

## **BEN WILLIAMSON**

### **Education**

#### **M.E.M., Yale University, School of the Environment**

People, Equity, and the Environment; Ecosystem Conservation and Land Management, 2019

#### **B.S., University of Montana, College of Humanities and Sciences**

Ecology and Organismal Biology, Minor in Wilderness Studies, 2015

### **Relevant Experience**

#### **Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative**

July 2019 – Present

*Executive Director*

Jackson, WY

- Direct sixty plus Research Associates, Resident Experts, Visiting Researchers, and Interns to generate reliable information on ecological, social, and cultural processes at regional and international scales
- Fundraise, communicate, and carry out the strategic plan to ensure institution and fiscal health
- Develop policy-oriented leadership workshops and conferences for environmental professionals in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
- Conduct qualitative research on trans-boundary issues arising between federal and tribal lands

#### **The Forests Dialogue**

May 2018 – May 2019

*Land Use Dialogue Fellow*

Wassa Amenfi, Ghana

- Developed and executed a community-driven research project on REDD+ implementation to determine opportunities to promote the needs of local agricultural communities in the cocoa supply chain
- Conducted over forty key informant interviews and focus group discussion with government, private, civil society and farming representatives; delivered findings in a comprehensive background paper to international partners (IUCN, World Bank, Olam International) in preparation for several rounds of multi-stakeholder dialogues

#### **UCROSS High Plains Stewardship Initiative**

September 2018 – May 2019

*Research Assistant*

New Haven, CT

- Assisted a multi-agency effort to develop a common baseline of spatial information across thirteen states occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse; presented results to agencies with recommendations on how best to reconcile spatial discrepancies

*Research Assistant*

August 2017 – May 2018

- Validated a dataset of tribal land holdings to create a comparative map of historic and present-day tribal territory; collected data through original treaty documents, tribal records, and U.S. Forest Service resources and systematized protocols for the use of collaborating researchers

#### **The Glacier Institute**

December 2016 – June 2017

*Program Director*

Glacier National Park, MT

- Directed an environmental education center and supervised an eight-person staff to deliver high-quality educational programming to K-12 students

#### **Natural Resources Defense Council**

January 2017 – March 2017

*Wildlife and Energy Intern*

Bozeman, MT

- Conducted research on state and federal policies relevant to NRDC's wildlife and energy campaigns; wrote eleven policy briefs and presented results through verbal testimony at legislative hearings

## National Park Service

Field Technician

May 2016 – September 2016

Bozeman, MT

- Monitored whitebark pine stands as part of a long-term effort to understand ecosystem dynamics in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding federal lands

## Publications

Williamson, Ben and Todd Wilkinson, 2019, Millennial Tapped to Lead Major Greater Yellowstone-Based Research Group, *Mountain Journal*

Williamson, Ben, 2018. Participatory Landscape Decision Making in the Wassa Amenfi, Ghana, *The Forests Dialogue Background Papers*

## Skills and Certificates

*Skills:* ESRI ArcGIS, Maxent, Circuitscape, R, OpenRefine, Microsoft, Adobe

*Certificates:* Collaboration Program in Natural Resources, University of Wyoming 2020 – 2021

## Awards, Fellowships and Grants

*Awards and Fellowships:*

Wyss Scholar, Wyss Foundation (\$73,000) 2018 – 2020

- One of twelve students nationwide to receive this award; based on a criteria of leadership ability, integrity, and a motivation to serve in a career in conservation policy and management.

Land Use Dialogue Fellow, Tropical Resources Institute (\$5,000) 2018

- Research land tenure rights and potential for collaborative management between private corporations and local governments in Ghana's Western Region

*Grants:*

Spark Grant, Wyoming Humanities Council (\$2000) 2020

Micro Grant, Community Foundation of Jackson Hole (\$3000) 2019

Yale Forestry and Environmental Studies Research Grant, Yale University (\$3,500) 2018

Carpenter-Sperry Award, Yale University (\$1,000) 2018

## Academic Presentations

*Campus Presentations:*

“Standpoint Clarification and Professionalism” Society and Natural Resources Seminar, Yale University (2022)

“The Policy Sciences in Practice” Natural Resource Policy and Management Seminar, Yale University (2019)

“Reconciling Landownership and Sage-Grouse Management Designation Data” Ucross High Plains Stewardship Initiative Annual Research Symposium, Yale University (2019)

“Participatory Landscape Decision Making in Wassa Amenfi, Ghana” The Forests Dialogue Annual Board Meeting, New Haven, CT (2019)

“The Selective Memory of Malheur: Populism, Nativism, and the U.S. Settler State” Agrarian Societies Graduate Seminar, Yale University (2018)

“The Badger-Two Medicine: Permanent Protection and the Future of a Sacred Landscape” Western Case Studies Graduate Seminar, Yale University (2017)

*Conference Presentations:*

“Challenges to High Elevation Ecosystems in the GYE” 15th Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Biennial Science Conference, Bozeman, MT (2022)

“Land Use Decision Making in Wassa Amenfi, Ghana: A Landscape Approach” International Society of Tropical Foresters Conference, Yale University (2019)

**Trainings**

Undoing Racism and Community Organizing, The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, New Haven, CT (2019)

Transformational Leadership in the Public Square, Yale Divinity School (2019)

**Professional Memberships**

American Association of Geographers

Ecological Society of America

Society of Policy Scientists