

LM 39 Natural Resources Day Speaker Bios

*Thank you to our speakers for generously donating their time
and expertise to support Leadership Missoula*



David Brooks, Executive Director – Montana Trout Unlimited

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David Brooks most recently served Montana TU as Conservation Director and became Executive Director in May 2017. He is a trained environmental historian who studied Superfund sites and watershed issues. As part of earning his PhD in history at the University of Montana, David wrote the book on Superfund cleanup of the Milltown Dam site on the Clark Fork. Since moving to Missoula in 2000, he has walked, jogged, pedaled, paddled, rowed, hunted, skied and ogled as many wild places and open spaces in the state as possible, most enjoyably when he's in the company of his wife, daughter, dog, and friend

Ed Wetherbee – Old Sawmill District

Email: ewetherbee@cvmequity.com

Ed has 30 years of experience managing VC funds and portfolio companies; as founder, builder, president and director of entrepreneurial companies; and as a mentor to others. He is co-founder and developer of the Old Sawmill District, a 45-acre, mixed-use urban Superfund remediation and redevelopment of formerly blighted industrial land in central Missoula, Montana. He is also co-founder of the Northern Rockies Regional Center in Missoula and Zhuhai, China, sponsoring projects for low-cost mezzanine funding.

Paige Judnich – Cascadia Management Group

Email: paige@cascadiamg.com

Paige joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant in 2020 to provide ad hoc HR support in partnership with the rest of the Cascadia team. Paige offers almost a decade in corporate Human Resources and Talent Acquisition. Her specialties include HR leadership training, HR infrastructure development and support, employee relations, and culture building.

Starting with her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Puget Sound, Paige has always had a passion for effective and productive communication in the workplace. She provides expert guidance through difficult situations and offers accessible frameworks for her clients to use for future situations.

Paige has provided HR support to Montana businesses since 2003 and is proud to raise her two daughters with her husband in Missoula.

When Paige isn't supporting clients; she can be found running her two kids around town, substitute teaching, walking her dog around the neighborhood, or coordinating her church's youth group

Cory Miller – Grass Valley Farms

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I grew up in the city of Missoula with a small garden where I helped my mother grow flowers. My interest in gardening waned, as I discovered sports. In high school, I volunteered to build a garden for a group home that housed disabled adults. One of the greatest moments in my life was being invited back that fall for a dinner prepared from everything we planted. I went to college to study business and simultaneously started a commercial cleaning company. I spent a lot of my time making natural cleaning products, that I could use in the business and developed an interest in chemistry and biology. Later on, I focused my efforts into Pure Air

Solutions, a mold remediation company that focused on removing mold and other microbials. As I studied molds and their affect on indoor air quality, I started to see that there were far more beneficial fungi than bad fungi and that fungi held a lot of the keys to soil health and improvement. I studied with Dr. Elaine Ingham and read Dr. David Johnson. I immersed myself in learning everything that I could about soil health and how to implement these theories. I quickly learned that there was not a lot of information or tools available to someone wanting to scale 1000 acres quickly to regenerative agriculture. I made soil health our focus, developing tools to help us effectively add biology to our soil, as often as possible. Every decision we make on the farm has to answer this question, “Does this improve the overall quality of our soil.” If it does we keep it, if it doesn’t then we move on.

Whitney Schwab – Five Valley Land Trust

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Whitney brings a passion for conservation and over 20 years of experience in nonprofit development and organizational management to her role as Executive Director. Previous to her role as Executive Director, Whitney served as Five Valleys’ Philanthropy Director for five years, where she played a key role in community conservation efforts in the Flint Creek Valley and on Mount Dean Stone. Whitney holds an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana, and a BS in Natural Resources Recreation Management from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Having grown up on six acres that backed up to protected open space, Whitney holds the mission of Five Valleys close to her heart. She is pleased to be able to have recreated that childhood connection by living at the base of Mount Jumbo, and having daily access to some of Missoula’s best open space.

Zachary Bashoor, Owner – Montana Forest Consultants

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Befitting his work, Zack’s love for forests and Montana is bolstered through his roots. Zack's education started at the University of Montana in Forest Resource Management and Wildland Fire Science. Throughout college he was a firefighter for the United States Forest Service where he logged five-thousand hours on the fireline in 6 different states.

At 21 years old, Zack started a forestry consulting company, Montana Forest Consultants, servicing Montana landowners in making land management decisions. Zack’s experience in business, wildfire, and conservation, coupled with a passion for forest restoration has rehabilitated thousands of acres of invaluable forest land.

Zack is an avid Griz fan and outdoorsman who loves Missoula for its sense of community and character. As a young professional in a leadership position, he maintains that the largest problems are solved with the best solutions by pulling opposing viewpoints to the table together and finding middle ground.

Zack is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Forest Resources Committee for the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Montana Conservation Corps and the Montana Tree Farm System, is a voting member of the Resource Advisory Council for the Lolo National Forest, a graduate of Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership (REAL) Montana Class IV from Montana State University Extension, and serves on the Governor's Future Fisheries Review Panel.