



Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural
Resources, Energy, and the Environment

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL

The Wyss Scholars Program for United States Land Conservation Cohort: 2026-2027

Program Overview

The **Wyss Foundation** is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to United States land conservation. The **Wyss Scholars Program** seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders focused on U.S. land conservation by providing financial support to students who are committed to careers focused on land conservation. It is expected that Wyss Scholars will seek careers in the land conservation field. Qualifying employment includes federal or state agencies or a nonprofit organization with a mission to further land conservation in the United States.

Two Wyss Scholars will be selected each year based on leadership potential, commitment to furthering land conservation in the United States, commitment to pursuing a career in nonprofit or public sector conservation, financial need, and academic strength. *All students interested in land conservation and sustainability issues are encouraged to apply.*

**The Getches-Wilkinson Center is now accepting applications for the
2026-2027 Cohort through Friday, January 16th.**

Eligibility

All current 2L J.D. candidates at the University of Colorado Law School are eligible to apply. Two Law School students will be selected each year to the Wyss Scholars program.

Program Benefits

The Wyss Scholars Program **covers up to a third of the tuition and expenses** of getting a Law degree (paid as one sixth tuition while enrolled and one sixth as a postgraduate award). **Scholars are also awarded up to \$7,500** to cover their summer internship to provide conservation work experience.

The Wyss Scholars Program also **provides access to a broad community of current and past Scholars**; people who share an interest and passion for conservation and are working to protect western landscapes.

Tuition Award

While enrolled the law students will receive a tuition award equal to one sixth of the total cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies). This award will be divided among the student's remaining semesters.

Summer Stipend

Stipend (\$7,500) for a required summer internship between the 2L and 3L year, with a nonprofit or public sector conservation organization dedicated to U.S. Land Conservation.

Post Graduate Awards

After graduation, Wyss Scholars must commit to work for a nonprofit organization or governmental agency devoted to furthering U.S. land conservation. A post-graduation award totaling one sixth the cost of attendance plus 20% of that amount payable in two installments over 24 months, and intended for use by the student to repay federal student loans incurred while obtaining their degree. The first post-graduation award is made after one year of successful employment with a qualifying employer. The second post-graduation award is made after the second year of successful employment with a qualifying employer.

Small Grant Award

An additional \$3,000 may be awarded at the discretion of the Program Administrator (GWC) to sponsor training and professional development activities for the Wyss Scholar and student colleagues. This award is shared by two Wyss Scholars.

Wyss Scholar Network

Membership in the Wyss Scholars network (students and alumni from University of Michigan, Yale University, University of Montana, Northern Arizona University, and Lewis and Clark College).

*Financial need and other conditions may apply in individual circumstances. Check with the Program Administrator (GWC) for questions

Application Instructions

Application Due Date: Friday, January 16, 2026

The following items must be completed and submitted as one PDF e-mail attachment to GWC Assistant Director, Annie Carlozzi at annie.carlozzi@colorado.edu by 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2026.

1. An **essay/personal statement** (500-word limit) detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of U.S. Land Conservation, and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field.
2. A professional **resume** (two pages maximum).
3. An outline of your **remaining course of study and summer 2026 internship possibilities** you are exploring (maximum of one page).
4. A **letter of recommendation** addressing your future as a conservation leader.
5. Undergraduate and Colorado Law **transcripts** (unofficial transcripts are accepted).

Interviews

Semi-finalist applicants will be scheduled for a half-hour interview in February. The interviews will be conducted by a committee to include the GWC/Program Administrative staff, Colorado Law Faculty, and may also include a representative(s) from the Wyss Foundation, and an external organization.

Selection

The interview committee will consider the students' applications and interview results, and recommend finalists to the Foundation. Award decisions will be made by late February 2026. Students will be notified via e-mail shortly thereafter.

The Wyss Scholars Program is open to individuals regardless of race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or gender. We encourage individuals from groups historically underrepresented in environmental conservation to apply.

Contact Information

For further information, please feel free to contact GWC Assistant Director, Annie Carlozzi at annie.carlozzi@colorado.edu or 303-492-1286.