



# Wyoming SCORP

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
2019 - 2023





# Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

The 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared by the Planning and Grants Section within Wyoming's Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails. Updates to the trails chapter were completed by the Trails Section within the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails.

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*Wyoming SCORP document is available online at  
[wyoparks.org](http://wyoparks.org)*



# Table of Contents

Chapter 1 • Introduction.....	3
Chapter 2 • Description of State .....	13
Chapter 3 • Recreation Facilities and Needs ....	27
Chapter 4 • Trails .....	49
Chapter 5 • Goals and Priorities .....	67
Bibliography .....	75
Appendices .....	78
Appendix A. Providers' Survey .....	79
Appendix B. User Survey .....	85

# Chapter 1

## Introduction



# Introduction

The 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a guide for local, state and federal agencies in the development and provision of future outdoor recreation opportunities. The purpose of this five-year SCORP is to identify the outdoor recreation needs of the citizens and visitors to Wyoming and to develop a program to address those needs. The 2019 plan is the tenth in a series of SCORPs developed by the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR), Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails (SPHST) and Outdoor Recreation Office, as part of the state's ongoing and continuous commitment to providing high quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The SCORP gives an unprecedented opportunity to look at 50 years of outdoor recreation data and trends.

Wyoming's abundant outdoor recreational opportunities and acclaimed natural resources should be developed in a manner which allows the public access while maintaining the state's majestic outdoor landscapes. The outdoor recreation system in Wyoming is a complex and diverse structure. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the state's way of life. Participation in outdoor recreation has grown dramatically in recent decades. Beyond the wide variety of natural resources and recreational opportunities, there are many and significantly varying providers who are guided by legislative mandates and guidelines, market prices and/or agency goals and objectives. With a multiplicity of providers, the risks associated with services duplication, missed opportunities and coordination miscues threaten the quality and presentation of the state's recreation opportunities.

On the local level - towns, cities, counties, school boards, joint power boards and local municipalities provide opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the state. Wyoming's private sector recreation industry has great potential to provide needed facilities and services across the state. Within state government, SPHST, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) are all involved to varying degrees in providing outdoor recreation experiences. Federal agencies which provide Wyoming outdoor recreational experiences include the National Park Service (NPS), the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

One of the biggest changes since the completion of the last SCORP has been the creation of the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Office (OREC). The OREC was created as a recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Outdoor Recreation, is housed within the SPCR and is the first state-sponsored office in Wyoming to promote outdoor recreation on a statewide scale. Their mission is "to enhance and expand the outdoor recreation industry and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure/access within the beautiful state of Wyoming."

## What is a SCORP?

The SCORP is the only statewide document that attempts to bring together the wants and needs of the recreation users and providers. This document examines Wyoming's outdoor recreation

resources and is used as an information resource and guidance tool. It is an endeavor to help guide the recreation industry in Wyoming while protecting and enhancing Wyoming's natural resources. Most of the staffed state parks and state historic sites have master plans. Federal land managers have plans for their respective jurisdictional areas, but not an overall Wyoming plan. Many private providers have their marketing and/or long range goal plans, but an overall plan does not exist projecting opportunities and utilization in Wyoming.

Completion of the 2019 - 2023 SCORP ensures Wyoming's continued eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. This Wyoming plan will guide the wise investment and distribution of LWCF monies during the next five years based on the demonstrated needs of the citizens of the state.

## The Legal Federal Authority of SCORP

Legal authority for the development of the 2019 SCORP is Chapter 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program, Federal Assistance Manual, Volume (69). This chapter explains the objectives, eligibility requirements, and guidelines for the state and the NPS in preparing and reviewing the SCORP. The SCORP is required by Section 6 (d) of the LWCF Act of 1965, (USDA, NPS 1965) as amended.

As per Chapter 2.a.4, the minimum requirements of the plan are:

- A. The plan must describe the process and methodology(s) chosen by the State to meet the guidelines set forth in this section.
- B. The planning process must include ample opportunity for public participation involving all segments of the State's population.
- C. The plan must be comprehensive. The plan will be considered comprehensive if it:
  - (1) Identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance based upon, but not limited to, input from the public participation program. The plan must also identify those issues the State will address through the LWCF and those issues which may be addressed by other means;
  - (2) Evaluates demand, i.e., public outdoor recreation preferences, but not necessarily through quantitative statewide surveys or analyses; and
  - (3) Evaluates the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities, but not necessarily through quantitative statewide inventories.
- D. The plan must have an implementation program that identifies the State's strategies, priorities and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment. The implementation program must be of sufficient detail for use in developing project selection criteria for the State's Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) so projects submitted to NPS for LWCF funding will implement the SCORP.

- E. The plan must contain or reference a wetlands priority component consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. At a minimum, the wetlands priority component must:
- (1) Be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
  - (2) Provide evidence of consultation with the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources;
  - (3) Contain a listing of those wetland types which should receive priority for acquisition; and
  - (4) Consider outdoor recreation opportunities associated with its wetlands resources for meeting the State's public outdoor recreation needs.
- F. The plan may consist of a single document or may be comprised of multiple documents as long as the guidelines as set forth in this section are met.

## The Requirements of SCORP

LWCF guidelines (USDI, NPS 2008) specify that a SCORP be prepared every five (5) years, and that each SCORP:

- assess the supply and demand for outdoor recreation;
- contain or reference a wetlands component that identifies wetlands with high recreation values; and
- include an implementation component that outlines recommended actions consistent with plan goals.

## The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The SPHST, as the public agency charged with planning and outdoor recreation matters in the State, is the Governor’s designated agency to administer the LWCF in Wyoming. The LWCF enables SPHST to help fulfill its mandate by providing federal matching grants for park and outdoor recreation developments and a framework to ensure Wyoming’s resources are used efficiently and effectively.

The purpose of the LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, is “to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations . . . such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States by (1) providing funds for and authorizing Federal assistance to the States in planning, acquisition and development of needed land and water areas and facilities.” Participation in the LWCF program requires each state to complete a SCORP every five (5) years in order to maintain eligibility in the LWCF cost-sharing program.

Funding for the LWCF program is derived principally from revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts. Other sources of revenue include federal surplus property sales and federal motorboat fuel taxes.

The original LWCF Act provided a 60/40 split in funding, with the states receiving 60 percent of the total dollars. In 1976, the Act was amended to read “not less than 40 percent” to the federal agencies. Total amounts available to states are generally determined by an apportionment formula where 40 percent of available state money is prorated equally to each state; 25 percent is prorated on the basis of population size; 20 percent prorated on the total population residing in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and 15 percent is prorated by the total population to those states which have demonstrated need through previous compliance and efficient management

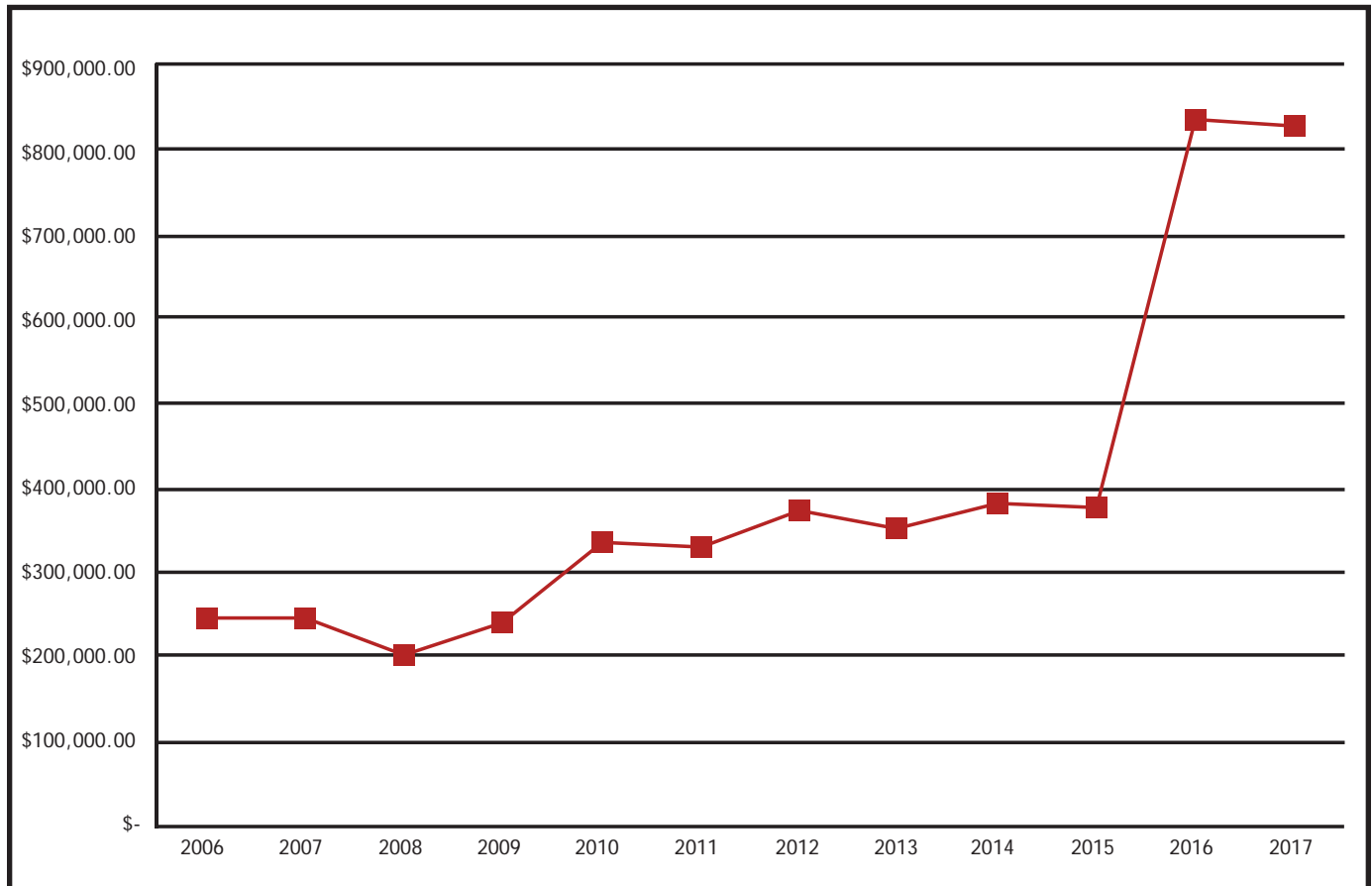
Table 1.1 Distribution of Land and Water Conservation Funds in Wyoming (1966-2018)

County	Dollar Amounts Awarded
Albany	\$1,631,210.59
Big Horn	\$1,161,118.19
Campbell	\$1,360,062.03
Carbon	\$1,534,471.59
Converse	\$1,609,640.53
Crook	\$1,261,463.93
Fremont	\$2,798,250.92
Goshen	\$540,996.50
Hot Springs	\$848,097.50
Johnson	\$609,725.00
Laramie	\$4,153,030.69
Lincoln	\$1,721,016.02
Natrona	\$1,819,186.02
Niobrara	\$314,861.65
Park	\$1,535,865.79
Platte	\$2,090,115.87
Sheridan	\$2,212,698.79
Sublette	\$502,683.81
Sweetwater	\$4,215,087.30
Teton	\$533,210.35
Uinta	\$1,265,247.74
Washakie	\$600,636.14
Weston	\$725,705.51
Other	\$2,221,078.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,265,460.53</b>



of the LWCF program. Available LWCF funds for Wyoming are comparatively minimal because of the low state population and as there are no criteria for the areal extent of each state.

Figure 1.1 • LWCF Apportionments to the State of Wyoming



The level of funding available through the LWCF program has increased over the last decade. It remains the largest funding source for federal matching monies for outdoor recreation development and improvements available to Wyoming communities.

LWCF monies available to the State of Wyoming can be used for development at state parks or can be distributed to county and local governments - including recognized Indian Tribes, recreation and school districts. Historically, the majority of LWCF monies made available to Wyoming have been provided to county and local municipalities (Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1). The distribution of monies within Wyoming also has been historically uneven and most likely affected by population size, administrative effectiveness, and awareness of local communities regarding LWCF funding availability and processes. Since the inception of the program Wyoming has received \$37,265,460.53.

YEAR	LWCF APPORTIONMENTS
2006	\$245,789.00
2007	\$245,787.00
2008	\$203,057.00
2009	\$238,446.00
2010	\$334,458.00
2011	\$329,322.00
2012	\$371,921.00
2013	\$352,470.00
2014	\$382,333.00
2015	\$377,085.00
2016	\$836,645.00
2017	\$831,216.00

## Trails Component

Recreational trails are an important component of outdoor recreation in Wyoming. The *2013 Wyoming Statewide Trails Inventory Report* documented a total of 2,160 trails providing approximately 10,500 miles available to users in Wyoming during all seasons. Federal agencies (including USFS, NPS, BLM, and the USFWS); state (including WGFD and WYDOT), county, municipal and local agencies; as well as private landowners administer these trails in conjunction with the SPHST and the Wyoming State Trails Program (WSTP).

The WSTP is responsible for managing winter snowmobile trails and off-road vehicle trail use. The mission of the WSTP is to facilitate the development and administration of a diverse motorized trail system for the enjoyment and benefit of the public through partnerships and collaboration. The WSTP enables both land managers and users to coordinate actions and enhance state trails.

## Wetlands Component

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department through the Wyoming Bird Conservation Partnership (WBHCP) drafted the statewide Wetlands Conservation Strategy in 2010 to guide statewide wetland conservation (WBHCP 2010). Regional plans were then developed to provide more specific guidance in priority wetland complexes identified in the statewide strategy. The conservation strategy serves the following purposes consistent with the requirements of SCORP:

- 1) Delineate important wetland and riparian habitat areas throughout Wyoming and assess their condition;
- 2) Identify factors or threats that may impair the functional integrity of wetlands and riparian habitats;
- 3) Establish statewide and regional conservation goals and priorities;
- 4) Formulate effective strategies to conserve and manage wetlands and riparian habitats;
- 5) Bring together existing conservation programs and initiatives to build and expand upon partnerships;
- 6) Assemble links to other resources and programs that can assist conservation planning, funding, and collaboration efforts; and
- 7) Provide a technical foundation for the wetland component of the Wyoming State Wildlife Action Plan.

In addition, the *Wyoming Wetland Program Plan 2018-2023* available at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-02/documents/wy\\_wpp\\_1-26-2018\\_final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-02/documents/wy_wpp_1-26-2018_final.pdf) builds upon the Conservation Strategy to create the framework for coordinating, tracking, and prioritizing actions that further the conservation of wetlands in Wyoming (WGFD 2018).

## The Planning Process

The initial phase of the SCORP development process was to inventory and analyze past SCORPs and other pertinent data. Participation by the public was a key component in the planning process. Surveys of Wyoming citizens and Wyoming recreation providers were conducted. The survey data collected are being used to continually assess the supply of outdoor recreation resources and to determine future demand for recreation facilities and areas in the state.

- The Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) conducted and distributed a random users' survey to determine the supply of outdoor recreation services in Wyoming and to gather insight into public perception on the needs and future demands for outdoor recreation facilities in the state. The size of the random sample was large enough to achieve a completion rate of 1,417 surveys to ensure the survey results represent the opinions of Wyoming statewide households with a 95% +/- 2.6% degree of confidence (WYSAC 2018).
- The providers' survey was an email survey of eleven (11) public recreation organizations throughout Wyoming. The recreation providers were selected to provide a cross-section of community sizes and geographic distribution.
- The 2013 inventory of Wyoming trails was planned and conducted as an update and extension of the *1998 Wyoming Statewide Trails Inventory* (Pindell et al. 1999). Basic procedures and methods for data collection for the 2013 inventory were modified from the original project.
- The *2011-2012 Wyoming Comprehensive Snowmobile Recreation Report* compiled economic impact information. Snowmobiling in Wyoming generates a total of \$175.5 million per year to the state's economy. The report has also compiled resident and non-resident spending and recreation patterns as well as priorities for future management of the State Snowmobile Program (Nagler et al. 2012).
- The *2012 Wyoming Comprehensive Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Report* compiled economic impact information. Off-road recreation in Wyoming generates a total of \$244.2 million per year to the state's economy. The report also compiled resident and non-resident use and spending patterns as well as demographics and priorities for future management of the State ORV Trails Program (Nagler et al. 2013).
- The *Wyoming State Trails Program: Motorized Trails Section 5-Year Plan 2018-2022* compiled information and public comment from all over the state to prepare a 5 year plan for motorized trail use.
- The *Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report 2018* was developed as a result of 2016 legislation to create a bicycle and pedestrian task force enacted by the Wyoming State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Mead. This group met for two years and completed their report of recommendations in 2018.

- The Economic Impact of Non-Motorized Trail Usage on National Forests in Wyoming was compiled to provide a starting point to report on the economic impact, use and spending patterns, and priorities for future management of the State Non-motorized Trails Program.
- In 2016, Governor Mead formed the Governor’s Outdoor Recreation Task Force. The task force was comprised of 26 individuals throughout the state representing over 50 organizations, businesses and government agencies. The task force also had an extensive public comment component. This group was tasked with developing recommendations to improve the Outdoor Recreation economy and opportunities in Wyoming. These recommendations were presented in *The Report of Governor’s Task Force on Outdoor Recreation*.
- A draft copy of the SCORP was provided to the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission and the Governor’s Office for review and comment.



# Introduction

These documents identified all recreation trends and issues. The SCORP planning process then addressed needs and priorities for federal, state and local governments for the next five years. The final phase for the plan recommends specific “actions” and development priorities for the next five years.

Priority recreation issues and projects were identified by analyzing survey data and considering the needs of and resources provided by agencies and organizations. The implementation plan includes a list of recommendations for each issue. A list of priority projects to address the recommendations is also identified. The recommendations and priority projects will be used to guide the allocation of LWCF monies to future applicants.

