intermountain Bird Observatory

Rethinking How We Cover Extinction

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

The collapse of ecosystems is one of our time's most pressing crises, yet it can be challenging to draw readers into these stories. Many people are becoming numb to the now-common narrative about another species in decline. This panel will bring together creative and highly experienced storytellers and editors to explore new ways and frames to communicate the urgency of biodiversity loss and opportunities for restoration. Ultimately, the panelists will help answer the question: How do you get more people to care?

Moderator:

Benji Jones, Senior Environmental Reporter, Vox

Speakers:

Karine Aigner, Freelance Photojournalist

Steven Bedard, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, bioGraphic

Michelle Nijhuis, Contributing Editor, High Country News

Lessons From Local and Global Reporting Projects

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The challenges to reporting biodiversity stories are many: How do you produce colorful scenes with species so rare they're difficult to find? What do you do when your path is unexpectedly blocked by a 13-foot snake? And how do you navigate and communicate dangers far more serious, such as the crime and corruption threatening not only wildlife but also its human defenders? Three journalists will share their tales from the field and insights gained from investigations both local and global in nature.

Moderator:

Catrin Einhorn, Biodiversity, Climate and Environment Reporter, The New York Times

Speakers:

Jennifer Bjorhus, Environment Reporter, Star Tribune

Karla Mendes, Contributing Editor, Mongabay
David Quammen, Author and Journalist

Emcee: **Annie Ropeik**, Assistant Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Lay of the Land: Watersheds Governance and Power Structures
8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

What power structures govern watersheds, how do they intersect and what happens when there are gaps? We'll look at the complex webs of authority and management that exist within major river systems, considering new models for collaborative governance that could give tribes and other under-represented communities a bigger seat at the table. We'll also explore how to get started covering a watershed when it's not clear who's in charge.

Moderator:
Debra Krol, Indigenous Affairs Reporter – Climate, Culture & Commerce, The Arizona Republic

Speakers:
Daniel Cordalis, Tribal Partnerships Manager, Colorado River Sustainability Campaign

Janae Davis, Southeast Conservation Director, American Rivers

Bryan Hopkins, Illinois and Upper Mississippi River Director of Freshwater Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Mary Lou Soscia, former Columbia River Restoration Program Manager, Region 10, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (retired)

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break

Emerging Watershed Challenges: Climate, Contaminants and More
10:30 a.m. – Noon.

From climate change-driven droughts and floods, to agricultural runoff and water restrictions, to PFAS and other pollutants, major river systems face unprecedented threats and opportunities for transformation. We'll explore the top issues poised to make news and affect communities in the Columbia, Colorado and Mississippi basins, and consider how best to communicate with the public about potential solutions.

Moderator:
Georgina Gustin, Reporter, Inside Climate News and Expert Journalist, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

Speakers:
Chris Clayton, Reporter/Ag Policy Editor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer and Expert Journalist, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

Peter Culp, Senior Attorney and Owner, Culp & Kelly, LLP

Justin Hayes, Executive Director, Idaho Conservation League

Teal Lehto, Water Rights Activist and Content Creator

Jessie Ritter, Associate Vice President, Water and Coasts, National Wildlife Federation

Lunch: Collaborative Approaches to Watersheds Coverage
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Over lunch, we'll prepare for afternoon breakout sessions by looking at one model for watershed coverage: *the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk*. We'll hear from staff and reporters for the Desk about how they cover this vast river basin in the heart of America.

Moderator:
Sara Shipley Hiles, Executive Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:
Bennet Goldstein, Staff Writer/Report for America Corps Member, Wisconsin Watch

Brittney Miller, Energy and Environment Reporter, The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Juanpablo Ramirez-Franco, Environment Reporter, WNIJ Northern Public Radio (Illinois)

Tegan Wendland, Editorial Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Breakout groups by watershed for story and project brainstorming

Group 1: Mississippi River

Moderator:
Tegan Wendland, Editorial Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

Group 2: Columbia River

Moderator:
Nika Bartoo-Smith, Reporter, Underscore and ICT

Group 3: Colorado River

Moderator:
Luke Runyon, Reporter, KUNC – Community Radio for Northern Colorado and President, Board of Directors, Society of Environmental Journalists

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Wrap-up



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Workshop 2. Covering Watersheds As Connected Systems

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (\$75 fee includes lunch, beverages and snacks)
Room: Simplot BD

Learn to cover huge, complex river systems like the Colorado, Columbia and Mississippi across state and geopolitical lines, with an eye toward climate change and other emerging threats. These and other watersheds are arteries of culture and commerce, irrigating key agricultural lands and providing drinking water for millions. Our moderators will lead expert panels on power structures that govern these river systems and the challenges that lie ahead for watershed communities. Journalists at this workshop, led by the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk, will leave with collaborative story ideas for covering watersheds as interconnected systems. **SEJ members and journalists only. Space is limited; preregistration required.**

This workshop supported in part by a grant from the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk.

8:00 a.m. Coffee and light breakfast available

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, Questions



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Meet-n-Greet: Networking in the New Normal
Location: Jordan Ballroom
3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Kick off SEJ's 32nd annual conference by catching up with old friends and making new ones. Learn about Boise State University's environmental research and chat with its scientists. Workshopppers can continue their conversations while hanging out at poster sessions. Whether you're an SEJ newbie or a veteran conference-goer, grab a drink and meet up with your conference buddy at the Buddy Meet-up Point (if you signed up in advance). Fellows, get some snacks and get to know your fellow fellows at the Fellows Program tables. Everyone, get ready to dust off your rusty social skills and network in the "new normal".

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Learn to Explore Global Forest Data

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Barnwell

Get acquainted with a platform that provides near real-time information on where and how global forests are changing, plus tools to gather evidence, data and graphics for your reporting.

Presenter:
Anika Berger, Research Analyst, Global Forest Watch, World Resources Institute



Image courtesy of Boise CVB

Opening Reception and Dinner: Welcome to Boise!

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom, BSU Student Union Building

Welcome to a state of contradictions! We begin SEJ’s 32nd annual conference with a networking dinner reception, followed by an introduction to one of the fastest-growing – and fastest-warming – cities in the U.S. in one of the reddest states in the nation. Yes, there’s that classic Western rural-urban divide here, but somehow Idahoans have found creative ways to cross it with many years of successful collaborative partnerships. The ability of Gem State people to come together despite their clashing values may point to environmental solutions for other states. Case in point: our centerpiece conversation, *Swimming Upstream*, about salmon and dams. Following the regular program, we’ll adjourn briefly to grab dessert and Gorongosa coffee or drinks before reconvening for our special film premieres (see details below).

Coffee and dessert are sponsored by HHMI.

Emcees:
Christy George, News Editor, KUOW Seattle and Northwest News Network, and #SEJ2023 Conference Co-Chair

Tom Michael, General Manager, Boise State Public Radio and #SEJ2023 Conference Co-Chair

Land Acknowledgement:
Lori Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock), Editor, Sho-Ban News

Lee Juan Tyler, Council Member, Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Welcome:
Marlene Tromp, President, Boise State University

Mayor Lauren McLean, City of Boise

Idaho Governor Brad Little

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Swimming Upstream
Veteran Idaho environmental journalist **Rocky Barker** leads a conversation about the chance of a historic agreement on the future of Idaho’s salmon with two key collaborators.

Swimming Upstream Speakers:
U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)
Shannon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Additional Speakers:
Shiva Rajbhandari, High School Student, Climate

Activist, and Boise School District Board Member
Jared Talley, Faculty, Environmental Studies, Boise State University

María González Cárdenas, Co-Author, “Nosotras”
Jennifer Forbey, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University

Marco Ovando, Student Representative, Tribal Advisory Board and University Council of Tribal Initiatives, Boise State University

Brian Jackson, Associate Professor of Physics, Boise State University

Jesse Barber, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University

Movie Program

Emcee:
Dale Willman, Newscaster, NPR; Photographer

Speakers:
David Quammen, Author and Journalist

Catherine Matacic, Science Editor, hhmi | Tangled Bank Studios

Films:
WILD HOPE: Coffee for Water
Decades of war and unsustainable agriculture have stripped almost half the trees from the rainforest atop Mozambique’s Mount Gorongosa. The devastation threatens the watershed that sustains life in nearby communities and in Gorongosa National Park. Now, park experts and local farmers are uniting to plant a new shade-loving cash crop – coffee – that will help restore the forest and ensure a more prosperous future for humans and wildlife alike.

WILD HOPE: The Beautiful Undammed
Ten years after the largest dam removal in history – on the Elwha River, in Washington State – scientists are chronicling an inspiring story of ecological rebirth. Recovering salmon populations are transferring critical nutrients from the ocean into the forests along the Elwha’s banks, enriching the entire ecosystem. The Elwha’s revival is encouraging advocates to push for the removal of many larger dams in the region, and in the rest of the world.



STORIES THAT INSPIRE

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THURSDAY **APRIL 20, 2023**

Thursday, April 20, 2023

SEJ Registration and Info Table

6:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials. Sign up here for Thursday afternoon tours and Saturday mini-tours (included in your registration fee). Find information about SEJ, our award winners and current contest (May 1 deadline), membership and other services. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at the Idaho State Museum or Sunday breakfast at Zoo Boise, there might still be room (ticketed events with extra fee) – check with registration and sign up there.

All-Day Tours

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times will vary, but all Thursday tours will return to the BSU Student Union Building about 5:00 p.m.



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

1. Sagebrush Country: Sunrise at the Lek

4:30 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

Visit a long-running sage-grouse lek to observe the birds doing their incredible territorial and mating display.

