



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON **OSTROM WORKSHOP**

## **Ostrom Workshop Impact Stories**

### **Water Governance in the Rural American West**

*Workshop experience for practitioner produces a book for general readers*

The Commons Governance Program at the Ostrom Workshop presents:

An in-person book presentation and discussion with author **Anne MacKinnon** in conversation with **Bill Blomquist**, a water policy and governance expert and former Commons Governance Program director at the Ostrom Workshop

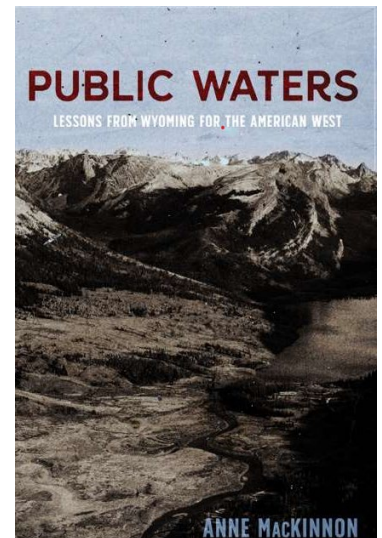
**Wednesday, October 27, 2021: 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET**  
**Ostrom Workshop, hybrid: Ostrom Room and Zoom**  
[Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



#### ***PUBLIC WATERS***

Lessons from Wyoming  
for the American West

*Anne MacKinnon*  
University of New  
Mexico Press, May  
2021



Anne MacKinnon has a passion for translating natural resource management issues for general audiences, to give them the tools to address key problems. As a journalist making her home in Wyoming for forty years, she became increasingly interested in how societies in arid places manage a resource as vital and scarce as water.

Her problem-solving orientation has been reinforced with a research stay at the Ostrom Workshop and her connection to other Workshop fellows throughout the years. Armed with a law degree and eventually a PhD in natural resource economics from Humboldt University (Germany) through connections made at the Workshop, she wrote up her work in a book for the general public.

After more than 20 years of research, she concluded that water in Wyoming is governed under a community management system which distributes key rights to water between the public and individual water users. Treating Wyoming as a case study for vast rural areas in the American West, she argues in her book that most people in those areas intrinsically recognize that the public retains significant rights to water which can be crucial to dealing with challenges like climate change.

Ostrom Workshop  
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[ostromworkshop.indiana.edu](http://ostromworkshop.indiana.edu)

*If you would like to attend this event in person, please email Allison Sturgeon, [sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu), for availability. Otherwise please connect via the Zoom link above.*