The intent of this plan is to develop a document that is “user friendly.” The primary focus of this 2019 version is to provide dialogue for both recreation users and outdoor recreation providers in an easy to read and understandable format.



# Chapter 2

## Description of State



## History



Archaeological research and historic documentation indicate ancestors of the American Indians inhabited present day Wyoming as far back as 11,500 years ago. The prehistoric cultural tradition of these ancient people was nomadic and survival relied on hunting and gathering. Harsh environmental conditions prevented most early inhabitants from permanently settling in Wyoming. Prehistoric tribes would extract from the land what was needed for survival and move on. Numerous cultural artifacts such as tipi rings and pit hearths have been found throughout Wyoming and provide stories from the past. During the 18th century several Indian tribes settled in Wyoming. The Arapaho and Cheyenne Indian tribes occupied the southeastern plains and North Platte River Basin areas of Wyoming. The Ogallala and Brule Sioux Indian tribes moved into Eastern Wyoming from South Dakota (Larson, 1990).

In the early 1800s the first white men came to Wyoming and explored this area. The United States acquired much of the area that became the State of Wyoming through the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Portions of Wyoming were also part of the Oregon Territory and Mexican Territory. The first expedition to cross Wyoming was made by the Astorians in 1811-1812 (Larson, 1990).

By the mid-1800s these early explorers vanished from history and the plains people were forced onto reservations. Because of the unique geological landscape, Wyoming has served as a thoroughfare for western migration ever since. The high “Wyoming Basin” through the Rocky Mountains was a natural transportation route. Left behind were wagon and stagecoach ruts, names and dates carved on trail sides, several place names and many graves of those lost along the way. The 1800s also brought the stagecoach, the Pony Express, the railroad and the first transcontinental telegraph to Wyoming. The North Platte River was enticing to farmers and ranchers. Early settlement in Wyoming was characterized by open grazing of sheep and cattle and farming which was followed by permanent homesteading and ranching operations (Larson, 1990).

Due to its exquisite beauty and open spaces Wyoming was an early destination for outdoor recreationists. In 1872, Yellowstone became our Nation’s first national park; in 1891, the Shoshone became our country’s first national Forest; and in 1906, Devil’s Tower became our first national monument. Wyoming is home to the first dude ranch, the Eaton Ranch. Wyoming is also home to some of the earliest and most famous big game hunts (Larson, 1990).

## Wyoming’s Economic Landscape

In 2017, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Wyoming was estimated at \$40.3 billion and ranked 49th in the country. However, the state ranked 7th in per capita GDP due to its low population (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017). Wyoming has always had a natural resources-based economy. Mining was the state’s largest industry, accounting for 23.3% of the total GDP. Economically significant quantities of oil, natural gas, coal, trona and uranium are found in several parts of the state. Wyoming currently ranks as the leading producer of coal and trona, third leading producer of natural gas and eighth leading producer of oil in the United States. It is

estimated that two thirds of the state's and local governments' revenues are from the mining industry (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017).

Wyoming's reliance on mineral extraction is apparent in the fact that Wyoming's economic diversification index is the lowest in the nation and close to the lowest in Wyoming's history. Should energy prices continue to stay depressed, our low economic diversification and high dependence on the energy sector will continue to create a challenging economic climate (Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, 2017).

Most experts agree tourism is the second largest industry in Wyoming and outdoor recreation is an important component of tourism. In 2017, the Outdoor Industry Association estimated the economic impact of Wyoming's outdoor recreation industry at \$5.6 billion (Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). Currently, outdoor recreation tourism is not measured statewide as an independent industry because its economic effect crosses into many retail and service sectors such as transportation, food, and accommodations. In 2016, the United States Congress passed the Outdoor Recreation Job and Economic Impact Act, requiring the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to create an Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account. As such, the BEA will begin reporting economic data on the outdoor recreation economic sector in 2019. It is assumed most states will start tracking economic data on the outdoor recreation industry within the next few years.

With its majestic mountains, pristine lakes, vast and unpeopled landscapes, and abundant wildlife, few states can compete with Wyoming's outdoor recreation opportunities. Wyoming has the potential for a significant amount of recreation and tourism development. Recreation and tourism is especially beneficial because it has the potential to generate revenue throughout the entire state. If recreation and tourism are to expand, an emphasis must also be placed on innovation and recruitment for the sector and protection of the industries' resources, including wildlife, natural features, cultural and historic sites, and scenic vistas.

The goal is to harmonize the historically important natural resources-based economy with growing the outdoor recreation sector. Given Wyoming offers a bevy of unique features that set it apart from other outdoor recreation destinations – wide open spaces, uncrowded trails, more acres of hunting land per capita than every other state but Alaska, to name just a few. Wyoming is well situated to expand its outdoor recreation opportunities.

## A Snapshot of Wyomingites

Wyoming is the least populated state in the country and has one of the most rural populations. In the 2017 census, the projected population of Wyoming was 563,626. Further, Wyoming has the lowest percentage of ethnic diversity in the country: Hispanic, Native American, African American, Asian and other minorities combined account for less than 8% of the total population (United States Census Bureau, 2017).

The employed labor force in Wyoming at the start of 2017 was 301,000. The unemployment rate in February 2017 was 4.7% and just below the national average of 4.8%. The largest employer in Wyoming is the government sector (Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, 2017).





Demographic factors such as age, ethnic makeup, per-capita income and urban vs. rural residency are elements that influence the habits of outdoor recreationists. For example, Wyoming's population is aging quickly due to our high proportion of baby boomers and exodus of younger workers for employment opportunities out of state. The Boomers are reaching retirement age and leaving the workforce in large numbers. As the population in Wyoming becomes older there will be a significant change in recreational user patterns. The private and public sectors need to be mindful and adaptive to demands for services required by the older population. Likewise, initiatives to attract and retain young workers in the state are critical.

## An Overview of Wyoming's Public Land and Its Managers

Wyoming encompasses 98,210 square miles (62,854,415 acres) of diverse terrain comprised mainly of high plains, mountain ranges, basins and river valleys. Water covers less than 1% of the state's land area. The total federal acreage is just over 30,000,000; over 50 percent of the federal land is managed by the BLM, followed by the USFS and NPS (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017). Land managers who serve as recreation providers in Wyoming are summarized in the following section.

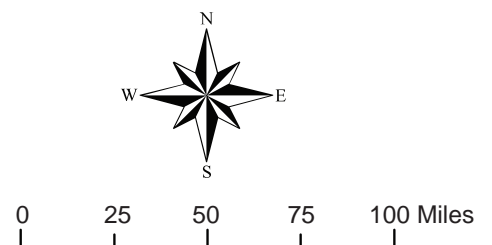
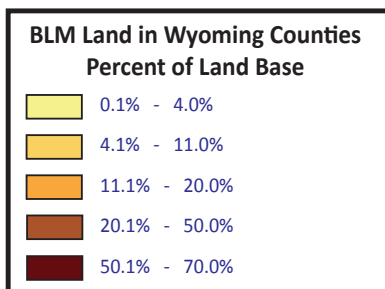
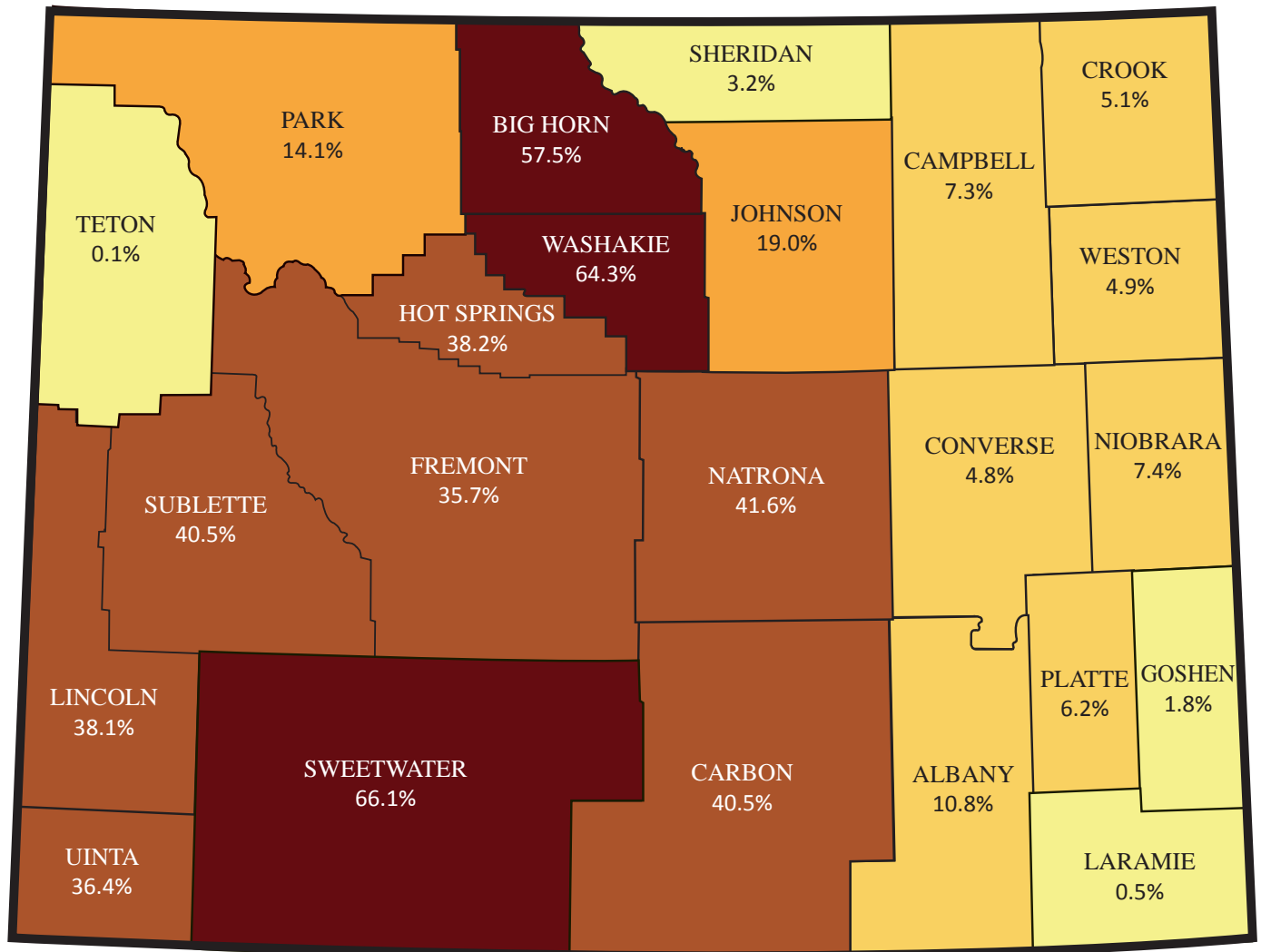
### Federal Outdoor Recreation Providers

The philosophy of managing federal lands to preserve natural conditions was carried forward by early explorers and led to the creation of the world's first National Park, Yellowstone, in 1872. The Organic Act of 1916 formally established the NPS and established as its purpose "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) of 1960 mandates that USFS lands be administered for outdoor recreation, rangeland, watershed, fish and wildlife values as well as timber. The BLM adopted a similar philosophy that included managing lands for recreation with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976.

## Bureau of Land Management

The BLM is the largest manager of federal land in the state managing approximately 18.5 million acres of land (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017). This is slightly less than one-third of the state. Not all of this land is available for recreation activities. Pursuant to FLPMA the dominant land use activity is based on a combination of factors; including “natural and cultural resource protection, providing food and habitat for wildlife and domestic animals, accommodating outdoor recreation and human occupancy, and allowing for the extraction of mineral, food, timber and fiber resources.” Land use plans ensure that the public lands are

Figure 2.1 • Percentage of Bureau of Land Management Land in Wyoming Counties



# Description of State

managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. As required by FLPMA and BLM policy, the public lands must be

*“managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use; and that recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public.”*

In addition to providing almost unlimited opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation, the BLM administers a number of improved recreation sites where fees are collected. The BLM is also the managing partner for the Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) Fontenelle Reservoir in Sweetwater County.

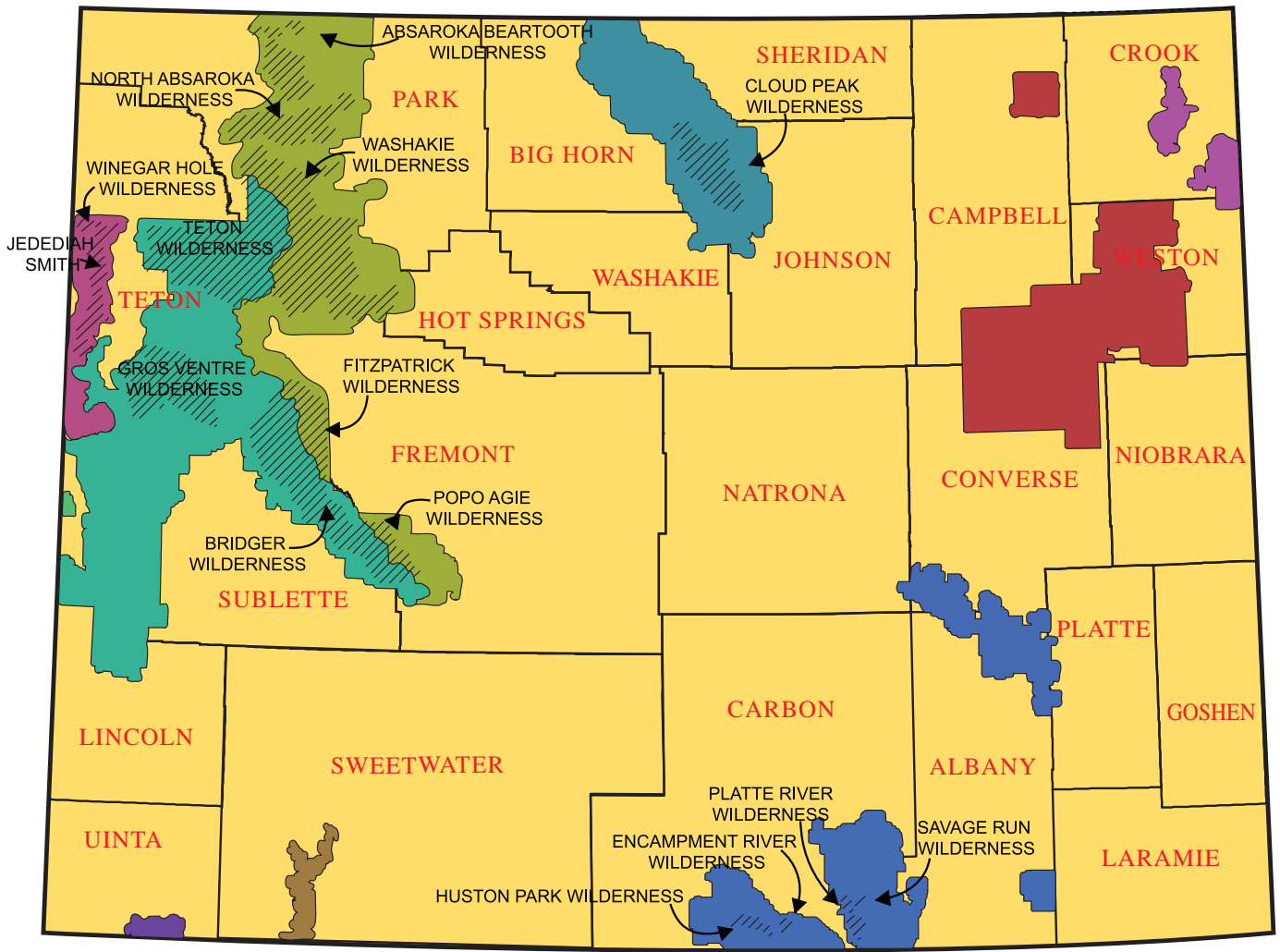
## United States Forest Service

National Forest lands within Wyoming total 9.2 million acres (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017) (Figure 2.2). These lands comprise 15% of the state. The Bridger-Teton National Forest is the largest forest in the state at 3.4 million acres and is located entirely within the borders of the state. The Shoshone National Forest, encompassing 2.4 million acres in Wyoming, is the nation’s first national forest and is the second largest USFS administrative area. Pursuant to the MUSYA, the USFS must develop and administer the renewable resources of timber, range, water, recreation and wildlife on the national forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services. These are defined as the five major uses of national forests, with no one use greater than the others. Under MUSYA our nation’s forest are intended to be managed to best meet the needs of the American people. Lands managed by the USFS provide experiences ranging from front country to wilderness opportunities. These lands are destinations for Wyoming residents as well as out of state visitors.

## National Park Service

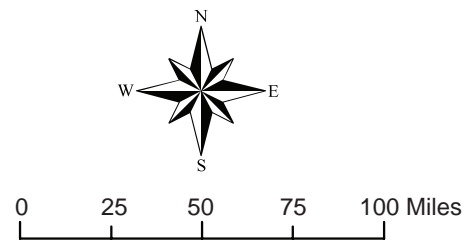
The NPS administers Wyoming’s most popular and renowned outdoor recreational resources. They are responsible for seven different sites in Wyoming, which total approximately 2,690,000 (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017) acres, or about 8 percent of the state (Figure 2.3). Yellowstone is the first national park and is the largest site administered by NPS in Wyoming consisting of approximately 2,220,000 acres. Grand Teton National Park is the second largest area measuring about 310,000 acres. Unlike the BLM or USFS, the primary role of the NPS is to preserve the ecological and historical integrity of the lands it manages and make them available and accessible for public use and enjoyment.