Late April is the perfect time of year to see the male grouse fanning their tails, using their air-sacs to make strange booming noises and strutting their stuff! We'll observe firsthand what intact sagebrush habitat looks like and learn about its importance for this threatened bird and the factors degrading that habitat in Idaho, such as invasive cheatgrass and increasingly severe fires. We'll hear about the debate of whether to list the bird as endangered and whether cattle grazing helps curb the cheatgrass and fire problem or exacerbates it. Please bring binoculars if you have them, a camera with a long lens if you want to take photos and warm clothes for standing outside on a cold morning in early spring (heavy jacket, warm hat, gloves, etc.). There is a possibility that weather or chance will keep us from seeing the birds, but if we can see birds – oh, the birds we'll see! Since this tour requires an early start, we'll arrive back at the hotel in time to rest before the evening programs. **Total drive time: 3 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Ashley Ahearn, Freelance Audio Journalist

Emily Benson, Associate Editor, High Country News

Marissa Ortega-Welch, Independent Science and Environmental Journalist

Speakers:

Michelle Commons Kemner, Wildlife Staff Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Jennifer Forbey, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University

Ted Koch, Executive Director, North American Grouse Partnership

John Robison, Public Lands Director, Idaho Conservation League

Joshua Uriarte, Species Program Manager and Policy Advisor, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



2. Saving Raptors: Habitat, Humans and Harm

6:30 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

Southwestern Idaho is a mecca for raptors and other birds, as well as the conflicts that emerge over land use. We'll hear from the local Golden Eagle Audubon Society as we head to the remarkable habitat of the Bureau of Land Management's Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. There, BLM is preserving key raptor breeding grounds while allowing people to use the land too, walking the line between conservation and conflict. We'll finish at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey, where we'll meet feathered predators up close and the biologists who are working to protect them from lead ammunition and habitat loss. Pack your camera, binoculars and water bottle! Note: Cell service is not available during parts of this tour. Walking includes a half-mile loop trail to scenic Dedication Point on a relatively flat gravel path (total elevation change: 49 feet). Some stops have pit toilets only.

Total drive time: 2.5 hours.

Tour Leaders:

Kate Gammon, Independent Science Journalist

Cheryl Hogue, Independent Journalist

Speakers:

Danae Fails, Boise River ReWild Project Coordinator, Golden Eagle Audubon Society

Jared Fluckiger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management

Amanda Hoffman, Manager, Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management

Gregory Kaltenecker, Executive Director, Intermountain Bird Observatory

Tate Mason, Director, The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey

Chris McClure, Director of Global Conservation Science, The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey

Liz Paul, Program Coordinator, Golden Eagle Audubon Society

Joe Weldon, Wildlife Biologist, Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management

Mike Williamson, Public Affairs Specialist, Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



3. Food Production and Water Quality in the Magic Valley

7:00 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

The Magic Valley in south-central Idaho refers to the dams and irrigation systems that make this high-desert landscape a highly-productive agricultural area in the Snake River Plain. It's home to the highest concentration of dairy farms in Idaho, the third-largest dairy producing state in the country. Milk, not potatoes, is the top agricultural industry for Idaho. All of that agriculture affects the water quality of the Snake and its tributaries. Our first stop will be with the Idaho Dairymen's Association and a dairy farmer near Twin Falls. We'll learn about dairy farming in the West and what makes Idaho's industry unique. Idaho is also an aquaculture hub, raising about 70% of the nation's domestic trout in fish farms. We'll make a stop at one production facility near Thousand Springs, where aquifer-fed waterfalls pour into the Snake River. Here, we'll examine the connection between ground and surface water systems in the high desert. Finally, we'll travel into the Snake River Canyon with scientists working on a long-term water quality study, examining the impact of nutrient discharge from agriculture and municipalities on aquatic plant growth.

Total drive time: 4.5 hours.

Tour Leaders:

Rachel Cohen, South Central Idaho Reporter, Boise State Public Radio

Luke Runyon, Reporter, KUNC — Community Radio for Northern Colorado and President, Board of Directors, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:

Todd English, Vice President of Sustainability, Riverence Provisions LLC

Tanya Hibler, Environmental Services Director, IDA Consulting Services, Idaho Dairymen's Association

Josh Johnson, Senior Conservation Associate, Idaho Conservation League

Megan Satterwhite, Director of Operations, Idaho Dairymen's Association

Kenneth Skinner, Hydrologist, Idaho Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey



Image courtesy of Dreamstime



4. Living With Fire

7:30 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

Boise, Idaho is often dubbed the heart of the nation’s wildland firefighting response. All state, local and federal resources that deploy to wildfires around the country are coordinated from the National Interagency Fire Center, the nation’s “Pentagon” for fire. But the surrounding wildlands are also a case study for how lacking in resilience much of the West is to wildfires. The Northwest is getting hotter and drier just as the region experiences a population boom. Moving the “needle” from a culture of fighting every wildfire to one preparing to endure them, and sometimes letting them burn or even igniting blazes on purpose, isn’t easy. But in Idaho, efforts toward that shift are slowly happening. We’ll travel to the Payette National Forest north of Boise, where a large wildfire forced evacuations of vacation homes and cabins as well as a ski resort last August. And we’ll meet some of the “generals” of wildfire response and talk to foresters who intentionally set forests ablaze to “reintroduce fire” to landscapes where the fire cycle has been interrupted, resulting in some communities beginning to learn to live with fire rather than fight it. **Total drive time: 5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Michael Kodas, Senior Editor, Inside Climate News; Photojournalist, Educator and Author, “Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame” and “High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed”; Society of Environmental Journalists Board Member

Kirk Siegler, Correspondent, National Desk, NPR

Speakers:

Grant Beebe, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management

Juan Bonilla, Emergency Manager, Valley County and Fire Chief, Donnelly Rural Fire Protection District

Joan Mooney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior

Nick Nauslar, Fire Meteorologist, National Interagency Coordination Center

Stephanie Nelson, Owner, Wildfire Prevention Associates

Jonathan Oppenheimer, External Relations Director, Idaho Conservation League

Josh Sawislak, Managing Director, Government & Public Service, Deloitte Consulting

Larry Van Bussum, National Fire Weather Operations Coordinator, National Weather Service

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



5. Ranching With Wolves: Can Humans and Predators Coexist?

8:00 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

For many rural Idahoans, ranching is a way of life. And since their reintroduction 25 years ago, wolves have been part of that life. We’ll head to the Boise National Forest to experience wolves’ natural habitat and learn about their complicated management history in Idaho, as well as today’s hunting, trapping and depredation rules. We’ll also hear from expert speakers who are trying to reduce conflicts between livestock and wolves using non-lethal techniques. We’ll return to Boise to visit the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, where the city meets sheep-grazing territory. Idaho ranchers will share their experiences with wolves and their techniques for dealing with depredation. **Total drive time: 2.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Nicole Blanchard, Outdoors Reporter, Idaho Statesman

Ian Stevenson, Reporter, Idaho Statesman

Speakers:

Brian Bean, Co-Owner, Lava Lake Land & Livestock

Jace Hogg, Federal Lands Coordinator, Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation

Jay Smith, Co-Owner, J Lazy S Ranch

Suzanne Asha Stone, Director, International Wildlife Coexistence Network and Co-Founder, Idaho Wood River Wolf Project

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



6. Not Your Grandparent’s Mining: Innovations in Resource Extraction

8:30 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

With the energy transition driving demand for more minerals like cobalt, lithium and copper, a new rush of mining has come to the American West. The mining industry has long grappled with a historical legacy of social, cultural and environmental injustices. See the web agenda and Whova app for details. **Total drive time: 3 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Troy Oppie, Host/Reporter, Boise State Public Radio News

Daniel Rothberg, Environmental Reporter, The Nevada Independent

Speakers:

Amber Bieg, Sustainability Consultant and Founding Partner, Warm Springs Consulting

Warren Day, Science Coordinator, Earth Mapping Resources Initiative and Research Geologist, Mineral Resources Program, U.S. Geological Survey

Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director, Earthworks

Virginia Gillerman, Research Geologist, Idaho Geological Survey

Mckinsey Lyon, Vice President, External Affairs, Perpetua Resources

Will Tiedemann, Conservation Associate, Idaho Conservation League

Shannon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Tour Leaders:
Nicole Foy, California Divide Editor, CalMatters

Esther Honig, Freelance Journalist

Rachel Spacek, Government Reporter, Idaho Statesman

Speakers:
Terry Blom, Director, Community Relations, Development and Communications, Community Council of Idaho

Mike Dittenber, Executive Director, Caldwell Housing Authority

Karina Guadarrama, Contributor, Latinx Farmworkers of Southern Idaho

Alejandra Hernandez, Contributor, Latinx Farmworkers of Southern Idaho

Carly Hyland, Postdoctoral Researcher, Boise State University

Antonio Madera, Communications Specialist – Community Affairs/Relations, Community Council of Idaho

Estefania Mondragon, Executive Director, PODER of Idaho

Irma Morin, Chief Executive Officer, Community Council of Idaho

Rick Naerebout, Chief Executive Officer, Idaho Dairymen’s Association

Uwe Reischl, Professor, School of Public and Population Health, Boise State University

Rebecca Som Castellano, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boise State University



Image courtesy of Pew Charitable Trusts

7. Agriculture, Climate Change and the Lives of Farmworkers

9:00 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

Americans rely on more than 3 million farmworkers to grow their food, but they remain largely invisible in our society. This tour will visit farmworker housing to learn about the pervasive issue of substandard living conditions. Next, we’ll head to wine country to hear research on farmworkers and pesticide exposure as well as new technology to help them tolerate extreme heat. Lunch is provided by a local Mexican restaurant and musicians from the Idaho Corrido Music Project will perform. Afterwards, we’ll learn about the national network of migrant farmworker programs and visit a dairy farm to hear how immigration reform is crucial to the industry’s future. Our last stop will be a visit to the luminary, a digital museum space, on the BSU campus. **Total drive time: 3.5 hours.**

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



8. What Happens in Idaho Doesn’t Stay in Idaho: From the Mountains to the Orcas Downstream in Puget Sound and the Pacific

10:00 a.m. departure (\$75 fee, lunch included)

Idaho’s wild salmon are unique: They swim farther and higher than any other salmon species in the world to reach their spawning grounds in central Idaho. But these iconic fish are critically endangered, and for more than 40 years, changes in dam operations, habitat, harvest and hatcheries haven’t worked to restore them. On this tour, we’ll hear from hatchery operators trying to preserve the genetic pool of Idaho’s struggling sockeye salmon. We’ll also hear about the dams that are the main reason for salmon’s decline in Idaho, and gather perspectives from biologists, energy experts, outfitters and more on whether the removal of the four Lower Snake River dams is a viable option – it’s a pathway that even Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson now supports, albeit with the right economic protections in place for those who might be affected. And we’ll learn about the salmon’s importance to endangered southern resident orcas. You’ll come away with a delightfully nerdy appreciation for salmon biology and new perspectives on the economic and ecological effects of salmon decline. **Total drive time: 2 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Kim Cross, Author and Freelance Journalist

Lori Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock), Editor, Sho-Ban News

Amanda Peacher, Editor, Marketplace at American Public Media

Speakers:
Dan Baker, Fisheries Hatchery Manager II, Idaho Fish and Game

Justin Hayes, Executive Director, Idaho Conservation League

Celeste Meiffren-Swango, State Director, Environment Oregon

Russ Thurow, Emeritus Fisheries Research Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

Thursday Afternoon Tours

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

See the web agenda or the Whova app for details. Sign up on-site at the Registration desk beginning Wednesday morning.

