

LEONARD & SANDY SARGENT EVST GRADUATE FELLOW

2021-22

Gardner Dee

Gardner Dee was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he developed a deep love for the Rocky Mountains and Western rivers. With long-standing family connections around Flathead Lake, he feels lucky to have grown up fishing many of Western Montana's famous rivers and a soft spot for that area.

In 2018, Gardner graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington with a BA degree in Environmental Humanities. After graduation, he moved to Durango, Colorado where Gardner became heavily involved in a local chapter of Trout Unlimited — served on their board of directors and was appointed conservation chair. "I worked on multiple projects involving both significant fieldwork and stakeholder workgroups," he said. These included: habitat characterization fieldwork and water quality sampling on high elevation headwater streams for native trout reintroduction and Outstanding Waters designations; volunteer consultation for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site; and a statewide policy committee mobilizing chapter members throughout Colorado to speak out on issues impacting cold water fisheries.

The Sargent University of Montana Environmental Studies Program (EVST) Graduate Fellowship has made it possible for Gardner to join the EVST Graduate Program in 2021. While at the UM and beyond, he hopes to continue working with Trout Unlimited and other similar conservation organizations.