Figure 2.2 • United States Forest Service Administrative Areas



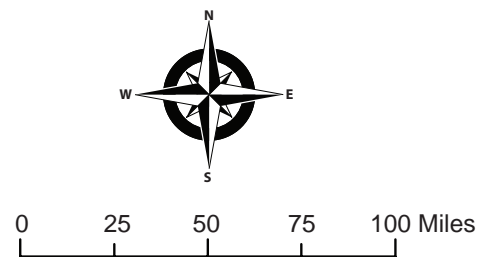
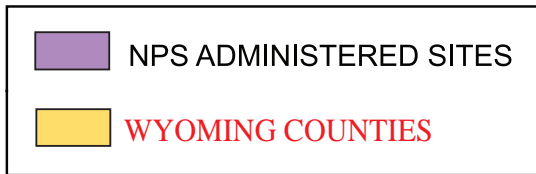
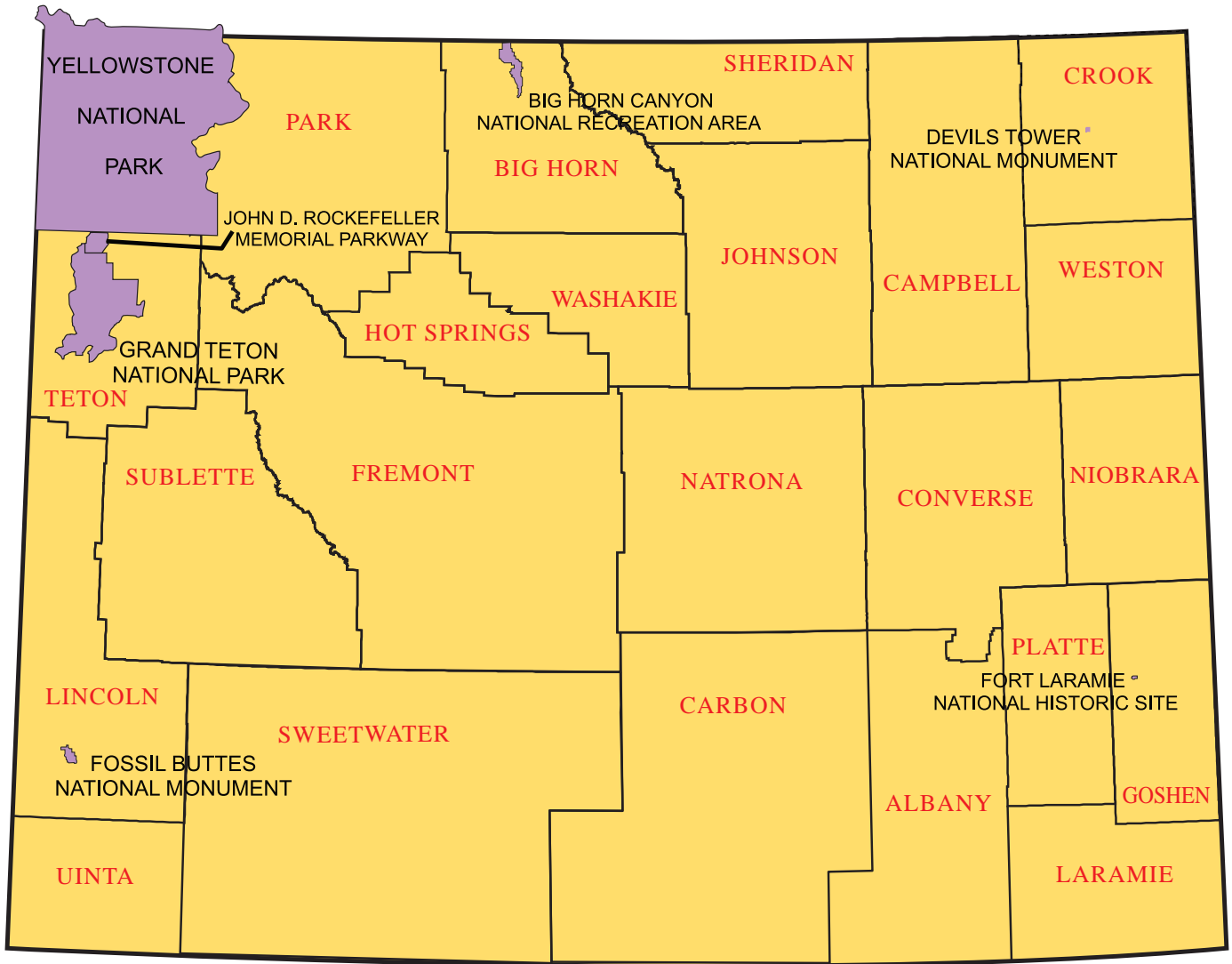
### USFS Administrative Areas

- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
- BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST
- BLACKHILLS NATIONAL FOREST
- BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
- MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST
- SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST
- CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
- THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND
- UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST
- WILDERNESS



# Description of State

Figure 2.3 • National Park Service Administered Sites



## United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS manages federal lands specifically for wildlife: including elk, moose and bighorn sheep, waterfowl and amphibians. The refuges provide opportunities to hunt, fish, view wildlife, and hike. There are six National Wildlife Refuge Areas and two National Fish Hatcheries, which comprise a total of approximately 70,600 acres in Wyoming (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017). This comprises a fraction of 1% of the state. The largest WY refuges the USFWS manage are Pathfinder with 16,807 acres and Seedskaelee with 26,400 acres.

## Bureau of Reclamation

The primary responsibility of the BOR is to develop and maintain reservoir and canal structures which provide flood control, hydropower and irrigation benefits. As a secondary function, BOR also helps to plan and develop recreation facilities at their Reclamation sites. The administration of these recreation sites, however, is generally assigned to other agencies who assume responsibility for day-to-day operation. The NPS, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails (SPHST), local governmental units and in some cases the USFS all have agreements to manage BOR recreation areas. In total, the BOR administers and/or leases approximately 954,680 acres in Wyoming (Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2017). This is approximately 1.5% of the state.



## State of Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Providers

The State of Wyoming owns approximately 3.9 million surface acres of land. Much of the land was granted to the state by the federal government at the time of statehood under various acts of the United States Congress. The majority of state-owned lands are State Trust Lands and revenues generated are reserved for the benefit of public schools, and other beneficiaries. In addition to the State Trust Lands, there is non-trust acquired land within the State. Non-trust lands are allocated and managed by other state agencies, including Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and SPHST, to benefit the missions of the agencies and the public.

Public recreation providers for Wyoming's municipalities and counties fall within city or county governments and recreation districts. Private recreation amenities are abundant and are available through lodging providers, private campgrounds, ski areas, golf courses, dude ranches and more.

## Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

State Trust Lands are not "public" lands in the same sense as those lands managed by the federal government. Almost all of the 3.6 million acres of land were granted to the state on its admission to the Union. These lands were granted to produce income for the support of the public schools and institutions to manage trust assets for two key purposes consistent with traditional trust principles: (1) long-term growth in value, and (2) optimum, sustainable revenue production.

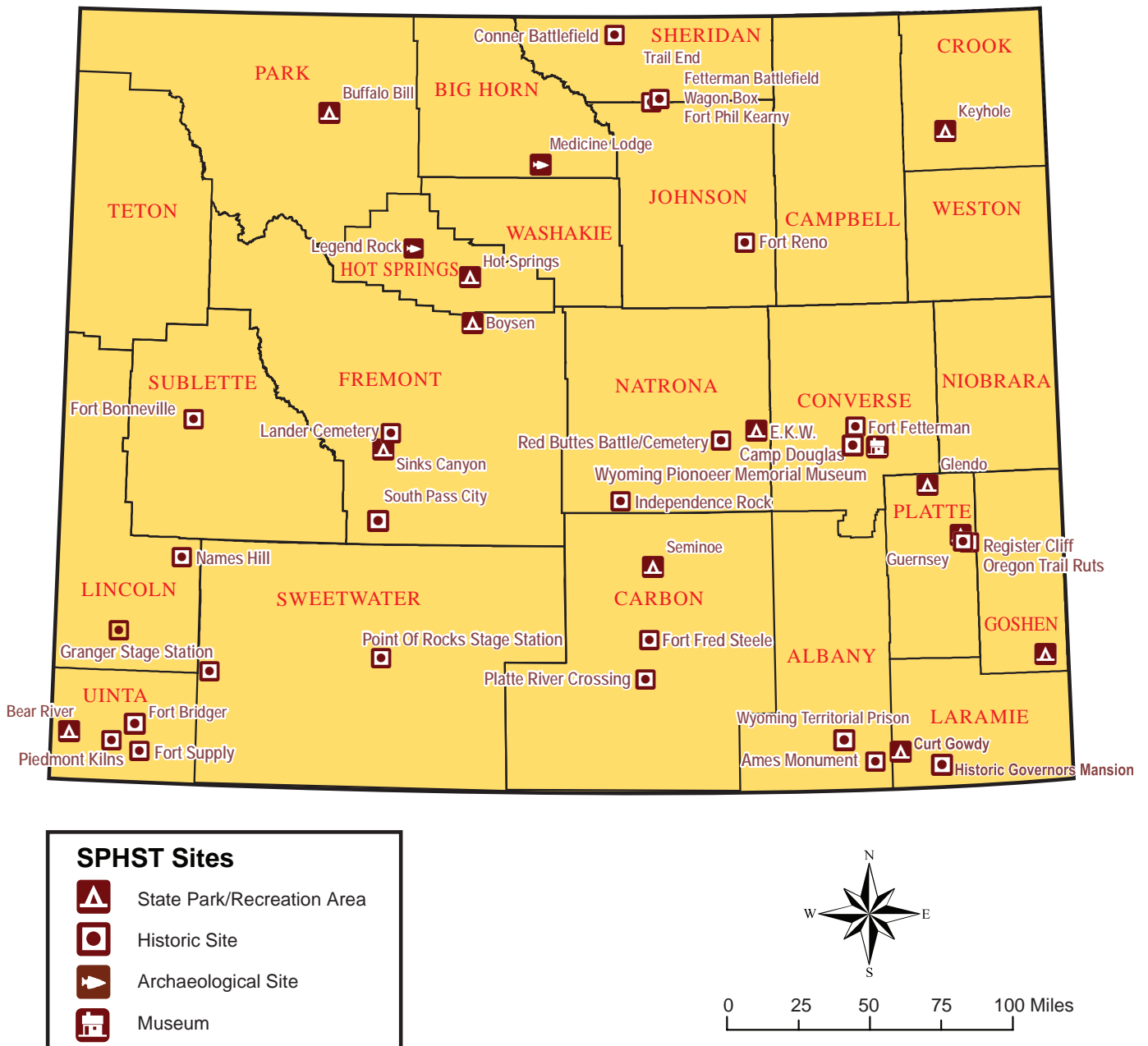
Generally, state lands other than cultivated crop lands are available for public hunting, fishing and recreational day use. The lands must be legally accessed and public users must comply with the regulations of the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners (Board). These regulations prohibit any off-road motor vehicle use, overnight camping, or open fires. Any activity which would damage state lands, roads, improvements or lessee property interests is also prohibited. Public users of these lands are encouraged to notify the lessee when using these lands for outdoor recreational activities.



## Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

The Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails within the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR) has statutory authority to manage recreation and historic sites and aid communities with developing recreation opportunities in Wyoming. Currently SPHST has almost 120,000 acres of land within its park boundaries. The SPHST system includes eleven state parks, one museum, one state recreation area, twenty-eight historic sites and two state archaeological/petroglyph sites (Figure 2.4). The sites in the system range in size from less than an acre to almost 36,000 acres.

Figure 2.4 • Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails Administrative Areas





# Description of State

The following sites are administered by SPHST:

**Table 2.1 Sites Administered by State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails**

Site Name	Site Type	County
Ames Monument	State Historic Site	Albany
Bear River	State Park	Uinta
Boysen	State Park	Fremont
Buffalo Bill	State Park	Park
Camp Douglas	State Historic Site	Converse
Connor Battlefield	State Historic Site	Sheridan
Curt Gowdy	State Park	Laramie
Edness Kimball Wilkins	State Park	Natrona
Fetterman Battlefield	State Historic Site	Sheridan
Fort Bonneville	State Historic Site	Sublette
Fort Bridger	State Historic Site	Uinta
Fort Fetterman	State Historic Site	Converse
Fort Fred Steele	State Historic Site	Carbon
Fort Phil Kearny	State Historic Site	Johnson
Fort Reno	State Historic Site	Johnson
Fort Supply	State Historic Site	Uinta
Glendo	State Park	Platte
Granger Stage Station	State Historic Site	Sweetwater
Guernsey	State Park	Platte
Hawk Springs	State Recreation Area	Goshen
Historic Governors' Mansion	State Historic Site	Laramie
Hot Springs	State Park	Hot Springs
Independence Rock	State Historic Site	Natrona
Keyhole	State Park	Crook
Legend Rock	State Archaeological Site	Hot Springs
LX Bar	State Historic Site	Campbell
Medicine Lodge	State Archaeological Site	Big Horn
Names Hill	State Historic Site	Lincoln
Oregon Trail Ruts	State Historic Site	Platte
Piedmont Kilns	State Historic Site	Uinta
Platte River Stage Crossing	State Historic Site	Carbon
Point of Rocks Stage Station	State Historic Site	Sweetwater
Red Buttes Battle/Cemetery	State Historic Site	Natrona
Register Cliff	State Historic Site	Platte
Seminoe	State Park	Carbon
Sinks Canyon	State Park	Fremont
South Pass City	State Historic Site	Fremont
Trail End	State Historic Site	Sheridan
Wagon Box	State Historic Site	Sheridan
Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum	State Historic Site	Platte
Wyoming Territorial Prison	State Historic Site	Albany

## Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The WGFD's mission is to provide an adequate and flexible system for the control, propagation, management, protection and regulation of all Wyoming wildlife. The Department is the state government entity charged with managing Wyoming's wildlife resources and conserving them for future generations.

The WGFD provides technical assistance to plan and develop areas which provide public access and improve wildlife habitat. Hunter Management Areas, Walk-In Areas and Wildlife Habitat Management Areas are examples of access opportunities the WGFD has developed to enhance the outdoor recreation experience in the state.



# Description of State

## Municipal and County Providers

There are 54 park and recreation districts in Wyoming. Each park and recreation district is administered by a municipality or county. The Districts manage community facilities, such as city parks, golf courses, rodeo grounds or shooting ranges. These facilities offer convenient, close to home, close to community recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

## Private Outdoor Recreation Providers

The private sector recreation industry has great potential and capabilities in Wyoming to provide needed facilities. Privately-run campgrounds, dude ranches, hunting lodges, outfitters, river rafters, fishing experiences, rodeos, snowmobile excursions, downhill and cross-country ski areas, trap and target ranges and living history experiences, are a few of the services operating on both private and public land in Wyoming. Private landowners maintain open spaces and provide habitat and access. The private sector is vital for providing and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.



# Chapter 3 Recreation Facilities and Needs



## Planning Process

The intent of the Wyoming Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is to determine the trends in and use of outdoor recreation facilities and participation in activities. By understanding this information, appropriate decisions can be rendered in the distribution of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. These funds are made available to Wyoming communities for the purpose of providing outdoor recreation facilities. Thus, it is imperative to know the present status of outdoor recreation facilities and the needs of the users. The planning process for the 2019 Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is similar to the preceding plans of 1995, 2003, 2009, and 2014. This plan however, has the added benefit of incorporating the work of and gathering data to support the recommendations of the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Task Force (Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources 2017). A four-step process was employed in the development of this plan:

- Step 1: Collect information on the supply and demand for facilities, opportunities and outdoor activities - based on providers' and users' surveys and work of the Outdoor Recreation Task Force.
- Step 2. Analyze the results for patterns and trends.
- Step 3. Identify issues.
- Step 4. Establish outdoor recreation goals for the next five (5) years.

Surveys of both Wyoming recreation providers and users were conducted to gather information about outdoor recreation opportunities, facilities, programs, uses, needs and desires. Based on the results of these surveys, direction for providing outdoor recreation funds can be established.

## Providers' Survey

The providers' survey was an email survey of public recreation districts throughout Wyoming. The recreation providers represent a cross section of community sizes and geographic distribution. This included three of the four largest municipalities and a mix of smaller to medium sized municipalities responsible for creating, maintaining and managing recreation facilities, opportunities and programs.