Bookstore

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

The Boise State University bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees’ and speakers’ books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

Independent Hospitality Receptions and Exhibits

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Jordan Ballroom

Hospitality Receptions are independently organized by the hosts, who are solely responsible for any content, speakers or materials.

Now a popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference’s best networking opportunity. After spending the day in

the field, meet with hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand as well as displays, materials and, of course, great FREE food and drink. Mingle with our exhibitors and build your source list.

Reception hosts:

- Bracewell LLP**
- Environment America**
- National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO)**
- National Audubon Society**
- Ocean Conservancy**
- Schneider Electric**
- SciLine/AAAS**
- Solutions Journalism Network**



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Opening Plenary: Clean Energy and the Land – The High-Stakes Battle Over Climate Solutions

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

Confronting the climate crisis will require huge amounts of land and resources — for solar panels, wind turbines, power lines and mines that extract lithium, cobalt and antimony. Already, construction of renewable energy infrastructure is butting up against opposition from rural landowners, wildlife advocates and tribal nations. Where do public lands in Idaho and the West fit into the hunt for critical minerals and the growth of climate-friendly power? How do we phase out fossil fuels while limiting the harm to biodiversity, small-town lifestyles and landscapes sacred to Indigenous peoples?

Welcome:

Jen Pierce, Professor and Director, Idaho Climate Literacy Education Engagement and Research, Department of Geosciences, Boise State University

Moderator:

Sammy Roth, Energy Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Speakers:

Shannon Eddy, Executive Director, Large-scale Solar Association

Justin Hayes, Executive Director, Idaho Conservation League

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

Friday, April 21, 2023

SEJ Registration and Info Table

8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials. Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours (included in your registration fee). Find information about SEJ, our award winners and current contest (May 1 deadline), membership and other services. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at the Idaho State Museum or Sunday breakfast at Zoo Boise, there might still be room (ticketed events with extra fee) — check with registration and sign up there.

Exhibits

8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2023 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, see some great displays and add to your source list.

Bookstore

8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

The Boise State University bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

Shannon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Grace Wu, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara

Beverage Break

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

Concurrent Sessions 1

10:45 a.m. – Noon



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

The Hunt for Critical Minerals, From California's Brine Fields to the Deep Ocean

Location: Simplot A

With soaring global demand for materials used in EVs and battery storage, companies are seeking new ways to produce lithium, manganese, nickel and cobalt. This panel zooms in on two emerging technologies: deep seabed mining and lithium extraction from vast underground reserves in California. Will these technologies prove to be better — for the planet and for local communities — than traditional hard rock mining or not? We aim to equip journalists to report accurate, compelling stories about these new frontiers in mineral production.

Moderator:

Janet Wilson, Senior Environment Reporter, The Desert Sun/USA Today

Speakers:

Daniel Ackerman, Independent Climate Journalist

Douglas McCauley, Associate Professor, Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara and Adjunct Professor, University of California at Berkeley

Sam Moore, Chief Commercial Officer, EnergySource Minerals

Erica Ocampo, Chief Sustainability Officer, The Metals Company

Christian Torres, Special Projects Manager, Comite Civico del Valle



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Public Trust and Water Rights in the West

Location: Simplot B

As climate change intensifies droughts, policymakers are having to confront hard choices about how water is allocated. But they must navigate a complex set of laws that typically prioritizes private property rights. These rules, established more than a century ago, are also often blind to important environmental, social and equity considerations. Panelists will discuss potential story ideas and approaches for reporting on how water can be managed in a more equitable and sustainable way.

Moderator:
Daniel Rothberg, Environment, Water and Energy Reporter, The Nevada Independent

Speakers:
Marie Callaway Kellner, Conservation Program Director, Idaho Conservation League

Leia Larsen, Water and Land Use Reporter, The Salt Lake Tribune

Heather Tanana, Assistant Professor of Law (Research) and Wallace Stegner Center Fellow, S.J. Quinney College of Law, The University of Utah

Moderator:
Debra Krol, Indigenous Affairs Reporter – Climate, Culture & Commerce, The Arizona Republic

Speakers:
Cristina Azocar (Upper Mattaponi), Professor of Journalism, San Francisco State University and Author, “News Media and the Indigenous Fight for Federal Recognition”

Carina Dominguez (Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Tucson, Arizona), Producer and National Correspondent, Indian Country Today

Dallas Gudgell (Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Montana), Wildlife Policy and Tribal Outreach Coordinator, International Wildlife Coexistence Network and Buffalo Field Campaign

Moderator:
Emilia Askari, Journalist, Teacher, Researcher – Lecturer II, University of Michigan

Speakers:
Ashley Edwards, U.S. Partnerships Manager, Google News Lab

Jaya Padmanabhan, Journalist; Contributing Editor, Ethnic Media Services; and Editor Emeritus, India Currents

Timothy Wheeler, Associate Editor/Senior Writer, Bay Journal and Chair, Freedom of Information Task Force, Society of Environmental Journalists

Americans are re-introducing fire in a way that can protect communities now and, if carried out across the landscape, could someday result in healthier landscapes across the West.

Moderator:
Ximena Bustillo, Reporter, Washington Desk, NPR

Speakers:
Ralph Bloemers, Director of Fire Safe Communities, Green Oregon

Ian Fox, Acting Deputy Wildfire Crisis Strategy Infrastructure Team Leader, U.S. Forest Service

Kelly Pohl, Associate Director, Headwaters Economics

Margo Robbins, Executive Director, Cultural Fire Management Council

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Ethically Covering Tribal Issues and Traditional Knowledge
 Location: Simplot C

Get practical advice on how to approach environmental stories about tribal issues and Indigenous ecological knowledge by hearing from newsmakers and the reporters who cover them. We’ll explore how as a profession we can move away from extractive journalism and toward ethical storytelling grounded in transparency and consent. Subtopics will include (a) countermeasures to stereotyping, (b) exploring the evolving terminology around centuries-old stewardship practices of Indigenous peoples and (c) ways to develop relationships with Native experts to make stories more authentic and holistic.



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Journalism Toolkits 201: New Approaches to FOIA and Tech Tools
 Location: Simplot D

Improve your skill with two key tools that environmental journalists use to gather information: Freedom of Information Act requests and social media. We’ll update recent changes and challenges to federal and state freedom-of-information laws, sharing advice on how to work around roadblocks. We’ll also offer practical tips that will help you decide when and how you’re comfortable using Big Tech platforms to add depth, details and efficiency to your environmental storytelling.

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Doing the (Surprising) Math on Western Wildfires
 Location: Hatch C&D

The Biden administration in January announced \$930 million in funding to reduce Western wildfire dangers by clearing trees and underbrush from national forests and conducting prescribed burns. The Inflation Reduction Act funds some \$5 billion of this work. Can this strategy safeguard communities? Not entirely. Learn how the math doesn’t work if the goal is fireproofing the entire landscape. One scientist compared that strategy to trying to “scoop water out of the ocean to make it less wet.” But there is hope. Buildings can be fire-hardened. Communities can be buffered. And importantly, individual cities and towns can take proactive steps. Learn about those solutions as well as how Native



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Wildlife Corridors Are Having a Moment
 Location: Hatch A

Between the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure bill that included \$350 million for wildlife-crossing grants, and state laws in Colorado, Oregon, Virginia and others, wildlife corridors – over, under and around roads, towns and cities – are having a long overdue moment. But how effective has this recent legislation been at providing safe, suitable pathways for wildlife, and supporting habitat connectivity more generally? And what more needs to be done to protect vulnerable species and enable them to thrive in landscapes that are increasingly filling up with humans?

Moderator:
Steven Bedard, Editor-in-Chief, bioGraphic

Speakers:
Steve Blackledge, Senior Director, Conservation America Campaign, Environment America

Renee Callahan, Executive Director, ARC (Animal Road Crossing) Solutions

Adam Rissien, Rewilding Manager, WildEarth Guardians

Christine Wilkinson, Carnivore Ecologist; Human-Wildlife Interactions Specialist; and Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California, Berkeley and California Academy of Sciences

communicates the climate crisis can often leave the general public in the dark. But culture can come in and help audiences understand our circumstances while creating empathetic listeners and readers.

