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Mammals on Mountaintops: How Climate and Geography Drive Diversity in the Alpine

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University of Wyoming – National Park Service Harlow Summer Seminars at the AMK Ranch

THURSDAY, July 10TH

“MAMMALS ON MOUNTAINTOPS: HOW CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY DRIVE DIVERSITY IN THE ALPINE”

**Dr. Hayley Lanier
University of Wyoming at Casper**

Montane species are in a precarious position because of climate variability. Mammals that specialize on alpine habitats, such as pikas and marmots, often show great geographic variation, with coat colors and calls that differ by region. Part of this variation is driven by the fact that these species specialize on ‘sky islands’ – isolated alpine habitats separated from other similar habitats by broad swaths of lowlands that are difficult to traverse due to temperature and vegetation gradients. Unfortunately, the factors that have driven variation within these species across the landscape may also be contributing to extinction of populations as temperatures rise over time. In this talk, I will explore how climate and landscape have shaped variation within pikas over the long term, and how warmer summers and warmer winters may be affecting populations in the short term.



We will have a barbecue at 5:30 with hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, chips, salads and dessert for a \$5 donation. The talk starts at 6:30 in the historic Berol Lodge at the AMK Ranch. Turn right in the Leek's Marina parking lot in Grand Teton National Park. Reservations not required.