

Michael K. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Schwartz is an internationally recognized scientist and research leader dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary science and biodiversity conservation. With over two decades of experience spanning academia, federal agencies, and international research collaborations, he has successfully built and led programs that integrate molecular ecology, conservation biology, and applied policy to address global conservation challenges.

Dr. Schwartz currently serves as Program Manager for the Wildlife Ecology Program and the Forest and Woodland Ecosystem Program at the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station. He is also the founder and director of the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, and the Biodiversity Research and Policy Center.

Dr. Schwartz has authored over 225 peer-reviewed publications in top-tier journals, such as *Nature*, *Ecology*, and *American Naturalist* with his work cited over 24,000 times. His pioneering research on landscape genetics, species connectivity, and environmental DNA has led to advancements in endangered species management. His ability to secure largescale funding from U.S. federal agencies and international granting institutions demonstrates his strategic expertise in sustaining high-impact research initiatives.

Dr. Schwartz is deeply committed to mentorship, institutional leadership, and fostering inclusive research environments. As a Distinguished Faculty Affiliate at the University of Montana for over 25 years, he advises graduate students, co-develops strategic research initiatives, and cultivates a new generation of conservation scientists. He works closely with Native American and Indigenous communities to support collaborative research efforts and has secured funding for Native American student mentorship programs.

Dr. Schwartz earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana, an M.S. in Biology from American University, and a B.A. in Psychology from Colby College. At PBRC/SOEST, Dr. Schwartz is excited to contribute his leadership and expertise to advance interdisciplinary research and ensure that scientific discovery directly benefits both local and global communities.