Moderator:
Britny Cordera, Freelance Journalist and Sound Artist

Speakers:
Whitney Bauck, Freelance Climate and Environment Reporter

Siri Chilukuri, Environmental Justice Fellow, Grist

Matt Scott, Director of Storytelling and Engagement, Project Drawdown



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

How Culture Reporting Can Help Climate News Reach a Wider Audience

Location: Hatch B

From Bad Bunny's music video "El Apagón" to the allegory in the 2019 film "Don't Look Up," movies, music, cartoons, video games and literature are spreading awareness of climate change like wildfire, inspiring action and solutions in diverse audiences. In this panel, we will discuss the role culture has in connecting everyday media consumers to the climate crisis, and environmental justice in ways that inspire instead of alienate while focusing on solutions instead of doomism. Although science is important, the way it



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Climate Displacement, Migration and White Nationalism

Location: Barnwell

Rising seas, desertification and increasingly severe storms, driven by historic emissions from countries in the Global North are displacing people across the globe. While privileged communities spend millions to rebuild seawalls and shore up vulnerable homes, people from marginalized communities in the Global South, who have experienced centuries of oppression under colonialism and global capitalism, confront immigration and border policies informed by White nationalism in countries of the Global North. This panel will broadly contextualize this issue and discuss its possible futures and solutions.

Moderator:
Rico Moore, Freelance Journalist and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:
Carmen Gonzalez, Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Sonia Shah, Science Journalist and Author



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Lunch and Movie Preview: The American Buffalo

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Jordan Ballroom

We'll preview the upcoming Ken Burns' documentary, *The American Buffalo*, while grazing on buffalo (or vegan) burgers. The two-part series will air on PBS on October 16 and 17. Following SEJ's special 50-minute film clip preview will be a brief Q&A discussion.

Introduction:
Issistsáakiiksi/Cristina Mormorunni (Métis/Blackfoot/Sardo), Co-Founder and Director, INDIGENOUS LED

Moderator:
Catrin Einhorn, Biodiversity, Climate and Environment Reporter, The New York Times

Speaker:
Dayton Duncan, Writer and Documentary Filmmaker

Concurrent Sessions 2

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Bugs, Disease and the West: A New Era in Human Health

Location: Simplot A

Climate change threatens to undo 50 years of public health gains, and not in the ways you might think. The fungal-borne pathogen Valley fever is sweeping through communities in Arizona, Texas and California; a water-borne bacteria called *Vibrio* is sickening shellfish lovers on both coasts; ticks are bringing Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesia (not as fun as it sounds) and Lyme to new regions. Come learn about the unexpected health threats climate change is bringing to a backyard near you – and what can be done about them. (Arachnophobes beware.)

Moderator:
Zoya Teirstein, Staff Writer, Grist

Speakers:
Sky Blue, Board-Certified Infectious Diseases Physician, Sawtooth Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases

Souta Calling Last (Blackfeet & Blood), Founder and Executive Director, Indigenous Vision

Benji Jones, Senior Environmental Reporter, Vox

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Utilities 101: Not Just a Business Beat

Location: Simplot B

For decades, utilities have been covered as a business beat. But power companies have a huge role to play in the energy transition needed to fight climate change, and a significant impact on public health and safety. With power bills rising and big new energy infrastructure projects stirring debate across political lines, audiences and policymakers are paying more attention to these complex companies than ever before. This session will explain how various types of utilities work, how they're governed and how to hold them accountable through engaging, clear reporting that connects people to where their power comes from.

Moderator:

Kristi Swartz, Investigative Reporter, Floodlight

Speakers:

David Pomerantz, Executive Director, Energy and Policy Institute

Sammy Roth, Energy Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Abe Scarr, State Director, Illinois PIRG

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Connecting Extreme Weather and Climate Change

Location: Simplot C

Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and audience interest and attention peaks during these events. Panelists will share how they use extreme weather events as an opportunity to make the connection to climate change in a way that increases public awareness and understanding. Climate Central will demonstrate how to use its Climate Shift Index to enable reporters to make specific and direct attribution between weather and climate; and TV meteorologists will illustrate how they use their role as Trusted Messengers and the 'chief science officer' in their newsrooms to explain the climate connections to extreme weather events.

Moderator:

Frank Mungeam, Director, Covering Climate Collaborative and Chief Innovation Officer, Local Media Association

Speakers:

Chase Cain, Climate Editor, NBC LX News

Nelly Carreño, Chief Meteorologist, TelevisaUnivision - Dallas

Lauren Casey, Meteorologist, Climate Central

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



How To Be an Ally for Environmental Journalists of Color

Location: Simplot D

In this session, we will talk about how journalists can learn to be a better advocate and ally for environmental journalists of color in their newsroom – from understanding and using your privilege to uplift EJOCs to learning the importance of having more EJOCs writing in your newsroom to being a mentor.

Moderator:

Lucia Priselac, Director, The Uproot Project

Speakers:

Rachel Ramirez, Climate Writer, CNN Digital

Monica Samayoa, Journalist, Science & Environment, Oregon Public Broadcasting

Justin Worland, Senior Correspondent, TIME

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



When the Smoke Clears: Forests, Carbon and Climate

Location: Hatch C&D

Across the West, federal forest managers are authorizing logging after fires – even though scientists say the practice often sets back forest recovery, increases future fire risk and reduces carbon storage, among other drawbacks. It's dubbed "salvage" logging, suggesting that the logging is making something good out of a bad situation. But actually, a new wave of research confirms that not only is leaving these burned trees in the forest better for the forest ecology – it's also a far better deal for the climate. So why is this allowed? In their defense, federal forest managers point out that the law mandates that the agency balance sometimes-competing goals including helping rural communities, supplying the nation with timber and keeping forests healthy. This panel explores how to go forward productively, and explores solutions, as well as dispelling widespread misconceptions about the practice of post-fire logging.

Moderator:

Robert McClure, Independent Journalist and Chair, Editorial Advisory Board, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:

Kristina Bartowitz, Senior Manager, Forest Carbon Analyst, American Forests

Dominick DellaSala, Chief Scientist, Wild Earth

Jessica Halofsky, Director, Northwest Climate Hub and Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, U.S. Forest Service

Andrew Larson, Professor of Forest Ecology, Department of Forest Management and Director, Wilderness Institute, University of Montana

Rebecca Weston, Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Juris Doctor and Co-President, Climate Psychology Alliance

Bill Flory, Diversified Grain Farm Manager, Flory Farms and Member, Wheat Marketing Center and Idaho Grain Producers Association

Daniel Schindler, Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and Department of Biology, University of Washington

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Trauma-Informed Climate Journalism
Location: Hatch A

Climate journalists deal with trauma themselves, and are also often assigned stories that require a trauma-informed approach—post-disaster stories, migration stories, fossil fuel accountability stories and more can all both expose and inflict trauma on journalists, but we rarely talk about this reality or how to handle it. Environmental journalists are also often subjected to online abuse in retaliation for their identity and their work, which can be stressful and traumatic. The psychological impact of online abuse adds to the stressors already associated with covering the environment and the climate. This panel will bring together a licensed clinical social worker, an expert in online abuse and digital safety, and climate journalists to discuss what a trauma-informed approach to climate journalism could look like and how it would benefit our readers, our sources, and ourselves.

Moderator:
Amy Westervelt, Editor-in-Chief, Critical Frequency

Speakers:
Jeje Mohamed, Senior Manager, Free Expression and Digital Safety, PEN America

Paola Rosa-Aquino, Science Reporter, Insider and Member, Steering Committee, The Uproot Project



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Salmon and Their Many Dam Problems
Location: Hatch B

Salmon are heroic, Homeric travelers, central to the culture of many tribal nations, indicators of the health of the ocean, rivers and watersheds (and are also delicious to eat). Unfortunately, their wild populations have been crashing around the world and across the Pacific Northwest, notably over the last half-century in the Snake River Basin, home to the best coldwater habitat in the Lower 48. To blame are loss of habitat, salmon farms, hatchery practices, climate change and obstructed rivers. This year, as the largest dam removal in U.S. history moves forward on the Klamath in California and Oregon, momentum is growing in support of the breaching of four dams on the lower Snake. The long-debated proposal would recover imperiled salmon and steelhead runs, honor tribal treaties and provide infrastructure dollars to the region. This panel offers a range of perspectives on salmon recovery and its impact on the environment, economy and tribal equity.

Moderator:
David Helvarg, Executive Director, Blue Frontier

Speakers:
Eric Barker, Outdoor and Environmental Editor, Lewiston Tribune

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



In a Changing Climate, Boom and Bust in Bering Sea Fisheries
Location: Barnwell

In the aftermath of an intense marine heat wave, the Bristol Bay sockeye runs returned last year from the Bering Sea in record numbers. Meanwhile, some salmon runs have struggled and snow crab populations crashed, triggering the first-ever cancellation of the winter harvest season. Journalist Hal Bernton, who reported last year from the Bering Sea in a Seattle Times partnership with the Anchorage Daily News and the Pulitzer Center, will moderate a panel that explores the links between the warming and the changing fisheries.

Moderator:
Hal Bernton, Environment and Energy Journalist

Virtual Speakers:
Serena Fitka (Yup'ik), Executive Director, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Jamie Goen, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers



Image courtesy of Wikipedia

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland Keynote and Q&A
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

As the global community grapples with the intersecting challenges of climate change and the biodiversity crisis, the U.S. Department of the Interior stands at the nexus of this work within the United States. With unprecedented investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act, the Department is addressing drought across the West, building the momentum for a clean energy future, focusing on environmental justice through the remediation of legacy pollution, and restoring our public lands and waters. In honor of Earth Day and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland will host an hour-long session to discuss how the Department is honoring Indigenous communities through co-stewardship and an emphasis on Indigenous Knowledge, employing nature-based solutions and

investing in ecosystem restoration, and tackling the fundamental challenges of climate change. Following her remarks, Interior Department leaders will join for Q&A.

Moderator:
Debra Krol, Indigenous Affairs Reporter - Climate, Culture & Commerce, The Arizona Republic

Keynote:
Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

Speakers:
Joan Mooney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget (DOI representative to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Martha Williams, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Networking Happy Hour With Interior PIOs and Others
4:45 – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

See details on the web agenda or the Whova app.