The providers' survey has five areas of interest (Appendix A). Providers were asked about the types of recreation facilities within the community and the condition of these facilities. To understand the main issues facing recreation providers, 11 primary issues were identified and the respondents were asked to rank these issues in terms of importance (1-highest importance, 11-the least importance) with the option of adding an issue if it was not listed. The questionnaire included another series of questions requiring respondents to signify their acceptance of a statement, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. These phrases or statements focused on the importance of recreation and/or recreational opportunities within the respective communities. This was done to gauge the importance of recreation to the community. Background information

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

on the community's recreation expenses, programs and future needs was also collected. Finally, background information was gathered on general recreation related issues and the role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

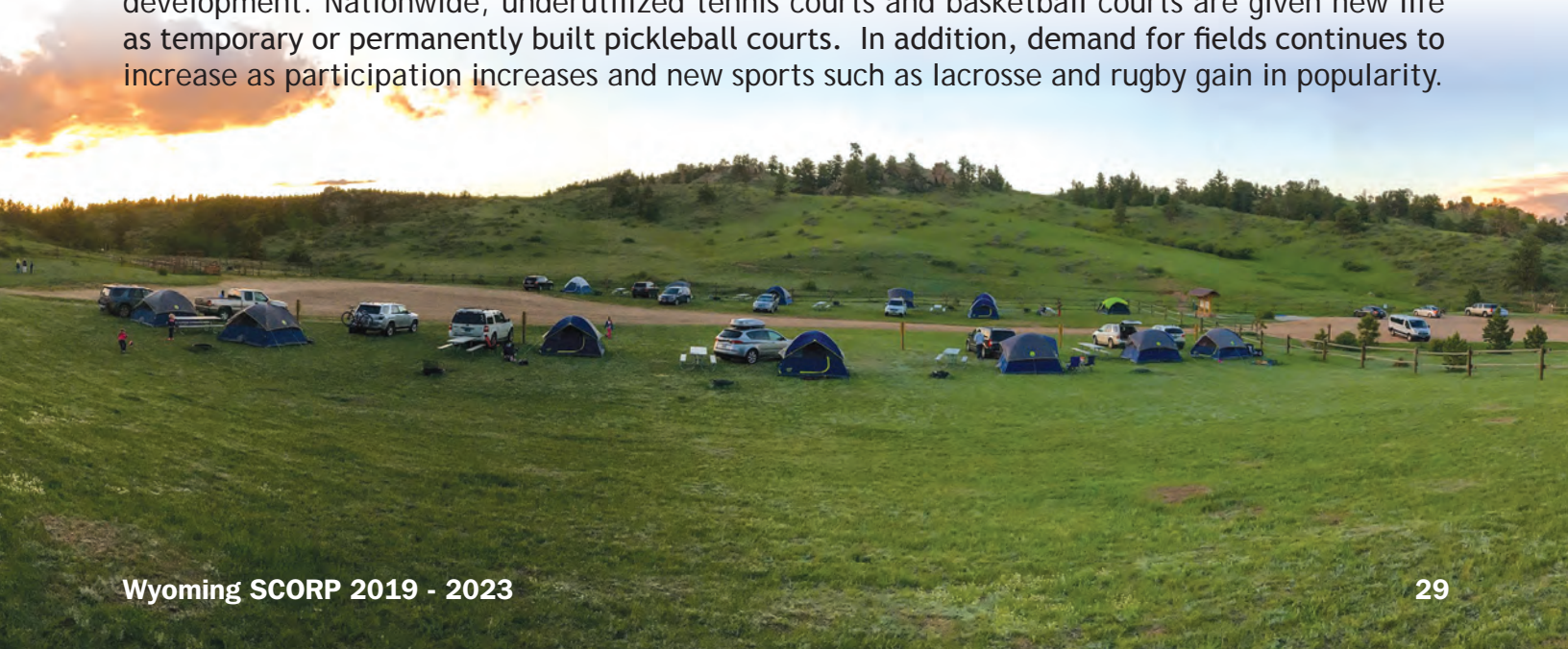
To allow for trend comparison the providers' survey generally follows the format of previous surveys. Built into the SCORP planning process, however, is an evaluation of recreation information needs to determine if survey instruments should be modified. Based on this evaluation, several line items and questions were added to the 2018 Providers' Survey. These additions included questions to support the following data gathering needs identified in the Outdoor Recreation Task Force's recommendations:

- Understanding community provider needs in the areas of
  - Natural Resource Protection
  - Gear Checkout/Libraries
- Adding open ended questions related to the following
  - Skill mentoring programs and any barriers
  - Initiatives to connect communities to "front door recreation" opportunities
  - Methods for tracking and promoting outdoor recreation infrastructure, events and opportunities

## Facilities and Their Condition

Providers were asked to evaluate a list of recreation facilities and provide an assessment of their condition (ranked between good, fair and poor). All of the survey respondents have developed parks that are identified as being in good to fair condition.

By far the most common outdoor recreation facility provided by the responding communities are picnic facilities. The second most common facility identified by respondent communities were outdoor playgrounds. The most popular type of court are basketball courts, horseshoe pits, and tennis courts. Soccer facilities are the most frequently occurring type of field in the communities, followed by baseball and softball. Pickleball facilities were mentioned as a popular new type of development. Nationwide, underutilized tennis courts and basketball courts are given new life as temporary or permanently built pickleball courts. In addition, demand for fields continues to increase as participation increases and new sports such as lacrosse and rugby gain in popularity.



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Many newer types of recreation amenities are gaining in popularity. These include spray parks, lazy rivers, remote control parks, disc golf courses and dog parks. Community trail networks are also being expanded from just paved pathways to include natural surface trails.

Other facilities include: rodeo arenas, golf courses, BMX tracks and trails. In typical Wyoming fashion, nine of the reporting communities reported having a rodeo arena. All of the communities have nine- or 18-hole golf courses, with many of these being operated by non-governmental organizations.

## Provider Issues

Eleven major issues were identified and each respondent was asked to rank them for their specific community (1-most important, 11-least important). The following is how the issues ranked with the aggregate average in parenthesis:

### 2013

- Additional Facilities (2.4)
- Restoration of Existing Facilities (2.7)
- Maintenance Money (3.2)
- Community Support (3.3)
- Program Expansion (3.4)
- Additional Personnel (3.8)
- Trails & Greenways (4.3)
- Land Acquisition (6.8)

### 2018

- Maintenance Money (2.8)
- Additional Personnel (3.2)
- Restoration of Existing Facilities (4.2)
- Additional Facilities (4.6)
- Trails & Greenways (5.0)
- Community Support (5.2)
- Community Awareness (5.7)
- Program Expansion (6.1)
- Natural Resource Protection (8.9)
- Land Acquisition (9.1)
- Recreation Gear Checkout Libraries (10.3)

In 2018, the top three issues pertain to maintenance of existing facilities, personnel needs, and restoration of existing facilities. This reflects the need for human and financial capacity to take care of existing facilities and provide programming. Many existing facilities were built in the early to mid-1970s during the height of LWCF funding and have now exceeded their effective use life. The next grouping related to the need for addition of new facilities, trails and greenways. Communities have expressed a need for new facilities and trails especially as city boundaries grow and populations increase. Support and awareness of recreation programs within communities does not fall out as a priority indicating providers are doing a good job building advocacy and getting the word out about opportunities. The two new issues added to the 2018

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

survey included natural resource protection and recreation gear libraries. The providers who were surveyed primarily manage urban parks; as natural area and open spaces are added to communities' jurisdictional responsibilities, natural resource protection will likely become a more important issue. Evaluation of land acquisition and recreation gear libraries was included to help understand barriers. At the present time, providers do not feel either of these items are high priorities. This likely reflects the will of providers to take care of what they currently manage as opposed to adding new programs and facilities.

## Community Recreation Issues

Providers were asked to state their level of agreement with a series of statements related to the role recreation plays in their community. The responses were assigned points from 1 point for "strongly agree" to 5 points for "strongly disagree". We then computed a weighted average for each question.

	2013	2018
1. Open space, parks and recreational opportunities over the last ten years have enhanced my community's chances for economic development.	1.9	2.2
2. Outdoor recreation in my community should be a joint partnership between local government, business leaders and private interests.	2.0	2.2
3. Most citizens in my community believe recreation is important to the community's quality of life.	2.6	2.3
4. Basic opportunities at public parks and open space areas, such as walking and picnicking, should be provided by general tax dollars without additional user fees.	2.8	2.4
5. The elected officials in my community believe recreation is a high priority for the community's quality of life.	2.0	2.5
6. User fees should cover the direct cost of high maintenance recreation facilities.	3.3	3.1
7. There is greater demand for public organized activities in our community than individualized non-structured activities.	2.8	3.4

The economic impact of having recreation facilities and joint partnerships are the highest ranked issues cited. This could reflect the economic decline in many Wyoming communities and the need to find creative solutions to fund and staff recreation. Recreation providers feel recreation is important to economic development and support working with non-government entities to provide recreation opportunities. This corresponds very closely with what the recreation users voiced in their survey. Similar to the ranking efforts conducted in 2013, none of the statements ranked real low, but there is definitely less support for user fees and structured activities since that year. This may be because Wyoming has a population and setting that supports unstructured outdoor activities. Fee-based and structured activities may be more popular in metro areas.



## Community Financial Information

The community financial information section provided basic statistics on three key financial elements: what are the estimated costs associated with maintenance and repair for the next five years; what are the estimated costs for new construction for the next five years and what are the estimated costs for trail and green space development over the next five years. We averaged the responses between communities that have less than 10,000, communities with between 10,000-25,000 people and communities with more than 25,000 people.

Table 3.1.

### Estimated Costs During the Next 5 Years

Community Population	Maintenance/Repair	New Construction	Trail/Green Space
Under 10,000	\$164,333	\$127,000	\$113,333
10,000 to 25,000	\$11,100,000	\$1,830,000	\$1,333,333
Over 25,000	\$5,112,500	\$18,956,250	\$500,000

For communities with less than 10,000, people estimated five year costs for maintenance ranging from less than \$75,000 for the Town of Greybull to \$218,000 for the Town of Pine Bluffs. Construction costs ranged from less than \$25,000 for the Town of Greybull to \$200,000 for the Town of Lander. Estimated costs for trails and green spaces ranged from \$25,000 for the Town of Greybull to \$300,000 for the Town of Lander (Table 3.1).

Communities between 10,000 and 25,000 people, had a significant range with two communities indicating no new parks or facilities were being planned in the next 5 years. Estimates for maintenance and repair ranged from \$800,000 in Cody to \$15,000,000 in Green River. Cody and Green River also indicated \$300,000 would be spent on new trail and path construction.

For communities with over 25,000 people, estimated maintenance costs ranged from \$700,000 for the City of Gillette to \$11,000,000 for the City of Cheyenne. New construction costs ranged from \$4,500,000 for the City of Laramie to \$33,400,000 for the City of Cheyenne. Estimated costs for trails and green spaces included estimates of \$5,000,000 for both the Cities of Cheyenne and Laramie. The anticipated spending on trails in 2018 is significantly lower than the previous survey which may reflect a large investment in greenways/trails in the previous five years along with limited budgets being anticipated in the future. Communities with the greatest financial need appear to be short of funds in both maintenance and new construction indicating challenges with aging facilities intact.

## Recreation Related Needs and the Role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In 2013, the most common recreation related needs included expansion of existing outdoor facilities (softball fields, batting cages, disk/Frisbee golf courses, outdoor volleyball courts, soccer fields, horseshoe pits, and shooting complexes). Recreation providers also expressed a need for more picnic shelters and trails. Community centers did not rank very high on the 2013 survey. These are large, capital-intensive facilities and sagging support for them as a recreation need may be a reflection of the economic downturn. Additionally, several communities have gotten new community centers since the last survey.

The greatest recreation need in 2018 is maintenance of existing facilities. Expansion areas include new recreation/community centers, expansion of current recreation centers, pool improvements (splash pads, lazy river, zero entry pools), soccer facilities, fields to accommodate new field sports (lacrosse, rugby), amphitheaters, pickleball facilities and skate parks.

New questions were added to the 2018 survey to understand skill mentoring programs, connections to open space, tracking recreation infrastructure and marketing recreation opportunities. Numerous mentoring programs are provided by recreation providers; these entities may forge partnerships with other groups and individuals, including land managers, guides and local outdoor enthusiast clubs. The primary barrier for such programs is transportation for participants. For open space connection, all but three of the recreation providers reported local initiatives to create close-to-home open space and trail opportunities. As new housing developments are added in some communities, open space/parks/developments are added in some greenways are required under the Unified Development Code. All communities report tracking infrastructure either through spatial or spreadsheet data systems. Finally, in terms of marketing opportunities, providers develop materials internally and have strong community partnerships and networks to get recreation messaging out.



The providers all view the LWCF as an important part of their recreation system development. Some communities indicate a need for decreasing the match and would like to see additional flexibility for funding indoor facilities.

## Users' Survey *Design and Administration*

A contract was executed between the Division of Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails (SPHST), and the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) of the University of Wyoming to conduct a statewide mail survey of Wyoming citizens (Appendix B). The purpose of the survey was to capture the opinion of Wyoming citizens concerning outdoor recreation issues for the development of the *2019 Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Specifically, the survey was designed to identify recreation needs of Wyoming residents and Wyoming visitors to responsively provide and administer outdoor recreation resources. The following modifications were included in the 2018 survey instrument to address information needs identified by the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Task Force:

- Modify questions to understand in what recreation activities Wyoming residents aspire to participate.
  - Add “Would like to Participate” as a response option within the list of outdoor recreation activities (Question 3).
- Modify Questions 5 regarding where users find out about recreation opportunities in their community and when they travel.
- Include both a statewide analysis of the data as well as a regional analysis of the state which represent similar types of users and recreation opportunities.

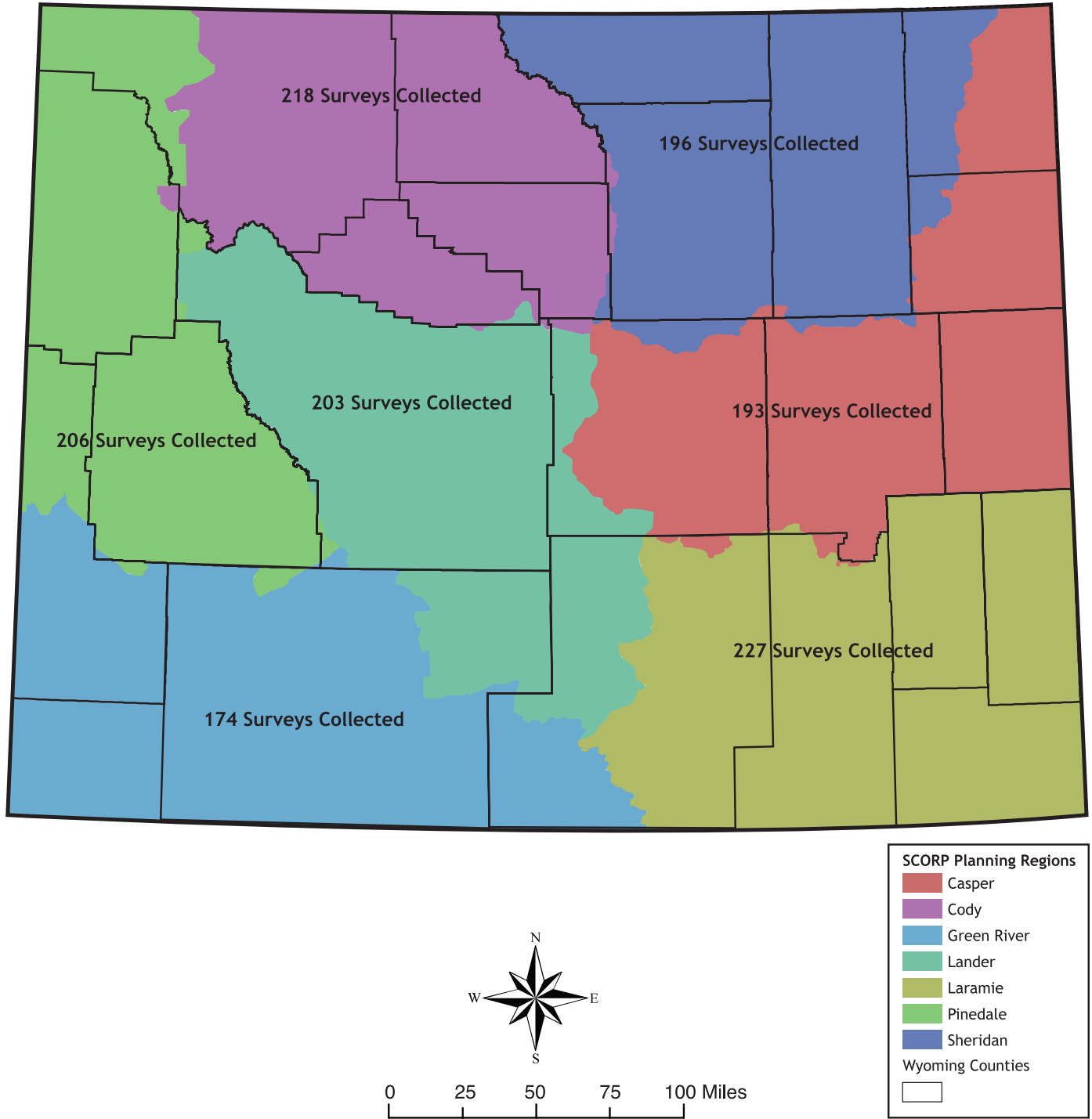
The survey was administered by mail, with the option to complete the survey online. A total of 1,417 completed surveys were returned. A random sample of this size provides a margin of error of around plus or minus 2.6 percentage points with 95 percent confidence. For this reason, it is appropriate throughout this report to refer to results as applying to Wyoming residents (i.e., survey results reflect the opinions and attitudes of Wyoming residents as a whole, within the stated margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points with 95 percent confidence; and not simply as the survey respondents). The original mailing included 7,000 addresses in Wyoming. We received a total of 1,417 completed surveys by the above cutoff date, resulting in a response rate of approximately 23.6 percent (see table below). The margin of error for the specific regions is higher due to the smaller sample size.

<b>Response rates and margin of error</b>	
Completed Surveys 1417	
Online 533 (37.6%)	Paper 884 (62.4%)
<b>Margin of Error Statewide</b>	
+ - 2.6 Percentage Points at 95% Confidence	
<b>Margin of Error Regional</b>	
+ - 6.6 to 7.6 Percentage Points at 95 % Confidence	



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Figure 3.1 • Distribution and Frequency of User Survey Response



## Data Compilation and Analysis

Surveys mailed back to WYSAC go through a highly controlled process to minimize any possible data-entry error. The surveys are scanned by WYSAC's high-volume scanners. The scanning software alerts for verification if there is anything uncertain about an entered response choice.

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

These issues are evaluated and resolved by WYSAC. All handwritten responses to open-ended questions are transcribed and verified, and a survey data file is then created using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis. Online completions of the survey were exported from WYSAC's web platform into an SPSS data file. Data from the online questionnaires and the paper survey results were merged into one master data set. These data were analyzed using SPSS; results from these analyses are contained in the remainder of the report (WYSAC 2018).

For the providers' and users' surveys, frequency counts and basic statistics were compiled on all questions and are available from the SPHST office.

## Survey Results

The users' survey was divided into four (4) main components:

- 1) which activities users participate in;
- 2) how important is outdoor recreation;
- 3) recreation related issues; and
- 4) respondent background information.

The following is a comparison of survey results from the 2013 SCORP survey and the 2018 SCORP survey.

