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Dr. Charles R. Preston

**The Willis McDonald, IV Senior Curator
Draper Natural History Museum**



Charles R. Preston, PhD is the Senior Curator of Natural Science and Founding Curator-in-Charge of the Draper Natural History Museum and its Draper Museum Raptor Experience. He received national and international acclaim for his “visionary” leadership of Draper design and development (1998 – 2002), and the Draper has become a model for a new genre of highly immersive natural science museums focused on communicating the process and product of science and the relationships binding people and nature.

Preston established and continues to oversee all Draper Museum activities, including an innovative suite of lecture series, field trips, exhibits, and other public programming, field and collections-based scientific research, and acquisition and curation of audiovisual materials and scientific specimens that document environmental status and change in the Greater Yellowstone region. All these activities serve to advance science-based understanding and conservation of natural resources in Greater Yellowstone and beyond. He is featured in the 2017 book, *People of Yellowstone*.

Trained as a wildlife ecologist, Preston continues to conduct research on the influence of climate, landscape characteristics, and human attitudes and activities on wildlife, and established a long-term monitoring program focused on golden eagles nesting in Wyoming’s Bighorn Basin in 2009. He is widely recognized as a leading authority on wildlife and human/wildlife relationships in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He has also developed

wide-ranging partnerships between the Draper Museum and several universities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and foundations, such as the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, to foster innovative research and exploration on conservation issues affecting Greater Yellowstone and other globally significant conservation areas.

Prior to his current appointment, Preston was Curator of Ornithology and Chair of the Department of Zoology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Before that he was a tenured Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He holds or has held adjunct faculty appointments in the Haub School for Environment and Natural Resources, at the University of Wyoming, Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Colorado (Boulder and Denver campuses), Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Denver, and Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He has authored, co-authored, or edited seven books and several dozen scientific and popular essays and articles covering a wide variety of topics.