Beat Dinners

7:00 p.m.
Location: Various

Beat Dinners are independently organized by the hosts, who are solely responsible for any content, speakers or materials.

Sign up online for Beat Dinners hosted by a variety of organizations. Not interested in a hosted dinner? Head to the Community tab on the Whova app to arrange your own dinner with friends and colleagues. Check out "A Walkable Restaurant Guide" in the Downtown Core for ideas:
<https://visitboise.com/restaurant-map/>

See details on the web agenda or the Whova app.

Beat Dinner #1
This dinner is sponsored by the Society of Environmental Journalists, with support from the University of Missouri and the Walton Family Foundation.

Covering Rivers: Taking an Ecosystem Approach to Reporting and Funding

Beat Dinner #2
This dinner is sponsored by Veolia North America.

Americans are worried about climate change, but also believe there's still time to reverse impacts. To get there, industries need to lead the way with innovative technologies and solutions.

Beat Dinner #3
This dinner is sponsored by The Wilderness Society.

Investigative Reporting That Resonates

Beat Dinner #4
This dinner is sponsored by the Society of Environmental Journalists, with a grant from the Maine Community Foundation.

Reframing Conservation in the Face of the Biodiversity Crisis

Beat Dinner #5
This dinner is sponsored by Metcalf Institute.

Celebrate 25 Years of Metcalf Training!

Beat Dinner #6
This dinner is sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association.

National Parks: 5 Reasons for Hope - and for Fighting Like Hell

Beat Dinner #7
This dinner is sponsored by 50 Voices for Endangered Species.

New Voices for Endangered Species: A Network of Early-Career Biodiversity Experts You Need to Meet

Beat Dinner #8
This dinner is sponsored by the Funder Collaborative on Oil & Gas.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS): Climate Change Solution or Harmful Distraction?

Beat Dinner #9
This dinner is sponsored by the Western States Petroleum Association.

Cooking and Conversation with the Western States Petroleum Association Communications Team

Beat Dinner #10
This dinner is hosted by the League of Conservation Voters and Conservation Voters for Idaho.

A Changing Political Climate: How Climate Policy Will Shape Local and National Elections

Beat Dinner #11
This dinner is sponsored by the Nez Perce Tribe with support from Idaho Conservation League.

Covenant of the Salmon People Film Screening

Saturday, April 22, 2023

SEJ Members Breakfast With the Board
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

Breakfast available 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Board members will be in attendance, and will be presenting a few priorities for the remainder of the year. SEJ members: you're invited to attend if you'd like to speak with SEJ board leadership in person on anything that's top of mind.

SEJ Registration and Info Table
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials. Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours (included in your registration fee). Find information about SEJ, our award winners and current contest (May 1 deadline), membership and other services. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at the Idaho State Museum or Sunday breakfast at Zoo Boise, there might still be room (ticketed events with extra fee) – check with registration and sign up there.

Exhibits
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2023 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, see some great displays and add to your source list.

Bookstore
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom Lobby

The Boise State University bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

Concurrent Sessions 3

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Image courtesy of FERC



Not So Sleepy FERC’s Green Energy Push

Location: Simplot A

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has historically been known as a sleepy Washington, DC agency quietly going about its overseeing the nation’s bulk power and interstate pipeline system. Not anymore. FERC has a powerful role to play in the Biden administration’s push to decarbonize the U.S. electric grid and speed up the ability to connect more renewables to the grid. But its role in the energy transition is also increasingly complicated by climate-fueled extreme weather, the battle over whether to build more fossil fuel pipelines and a rapidly changing mix of power resources.

Moderator:
Catherine Morehouse, Energy Reporter, POLITICO

Speakers:
Mathias Einberger, Manager Carbon-Free Electricity Program, RMI

Christine Powell, Deputy Managing Attorney, Clean Energy Program, Earthjustice

Arnie Quinn, Chief Economist, Vistra



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Navigating Newsrooms: A Guide For Early-Career Environmental Journalists

Location: Simplot B

The transition into newsrooms can be jarring for early-career environmental journalists. From learning all of the lingo to trying to understand how environmental issues impact underserved communities, it can help to have a little help. This panel will cover everything you need to know about how to navigate that transition from applying for jobs to how to advocate for yourself when you’re in the role and more.

Moderator:
Siri Chilukuri, Environmental Justice Fellow, Grist

Speakers:
Halle Parker, Coastal Desk Reporter, WWNO (New Orleans Public Radio)

Miacel Spotted Elk, Freelance Journalist

Eva Tesfaye, Reporter, Harvest Public Media and the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Adjusting the Focus: How To Tell Climate Stories to Both Local and National Audiences

Location: Simplot C

Climate change is a global threat, yet its effects vary from place to place due to political and geographical distinctions. How can journalists elevate local climate stories to highlight their relevance to national audiences, and how can reporters put a face to the real-world effects of seemingly abstract science and policy to help ensure vulnerable residents are prepared? In this panel, local and national climate reporters will compare notes. They’ll explain best practices, provide tips and delve into the challenges and successes they’ve faced in writing climate stories that are approachable for all audiences.

Moderator:
Dharna Noor, Climate Reporter and Producer, Boston Globe

Speakers:
Jake Bittle, Staff Writer, Grist and Author, “The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration”

Miranda Green, Director of Investigations, Floodlight

Sabrina Shankman, Climate Reporter, Boston Globe



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Clean Energy Next Gen

Location: Simplot D

Renewable energy’s record-breaking growth hasn’t discouraged investors and governments from pouring billions into next-gen ‘clean energy’ technologies. We’ll dive deep to probe the promise and unintended consequences associated with the most-touted next-gen energy techs: the regional Hydrogen Hubs in line for \$7 billion in federal funds, and small modular nuclear or ‘SMR’ generators soaking up venture capital. Do hydrogen and SMRs complement solar and wind power, or compete with them? Are they ripe for commercialization, and where are the leading projects? And, crucially, will their proliferation accelerate carbon cuts, or simply squander resources and precious time?

Moderator:
Eliza Barclay, Climate Editor, Opinion, The New York Times

Speakers:
Jack Brouwer, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; and Director, National Fuel Cell Research Center and Advanced Power and Energy Program, University of California, Irvine

Peter Fairley, Freelance Science Writer

David Schlissel, Director of Resource Planning Analysis, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Flood Watch: Reporting on Historic Transformations in Flood Risk Management

Location: Hatch C&D

Flood risks are increasing and new flood risks are emerging with climate change. But we haven't stopped building in floodplains and development pressures keep mounting. Meanwhile, there's been a surge in attention to improving management of floodplains. Some federal agencies are revisiting key policies for the first time in decades. There's also new potential for major floodplain restoration because of recent federal infrastructure bills. This panel will explore where journalists should look for stories about the challenges and opportunities ahead, and how to track federal dollars and agency actions on the flood beat.

Moderator:

Tony Schick, Investigative and Data Reporter, Oregon Public Broadcasting

Speakers:

Edward Clark, Director, NOAA National Water Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/ National Weather Service

Jessie Ritter, Associate Vice President, Water and Coasts, National Wildlife Federation

Mark Schleifstein, Environment Reporter, The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate | NOLA.com

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Getting Social Without Getting Conned

Location: Hatch A

As journalists in the age of misinformation wars over many issues, do we have an obligation only to share facts and hope that our waning authority will persuade the public that our stories are true? Or do journalists have an opportunity - perhaps even an obligation - to do something more to discredit misinformation about climate and other issues? How far can journalists go in the direction of public education without being labeled as politically biased? How does social media impact the sharing of information? In this session, we will talk about best practices and strategies for telling climate stories through social media platforms and how to engage online networks for impactful reporting.

Moderator:

Lucia Priselac, Director, The Uproot Project

Speakers:

Adam Aston, Chief Storyteller, Rocky Mountain Institute

Heather Kostick, Administrative Coordinator, Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media, Department of Earth & Environmental Science, University of Pennsylvania

Sofia Prado Huggins, Audience Engagement Associate, The Uproot Project

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Weaving the Personal Into the Global and Political: Environmental Stories Close to the Bone

Location: Hatch B

While environmental stories often involve deep research, reporting, and documentation, they can also be expeditions into imagination and memory. Some of the most poignant environmental stories blend serious reportage and investigations with personal and emotional details. What does it mean to write and report subjects that are close to the bone? In this session, we'll discuss the process of merging the personal and the global into powerful storytelling.

Moderator:

Madeline Ostrander, Freelance Journalist and Author, "At Home on an Unruly Planet"

Speakers:

Erika Bolstad, Freelance Journalist and Author, "Windfall: The Prairie Woman Who Lost Her Way and the Great-Granddaughter Who Found Her"

Lisa Palmer, Research Professor of Science Communication, George Washington University; Freelance Journalist; and Author, "HOT, HUNGRY PLANET: The Fight to Stop a Global Food Crisis in the Face of Climate Change"

Matt Scott, Director of Storytelling and Engagement, Project Drawdown

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Lawyering Up: Environmental Lawyers As Essential Sources and What They're Tracking

Location: Barnwell

You're not a lawyer, but climate and environmental action often hinges on lawsuits and the lawyers helping companies, nonprofits and the government navigate regulations and make change in the courts, and state and federal agencies. These lawyers are essential sources because they offer an insider's perspective on navigating the alphabet soup of state and federal environmental laws and on court rulings affecting environmental and climate policy. We'll discuss why a legal perspective is essential to environmental reporting, how to approach developing legal sources and talk about some of the issues environmental lawyers are thinking about as the Supreme Court re-examines longstanding environmental precedent.

