

**Ellen Yeatman***University of Wyoming*

Ellen Yeatman, from Little Rock, Arkansas, completed her BS in Environmental Science at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. In 2013, she moved to Wyoming and quickly claimed the state as home. The rivers of the arid west sparked her scientific curiosity. Ellen worked as a research assistant for Professor Kirsten Kapp at Central Wyoming College for two years conducting a microplastic pollution study on the Snake River. Ellen and Kirsten published their research in *Environmental Pollution* in June of 2018. In 2017, Ellen worked as a water quality technician with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. She spent the majority of her summer with DEQ on the Green River reporting on the physical, chemical and biological health of the Upper Green River, but Ellen wanted to know more about human decision-making impacts on river health. Serendipity persevered and Ellen joined forces with University of Wyoming Professor Kristi Hansen, a water resource economist with the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, as a Master student to analyze the ecological and economic trade-offs of flood, sprinkler, and water conservation irrigation practices that ranchers face in the Upper Green River Basin of Wyoming.