

MEET OUR PANELISTS

About Chet Work

Chet Work is the Executive Director for Gallatin Valley Land Trust, he has spent the last 25 years working in conservation, a majority of that time within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Chet has served in leadership roles for the Nature Conservancy and the Teton Regional Land Trust in Driggs prior to joining GVLТ. Chet has been with GVLТ for the last 5 years and has grown the organization's ability to help local landowners conserve their land and to help our community acquire parks and trails. Critical growth for GVLТ has been the opening of an office in Livingston and increasing GVLТ's ability to leverage federal funding for local conservation.

About Cindy Regal

Cindy Riegel has dedicated her career to integrating science, policy, and political action to achieve conservation results. From reintroducing peregrine falcons on a remote mountain near Lander, WY in the early nineties to a 10-year stint as an elected official for Teton County, ID, Cindy has weathered many storms while working to preserve the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Cindy's knowledge and experience with local land use planning has inspired her to start a collaborative movement that highlights the critical role local communities, organizations, and elected officials play in safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the GYE.

About Deb Davidson

As Chief Strategy Officer at the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Deb Davidson directs program development, fundraising, external relationships, and partnerships to advance the organization's connectivity conservation programs. Her work in conservation for more than 20 years has largely focused on the protection of wildlife corridors and large landscapes, with a specialty in network development, connectivity policy, and science in western North America.

About Eric Ruark

Eric Ruak is a national expert on how lifestyle migration from one part of the country to another, (i.e. wealthy folk choosing a place for lifestyle decisions), results in bigger sprawl impacts. Eric Ruark is the Director of Research and Sustainability, and Director of Public Relations for NumbersUSA. He has worked on immigration policy since 2008. He has a B.A. and an M.A. in History from Virginia Commonwealth University and completed his comprehensive Ph.D. exams in 20th Century European History, with a concentration in the history of science, technology, and the environment at the University of Maryland. Eric has researched and published extensively on U.S. immigration policy, and his work has been cited in national and international media reports. He testified before the Senate on agricultural guest worker programs in 2011.

About Randy Carpenter

Randy Carpenter has had a career working with community leaders in the Northern Rockies, helping them understand the challenges that come with growth and change, and tailoring locally based solutions to address those challenges. Randy was a community planner in Iowa, followed by 13 years with the Sonoran Institute's Northern Rockies Program. Randy served as a Project Director for Future West from 2014 to 2022, providing information and assistance to fast-growing counties and cities in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and beyond. After serving as the Executive Director of Headwaters Community Housing Trust, he is now the Executive Director of Friends of Park County, a non-profit organization in Livingston dedicated to helping Park County and Livingston develop smart, informed land use policies that protect the integrity of the wildlife habitat and water resources of Park County.