Moderator:

Bobby Magill, Journalist - Public Lands, Water and Climate Change, Bloomberg Law

Speakers:

Susan Brown, Senior Attorney, Western Environmental Law Center

Murray Feldman, Lawyer and Partner, Holland & Hart

Dylan Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law and Director, Native American Law Program, University of Idaho

Beverage Break
 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
 Location: Jordan Ballroom

Concurrent Sessions 4

10:45 a.m. – Noon

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Getting Past Greenwashing
 Location: Simplot A

Learn how to report on government, businesses and corporate responses to the climate crisis through an investigative solutions approach. In this panel, three journalists with expertise in covering such topics as lithium mining, methane digesters and net zero commitments will take the audience through how to use the framework of solutions journalism and other tools to effectively combat greenwashing.

Moderator:
Aman Azhar, Reporter, Inside Climate News

Speakers:
Cayte Bosler, Investigative Journalist and Sustainability Scientist

Aaron Cantú, Climate Accountability Reporter, Capital and Main

Gloria Gonzalez, Deputy Energy Editor, POLITICO Pro



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

The Problems with Solutions Journalism
 Location: Simplot B

Audiences today appear as burned on stories about doom and gloom as the reporters writing them, and so publishers are trying a new angle: solutions. Newsrooms the world over now devote significant portions of their coverage to solving the problems they were once content with tracking. But this new realm of reportage raises fresh concerns for those handling complex beats like the environment, which requires teasing out narratives from complicated information at lightning pace and in limited space. What happens when solutions don't live up to expectations or end up causing new problems? What if they promote greenwashing while simply calming the anxieties of privileged groups? This panel will host a clear-eyed discussion of concerns surrounding solutions journalism raised by reporters and readers and offer insight on how to avoid potential pitfalls.

Moderator:
Stephen Miller, Independent Journalist and Author, "Over the Seawall: Tsunamis, Cyclones, Drought, and the Delusion of Controlling Nature"

Speakers:
Melissa Aronczyk, Associate Professor of Media Studies, School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University and Co-Author, "A Strategic Nature: Public Relations and the Politics of Environmentalism"

Breanna Draxler, Senior Editor, YES! Magazine

Jenny Splitter, Managing Editor, Sentient Media



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Reporting on the Rights-of-Nature Movement
 Location: Simplot C

The "rights of nature" is a growing legal and philosophical movement that aims to transform humanity's relationship to the natural world. The ideas behind the movement, which recognizes the inherent rights of ecosystems or species, are rooted in the world views of many Indigenous cultures. With over 30 countries having some form of rights-of-nature law on the books, this panel will explore what the movement is, where it is heading and how journalists can cover it.

Moderator:
Katie Surma, Reporter, Inside Climate News

Speakers:
Rachel Bustamante, Conservation Science and Policy Analyst, Earth Law Center

Thomas Linzey, Senior Legal Counsel, The Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights

Elliott Moffett, Tribal Advocate, Nez Perce Tribe



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Covering Gas and Air Quality Inside the Home
 Location: Simplot D

We spend most of our time inside, yet the air we breathe in buildings faces little oversight or regulation. That is changing: US cooking and heating with natural gas is getting more scrutiny for its contributions to nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide inside the home. This panel will bring together experts to give reporters context and tools to understand the science, history and policy stakes of burning gas indoors. The panel will help reporters understand the next stages of this issue, localize their reporting and keep a sharp eye out for misinformation.

Moderator:
Rebecca Leber, Senior Climate Change Reporter, Vox and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:
Sage Canchola-Welch, Executive Director, Sunstone Strategies

Drew Michanowicz, Senior Scientist, PSE Healthy Energy

Dharna Noor, Climate Reporter & Producer, Boston Globe Media

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Up in Smoke: Covering Wildfire’s Impacts on Air Quality and Climate Change

Location: Hatch C&D

Wildfire smoke is one of the biggest, growing threats to air quality, and catastrophic fires aren’t just spewing more pollution, they also threaten progress toward climate goals. At the same time, air monitoring and other data give journalists tools they can use to enhance public understanding of the health impacts. This session will offer journalists covering wildfire smoke ways to ground their reporting in the latest science on climate change, air pollution and its health effects on our lungs and on Indigenous communities, outdoor workers and others who face higher exposure.

Moderator:

Tony Briscoe, Environmental Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Speakers:

Camille Fassett, Climate Data Reporter, Associated Press

Phoebe Seaton, Co-Executive Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

John Upton, Partnership Journalism Editor, Climate Central

Image courtesy of Wikipedia



Covering Climate in the Statehouse

Location: Hatch A

Statehouses are one of the key centers of power in the United States. They monitor pollution and utilities; they dole out federal funding for everything from highways to wind turbines; and they compete for investment, whether environmentally friendly or harmful. Yet for years, the number of journalists covering them dwindled. That’s beginning to change again, thanks in part to a new crop of watchdog outlets dedicated to covering their states. This panel will bring together reporters covering climate, energy, agriculture and environmental issues at a statewide level to discuss what they have in common, what makes their states unique and how they can meet the challenge of covering large, diverse states in all their complexity.

Moderator:

Colin Kinniburgh, Climate and Environmental Politics Reporter, New York Focus

Speakers:

Julie Cart, Environment Reporter, CalMatters

Erin Jordan, Investigative Reporter, The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Jeniffer Solis, Reporter, Nevada Current

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



How To Include Environmental Justice in Climate Stories

Location: Hatch B

All around the country, and the world, frontline communities, including low-income, Indigenous and people of color, are facing the brunt of pollution, the toxic legacies of industrialization and, increasingly, climate change. Yet, far too much reporting on climate, environmental, water and pollution stories ignores this. In this panel, we will explain why environmental justice is not a niche within environmental reporting, but a critical component of any environment/climate story. We’ll share strategies on how to engage with, and include the voices from, these communities and how the end result is better reporting that not only informs, but also empowers.

Moderator:

Nithin Coca, Freelance Environmental Journalist

Speakers:

Britny Cordera, Freelance Journalist and Sound Artist

Iris Crawford, Climate Justice Senior Editor, Nonprofit Quarterly

Aliya Uteuova, Visual Reporter, The Guardian US

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Podcasting Across Divides and in Community

Location: Barnwell

Communities are bound together by stories. When it comes to environmental storytelling, the podcasting medium is perfect for deep investigation, personal narrative and critical interrogation of our relationship with the environment and one another. Come hear from podcasters in the biz about what makes a good show and how to build it, staff it and fund it. Whether you’re a podcast beginner or veteran, you’ll come away from this panel with how-to guidance on getting your podcast idea greenlit and into your listeners’ ears.

Moderator:

Ashley Ahearn, Freelance Audio Journalist

Speakers:

Jordan Gass-Pooré, Freelance Journalist and Podcast Producer

Nora Saks, Audio Instructor/ Podcast Producer, The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies + WBUR

Amy Westervelt, Editor-in-Chief, Critical Frequency

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Lunch Plenary: Covering Gender and Environment Connections, at Home and Abroad

Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Jordan Ballroom

The effects of climate change are increasing the vulnerability of women and LGBTQ people to health hazards, forced migration, food insecurity and sexual exploitation. At the same time, women and LGBTQ people in the United States are facing unprecedented challenges to their rights. More positively, increasing gender equity and engaging women in conservation can improve climate resilience and public lands stewardship. And the demand for engineers for the coming energy transition will require dramatically increasing the number of women and LGBTQ folks in STEM fields. How can we accurately and sensitively cover the connections between climate and gender, and how they intersect in people’s lives, both here in the U.S. and abroad?

Welcome:
Donna Llewellyn, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive and Transformative Scholarship, Boise State University

Moderator:
Jen Christensen, Writer/Producer, CNN’s Health & Climate Unit and National Board Secretary, NLGJA the LGBTQ Journalists Association

Speakers:
Lorena Aguilar, Executive Director, Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls

- Jina Dhillon**, Director of Technical Excellence, Ipas
- Ally Orr**, Business Intelligence Analyst, Applied Materials and Founder, Women in STEM, Medicine, and Law Scholarship
- Amy Westervelt**, Editor-in-Chief, Critical Frequency

Mini-Tours Adventures

2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

See the web agenda or the Whova app for details. Sign up on-site at the Registration desk beginning Thursday at 5:00 p.m.



Image courtesy of Idaho.gov

Dinner and Dance Party
6:00 – 10:00 p.m. (\$50 fee includes admission, dinner, music and dancing)
Location: Idaho State Museum, 610 Julia Davis Dr., Boise, ID 83702

Join us at the Idaho State Museum for an evening of food, dancing and entertainment. The Museum showcases Idaho’s unique landscapes that have shaped the profound relationship between the state’s people and the land they love. Over a paella dinner, enjoy music from the restored 1878 Weber Grand Piano and then dance the night away to lively music by Afrosomics under the illuminated 1910 Stained Glass Dome.
Preregistration required.

Don’t miss the traveling exhibit, Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science. From restoring ecosystems to revitalizing cultural practices, Roots of Wisdom provides examples of how traditional knowledge and Western science together create complementary solutions to contemporary concerns. In Roots of Wisdom, stories from four indigenous communities are brought to life, giving visitors real-world examples of how traditional knowledge and cutting-edge Western science provide complementary solutions to ecological and health challenges.

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Bookstore
10:00 a.m. – Noon
Location: Zoo Boise

The Boise State University bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees’ and speakers’ books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 11:45 a.m. – Noon.



Image courtesy of Zoo Boise

Books and Authors at Zoo Boise
9:00 a.m. – Noon (\$25 fee includes admission, beverages, snacks and airport transportation with arrival at airport no later than 1:00 p.m.)
Location: 355 Julia Davis Dr, Boise, ID, 83702

Join us in the middle of Zoo Boise, surrounded by African fauna, for our traditional Sunday morning authors session, this year focused on the natural world. Then

learn about the amazing ecological restoration and the successful species reintroductions in the park before touring the zoo on your own or joining a behind-the-scenes tour. The 20-plus animal species and interactive exhibits from Gorongosa directly benefit both the animals and the people living in and around Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique. Preregistration required.

