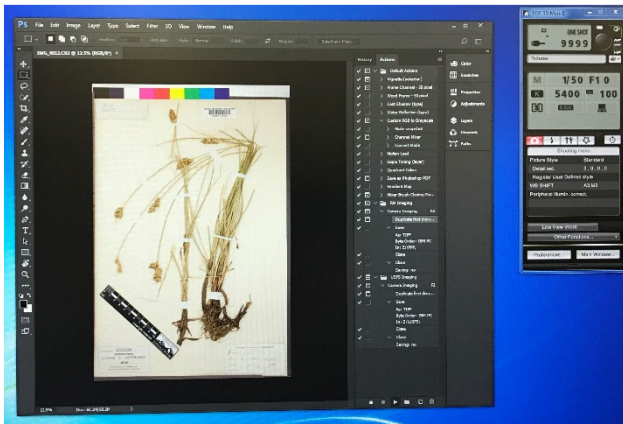


RM's massive contribution to the SoRo project

The five-year, NSF-funded Consortium of Southern Rocky Mountain Herbaria Project wrapped up this summer (see Dec 2017 newsletter and www.soroherbaria.org), and the final numbers have been tallied. Project partners included 38 universities, botanical gardens, national parks and Native American Nations. The RM contributed 670,000 specimens to the 1.7 million specimen effort.



A newly imaged specimen gets added to the database.

As a result of this grant, the RM:

- barcoded and imaged **366,812** specimens
- updated **297,125** records for imaging
- databased **43,533** specimens
- georeferenced **36,552** specimens
- employed **21** students

The numbers of databased and georeferenced specimens may seem low, but that is because RM was already a leader among herbaria when it comes to making specimen data available to the global community.

RM volunteers also contributed to this outstanding accomplishment.

December 9, 2021

Director's Note

It has been great to have people back in the herbarium this fall! We've had several researchers from both near and far visit to work with the collections, and it has been especially nice to welcome back some of our volunteers. We are hopeful that we can continue to safely increase our level of in-person activities, and we welcome those interested in visiting or volunteering to reach out. We'd love to see you.

I'd like to share some of the notable activities of the fall:

We have enjoyed having multiple classes tour the herbarium including both traditional herbarium users like the Plant Diversity & Systematics and Rangeland Ecosystems & Plants classes, as well as more non-traditional courses like Life Science for Elementary Education Majors and Introduction to Museology.

Members of the UW Natural Sciences Collections Partnership, including the RM, submitted a grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services to bring virtual museum tours to public libraries across the state. If funded, this would greatly increase opportunities for rural Wyoming communities to engage with the rich histories archived in our vast natural science collections on campus.

The RM Team enjoyed a visit from the new BLM Wyoming State Office Botany Program Lead, Kimberly Wahl-Villarreal, where we learned about BLM priorities, and strategized about future directions and research collaborations.

Dave Tank, Director

RM Faces: Matthew Bisk



Matt is a Master's student in the UW Math and Science Teaching Center, whose graduate assistantship with the Biodiversity Institute has brought him to the RM. Matt grew up in New

Jersey, outside of Philadelphia. His interest in exploring the intersection of education and the environment eventually led him to UW, after several years of teaching secondary science. Matt is putting his experience to work creating an outreach kit of RM materials that can be sent to K-12 classrooms throughout the state, to provide students who can't visit an opportunity to learn from the RM. Accompanying this kit are a series of standards-aligned lesson plans and ideas to support implementation. Matt says "I love the care and dedication to the natural sciences that everyone in the RM shares. This translates into excitement and passion for spreading scientific knowledge to as many students as possible." We are very pleased that the RM can benefit in this important way from Matt's skills—Thank you, Matt!



Looking for the perfect tree?

Being new to the area and not sure where to go, Dave used the RM specimen database to find a suitable locality in the Medicine Bow National Forest to cut his family's first Wyoming Christmas tree (*Abies bifolia*). Not surprisingly, it was one of Ernie's collections that led them in the right direction!

You, too, can take advantage of RM expertise to see and identify some charismatic plants in winter! Join us, UW Extension and the US Forest Service for a **Winter Tree and Shrub Walk**, January 30, 11 am, in the Laramie Range. Visit <http://rockymountainherbarium.org/index.php/workshops-events> for more information and to register. Registration opens Jan. 10th.

Warm wishes for the holiday season from the RM Team!

(L to R, back) Dave Tank, Ben Legler, Greg Brown, Ernie Nelson; (L to R, front) Dorothy Tuthill, Bonnie Heidel

Not pictured: Larry Schmidt and Kristina Hufford