## User Activities and Facilities

A listing of 39 activities were identified; the respondents then selected if either they or members of their household participated in any of these activities during the past year. The top six activities identified in the 2013 survey and 2018 survey are listed below:

### 2013

- Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (69.5%)
- Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (67.8%)
- Picnicking and family day gatherings (63.6%)
- Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc. (62.7%)
- General/other: relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (62.7%)
- Hiking or walking (61.5%)

### 2018

- General/other-relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (89.2%)
- Viewing natural features such as scenery, flowers, etc. (81.9%)
- Hiking or walking (81.1%)
- Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (80.7%)
- Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc. (75.6%)
- Picnicking and family day gatherings (74.3%)

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Top Activity Participation By Region	
Casper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (82.8%)</li> <li>• Hiking or walking (78.9%)</li> <li>• Picnicking and family day gatherings (75.1%)</li> </ul>
Cody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (85.8%)</li> <li>• Hiking or walking (80.9%)</li> <li>• General/other-relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (80.2%)</li> </ul>
Green River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General/other-relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (87.1%)</li> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (84.5%)</li> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (83.9%)</li> </ul>
Lander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (86.2%)</li> <li>• General/other-relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (83.1%)</li> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (83.0%)</li> </ul>
Laramie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiking or walking (81.8%)</li> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (77.9%)</li> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (75.5%)</li> </ul>
Pinedale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewing wildlife, birds, fish etc. (92.4%)</li> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (92.3%)</li> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (83.8%)</li> </ul>
Sheridan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (79.7%)</li> <li>• Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (79.7%)</li> <li>• General/other-relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (77.3%)</li> </ul>



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

The 2018 survey results are consistent with those from 2013. The top six activities identified in both surveys are the same. The ranked order of activities was slightly different in 2013. The 2018 participation rates reported were dramatically higher than five years ago and as compared to those reported in the 2008 survey. These participation increases likely reflect an increased awareness of recreation benefits, facilities and opportunities.

A new survey question in 2018 was included to understand what activities Wyoming residents did not participate in but would like to. This information, combined with understanding barriers can provide insight on how recreation provider services can act as gateways for increased participation. The top activities Wyoming residents aspire to participate in are listed below:

- Outdoor ice skating (41.6%)
- Horseback riding (41.1%)
- Snowmobile travel (40.8%)
- Non-motorized water travel (39%)
- Rock climbing (39.1%)
- Cross country skiing/snowshoeing (38.2%)



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Top Activity Aspiration ( <i>did not participate but would like to</i> ) by region	
Casper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backpacking/camping in roadless areas (46.7%)</li> <li>• Non-motorized water travel (42.8%)</li> <li>• Horseback riding (45.3%)</li> </ul>
Cody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross country skiing, snowshoeing (44.8%)</li> <li>• Snowmobile travel (43.8%)</li> <li>• Disc golf (43.8%)</li> </ul>
Green River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miniature golf (40.6%)</li> <li>• Non-motorized water travel (38.5%)</li> <li>• Rock climbing (37.4%)</li> </ul>
Lander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice skating (indoor) (43.6%)</li> <li>• Cross country skiing, snowshoeing (43.3%)</li> <li>• Downhill skiing, snowboarding (42.3%)</li> </ul>
Laramie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseback riding (46.6%)</li> <li>• Ice skating (outdoor) (45.5%)</li> <li>• Snowmobile travel (44.5%)</li> </ul>
Pinedale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseback riding (38.2%)</li> <li>• Ice skating (outdoor) (35.7%)</li> <li>• Ice skating (indoor) (34.1%)</li> </ul>
Sheridan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice skating (outdoor) (42.1%)</li> <li>• Horseback riding (39.6%)</li> <li>• Backpacking, camping in roadless areas (39.0%)</li> </ul>





# Recreation Facilities and Needs

The quality of facilities or opportunities available in a state influence use by its citizens; hence, more opportunities for and more pleasant experiences will result in more use. Positive area or facility perceptions are important to having citizens repeat, and desiring to repeat, the experience. The 5 activities for which available facilities were rated most positively in 2013 and 2018 (followed by the average ranking value of the agreement/disagreement response) are:

## 2013

- Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (1.76)
- Backpacking, camping in roadless areas (1.79)
- Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc. (1.82)
- Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (1.82)
- General/other: relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (1.83)

## 2018

- Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. (1.61)
- Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc. (1.65)
- General/other: relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc. (1.71)
- Hiking/Walking (1.71)
- Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto (1.72)
- Rodeo Activities (1.72)

Not surprisingly, the 2018 facilities' ratings favorably correspond with high participation rate activities. Facilities or opportunities for all five of the top responses in both surveys are generally provided by federal, state or municipal governments.

The quality of the following facilities or opportunities did not receive a favorable rating:



## 2013

- Dog parks (2.96)
- Golf (miniature) (2.85)
- Disc golf (2.84)
- Skateboarding or inline skating (2.79)
- BMX bicycling / Trails (2.73)
- Road bicycling (2.66)

## 2018

- Outdoor Ice Skating (2.90)
- Golf (miniature) (2.90)
- Spray Parks/Water Parks (2.89)
- Dog parks (2.87)
- Disc golf (2.70)
- Skateboarding or inline skating (2.70)

With five of the top aspirational activities being winter-based, it is clear Wyoming residents want to participate in winter recreation activities. Outdoor ice skating is the top aspirational activity for Wyoming residents where the rating of facilities and opportunities is perceived as being poor.

Outdoor rinks are being developed to attract consumers to shopping malls and downtowns; for a rural forest experience, skating trails are being developed by forest land managers in Canada and are starting to catch on in the United States.

## Importance of Outdoor Recreation

In 2013 and 2018 the first question in the user survey was:

Please tell us how important or unimportant public parks and public recreation areas are to your quality of life?

Respondents were given the option of answering:

– Very Important – Important – Unimportant – Very Unimportant – Don't Know

The following percentage of respondents answered Very Important or Important:

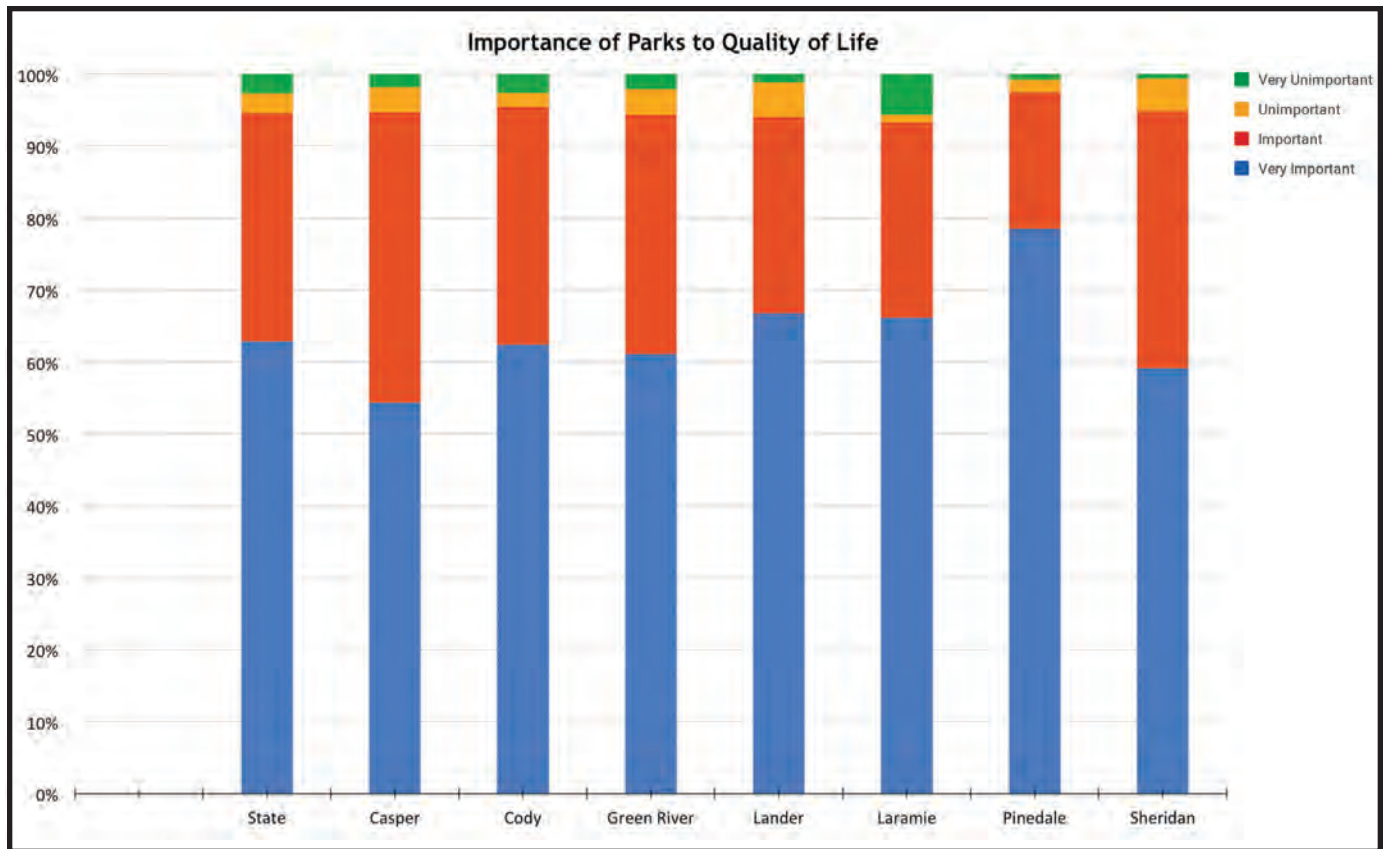
2013  
91.5%

2018  
94.6%



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

Figure 3.2 • Importance of Parks to Quality of Life



	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Total Valid	Mean
State	62.8%	31.85%	2.7%	2.7%	100.0	1.45
Casper	54.4%	40.4%	3.5%	1.8%	100.0	1.53
Cody	62.3%	33.1%	1.9%	2.6%	100.0	1.44
Green River	61.1%	33.3%	3.5%	2.1%	100.0	1.46
Lander	66.7%	27.4%	4.8%	1.1%	100.0	1.40
Laramie	66.1%	27.1%	1.1%	5.6%	100.00	1.46
Pinedale	78.5%	19.0%	1.7%	0.8%	100.0	1.25
Sheridan	59.1%	35.8%	4.5%	0.6%	100.0	1.46

Clearly the public perceives recreation to be a very significant part of their lives and their community.

## Recreation Related Issues

Information was gathered about recreation related issues. Users were asked to rank a set of eleven statements related to recreation related issues. In 2018 we repeated this strategy with one minor change; we added two additional statements.

The following is the list of statements, followed by the percentage of respondents that answered Strongly Agree or Agree.

Perceptions regarding importance of recreation opportunities as percent of users who Strongly Agree or Agree		
	2013	2018
1. Having recreation areas close to my home improves my quality of life.	82%	89%
2. New or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local, state and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities.	67%	72%
3. User fees, special taxes or license fees should be used as an alternate source of funding for outdoor recreation facilities to help defer operational costs.	56%	66%
4. The state's current water recreation areas need to be expanded.	51%	50%
5. Motorized vehicles should have more public recreation space than is currently available to them.	31%	34%
6. The state should provide support and assistance to local organizations for expanding their recreation facilities.	52%	63%
7. A source of long-term consistent funding for recreation should be provided at the state level.	62%	63%
8. Efforts should be made to acquire additional recreation lands from individuals or other entities interested in selling or donating land.	61%	62%
9. The demand for publicly organized activities in our community is greater than the demand for individualized non-structured activities.	24%	44%
10. Basic opportunities at public parks and open space areas, such as walking and picnicking, should be provided by general tax dollars without additional user fees.	69%	71%
11. For non-motorized recreation, there should be more public space available to them.	53%	41%

# Recreation Facilities and Needs

The responses to Statement #1 indicates a strong majority of people believe that having a recreation facility in close proximity to their home improves their quality of life. This corresponds quite well with another statement asked in the survey as to the general importance of public parks and facilities in their quality of life; over 90% responded to that statement to affirm that public parks and recreation areas were either very important or important to their quality of life in the 2013 and 2018 surveys.

In both surveys, Statement #2 demonstrates that approximately two-thirds of the public feels government agencies should be partnering with each other and with private industries to develop and maintain recreational opportunities. This is also recognized as an important tool for providers.

Statement #3 shows over half of the public feels user fees should be used to offset the cost of operating and managing recreation facilities. The support surrounding user fees had a 10% increase since the 2013 survey.

Statement #4 indicates approximately half of the public supports expansion of the state's water-based recreation opportunities.

Statement #5 illustrates approximately two-thirds of the public feels available motorized recreation lands are currently adequate. Perhaps one of the greatest challenges for land managers is balancing multiple use and maintaining access for diverse user groups to those same lands.

Statements #6 and #7 illustrate the public's interested in having the State provide consistent long-term funding for recreation.

Statement #8 illustrates the public is interested in expanding recreation areas, although, similar to statement #6 and #7, the percentage of supportive respondents is consistent with information gathered in 2013.

Statement #9 illustrates public preference for individualized, non-structured recreation activities. In the current survey, the margin of preference has narrowed; this may reflect increased participation in recreational activities for the social benefits.

Statement #10 illustrates the public feels their governments should provide public parks and opportunities for passive recreation. These facilities types have been typically provided by government entities and the public wants to see this continue. Thus, it is imperative that recreation be a strong component in community planning, development and administration. To have a strong recreation component requires that public agencies work to provide the basics for recreation. Further, in concert with the above, Statement #2 affirms that significant partnerships between private sector and local, state and federal agencies need to be developed, maintained and strengthened to develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities.

Statement #11 indicates slightly less than half of the public feels more public space should be available for non-motorized recreational pursuits.

## Recreation and the Quality of Life

To determine the importance of recreation to the quality of life in each community, the respondents were asked to rank (1-most important, 7-least important) a listing of seven basic community elements. The seven basic community elements were: education, employment opportunities, healthcare, housing, recreation opportunities, retail opportunities and safety. The following list provides an indication of recreation's importance to quality of life. The numbers in parentheses represent the average ranking for each factor:

### 2013

- Employment Opportunities (3.06)
- Healthcare (3.35)
- Housing (3.38)
- Education (3.53)
- Safety (3.96)
- Recreation Opportunities (4.71)
- Shopping Opportunities (5.90)

### 2018

- Employment Opportunities (3.04)
- Healthcare (3.43)
- Education (3.45)
- Housing (3.58)
- Safety (3.65)
- Recreation (4.30)
- Shopping Opportunities (6.07)

*“The seven basic community elements were: education, employment opportunities, healthcare, housing, recreation opportunities, retail opportunities and safety.”*

Between the 2013 and 2018 user surveys, the measure of recreation's importance to quality of life has remained consistent. The order of ranking is the same except for the issues ranked third and fourth in 2018.

## User Identified Recreation Related Issues

Each respondent was asked to list their top three issues or concerns for outdoor recreation in Wyoming. Respondents brought up many issues in this section including beetle kill trees, invasive species, overdevelopment, crowding, government interference, low water levels, etc. The following list represents the most common responses in order of importance to respondents:



# Recreation Facilities and Needs

TOP ISSUES/CONCERNS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WYOMING	
2013	2018
Public Land Access	Public Land Access
Concern about ORV/Snowmobile Use	Maintenance of both facilities and natural settings
Cost	Cost
Development of more Parks/Facilities	ORV/Snowmobile Use
Maintenance	Crowding

Issues identified in the 2013 and 2018 surveys were similar. The top concerns are interrelated and the common thread is a tie to barriers for participation. Loss of access and degradation of recreation spaces are a broad concern. Crowding, lack of visitor ethics and changes in landscape quality may deter users. Several comments were specifically tied to motorized recreation and landed on both sides. Off road vehicle and snowmobile enthusiasts expressed concern about losing access and non-motorized users expressed concerns about resource and experience impacts. Considering both increasing recreation participation and surrounding states' population growth rates, the importance of carefully planned, purpose-built facilities which minimize resource degradation and conflicts between user groups is continuing to grow.

Three questions specifically related to why people did not utilize existing recreation facilities or opportunities. The main reasons why people do not take advantage of recreational opportunities include lack of free time, crowding, lack of awareness of opportunities and distance to opportunities. The statewide results were consistent with the regional findings.

However, a much higher percentage of residents of the Pinedale region reported crowding was an issue as compared to residents from other regions in the state.

2013	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough time/Too busy</li> <li>• Too crowded</li> <li>• Too expensive</li> <li>• Too far to travel</li> <li>• Not aware of facilities/programs available</li> <li>• Physical impairment/accessibility and not interested (tied)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough time/Too busy</li> <li>• Too crowded</li> <li>• Not aware of facilities/programs available</li> <li>• Too far to travel</li> <li>• Too expensive</li> <li>• Lack of public access</li> </ul>

The reasons people do not recreate have changed very little. "Not aware of facilities/programs available" moved from fifth most important to third most important. The main reasons people do not participate in outdoor recreation relate to personal conflicts, crowding and lack of awareness of opportunities. Time constraints cannot be completely resolved by recreation

providers; however, funding can be used to develop facilities closer to users and expand facilities to alleviate crowding. These changes can help to mitigate several of the reasons people do not participate in outdoor recreation activities.

## Recreation Opportunity Awareness

Additional questions were included in the 2018 survey to understand how users find out about recreation opportunities in their communities and when they travel. The most frequently used resource used to find out about opportunities in both the local community and when travelling are provider websites with wayfinding/highway signs coming in as a close second.

Plans for promoting and attracting recreation opportunities should include a variety of traditional media and communication platforms as well as new technologies. Mobile technologies are rapidly evolving and improving and include many user sourced activity specific applications. Community recreation providers may find value in evaluating relevant applications and making sure local information is being kept updated. Those resources reported as being used frequently or sometimes by residents are listed below.