Located in beautiful Julia Davis Park, in the heart of Downtown Boise, Zoo Boise is one of the most popular attractions in Southern Idaho as well as a living science facility that is home to over 300 animals from 100 various species. Ten years ago, Zoo Boise reinvented itself, made it part of its mission to protect animals in the wild and turned the act of visiting the zoo into a conservation action. With the creation of a conservation fee and a series of fee-based animal encounters, Zoo Boise has generated \$3 million so far for wildlife conservation projects around the world. Now, part of every admission and proceeds from the most popular attractions go to the Zoo Boise Conservation Fund which supports the protection of wild animals in Idaho and around the world.

Emcees:
Christy George, News Editor, KUOW Seattle and Northwest News Network, and #SEJ2023 Conference Co-Chair

Tom Michael, General Manager, Boise State Public Radio and #SEJ2023 Conference Co-Chair

Tours
Join Gorongosa researchers and zoo curators on guided tours, or walk around the zoo on your own.

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Rebecca Bishop, MSc Student in Raptor Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University

Gabriela Curtiz, Guide, Gorongosa National Park and Student, Boise State University

Vasco Galante, Director of Communications, Gorongosa National Park

Harry Peachey, Zoo General Curator

Gene Peacock, Zoo Director

Beverage Break and Refreshments
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Environment in Fiction
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

It's said that every journalist has a half-written novel secretly stashed away. SEJ members' novels likely contain plots and themes related to nature, the environment and climate change. We're joined by some stellar novelists working this fiction beat.

Moderator:
Emily Polk, Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University

Speakers:
Ash Davidson, Author, "Damnation Spring"

Aya de León, Author and Acquiring Editor, Fighting Chance Books

Alan Heathcock, Author, "Volt" and "40"

Book Signings
11:45 a.m. – Noon

SEJ's annual conference ends at noon.



Want to be more productive at #SEJ2023?

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IN THE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY

Image courtesy of Boise CVB



Sunday, April 23 – Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Post-Conference Tour. Beyond Yellowstone: Connecting Divided Landscapes

Idaho's High Divide is a landscape of rugged mountains, dusty, green sagebrush and creek beds lined with willow and aspen. The vast majority is relatively undisturbed tracts of public land dotted with cattle and sheep ranches and small, sleepy towns. It is also, according to scientists and conservationists, a critical connector between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), the Central Idaho Wilderness complex, Glacier National Park and on into Canada – providing important migration corridors for elk, mule deer and pronghorns, as well as room to roam for other charismatic megafauna such as grizzly bears, wolverines and lynx. But the High Divide has few protections as it faces an onslaught of potential problems. Climate change is upending ecosystems and sending animals in search of new habitat. People are flooding into the fastest-growing state in the nation, driving increases in wildland development and recreation. And large-scale conservation measures are met with skepticism by some locals who feel they are managing these resources just fine.

The SEJ post-conference tour, conducted by the Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources (IJNR), will take 15 competitively selected SEJ conference-goers on an expenses-paid trip to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and work its way across the High Divide. Along the way, journalists will meet with people who live on this landscape and see firsthand how they're addressing connectivity issues such as:

- ◆ Road crossings and animal migration barriers
- ◆ Public land ownership and control
- ◆ The challenges of incorporating private land into wildlife initiatives
- ◆ The pressures of recreation and development
- ◆ The Yukon to Yellowstone (Y2Y) initiative
- ◆ Tribal conservation efforts
- ◆ Grizzly bear conservation
- ◆ Gray wolves
- ◆ Ungulate migration: Bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorns
- ◆ Dammed rivers and salmon passage



Sustaining the Resources that Sustain Us

Our goal is to make sure there is enough healthy, available water for people and nature to thrive together.

We work with farmers, fishermen, ranchers, businesses and conservationists to see North America lead by example in charting an economically and environmentally sustainable path forward for our planet.

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The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose personal efforts and financial support have made SEJ's 2023 Annual Conference possible.



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

SEJ 2023 CONFERENCE HOST

Marlene Tromp
President, Boise State University

Emily Wakild
Cecil D. Andrus Endowed Chair for Environment and Public Lands, School of Public Service, Boise State University

Boise State University faculty and staff including the School of the Arts, the School of the Environment, the School of Public Service, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Andrus Center for Public Policy.

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Christy George, News Editor, KUOW Seattle and Northwest News Network
Tom Michael, General Manager, Boise State Public Radio



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Kevin Beaty, Dylan Brown, Ashley Pencak, Dale Willman

Thank You to **SEJ Volunteers and Partners**. SEJ could not have produced this conference without the dozens of members who generously donated their time and energy to organize sessions, moderate panels, lead tours, recruit sponsors and support multimedia.

Special thanks to **Emilia Askari, Rocky Barker, Jennifer Bogo, Lori Edmo, Sara Shipley Hiles, Debra Krol, Robert McClure, Rico Moore, Lucia Priselac, Annie Ropeik and Amy Westervelt**.

SEJ is grateful for the partnership of The Uproot Project on the #SEJ2023 Diversity Fellowships, and welcomes their leaders and members to #SEJ2023.

For more about The Uproot Project and how to join, visit: <https://uprootproject.org/>

SEJ is grateful for its partners, the Association of Health Care Journalists and Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, on the Science, Health, Environment Reporting Fellowship.

SEJ is especially grateful to **John Freemuth**, who was a tireless champion for public lands and for the reporters who cover them. We miss you John. And a special thanks to **Emily Wakild**. We were leveled when we lost John. You lifted us back up.

Finally, a big thank you to **Mayor Lauren McLean** who introduced us to John Freemuth back in 2017, which got this whole thing started.

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1629 K Street NW, Suite 300,
Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: (202) 558-2055

Email: sej@sej.org

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JOURNALISM ACROSS ALL MEDIA TO
ADVANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF
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SEJ Welcomes the Science, Health, and Environment Reporting Fellows



CASW | AHCJ | SEJ
National
**Science
Health
Environment**
Reporting Fellowships

Twelve journalists have been selected for the 2022-2023 National Science-Health-Environment Reporting Fellowships (SHERF).

Aarón Miguel Cantú, Type Investigations fellow, climate reporter, Capital & Main, California

Bella Isaacs-Thomas, digital science reporter, PBS NewsHour, Washington, D.C.

Christian von Preysing-Barry, reporter, KRGV-TV, Texas

Darian Benson, reporter, Side Effects Public Media, Indianapolis

Devi Shastri, health and medical science reporter, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin

Erin Rode, environment reporter, The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, Calif.

Jena Brooker, environment reporter, BridgeDetroit, Detroit

Neel Dhanesha, climate change reporter, Vox, Washington, D.C.

Rachel Cohen, reporter, Boise State Public Radio, Idaho

Sarah True, independent health care journalist, Washington, D.C.

Shantal Riley, independent health and environmental journalist, New York

Zoya Teirstein, staff writer, Grist, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Launched in 2021, the fellowships are a collaboration of the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ), the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing (CASW) and the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ), with funding by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Department of Science Education and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

SEJ Welcomes the #SEJ2023 Diversity Fellows

Shreya Agrawal, USC Annenberg Media

Muizz Akhtar, Independent Journalist

Taylor Anures, KTVL CBS News10

Ximena Bustillo, National Public Radio

Britny Cordera, Independent Journalist

Delgerzaya Delgerjargal, TenGer Television

Jocelyn Duffy, Independent Journalist

Hadeer Elhadary, Independent Journalist

Fernando Figueroa, WUFT News

Nicole Foy, CalMatters

Guanani Gomez-Van Cortright, Bay Nature magazine

Audrey Henderson, Independent Journalist

Roshaun Higgins, The Times-Picayune |

New Orleans Advocate

Ayurella Horn-Muller, Axios Shamsuddin Illius, The Business Standard

Amir Khafagy, Documented

Ana Clara Mattiuzzi Martins, Independent Journalist

Shamira McCray, The Post and Courier

Karla Mendes, Mongabay

Clara Migoya, The Arizona Republic / AZCentral

Glory Mushingi, Independent Journalist

Sonia Narang, Independent Journalist

Melba Newsome, Independent Journalist

Cameron Oglesby, Independent Journalist

Neeta Satam, Independent Photojournalist

Kate Selig, Stanford University

Jeniffer Solis, Nevada Current

Miacel Spotted Elk, Independent Journalist



Anita Wadhvani, Tennessee Lookout

Jenny Whidden, Daily Herald

In partnership with The Uproot Project:

The Uproot Project is a network for journalists of color who cover environmental issues, as well as students and others aspiring to cover this beat. Uproot is dedicated to advancing the careers of journalists of color who've been historically underrepresented in this field. Uproot membership is currently free for journalists of color and we encourage you to sign up.

Funding for the #SEJ2023 Diversity Travel Fellowships is provided by MacArthur Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Veolia North America, Woodwell Climate Research Center, Idaho National Laboratory, RenewPR, Western States Petroleum Association, rPlus Energies, Jay Letto, and other individual donors to SEJ.

SEJ Is Committed to a Safe, Healthy, and Harassment-Free Conference

SEJ COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

All attendees at SEJ and SEJ-sponsored in-person events must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and boosters as defined by the CDC and must attest to that fact. If they are unable to be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons, they must have a negative PCR test result within 72 hours of the event or a negative antigen test 24 hours before. Anyone experiencing symptoms should take a rapid antigen test and get a negative result before joining the event. Masks will be mandatory, unless outdoors or while actively eating/drinking. Speakers can choose to remove their masks while actively speaking. These requirements are subject to change based on public health requirements at the time and place of event. SEJ is adopting this policy to safeguard the health of its employees and their families; SEJ members and visitors; and the community at large. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, as applicable.

SEJ ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

SEJ is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity without harassment. Toward this end, SEJ prohibits and condemns discrimination and all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment and harassment based on an individual's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, military or veteran status or any other legally-protected characteristics.

