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Kristi Hansen is an Associate Professor and Extension Water Resource Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Hansen has a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from University of California, Davis. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., she worked in the electricity industry in the Pacific Northwest, for a trade organization representing publicly-owned electric utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and municipalities.



Dr. Hansen's research is in water resource economics, "payment for ecosystem services" markets, wildlife habitat conservation policy, and experimental economics. Her extension programs seek to inform and improve regional decision-making in water management and allocation and terrestrial habitat conservation. Current research/extension projects focus on analyzing the risks and impacts of different ways that Wyoming and other upper Colorado River Basin states could meet their obligations to downstream states under the Colorado River Compact. Other recent studies investigate alternative groundwater management strategies and collective decision-making over the Wyoming portion of the Ogallala Aquifer; and market design for a compensatory mitigation conservation program in Wyoming.