



**GETCHES-WILKINSON CENTER**

**for Natural Resources, Energy, and  
the Environment at Colorado Law**

**The Wyss Scholars Program for the Conservation of the American West  
Cohort: 2021-2022  
(Tuition Benefit and Summer Stipend)**

**Program Overview**

The **Wyss Foundation** is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the American West. The **Wyss Scholars Program** seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders on western land conservation issues by providing financial support to students who are committed to careers focused on western conservation. For the purposes of the program, the American West includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It is expected that students will be seeking careers in these states or in Washington, D.C., dealing with policy affecting these states. Qualifying employment includes federal or state agencies or a nonprofit organization with a mission to further land conservation in the states listed above.

One Wyss Scholar will be selected each year on the basis of leadership potential, commitment to furthering land conservation in the American West, commitment to pursuing a career in nonprofit or public sector conservation, financial need, and academic strength. *While experience living or working in the West is preferred, all students interested in western lands and sustainability issues are encouraged to apply.*

**The Getches-Wilkinson Center is now accepting applications for the  
2021-2022 Cohort through Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Eligibility**

All current 2L J.D. candidates at the University of Colorado Law School are eligible to apply. One Law School student will be selected each year to the Wyss Scholars program.

Both 1L and 2L students interested in the program are encouraged to attend the upcoming information sessions noted below.

## **Program Benefits**

The Wyss Scholars Program **covers up to a third of the tuition and expenses** of getting a Law degree (paid as one sixth tuition while enrolled and one sixth as a postgraduate award). **Scholars are also awarded up to \$5,000** to cover their summer internship to provide conservation work experience.

The Wyss Scholars Program also **provides access to a broad community of current and past Scholars**—people who share an interest and passion for conservation and are working to protect western landscapes.

### ***Tuition Award***

While enrolled the law student will receive a tuition award equal to one sixth of the total cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies). This award will be divided among the student's remaining semesters.

### ***Summer Stipend***

Stipend (\$5,000) for a required summer internship between the 2L and 3L year, with a nonprofit or public sector conservation organization dedicated to the American West.

### ***Post Graduate Awards***

After graduation, for Wyss Scholars who work for a nonprofit organization or governmental agency devoted to furthering land conservation in the American West, a post-graduation award totaling one sixth the cost of attendance plus 20% of that amount payable in two installments over 24 months, and intended for use by the student to repay federal student loans incurred while obtaining their degree.

### ***Small Grant Award***

An additional \$3,000 may be awarded at the discretion of the Program Administrator (GWC) to sponsor training and professional development activities for the Wyss Scholar and student colleagues.

### ***Wyss Scholar Network***

Membership in the Wyss Scholars network (students and alumni from University of Michigan, Yale University, University of Montana, Northern Arizona University, and Lewis and Clark College).

\*Financial need and other conditions may apply in individual circumstances. Check with the Program Administrator (GWC) for questions

## **Application Instructions**

### **Application Due Date: Friday, January 22, 2021**

The following items must be completed and submitted as separate PDF e-mail attachments to GWC Deputy Director, Shaun LaBarre at [shaun.labarre@colorado.edu](mailto:shaun.labarre@colorado.edu) by 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 22, 2021.

1. An **essay/personal statement** (500-word limit) detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of American Western Conservation and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field.
2. A professional **resume** (two pages maximum).
3. An outline of your **remaining course of study and summer 2021 internship possibilities** you are exploring (maximum of one page).
4. A **letter of recommendation** addressing your future as a conservation leader.
5. Undergraduate and Colorado Law transcripts (unofficial transcripts are accepted).

### ***Interviews***

Semi-finalist applicants will be scheduled for a half-hour interview in mid-February. The interviews will be conducted by a committee to include the GWC/Program Administrative staff, Colorado Law Faculty, and may also include a representative(s) from the Wyss Foundation, and an external nonprofit organization.

### ***Selection***

The interview committee will consider the students' applications and interview results, and recommend finalists to the Foundation. Award decisions will be made by late February 2021. Students and advisors will be notified via e-mail shortly thereafter.

*The Wyss Scholars Program for the Conservation of the American West is open to individuals regardless of race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or gender. We encourage individuals from groups historically underrepresented in environmental conservation to apply.*

## **More Information**

### ***Information Sessions***

The GWC will host two information sessions to provide an overview of the program and answer questions about the application process, examples of summer internships, and expectations post-graduation. These sessions will be hosted remotely over Zoom.

**Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00 pm**

**Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/99902603307>**

**Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00-9:00 am**

**Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/97535868971>**

All interested 2Ls for the current cohort and 1Ls interested in a future cohort are encouraged to attend an information session.

### ***Contact Information***

For further information, please feel free to contact GWC Deputy Director, Shaun LaBarre at [shaun.labarre@colorado.edu](mailto:shaun.labarre@colorado.edu) or 303-492-1286