

deer 139



About the Film

To survive, she must travel 85 miles, traversing formidable mountain passes and braving the unforgiving elements of springtime in the rugged Wyoming backcountry, and she does it malnourished and pregnant. This is the migration story of Deer 139. Now, a team of intrepid women hike, ski, and packraft her migratory path to understand why and how this deer, and others, migrate to live in an ever-changing landscape. As the team of scientists and adventurers

connect with the wild places that Deer 139 calls home, they unveil the mysteries of long-distance wildlife migration and make a case for sustaining intact landscapes.

The Team



Sam Dwinnell, expedition leader, studied the behaviors, habitats, and life-histories of Wyoming Range mule deer from 2013-2020 as a research scientist with the Haub School. She has captured Canada lynx in Colorado's mountains and tracked bighorn sheep in the Tetons and currently studies reindeer in northern Norway.



Anya Tyson, naturalist and adventurer, thrives at the intersection of conservation and communication. Wielding an accordion and a harmonica, she uses music to engage hundreds of volunteers. A former wildlife technician, she loves to bushwhack, cover ground, and use binoculars whenever possible.



Tennessee Jane Watson, deer impersonator, is an award-winning documentarian and an avid long-distance runner who's completed two NYC Marathons, the Boston Marathon, and countless 50k trail races.

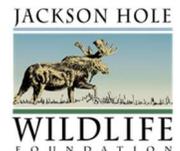


Jayme Dittmar, director, is an Alaska-based outdoors enthusiast and visual storyteller. She has produced national award-winning shorts for the Department of the Interior, Planet Forward, and Montana PBS. When not filming or editing photos, Jayme can be found behind a dog team, hunting, fishing, or climbing.



Morgan Heim, director, creates films that weave together the stories of wildlife and humans sharing our planet. Mo is a Senior Fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers.

Sponsors



uwo.edu/haub/muledeer

Behind the Scenes

The [Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources](#) and [Wyoming Public Media](#) at the University of Wyoming produced Deer 139 to advance our mission of sharing new scientific understanding with a broad audience.



The Research

Deer 139 highlights work from the [Monteith Shop](#), a University of Wyoming research group focused on understanding how links between individual animals and their environments influences behavior, growth, reproduction, and survival in a changing world. The goal of this work is to provide a scientific basis for management and conservation of large mammals, including mule deer.

Deer 139 herself is part of the shop's [Wyoming Range Mule Deer Project](#). This research centers on tracking mule deer throughout their lives, while assessing their nutritional condition, movement, habitat use, and survival, among other elements. Since launching this work in 2013, researchers in the Monteith Shop have monitored 265 adult female mule deer across various years and ages, along with 439 fawns, many of whom they continue to track. More than 95 percent of the deer in the Wyoming Range populations migrate, with distances ranging from less than 5 miles to more than 100 miles.

The Producers

Click here to meet [Dr. Kevin Monteith](#), producer and science advisor to the Deer 139 film.

Click here to meet [Emilene Ostlind](#), behind-the-scenes grant writing, logistical support, and shepherding the film through the festival circuit.

The Filmmakers

Two crackshot women filmmakers—[Morgan Heim](#) and [Jayme Dittmar](#)—hiked the whole route with the expedition team and carried all their cameras, tripods, batteries, chargers, a drone, etc. in their packs along the way. As directors and creators, they brought Deer 139's story to life for the big screen.

Deer 139

- Year of birth: 2014 (she will turn 7 this June)
- Life span: The oldest mule deer ever found in Monteith Shop studies was 15
- Fawns: Since the Monteith Shop first collared Deer 139 in 2017, she has reared 1 fawn to weaning age
- Current status: In March of 2021, Deer 139 had 5% body fat (down from 14% in December) and was pregnant with twins

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Click here to [donate to support the Monteith Shop's ongoing research and outreach](#) via the UW Foundation.