

Jordan Smith

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**2025 Faculty Researcher of the Year
Award Nominee**

**S.J & Jessie E. Quinney College of
Natural Resources | Environment
and Society**



An interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Smith integrates econometric modeling, geospatial analytics, and social-ecological frameworks to address pressing natural resource challenges. His research examines how environmental changes and shifting population dynamics affect common-pool resources, including outdoor recreation opportunities and naturally dark skies—elements that are fundamental to Utah’s quality of life and economic vitality. Through groundbreaking studies on monitoring and managing outdoor recreation across the West, his work underscores the importance of balancing environmental stewardship with economic growth. A champion of collaboration and innovation, Dr. Smith has spearheaded projects such as the Basecamp Conference and Workshop, uniting stakeholders to develop creative solutions for outdoor recreation management. Through these efforts, he exemplifies Utah State University’s commitment to fostering innovation, cultivating talent, and strengthening the state’s position as a national leader in sustainable development and economic competitiveness.