In My Community	When I Travel
Wayfinding/highway signs (80.8%)	Wayfinding/highway signs (88.1%)
Provider websites (78.4%)	Provider websites (86.9%)
TV/Radio/Newspaper (75.2%)	Brochures (84.9%)
Brochures (72.6%)	Use of guidebooks (77.1%)
Tourism websites (61.2%)	Tourism websites (72.9%)
Activity specific website/mobile application (59.7%)	Activity specific website/mobile application (64.6%)
Use of guidebooks (55.9%)	TV/Radio/Newspaper (62.7%)





## Respondents' Profile

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 40.7% of Wyoming residents are between the ages of 18 and 44; 40.2% of respondents to this survey fall into that same age group. The majority of respondents (58.7%) are from the ages 35-64.
- The employment status of almost half of the respondents (57.2%) is full time employed, followed by 23.1% of respondents reporting that they are retired or disabled. Well over half of respondents report that they are married or living with a life partner (71.2%).
- Respondents indicate they have lived in Wyoming for an average of 30 years or more and 77% of respondents have lived in Wyoming more than 11 years.
- A majority of respondents were in one-person or two-person households (69.8%). A large majority of households (88.9%) report that there are either one or two adults living in the household; a majority of respondents indicate there are no children living in the household (54.9%).
- Almost 17% of respondents say there is 1 child living in the household, while 17.8% report that there are two children living in the household. Of those with children, there is an average of 1.97 children per household.
- A majority of survey respondents report their race to be White, not Hispanic (88.7%), while 8.0% say their race is White, Hispanic.
- Survey respondents are 50.3% are female and 49.7% male.



# Chapter 4 Trails



Wyoming offers a wide variety of trail opportunities that complement its rich heritage of diverse outdoor recreation experiences. Its trails are located in a range of unique and special settings which include mountainous forests, deep river canyons, high desert plains, high mountain crags, alpine meadows, and community greenways. Participation in outdoor recreation in general, and trail recreation specifically, has grown dramatically in recent decades. Hikers and backpackers, bicyclists, equestrians, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, dog sledders, snowmobilers, and off-road recreational vehicle (ORV) riders all use Wyoming's statewide system of trails. Wyoming has about 10,500 miles of trails managed by a variety of agencies. Nearly 8,000 miles are managed primarily as summer-use trails while over 2,700 miles are managed primarily for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing during the winter season. Additionally, there are well over 50,000 miles of roads in Wyoming open for use by ORV riders.

## Definitions

Definitions for several terms used throughout this chapter are provided below. These definitions are not intended as the sole meaning of these terms but rather provide the reader with the intended context for their use within this chapter.

**Trail** – A regularly maintained transportation and/or recreation pathway typically used by hikers, cross-country skiers, equestrians, bicyclists, snowmobilers, and/or motor vehicles less than 50 inches wide.

**Road** – A regularly maintained transportation and/or recreation route typically used by motorized vehicles greater than 50 inches wide.

**Wyoming State Trails Advisory Council (Trails Council)** – A ten-member recreational trail advisory committee appointed by the Governor to advise the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources on the management of recreational trails within Wyoming. Members represent both motorized and non-motorized recreation users groups and are appointed for 4-year terms to represent specific or multiple uses including hiking, bicycling, equestrian, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, and riding ATVs or off-highway motorcycles.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** – The federal agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that administers the Recreational Trails Program.

**Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** – A federal grant program funded by the federal fuel taxes paid on gasoline used by off-highway vehicles, including snowmobiles, ATVs, UTVs, off-highway motorcycles and four-wheel drive light utility vehicles. Monies are distributed to states based upon a formula whereby half goes equally to all states and the other half goes to states based upon estimates of their off-highway fuel use (apportionment levels have been frozen at FY 2009 levels). States use these funds for grants to local, state and federal agencies and to qualifying private organizations for the purpose(s) of: trail-related education, maintenance of existing trails, new trail construction, development of trail-side or trail-head facilities, and acquisition of easements or property for trails. By mandate, 30% of the funds must be used for motorized trails, 30% for non-motorized trails, and 40% for diversified trail use. The program requires a 20% programmatic match.

**Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** — A federal grant program that provides 50% matching grants for the development of public outdoor recreation activities, which can include trails. Funding is derived from revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts. LWCF regulations require states to have a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

## Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORV)

*Type 1:* A recreational vehicle primarily designed for off-road use which is fifty (50) inches or less in width and has an unladen weight of one thousand one hundred (1,100) pounds or less;

*Type 2:* Any unlicensed motorcycle which has an unladen weight of six hundred (600) pounds or less and is designed to be ridden off road with the operator astride upon a seat or saddle and travels on two (2) tires;

*Type 3:* Any multi-wheeled motorized vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed for cross-country travel on or over land, sand, snow, ice or other natural terrain and which has an unladen weight of more than nine hundred (900) pounds.

**Snowmobile** — Any mechanically driven vehicle of a type that utilizes sled type runners, or skis, or any endless belt tread or combination of these, designed primarily for operation over snow.

## State Trails Advisory Council

The Wyoming State Trails Advisory Council is a ten-member board appointed by the Governor to advise the State Trails Program within the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources regarding trail policies, functions and priorities. Its duties include a statutory requirement to advise the Department regarding priorities for managing the Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORV) Fund. It also advises regarding application guidelines and distributions of grant funds from the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The Council represents both motorized and non-motorized trail uses including snowmobiling, ATV's, off-highway motorcycles, equestrians, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and multiple uses. Therefore, its members are in-touch with the trail user groups and are able to provide valuable information for Trails Program operations.





## History

The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR) was given the authority to collect fees and oversee the snowmobile trails program in 1984 by W.S. 31- 2-403(e)(i) and the ORV trails program in 2001 by W.S. 31-2-702(a). The Wyoming State Trails Program (WSTP), a section within SPHST, is responsible for managing these programs and works in close cooperation with federal agencies to provide motorized trails across the state. Non-motorized trails are managed by state, local and federal agencies across Wyoming.

Prior planning documents for Wyoming's trails include the 1985 Wyoming State Trails Plan and brief chapters focusing on trails in prior SCORP documents. Since development of the WSTP as an individual program in 1995, there have been a series of issues, goals and objectives identified for the program as outlined in the *2004 Wyoming Statewide Trails Plan*, *Vision 2010 Wyoming State Trails Program Plan*, the *Wyoming State Trails Program Long-Range Plan 2012*, and, most recently, the *Wyoming State Trails Program: Motorized Trails Section 5-Year Plan 2018-2022*. The 1995, 2003, 2009 and 2014 SCORP reports all included a summarized list of general strategies for the future of the statewide trails system at that time. Over time, clear and concise goals and objectives have been developed to help provide Wyoming's trail users with outstanding recreational trails opportunities and experiences.

## Current Conditions

Ninety-two percent (92%) of designated trails in Wyoming are located on federal lands while only one percent (1%) are located on state lands. Consequently, the WSTP is quite limited in its ability to directly control rulemaking, build new trails, or direct management policies for these trails. Instead, the WSTP works to facilitate optimum recreational benefit of trail users through RTP grant distribution, motorized trail permit programs, and working collaboratively with federal agencies who are the actual land managers for most trails.

Current trail uses include snowmobile, ORV, hiking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, backpacking, running, hunting access, walking, dog sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Motorized use is allowed on 18% of the total number of trails during winter but only 11% of trails during summer (Nagler et al., 2013). Non-motorized uses are allowed on all trails year-round.

Over 98% of the funding for the WSTP comes directly from motorized uses. Non-motorized trails and pathways across the state are primarily funded by the managing federal, state or local agency's budget, or through limited assistance from RTP or the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants.

There are approximately 2,160 trails in Wyoming stretching over 10,472 miles. The primary land management agencies having jurisdiction over the trails were previously identified in this SCORP as recreation resource providers and include the USFS, the NPS, the BLM, the State of Wyoming and local entities, such as towns, cities, and counties. Almost 73 percent of Wyoming's trails are located on USFS lands, while only 1.1 percent are located on state lands.

The winter season has the highest percentage of the number of miles available for use with 92.5% of trails available for use during this season; spring has the lowest percentage available for use with 78.8%.

## River Trails

River trails are those trails that include access points to river destinations for recreation such as white-water rafting or fishing. None of these trails are currently under the supervision of the WSTP. Federal agencies manage 93.6% of these trails, with those on State lands being managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

### 2018 Recreation Plan Survey

- 29.9% of respondents participated in non-motorized water travel.



## ORV Trails

The *2013 Statewide Trails Inventory* (Nagler et al., 2013) identified 245 trail segments totaling 1,379 miles which are managed for ATV and off-road motorcycle use. This represents 13.3% of total trail miles in the state, although many other non-motorized trail uses are also simultaneously allowed to occur on these trails.

The WSTP has worked diligently with agencies to enroll trails and roads for ORV riding since the State ORV program was implemented in 2002. There are currently 6,215 miles of trails and roads (625 miles of trails and 5,590 miles of roads) which have been enrolled on public lands (primarily USFS). [Note: Inventory and ‘enrollment’ numbers for trails differ due to the Inventory’s ‘50-inch’ trail definition]. In addition, over 50,000 miles of BLM and local county roads have been enrolled to allow ORV riders road access through the state ORV sticker versus needing a license plate.

The ORV permit program provides self-supporting funding for the State ORV Trails Program and has quickly become a success while growing to over 58,500 permits sold annually after 15 years of existence. The continuously high ORV sales rate, and particularly the UTV/side-by-side segment, illustrates the growing popularity of ORV recreation, along with the need for proper planning and management to provide adequate opportunities to meet the growing needs of ORV recreationists.



The *2012 Wyoming Comprehensive Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Report* (Nagler et al., 2013) provides valuable information regarding the characteristics and spending habits of resident and non-resident ORV riders, along with trail management priorities for this user group. In 2012 ORV users accounted for 2.9 million use days that generated \$244.2 million of economic activity for the Wyoming economy. Residents spent an average of 38.6 days riding ORVs while non-residents averaged 17.6 days riding ORVs in Wyoming. Residents traveled an average of 4.5 hours per day on their ORV while riding 29 miles while non-residents spent an average of 5.8 hours per day while traveling 38 miles. ORV riders stated their top priorities for use of ORV registration/user fees include: new trail construction, trail maintenance, planning for new trails, trail signing, and trail maps. Respondents to the 2012 survey also indicated their most important future priorities include: more roads designated open to ORVs, more designated ORV trails, accurate and easy to read trail maps, more designated open riding areas, longer length of trail, loop trails, signage on trails, and trails that are challenging.

State ORV funds are used to provide Trail Ranger and Maintenance, Construction and Planning (MCP) grants to federal agencies. The State ORV Program provides trail maps and user ethics information to trail users and agencies. Its personnel also provide ORV trail maintenance, signing and construction across the state through the State Trail Crew. The ORV Program routinely participates as cooperators in various Federal land management planning processes to help facilitate ORV riding opportunities and access.

## 2018 Recreation Plan Survey (WYSAC 2018)

- 37.7% of respondents participated in off-road motorized vehicle travel.
- 63.1% of respondents rated their satisfaction with off-road motorized vehicle travel in the range of 'very good to excellent' compared to 51.4% in 2008 and 51.8% in 2013.
- 10.8% of respondents rated their satisfaction with off-road motorized vehicle travel in the range of 'fair to poor' compared to 21.2% in 2008 and 18.5% in 2013.
- 33.7% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that 'motorized vehicles should have more public recreation space than is currently available to them' while 42.6% of respondents either disagree or strongly disagree with this statement.







## Snowmobile Trails

The *2013 Statewide Trails Inventory* (Nagler et al., 2013) identified 378 trail segments totaling 2,751 miles which allowed snowmobile use. This represents 26.3% of total trail miles in the state, although many other non-motorized trail uses also simultaneously occur on these trails.

The State Snowmobile Program is managed by the WSTP and maintains 2,575 miles of snowmobile trails. All trails are signed, with 1,905 miles being regularly groomed and the remaining 670 miles maintained in an ‘ungroomed’ status. The Program also provides statewide trail maps along with snow removal for parking areas and safety shelters in some riding areas.

The success of the Snowmobile Program depends heavily on collaboration with federal agencies where most trails are located, the snowmobile permit program, and support from the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association and its local clubs. The permit program provides self-supporting funding for the State Snowmobile Trails Program with current annual sales of about 34,000 permits. The Snowmobile Program has also depended heavily upon RTP grant funding to provide trail grooming on snowmobile trail systems across the state. Trail grooming is accomplished through private contractors in 8 areas while 10 areas are groomed by state employees or agency partners using state-owned equipment.

The Program routinely participates as cooperators in various Federal land management planning processes to help facilitate snowmobile riding opportunities and access. Local snowmobile club members have contributed many man-hours over the years to help establish the network of snowmobile trails. The vast majority of trail miles maintained under this program are located on U.S. Forest Service lands, with a few short segments located on private or BLM lands. This cooperative effort works to benefit snowmobilers and the general public, exemplifying a successful, active partnership between the federal government, state government, private landowners, volunteers, and the public users.

The *2011-2012 Wyoming Comprehensive Snowmobile Recreation Report* (Nagler et al., 2012) provides valuable information regarding the characteristics and spending habits of resident and non-resident snowmobile riders, along with trail management priorities for this user group. Snowmobile riders accounted for 543,000 use days during the 2011-2012 winter season that generated \$175.5 million of economic activity for the Wyoming economy. Residents spent an average of 20 days riding snowmobiles while non-residents averaged 11 days of snowmobiling in Wyoming. Residents traveled an average of 5.7 hours per day on their snowmobile while riding 49 miles, while non-residents spent an average of 7 hours per day snowmobiling while traveling 58 miles. The survey found that 88 percent of resident snowmobilers and 96 percent of non-resident snowmobilers were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with their Wyoming snowmobile experience. Snowmobile riders stated their top priorities for use of snowmobile registration/user fees include: trail grooming and maintenance, parking area construction and snow removal, and trail signage.

The Snowmobile Program, initially established in 1984, has grown to be hugely popular and extremely successful over the past several years. Non-resident snowmobilers typically travel long distances to snowmobile in Wyoming and routinely represent half or more of Wyoming’s total snowmobile permit sales. The 2011-2012 snowmobile report shows the average non-resident travels 11 hours and 674 miles from their home to snowmobile in Wyoming, and that Wyoming is an attractive snowmobiling destination due to its good snow conditions and off-trail powder. This popularity is affirmed by the fact six of Wyoming’s twelve snowmobile trail systems are routinely ranked in the ‘Top 10’ western snowmobiling areas by Sno-West magazine, with the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail regularly garnering either the #1 or #2 spot. The largest amount of nonresident snowmobile use typically comes from people who live in Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Nebraska, Utah and Idaho - in that order.

Snowmobile trails are also heavily used by snowmobile outfitters who provide guided trips for their clients. This use accounted for \$21.3 million in trip expenditures within Wyoming during the 2011-2012 winter season. Snowmobile outfitter clients averaged 10.1 days per year snowmobiling in Wyoming, riding an average of 6.4 hours per day while traveling 69 miles. On average, outfitter clients traveled 12.8 hours and 1,014 miles from their home to snowmobile in Wyoming.

### 2018 Recreation Plan Survey (WYSAC 2018)

- 12.3% of respondents participated in snowmobile travel.
- 71.3% of respondents rated their satisfaction with snowmobile travel in the range of ‘very good to excellent’ compared to 84.5% in 2008 and 69.1% in 2013.
- 6.2% of respondents rated their satisfaction with snowmobile travel in the range of ‘fair to poor’ compared to 2.7% in 2008 and 6.2% in 2013.

## Non-Motorized Recreation Trails

While all of the 10,472 miles of trail in Wyoming are available for non-motorized recreation, over 8,500 miles (81%) are managed for hiking while over 6,200 miles (59%) are managed for equestrian use (*2013 Wyoming Statewide Trails Inventory*, Nagler et. al, 2013). Other major uses for these trails include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and bicycling.

## 2018 Recreation Plan Survey

- 81.1% of respondents participated in hiking or walking
- 41.3% of respondents participated in jogging/running/fitness course workouts
- 27.7% of respondents participated in road bicycling
- 24.9% of respondents participated in cross-country skiing/snowshoeing
- 20.2% of respondents participated in mountain bicycling
- 16.2% of respondents participated in horseback riding
- 41.4% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that ‘for non-motorized recreation, there should be more public recreation space than there is currently’ while 23.1% of respondents either disagree or strongly disagree with this statement

The *Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report 2018* (Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, 2018) indicates that ‘hiking and backpacking’ is the purpose of 34% of Wyoming tourism and recreation trips while 6% of Wyoming tourism recreation trips are related to ‘bicycling and mountain biking.’

Since 92% of all trails are located on federal lands, most of Wyoming’s non-motorized trails are managed by federal agencies. The location of a trail determines who is responsible for the trail’s operational costs (i.e., trails located on USFS lands are maintained by the USFS), consequently, partnerships with federal agencies are becoming increasingly important given declining federal budgets and staffing levels.



