

The Northern Rockies Conservation Symposium:
*Building Resilient Networks for Conservation
in a Changing Democracy*

Hosted on
April 30th, 2026
by:
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative

The Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC) is committed to tackling social, organizational, and environmental challenges to maintaining ecological integrity across the Northern Rockies region. We particularly focus on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Over the years, NRCC has built a strong record of achievements through numerous partnerships and projects, extending well beyond the GYE. We remain dedicated to conservation and fostering collaborative relationships. Our approach has always been practical, rooted in reality, and guided by a vision of working better together through improved, integrated problem-solving skills and methods. Currently, the landscape of our work is changing significantly.

This past year has seen a significant increase in the complexity and severity of threats to biodiversity, ecosystem health, and civil working relations. This growth is largely driven by an unprecedented use of federal executive power. As a result, the Northern Rockies region's three national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Glacier), as well as national forests and other public lands, are all facing reduced local operational authority, diminished management capacity, and greater instability in federal funding. These changes have disrupted longstanding scientific and environmental research and cooperative efforts that guide conservation actions for species and ecosystems. Like many parts of the United States right now, the region is experiencing a decline in civility and constructive dialogue, which only worsens these challenges. All of this weakens communities' ability to discuss, share, and collaboratively develop strategies to address problems in the common interest.

In these challenging times, what can we do to strengthen our capacity and support co-workers and communities in addressing threats? [Since its founding in 1987](#), NRCC has made strenuous efforts to build, nurture, and maintain personal and professional networks that promote conservation and develop resilient communities of practice to confront the challenges facing humans and nature. One way NRCC has achieved this is by organizing and hosting the biennial Northern Rockies Conservation Symposium, formerly known as the Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium. The event's new name highlights a regional focus for conservation dialogue, planning, and coordination. This year marks the 10th anniversary of NRCC's symposium.

The symposium will be held on April 30, 2026, at The Center for the Arts in Jackson, WY. At the upcoming event, NRCC will gather leaders and learning networks from Jackson Hole, the GYE, and the Northern Rockies region and beyond. The meeting will focus on the GYE's future, yet extending beyond that ecosystem to address the changing landscape of our individual and collective conservation efforts. In doing so, we will preserve the best aspects of traditional wildlife conferences, such as quick talks and opportunities for networking and conversation in a welcoming setting.

The 2026 Northern Rockies Conservation Symposium will explore opportunities to create more effective networks for shared conservation successes amid ecological changes and existential threats to social, political, and democratic norms. The symposium will feature discussions of interconnected scientific, technical, and structural trends and conditions that are driving the threats that face us today. It will do so through presentations by distinguished speakers from various fields, including policy, economics, law, ecology, and history, and a return of the energetic and ever-popular quick talks.

NRCC invites participants from across and beyond the Northern Rockies to present their work and engage in key discussions on social, organizational, and conservation strategies to address ongoing challenges to science, management, and governance. Ultimately, we all want to help build resilient networks for conservation. We hope you will attend and contribute to enhancing our capacity to address the threats facing GYE, the region, and, more broadly, nature and humanity.