

Shared Landscapes in Yellowstone

Taylor Ferguson, Restoration Ecology '23



An important aspect of WRFI's Restoration Ecology course is hands-on participation in important ongoing restoration projects in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. These projects allow students to see firsthand how humans, animals, and the land interact with one another, and how those relations can be improved. These projects resonated with Taylor Ferguson, who will be returning to one of the project sites as an intern this summer.

Taylor and her classmates visited Anderson Ranch in Paradise Valley while on course and had the opportunity to learn about the ranchers' sustainable practices there. Malou Anderson-Ramirez works with her family to raise cattle in wolf and grizzly territory. Rather than dominate nature, the Andersons work to prevent predation of livestock by coexisting more harmoniously with wildlife. After connecting with Malou this winter, Taylor is joining the ranch as the Tom Miner Basin Association Summer Intern. She looks forward to learning more about the ranch's practices and seeing a new group of WRFI students come through the area on the Restoration Ecology courses this summer.

"I am so excited to get to work with ranchers who approach the land in a spiritual way, utilizing traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous involvement in their practices. All in all, none of this would have happened without my initial connection through WRFI!"



Taylor Ferguson is a student at the University of Montana, double majoring in Dance and Wildlife Biology. She is an alumna of Restoration Ecology '23 and stays active on campus by promoting the benefits of dance and outdoor education in changing peoples' perceptions of the natural world.