This strict policy means that no form of unlawful or prohibited discriminatory or harassing conduct by or towards any SEJ employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer will be tolerated. This policy should not be construed as applicable to events not organized by SEJ or non-SEJ forums or workplaces which it does not control.

SEJ is committed to enforcing its policy at all levels within SEJ and at SEJ events. Any employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer who engages in prohibited discrimination or harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate removal from any applicable SEJ-organized functions, activities or events, removal from leadership or committee positions or expulsion from SEJ consistent with its member expulsion policy.

Unless otherwise excluded, the term "harassment" within this policy includes prohibited discrimination. Anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies for employees are covered by SEJ's separate employment handbook.

Conduct Covered by This Policy: This policy applies to and prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination in the course of SEJ's work or activities. This includes any harassment or discrimination that may occur as part of SEJ activities, whether in person, in writing, via phone or through any online platforms, including but not limited to systems hosted or moderated by SEJ.

Harassment or discrimination may take many forms, including but not limited to the following:

- ▲ Verbal conduct, such as epithets, derogatory comments and slurs.
- ▲ Displaying derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings or gestures.
- ▲ Physical conduct, such as assault or blocking normal movement unnecessarily.
- ▲ Yelling at or threatening speakers and other participants (verbally or physically).
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome advances and invitations, regardless of whether they involve physical contact, or if the harassed individual submits to the invitation.
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including sexually graphic spoken or written comments, offensive comments transmitted by email or another messaging system, or offensive or suggestive images or graphics, whether physically present or sent over the Internet or displaying or using sexually suggestive objects in an offensive manner.
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, including the touching of another's body or the touching or display of one's own body in a sexual manner.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent a critical discussion of or education relating to sexual harassment or different forms of discrimination. SEJ is strongly committed to diversity, equity and the free expression of ideas. Critical disagreements or conflicting beliefs and viewpoints do not alone constitute harassment. Sexual imagery or language in a professional discussion might not constitute harassment. Speakers and sponsors are asked to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. Participants may exercise their option to leave a session or a conversation.

Computer Messaging and Information Systems: Employees, members, board members, speakers or invited guests, exhibitors,

event attendees, vendors or contractors or volunteers are reminded that data generated on, stored in or transmitted to or from SEJ's computers, websites and listservs remain the property of SEJ for all purposes. SEJ retains the right to monitor its computers, computer systems, listservs, networks, websites and social media accounts to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Procedures in Cases of Harassment or Discrimination:

SEJ is committed to taking all reasonable steps to prevent harassment and will make every reasonable effort to promptly and completely address any harassment that may occur. However, SEJ cannot take prompt and effective remedial action unless each incident of harassment is reported immediately.

Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to harassment or discrimination of any kind within the meaning of this policy should report the incident immediately or as soon as possible to SEJ's Executive Director or the President of SEJ's Board of Directors. Violations that occur at an SEJ event also may be reported directly to the organizers of the event. Anyone else who observes conduct that they believe is in violation of this policy also is encouraged to report the conduct in the same manner.

Any individual making a claim of harassment or discrimination should provide as much information as possible about the details of the incident or incidents, name or names of the individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, and any written, electronic or physical evidence. Reporting should be made without any fear of retaliation. Retaliation against any employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer for reporting harassment will not be tolerated.

SEJ will take appropriate, thorough, independent and prompt action in response to any reports of harassment or discrimination in whatever context or circumstances they arise under this policy. Such reports will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee whose voting members shall consist of the following: the President of SEJ's Board of Directors and the chairs of SEJ's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and its Membership Committee or their designees, provided that all such voting members must also be members of SEJ's Board of Directors who are not involved in the dispute. The ad hoc committee may also consult or discuss the matter with SEJ's Executive Director.

The ad hoc committee will use good faith efforts to the extent practicable to maintain confidentiality as it conducts its investigation and deliberations. The complaining party and the accused will be informed of the results of the investigation, with timing up to the discretion of the ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will notify the full Board of Directors about any complaints at the next Board Meeting, but due to privacy concerns the level of detail will be at the discretion of the ad hoc committee.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, violators at events may be summarily expelled from the event without further review at the discretion of SEJ event organizers.



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503-515-4206
nsmith@amforest.org

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Photo: Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, Mason Cummings

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CCS: Climate Change Solution or Harmful Distraction?

Environmental and community leaders reveal how they are combating misinformation, government waste and mismanagement, and risks of CCS

Join us as noted Washington D.C.-based environmental journalist Aman Azhar leads a panel discussion on Carbon Capture and Storage — CCS for short — focusing on potential CCS risks to communities, greenwashing and billions of federal dollars set aside for CCS projects, their track record of failures and the dangers of continuing to pursue CCS as a carbon emissions reduction strategy.

Where: Brickyard Steakhouse, 601 W. Main Street
 When: Friday, April 21, 7-11 p.m.

RSPV for this event here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ccs-climate-change-solution-or-harmful-distraction-tickets-602638216127>

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GAS LEAKS natural gas

methane
natural gas

[meth-eyn gas] **noun**

- 1** : A term that the fossil fuel industry has marketed to convince the public that dirty, dangerous methane is "natural," safe, and clean.
- 2** : A powerful pollutant that is as bad for the climate as coal power.
- 3** : Gas Leaks Action is exposing the truth about the dangers of "natural" gas and the fossil fuel industry's disinformation machine.

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~ Nelson Mandela

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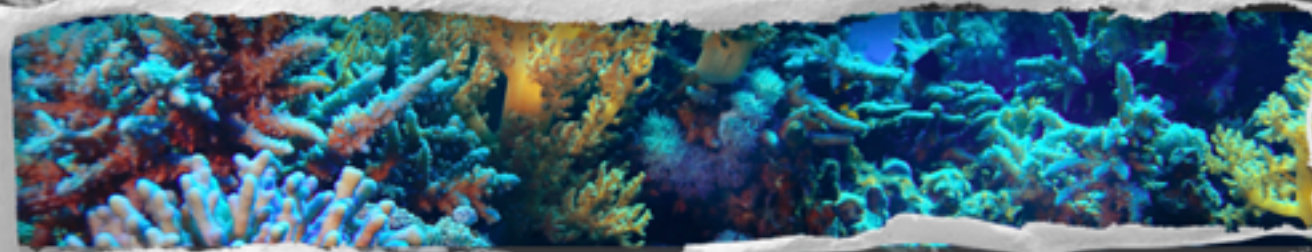
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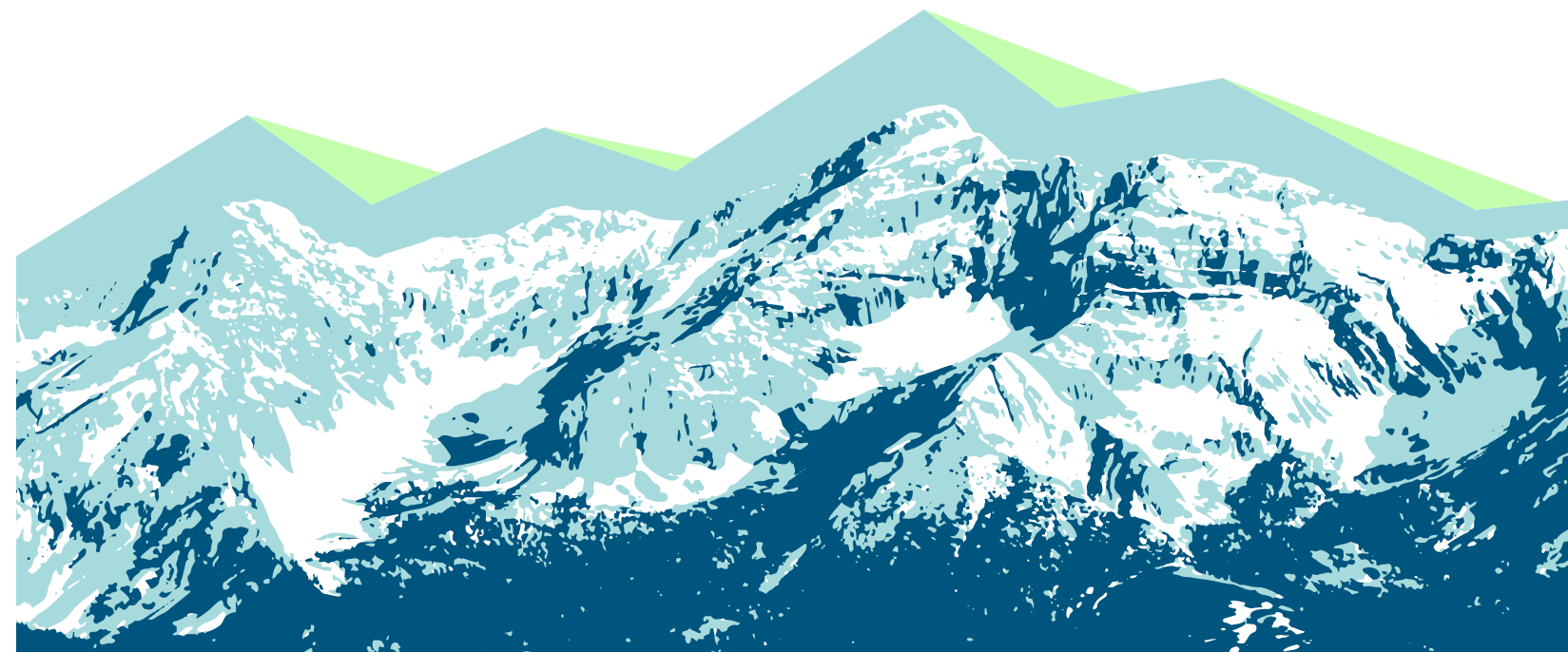
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Doing the (Surprising) Math on Western Wildfires 10:45-Noon
When the Smoke Clears: Forests, Carbon and Climate 2-3:30

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— **Michael Mann**, Presidential Distinguished Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media



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