The students are streaming back to Logan for the start of spring semester. After a wonderfully white Christmas, the weather has turned balmy. This lack of snow does not bode well for water supplies. We hope the Spring Runoff Conference focus on drought will provide new insights. Best wishes to all for 2015.

Utah Section of the Society for Range Management

The Utah Section of the Society for Range Management met in Logan last month. WILD students competed in the Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam contests against BYU, SUU, and UVU. USU students teams won both the Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam contest. Special thanks go to Beth Burritt, who did an excellent job of arranging and coordinating the meeting.

WILD Curriculum Revised

This past semester, students learned about range and forest plants of the west in two newly revised courses. Local adaptations to fire, drought, beetles, and pathogens were highlighted. The plant identification final included 85 species, with many students identifying almost all of them correctly.

Environmental Writer comes to QCNR

Lynn Ingram, author of The West Without Water, will visit the College during NR Week this spring. Dr. Ingram is Professor of Earth and Planetary Science at UC-Berkeley and will present a University Colloquium on Droughts and Megafloods at noon on April 1. The undergraduate student clubs in the Quinney College will sponsor her visit.

Alumni Spotlight

Sheila Miller, established the Joseph Ray Miller Scholarship, to provide resources for one of our students to work as an intern in one of the National Parks in Utah. Sheila and Ray spent their careers working for at several NPS facilities and wanted to provide similar opportunities for current students. Liz Kirkham Sodja (right), received the Miller Scholarship and worked as an intern at Zion National Park conducting youth education programs.