## Future Trails Planning

Many steps have been taken over past years to improve the amount of data available on Wyoming's statewide trail system. The WSTP has also grown tremendously as a program due to heavily increasing demands for trails. Several surveys and planning processes have been used to set goals and objectives for Wyoming trails and the WSTP. Most recently, the *Wyoming State Trails Program Motorized Trails Section 5-Year Plan 2018-2022* was completed in 2018 working in conjunction with the Wyoming State Trails Advisory Council. Major goals and objectives related to motorized trail uses include:

## Snowmobile Program

1. Provide responsible management of Snowmobile Program funding and expenditures
2. Protect and enhance access for snowmobiling
3. Manage snowmobile trail grooming to provide high quality trails in an efficient, cost-effective manner
4. Manage snowmobile trail signing to provide proper guidance and trails that are easy to follow
5. Provide appropriate facilities and infrastructure for snowmobile visitor management
6. Provide off-season snowmobile trail route maintenance and improvement to ensure trail routes can be effectively groomed
7. Deliver snowmobile education materials and services that promote Wyoming snowmobiling opportunities, proper understanding of Wyoming's snowmobiling laws and operating requirements, safe and ethical snowmobile operation, and information about key management issues, as appropriate
8. Provide funding assistance through the OHV Trails Grant Program to the Forest Service and other local partners as needed

## ORV Program

1. Provide responsible management of ORV funding with emphasis on diversifying and expanding riding opportunities through prudent partnerships and aggressive spending plans
2. Protect and enhance access for ORV recreation
3. Manage ORV trail signing to provide proper guidance and trails that are easy to follow
4. Perform regular ORV trail maintenance and improvement
5. Deliver education materials and services that promote Wyoming ORV riding opportunities; safe and ethical operation; and a proper understanding of Wyoming ORV laws, operating requirements, and management issues
6. Conduct ORV Program monitoring

## OHV Trails Grant Program

1. Be aggressive in getting State grant dollars on the ground in a timely and effective manner.
2. Be flexible and responsive to changing conditions required to build and maintain partnerships with land managing agencies.
3. Provide on-trail patrols by trained professionals through agency partnerships.

## RTP Grant Program

1. Work closely with other SPHST staff as required to effectively utilize RTP grant funds to the benefit of Wyoming trails while meeting Program operating policies.
2. Continue to monitor and evaluate RTP Program policies and procedures to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services.



## Wyoming Land Managing Agencies That Provide Trail Opportunities

### United States Forest Service



The USFS within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers approximately 9.2 million acres of land in Wyoming, which is 25% of the total public land in the State. It is the largest single provider of trail opportunities in Wyoming. The 2013 Wyoming Statewide Trails Inventory identified over 9,600 miles of designated trails on national forests within Wyoming, which represents 72.7% of all inventoried trails in the state.

Additionally, there are thousands of miles of non-designated trails and primitive roads available for recreation on USFS lands across the state. National Forests are managed for multiple uses and provide timber, minerals, range, recreation, water, fish and wildlife.

There are fifteen designated Wilderness Areas totaling nearly 3 million acres (about 34% of USFS lands) in Wyoming available solely for non-mechanized recreation use such as hiking, horseback riding and long-distance backpacking. The use of Wilderness is an attraction for Wyoming residents but is particularly captivating to out-of-state visitors. The USFS in Wyoming is administered by two different USFS Regional Offices: the Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) headquartered in Denver, Colorado and the Intermountain Region (Region 4) headquartered in Ogden, Utah. The on-the-ground daily management of USFS lands is carried out by staff within 21 Ranger Districts. There is one National Grassland (Thunder Basin) and four National Forests (Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, Medicine Bow and Shoshone) located entirely within the state; an additional four National Forests (Ashley, Black Hills, Caribou-Targhee and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache) are located partially within Wyoming.

The *Economic Impact of Non-Motorized Trail Usage on National Forests in Wyoming* report (Taylor et al., 2013) looked at the four National Forests located entirely within Wyoming. It used National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data collected by the USFS to estimate that there were more than one million visits annually to these four forests where the primary purpose of the trip was non-motorized recreation. Total expenditures by non-motorized recreation visitors to these four forests was estimated to be about \$51.8 million annually, with 64.4% (\$33.4 million) occurring on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. About 20% (\$10.3 million) of total non-motorized recreation expenditures occurred on the Medicine Bow National Forest followed by 11.4% (\$5.9 million) on the Shoshone National Forest and 4.3% (\$2.2 million) on the Bighorn National Forest.

### Bureau of Land Management



The BLM within the U.S. Department of Interior administers approximately 18.5 million acres of land in Wyoming, which is approximately one-third of the total state. The 2013 Wyoming Statewide Trails Inventory identified 520 miles of designated trails on BLM land, equal to 5% of trails in the State. However, over 50,000 miles of non-designated trails and primitive roads also exist on BLM land

which makes the BLM an extremely important provider of trail opportunities in Wyoming.

BLM land in Wyoming is administered through the State Office in Cheyenne, with ten Field Offices located in Buffalo, Casper, Cody, Kemmerer, Lander, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, Rock Springs and Worland for on-the-ground management. The BLM's resource management responsibilities in Wyoming are heavily influenced by the minerals, oil, and gas industries, but also include recreation, timber, range, water, fish, wildlife and fire protection.

## National Park Service



The NPS within the U.S. Department of Interior, administers approximately 2.6 million acres of land in Wyoming that contain 1,474 miles of designated trails. These trails represent 14.1% of the trail opportunities in Wyoming and are significant for their historic, geologic, and interpretive values.

NPS lands conserve the wildlife, scenic, natural, and historic objects therein, and provide for the enjoyment of the same by such manner and means that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. The NPS manages seven areas in Wyoming: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Devils Tower National Monument, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Fossil Buttes National Monument, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and Yellowstone National Park. Recreational opportunities on NPS lands in Wyoming are particularly significant since Yellowstone was the Nation's first national park and Devils Tower was its first national monument.

The NPS is also the primary administrator of the National Trails System as authorized by the National Trails System Act of 1968. This System consists of three types of nationally designated trails: National Historic Trails, National Scenic Trails and National Recreation Trails. Various other agencies administer, operate and maintain the National Trails System within their jurisdiction in consultation with NPS.

National Scenic Trails are designated by an Act of Congress through a recommendation of the managing agency. They maximize outdoor recreation potential while providing for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural or cultural qualities of areas through which the trails pass. Wyoming has one such trail, the 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that follows the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico with approximately 550 miles being located within Wyoming.

National Historic Trails are also designated by an Act of Congress. They are extended trails that follow original trails or routes of national historic significance. Since these historic routes cross a checkerboard of private and public lands within Wyoming, there is often no public access to the trails themselves so auto tour routes often parallel these historic routes (so, consequently, little or no opportunity for direct historic trail-based outdoor recreation). Wyoming has four National Historic Trails whose original routes total over 2,600 miles: the Oregon National Historic Trail (491 original route miles in Wyoming), the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail (511 original route miles in Wyoming), the Pony Express National Historic Trail (540 original route miles in Wyoming) and the California National Historic Trail (1,088 original route miles in Wyoming including two alternate routes).

A National Recreation Trail is a designation that can be obtained for trails managed by public or private agencies as a component of the National Trails System. They must be fully developed and available for use at the time of designation and the administering agency must certify that the trail will be available for public use for a minimum of ten years. These trails do not require an Act of Congress, but rather can be designated either through the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture by a recommendation of the managing agency. There are fourteen National Recreation Trails totaling 138.3 miles in Wyoming: Beartooth Loop - Shoshone National Forest, 9.7 miles; Blackwater Fire Memorial - Shoshone National Forest, 6 miles; Bucking Mule Falls - Bighorn National Forest, 12 miles; Rock Creek/Deep Creek - Medicine Bow National Forest, 14 miles; Shell Falls - Bighorn National Forest, 0.2 mile; Wyoming Range - Bridger-Teton National Forest, 70 miles; Muddy Mountain Interpretive - Casper BLM, 2 miles; Grassroots - Torrington, 0.9 mile; Headquarters - Medicine Bow National Forest, 3.5 miles; Lee McCune Braille - Natrona County, 0.3 mile; Morning Glory - Yellowstone National Park, 1.5 miles; Sheridan - Bridger-Teton National Forest, 9 miles; South Rim - Yellowstone National Park, 9 miles; Three Senses - Yellowstone National Park, 0.2 mile.

The NPS also operates a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) that works with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. RTCA's focus is on helping communities help themselves by providing expertise and experience from around the Nation. Its assistance in greenway efforts is wide-ranging and includes planning help with trails along abandoned railroad rights-of-way and regional water trails. RTCA assistance can be requested through the NPS Intermountain Region Office in Denver, Colorado.

## Bureau of Reclamation



The BOR within the U.S. Department of Interior, administers approximately 954,000 acres of land in Wyoming. The BOR has played an active role in the economic development of Wyoming by providing facilities that generate power and store and convey water for irrigation and other uses. The day-to-day management of these lands is, for the most part, delegated to state or county government. Therefore, the discussion of trail opportunities on BOR lands is covered below under the Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails as well as under Local Agencies.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The USFWS within the U.S. Department of Interior, administers approximately 70,600 acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands in Wyoming. Since public access to National Wildlife Refuges is very limited, USFWS has only two trails totaling one mile within the state which, nonetheless, are highly valued for their interpretive and wildlife viewing opportunities. They include the National Elk Refuge, which has an accessible boardwalk behind the visitor center in Jackson, and the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge where a fully accessible interpretive trail is located at the Lombard Ferry Historical Site.



## Wyoming Game & Fish Department



The WGFD owns approximately 166,000 acres of land used to provide fish and wildlife habitat. In some cases, WGFD land also provides access to adjacent public land. There are 6 miles of designated trails on WGFD lands, along with a variety of paths and roads used as trails.

## Office of State Lands and Investments

The Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments manages 3.6 million acres of State Trust Lands in Wyoming. It is the administrative and advisory arm of the Board of Land Commissioners and the State Loan and Investment Board and is responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of those boards.

These State lands are not “public” lands in the same sense as those properties managed by the federal government. These lands were granted to the State on its admission to the Union to produce income for the support of public schools and institutions. Generally, State Lands, other than cultivated crop lands, are available for public hunting, fishing and recreational day use. There are few designated trails on State Lands, but a variety of paths and roads used as trails exist. While motor vehicle use off roadways is prohibited, all established roads have been enrolled in the State ORV Program.

## Wind River Indian Reservation

The Wind River Indian Reservation administers public trails and pathways through two agencies, the Tribal Fish and Game and the Joint Transportation Department. It provides 39 trail segments totaling 131 miles of designated trails which represents 1.3% of trails within the state.



## Wyoming Department of Transportation



The primary role of the WYDOT is to provide a safe, reliable transportation system that serves the needs of the traveling public, commerce and industry. A total of 6 miles of designated trail exists along WYDOT rights-of-way. WYDOT also plays an important role in providing trail opportunities since it routinely considers bicycle and pedestrian needs when designing transportation facilities, particularly in urban areas. It administers the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which allocates a small portion of a state's federal surface transportation funds for special use categories that can include trails and bicycle/pedestrian facilities. WYDOT's TAP grants (along with its predecessor Transportation Enhancement grants) have been a primary funding source for many greenways and pathway projects located in or adjacent to Wyoming communities.

## Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails



The SPHST within the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, manages 51,326 acres of land in Wyoming. The majority of this land is managed as reservoir parks leased from the Bureau of Reclamation. The park system has about 115 miles of designated non-motorized trails. Additionally, about 60 miles of park roadways are open to ORV use.

SPHST administers the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant program that provides grants to agencies and organizations for motorized, non-motorized and diversified use trail projects.

The Wyoming State Trails Program (WSTP), a program within SPHST, serves as the lead state entity to coordinate planning, development and implementation of statewide trail systems among federal, state and local agencies and the private sector. The State Trails Program does not own any land in Wyoming but rather facilitates and manages cooperative agreements that provide trail opportunities on lands owned by other agencies.

The State Trails Program administers the snowmobile and ORV registration programs and utilizes funds collected to develop and maintain snowmobile and ORV trail opportunities across the state. The Snowmobile Program provides day-to-day management for 2,573 miles of snowmobile trails. The ORV Program has over 625 miles of ORV trails and over 50,000 miles of ORV roads enrolled across the state.

The WSTP also operates the State Trail Crew that provides on-the-ground construction and maintenance of motorized trails on federal lands, at no cost to the federal agency. It also provides technical assistance to land management agencies and the public regarding trails management and development upon request. The program routinely monitors federal agency land-use planning initiatives such as USFS travel and forest management plans, BLM resource management plans, and other environmental assessments to ensure recreational trail opportunities are properly considered and protected.

# Trails

The *Wyoming State Trails Program: Motorized Trails Section 5-Year Plan 2018-2022* describes the Motorized Trails Section ‘niche’ as:

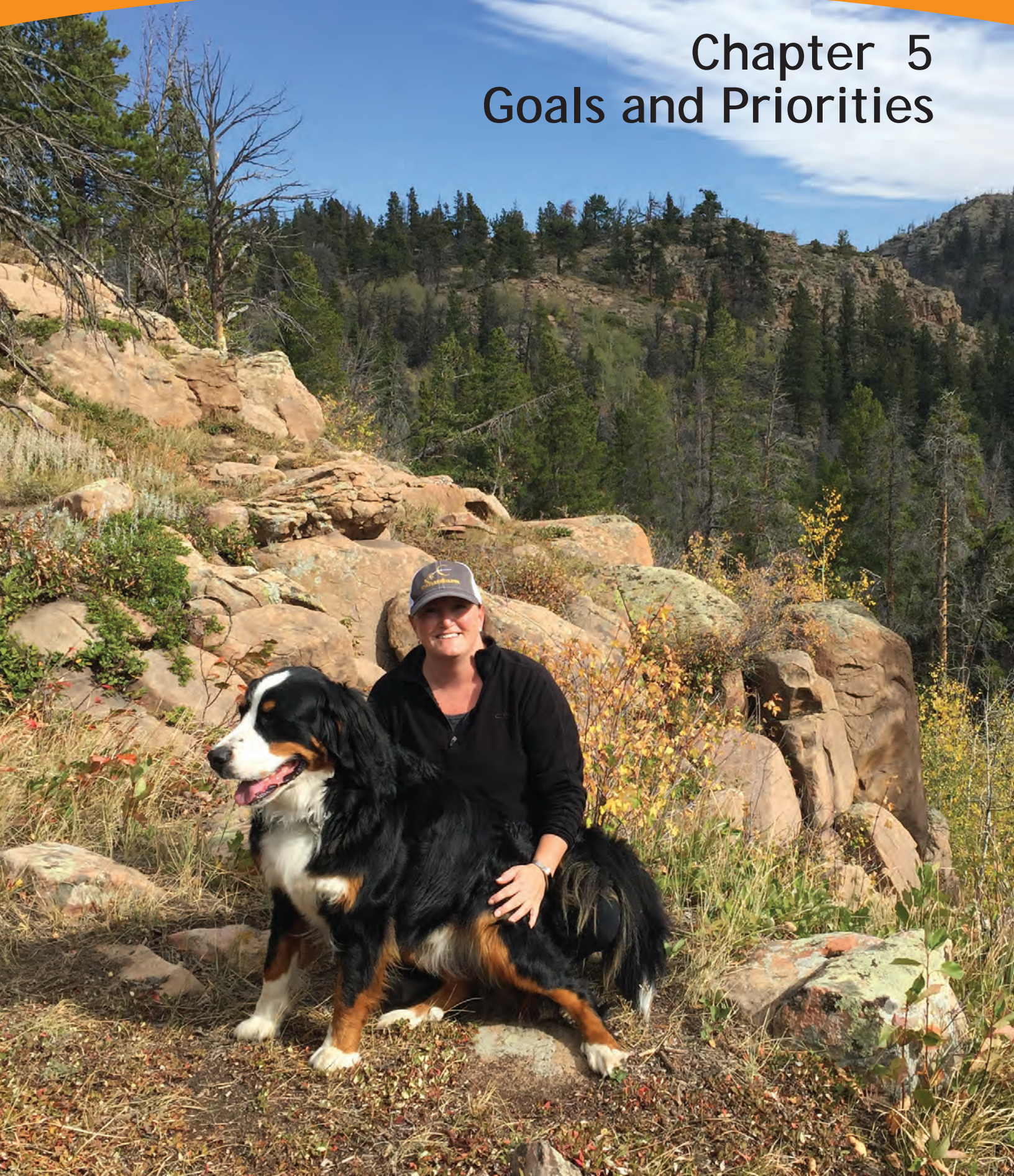
1. Operation of the State Snowmobile Trails Program
2. Operation of the State Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORV) Program
3. Assists the effective use of RTP grant funds
4. Coordinates with the Wyoming Trails Advisory Council

## Local Agencies

Wyoming’s cities, counties and recreation districts manage approximately 495 miles of trail which comprises about 4.7% of designated trails in the State. These local-agency trails are extremely important since they provide close-to-home trail opportunities many residents desire for health and fitness.



# Chapter 5 Goals and Priorities



# Goals and Priorities

As noted in previous chapters there are two perspectives on outdoor recreation in Wyoming. The first perspective is from the point of view of those agencies and organizations providing recreation facilities to the general public. The second is the perspective of the general public; this can include individuals, families, or organizations that have specific needs, demands or desires for facilities or recreation opportunities. The following issues were derived by synthesizing provider concerns, and public input on the activities they participated in, quality of public outdoor recreation facilities, concerns and issues related to outdoor recreation, and why people did not recreate. These issues and the associated recommendations are to be used as a guide for outdoor recreation in Wyoming for the next five years.

## Recreation Issues

The following are the five major issues condensed into three from the recreation providers' and recreation users' surveys conducted in 2018:

### 1) Land Use Management

- Access to Recreation Areas/Lands
- Maintaining Recreation Experience
- Natural Resource Protection

### 2) Facilities

- Maintaining Existing Facilities
- Developing New Facilities
- Addressing Environmental Factors
- Meeting the Needs of a Changing Population
- Trails and Pathways
- Availability of close to home opportunities

### 3) Funding and Cost

- Funding for Personnel
- Funding for Maintenance
- Funding for Restoring Existing Facilities and Developing New Facilities
- Cost to Public



## Issue 1: Land Use Management

Ensuring recreation opportunities meet users' needs is a primary goal of the SCORP. This entails access to a facility or public area, reasonable user fees, accessibility for all abilities, and the ability to enjoy the recreational activity once there (i.e. crowding, noise, condition of facility, user conflicts, etc.). Public access to recreation areas was identified by survey respondents as a primary concern. Additionally, respondents felt public land use should be managed to minimize conflicts yet have accessible and convenient facilities that complement uses. Respondents also expressed a growing concern about maintaining recreation experience. This includes aspects of managing natural resources and user groups to avoid user displacement due to conflicts or other aspects which diminish the quality of the experience.

