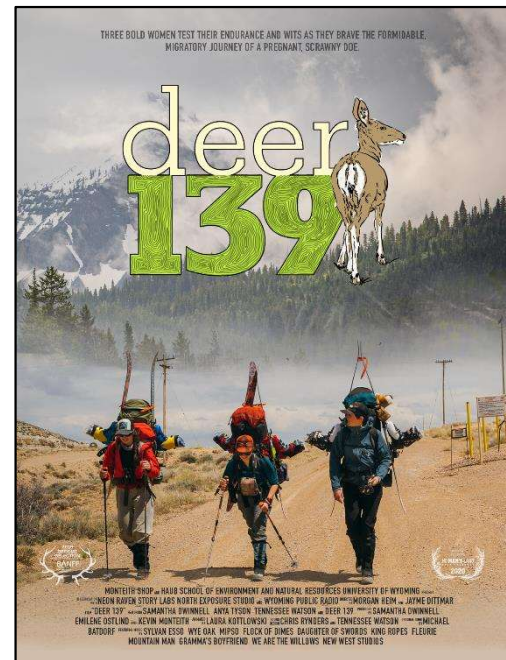


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## Samantha Dwinnell

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
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Samantha (Sam) is a wildlife researcher working with Dr. Kevin Monteith where she tackles a variety of questions relating to the nutritional relationships between wildlife and the environments they rely on. With an eye toward wildlife management and conservation, Sam's research is focused on how changes in environmental conditions – both natural and human – caused – influence the behaviors, life histories, and survival of individual animals and populations. Her graduate work at the University of Wyoming explored how behavioral responses to human disturbance associated with energy development influenced the nutritional interactions between mule deer and the sagebrush habitats of their winter ranges in western Wyoming.



### ***Title: Breaking Down the Walls of the Ivory Tower: Engaging New Audiences with Stories of Science***

Abstract: According to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, wildlife-related management and policy should be based on scientific evidence. Yet, policy in wildlife management is often shaped by public sentiment, which may not always be scientifically well informed. Although wildlife researchers are effective at disseminating information within the scientific community through peer-reviewed publications, they frequently fail to communicate research findings to non-scientific audiences. To promote broader impacts of wildlife research, creative efforts that bring scientific theory and empirical evidence into public domain are greatly needed. To share our stories of the ecology of migratory wildlife with a broader audience, we created a conservation-adventure film, “Deer 139”, which follows a team of women as they traced the migration route of a radio-collared mule deer. Our target audience was outdoor recreationists, who interact with wild landscapes but may not be connected to the ecology and natural history of the places within which they recreate. Using the powerful tool of visual storytelling, this film shares the firsthand experience of long-distance migration through the lenses of a scientist, naturalist, and journalist. Our objectives were to: (1) engage new audiences with discoveries in wildlife ecology, (2) instill an appreciation for a commonplace species, such as mule deer, and (3) provide broader audiences with an argument for landscape conservation. As wildlife research and management advances, our aim is to use educational tools, such as “Deer 139”, to encourage broader application of scientific research into shaping policy in wildlife management.

The link to the trailer of Deer 139: <https://www.deer139film.org/watch>

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