As the population in the West increases, new residential, commercial and industrial development will impact and change the outdoor experience. Respondents were concerned with the extent and location of new development, especially extractive industries, wind generators and power lines. Correspondingly, as population density increases, recreational use of public lands will intensify. Respondents voiced a myriad of concerns related to public land management issues. Numerous respondents expressed concern about a perceived lack of regulations and enforcement, while others expressed apprehension about over-regulation and excessive control of public lands.

Concerns over motorized recreation received the second most comments from respondents. Comments supporting motorized recreation still rank in the top ten list of comments. About a third of respondents indicated more land should be made available for motorized recreation. Over half of respondents felt more land should be made available for non-motorized recreation. Ensuring there is enough land and water available to provide recreation opportunities is always a concern. Over half of respondents would like to see current water recreation areas expanded in the state. Over 60% of respondents supported acquiring additional recreation lands through a willing seller or donation.

## Recommendations

- Maintain existing and increase access to public lands for outdoor recreation.
- Identify areas desirable for outdoor recreation and explore land consolidation and/or cooperative management between private, state, and federal land managers.
- Identify and resolve disagreements between conflicting user groups.
- Examine land needs to ensure they meet current demands and future trends in outdoor recreation.
- Implement recreation planning at all levels which incorporates principles of maintaining recreation setting and compatibility between user groups.
- Utilize and create conservation tools for public lands such as adopt-a-trail programs and Ride on Wyoming.

## Issue 2: Facilities

Results from the 2018 surveys clearly indicate maintaining existing and providing additional recreational facilities close to where residents live and work are a primary concern. The public wants facilities that are close to home, uncrowded, are suitable for Wyoming's environment, up to date and reflect current recreation trends. Several respondents expressed concerns about setting, location and design of recreation facilities (i.e. ADA accessibility, sun, wind, etc.). Current demographic trends indicate Wyoming's recreation providers will have to address the needs of an increasingly retirement-age population, a more obese population and youth that are digitally engaged. For example, as the population ages Wyoming will need to improve ADA accessibility and have more passive recreation areas. Depending on funding and available resources, recreation providers will need to think about which facilities to maintain, how to modify recreation programming, and where to locate new recreation facilities. Trails and pathways continue to be a topic of primary concern with the public. Three of the top six recreation activities identified: viewing nature, viewing wildlife and walking/ hiking involve using trails, paths or rural roads. Additionally, motorized recreation opportunities are necessarily trail-based.



## Recommendations

- Improve and expand existing outdoor recreation facilities, when appropriate, to meet the increasing demands of the public.
- Encourage and facilitate communication between users and recreation providers to determine new outdoor recreation needs, intensity of development, and appropriate locations and facilities.
- Develop and implement effective processes to periodically bring together key outdoor recreation providers (from all levels of government and the private sector) to discuss and address ongoing regional outdoor recreation issues.
- Ensure new facility design considers climatic and scenic factors (including facilities orientation to reduce wind exposure, to take advantage of sunshine and or shade opportunities, and are situated to reduce visual impacts.
- Designate and develop high-quality, purpose-built areas for all user groups mindfully constructed to achieve the goal of reducing conflicting uses. Promote a conservation and responsible use ethic among all user groups.
- Promote, increase, enhance and support inclusive outdoor recreation programs and train a qualified outdoor recreation workforce.
- Develop services which promote and increase recreational opportunities awareness, safety and ethics, including but not limited to, improved wayfinding and signage, web-based tools, and print media.
- Meet the current recreational needs of the population, including, but not limited to:
  - Outdoor recreational facilities,
  - Trails and pathways,
  - Community recreation facilities, and
  - Addressing accessibility barriers, including but not limited to, facilities for all abilities and lack of equipment or proximity from home.





## Issue 3: Funding and Cost

Results from the 2018 recreation survey illustrate funding for facility maintenance, recreation personnel and restoration of existing recreation areas are of major concern. The public expects recreation areas to be clean, safe and well maintained. It is imperative that existing facilities are properly maintained to provide a worthwhile experience for the user. The strategy is to develop a variety of long-term dependable funding sources to be specifically used to maintain and staff outdoor recreation facilities. Seventy-two percent of respondents felt, “new or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local, state, and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities.” Over two thirds of respondents felt, “user fees, special taxes or license fees should be used as an alternate source of funding for outdoor recreation facilities to help defer operational costs.” Over two thirds of respondents felt, “the state should provide support and assistance to local organizations for expanding their recreation facilities.” Sixty-three percent of respondents felt, “a source of long-term consistent funding for recreation should be provided at the state level.” Clearly the public feels recreation areas should be funded through multiple sources and the state should play a role in providing and maintaining public outdoor recreation facilities.

At the same time numerous respondents expressed a concern about the rising costs of recreation facilities. Seventy-one percent of respondents felt, “basic opportunities at parks and open space areas, such as walking and picnicking, should be provided by general tax dollars without additional user fees.” The public is comfortable charging user fees and special taxes for more developed recreation areas, but feels passive recreation areas such as city parks, greenways and open spaces should not be fee areas.



## Recommendations

- Maintain and expand funding mechanisms that support access, infrastructure and conservation.
- Encourage and facilitate alternative long-term funding strategies through joint partnership arrangements between local government, business leaders, and private interests.
- Encourage and engage in the development of policies promoting self-sufficient outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.
- Establish an endowment or Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund using creative public and private funding mechanisms to provide funding for recreational infrastructure.
- Ensure that maintenance is current on all facilities.
- Increase community promotion and education about outdoor recreation programs, facilities, opportunities and needs.
- Evaluate current facilities and equipment relative to their effective use-life and update or replace as appropriate.
- In coordination with recreation providers, develop and maintain a clearinghouse of available funding sources for outdoor recreation so as to ensure that all eligible applicants are aware of those funding sources.
- Promote the use of private business, volunteers, sport associations, and recreation groups as an alternative means of support for the operation and maintenance of public outdoor recreation facilities, where appropriate.
- Attention and funding consideration should be focused on renovating existing recreation sites and attractions if and where significant cost savings can be realized over development of new sites or facilities.
- Networks of citizens, local decision makers, recreation and outdoor groups, along with regional coalitions, should be formed to advocate for funding for outdoor recreation.
- Explore user fee programs for purpose-built facilities and recreation use on state lands.

## Priority Projects

In the 2019 SCORP we have identified several priorities for Wyoming outdoor recreation. The following is a list of outdoor recreation projects that are identified as priorities for LWCF funding. This list was developed using information from the user survey, provider survey, prior Wyoming SCORP reports and new facility trends.



- Access to Recreation Areas/Lands
- Trails (motorized)
- Trails (non-motorized)
- Shooting Facilities/Target Ranges
- Boating Facilities
- Amphitheater/Band Shells
- Picnic Areas
- Aquatic Facilities
- BMX Tracks
- Remote Control Facilities
- Skateboard Facilities
- Campgrounds
- Sheltered Ice Rinks
- Disc Golf Courses
- Sheltered Swimming Pools
- Splash Pads/Spray Parks
- Dog Parks
- Fishing
- Golf Courses
- Multi Use Sports and Playfields
- Hunting Access
- Support Facilities
- Natural Areas/Wetlands
- Paintball Facilities
- Passive Parks/Open Spaces
- Blue Trails/White Water Parks

Although these are not the entire criteria needed to receive LWCF funds, these facilities and the specific components incidental to them are found to be needed in every region of Wyoming. The 2019 SCORP recognizes the potential for continual, evolving changes in outdoor recreation. This document attempts to enhance the opportunity for local communities to more easily obtain LWCF funds. All planning and long-range improvement plans adopted by state, county, city, town or local recreation boards will be considered eligible for the LWCF grant program.

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# Appendices



## APPENDIX A. PROVIDERS' SURVEY

### Wyoming Statewide Recreational Facilities Inventory

### Current Facilities and Future Facility Needs



## Wyoming Statewide Recreational Facilities Inventory Current Facilities and Future Facility Needs

This is a survey of local government recreation departments, mayor's offices, and other local recreation providers around the state as part of the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process.

This information will be used as part of the data needed for development of the 2019-2023 Wyoming SCORP. The SCORP identifies recreation issues and needs at the state and local levels and guides the allocation of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) through the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails (SPHST).

Please complete this form and submit it to [mabel.jones@wyo.gov](mailto:mabel.jones@wyo.gov) or to Wyo Parks; Planning Section, 2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne WY 82009.

<b>1) Responding Agency:</b>	<b>2) Location:</b>
<b>3) Contact Name:</b>	<b>4) County:</b>
	<b>5) Zip Code:</b>

6) Size and type of existing community recreation center(s)/building(s).	Type	Size (sq ft)
Existing facility comments:	Facility 1	
	Facility 2	
	Facility 3	
	Facility 4	
	Facility 5	

**7) If your community expanded existing center(s)/building(s), what type of programs would you expand and by how much?**

Type	Size (sq ft)
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
e)	
f)	

**8) Choose up to 12 and rank the following needs as they relate to your recreation program (1 is most important 12 is least important).**

Need	Rank (1-12)
Additional Facilities	_____
Additional Personnel	_____
Community Awareness	_____
Community Support	_____
Land Acquisition	_____
Natural Resource Protection	_____
Maintenance Funding	_____
Program Expansion	_____
Recreation Gear Checkout Libraries	_____
Restoration of Existing Facilities	_____
Trails and Greenways	_____
Other (list) _____	_____
Other (list) _____	_____

# Appendices

9) Please list the number and acres/miles (if appropriate) of existing facilities in your jurisdiction and rate the condition.

10) Please list the number and acres/miles (if appropriate) of facilities that will be added in the next 5 years (funding in place).

11) Please list the number and acres/miles (if appropriate) of facilities that you would like to add in the next 5 years (if funding becomes available).

	9) Existing Facilities			10) Facilities to be added in next 5 years-Funding is/will be available	11) Facilities we would add in next 5 years- If funding became available	
	Number and acres/miles (if appropriate)	Condition			Number and acres/miles (if appropriate)	Number and acres/miles (if appropriate)
		Good	Fair	Poor		
Baseball Fields						
Batting Cages						
Softball Fields						
Football Fields						
Soccer Fields						
Golf Courses 9-Hole						
Golf Courses 18-Hole						
Miniature Golf						
Disk/Frisbee Golf						
Outdoor Basketball Courts						
Outdoor Volleyball Courts						
Tennis Courts						
Horseshoe Pits						
Swimming Pools - Indoor						
Swimming Pools - Outdoor						
Spray Parks						
Swimming Beaches						
Parks - Developed						
Parks - Not Developed						
One-Piece Play Equipment Structures						
Lakes/Ponds # (acres)						
Camp Sites - Tent						
Camp Sites - Motor homes, Trailers, RVs						
Fishing Piers						
Boat Ramps-Developed						
Whitewater Parks						
Outdoor Education Facility (nature/interpretive center, botanical gardens)						
Natural Surface Non-Motorized Trails # ( miles)						
Horseback Trails # (miles)						
Paved Surface Non-Motorized Trails # (miles)						
Green Space # (acres)						
Cross Country Ski Trails # (miles)						
Snowmobile Trails – Groomed # (miles)						
Snowmobile Trails – Not Groomed # (miles)						
Picnic Sites						
Rodeo Arena						
Shooting/Archery Ranges						
Paintball Facilities						
Sporting Arenas/Stadiums						
Ice Rink - Indoor						
Ice Rink – Outdoor						
Skateboard Park						
BMX Park						
Dog Park						
Remote Control Park						
Auto Race Tracks						
Other						
Other						

**12)** State your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements (1-Strongly agree, 2- Agree, 3-Neutral, 4-Disagree, 5-Strongly disagree)

There is greater demand for public organized activities in our community than individualized non-structured activities.	1	2	3	4	5
User fees should cover the direct cost of high maintenance recreation facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
Basic opportunities at public parks and open space areas, such as walking and picnicking, should be provided by general tax dollars without additional user fees.	1	2	3	4	5
Most citizens in my community believe recreation is important to the community's quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
The elected officials in my community believe recreation is a high priority for the community's quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
Open space, parks and recreational opportunities over the last ten years have enhanced my community's chances for economic development.	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor recreation in my community should be a joint partnership between local government, business leaders and private interests.	1	2	3	4	5

- 13) a)** What are your community's estimated outdoor recreation facilities maintenance/repair needs for the next 5 years? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b)** What are your community's new park construction funding needs for the next 5 years? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- c)** What are your community's estimated path/trail/green space funding needs for the next 5 years? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**14)** Please identify recreation related issues that have occurred in your community in the last two years (list top three):

**15)** List outdoor skill mentoring programs for both participants and providers in your community (including work with schools); staff certification required; costs/participant and populations served (age or other relevant demographic (at risk, veteran etc...)). What barriers are there to providing outdoor skills mentoring?

**16)** List current initiatives and opportunities (such as adjacent public land or cooperating landowners, land (federal, state, private) consolidation/connections, public transportation, programs etc....) to create direct connections from your community to open space.

# Appendices

**17)** How do you track outdoor recreation infrastructure (spatial data system, spreadsheets etc...)? How accurate is this information (scale and update frequency)? Can this information be shared with entities?

**18)** How does your community track and market outdoor recreation opportunities, providers, education programs and events? How accurate is this information? How is this information shared with the public and other entities?

**19)** What direction would you like to see the Land and Water Conservation Fund Take?

**20)** General comments:

Thank you for your assistance in completing this inventory and survey. Submit completed survey to [mabel.jones@wyo.gov](mailto:mabel.jones@wyo.gov) or to Wyo Parks; Planning Section, 2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne WY 82009. Results will be summarized in the 2019 SCORP which will be distributed to all of the recreation directors in the state upon completion.



## APPENDIX B. USER SURVEY

### Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey 2018

## Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey 2018

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Refusal to participate will have no effect on any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Fill in bubbles completely using either pencil or pen (blue or black ink), but please do NOT use a felt-tip marker.*

Mark Answers Like This     
 NOT Like This

1. Please tell us how important or unimportant public parks and other public recreation areas are to your quality of life.

Very important      Important      Unimportant      Very unimportant      Don't know

2. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree				Strongly disagree	No opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	
Having recreation areas close to my home improves my quality of life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor recreation in my community should be a joint partnership between local government, business leaders, and private interests.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The state's current water recreation areas need to be expanded.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorized vehicles should have more public recreation space than is currently available to them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For non-motorized recreation, there should be more public space available than there is currently.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The demand for publicly organized activities in our community is greater than the demand for individualized non-structured activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The state should provide support and assistance to local organizations for expanding their recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A source of long-term, consistent funding for recreation should be provided at the state level.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
User fees should cover the direct cost of high-maintenance recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basic opportunities at public parks and open space areas, such as walking and picnicking, should be provided by general tax dollars without additional user fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts should be made to acquire additional recreation lands from individuals or other entities interested in selling or donating land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Appendices

3. Following is a list of outdoor activities. For each one, please tell us if you or a member of your household participated in that activity in Wyoming in the past year, and how you would rate the available facilities for that activity in Wyoming.

	Participated	Did not participate, but want to.	Excellent					Poor	Don't know
			1	2	3	4	5		
Camping in developed sites (RV, pop-up, tent camping)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Primitive camping (motorized, but no facilities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Backpacking, camping in roadless areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Picnicking and family day gatherings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Viewing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Viewing historic and/or prehistoric sites/areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Visiting a nature center, nature trail, or visitors center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
General/other: relaxing, hanging out, escaping crowds, noise, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Fishing-all types	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Hunting-all types	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Off-road motorized vehicle travel (4-wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Driving for pleasure/sightseeing by auto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Snowmobile travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Motorized water travel (boats, PWC, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Nonmotorized water travel (canoe, kayak, raft, sail craft etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Hiking or walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Rodeo activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Road bicycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Mountain bicycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
BMX bicycling / Trials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Downhill skiing, snowboarding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sledding, tubing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Ice skating (indoor)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Ice skating (outdoor)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Jogging, running, fitness course workouts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Field activities (soccer, tennis, baseball, volleyball, horseshoes, ultimate frisbee, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Golf (18-hole, 9-hole, driving range)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



### 3...continued from page 2.

	Participated	Did not participate but want to.	Excellent					Poor	Don't know
			1	2	3	4	5		
Golf (miniature)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Disc golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Geo-caching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Skateboarding or in-line skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Outdoor spectator activities (concerts, sporting events, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Outdoor fairs or festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
General playground activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Dog parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Swimming (pools, lakes, reservoirs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Spray parks/water parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Rock climbing (climbing wall or natural rock)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other, Specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

#### 4. Which of the following prevented you or members of your household from visiting park or recreation facilities as often as you'd like IN WYOMING within the past year? (Mark all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too crowded                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Too expensive                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Did not offer facilities wanted            | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical impairment / Accessibility     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Did not offer activities wanted            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware of facilities/programs available | <input type="checkbox"/> Child safety issues                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time/too busy                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of public access                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Just moved here                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics (TV, computer, video games) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too far to travel                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____            |

#### 5. How often do you use each of the following resources to find out about recreation opportunities...

	...in your community?			...when you travel?		
	Never	Sometimes	Frequently	Never	Sometimes	Frequently
Provider Websites (Rec Depts, State Parks, USFS, Etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism Websites (WY office of Tourism, Local Chamber, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidebooks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TV/Radio/Newspaper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activity Specific Website/App (i.e. MTB Project, Mountain Project, hunting/fishing Apps, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brochures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wayfinding/Highway Signs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Appendices

6. Please rank the following seven items in order of importance as they relate to your quality of life (with 1 being the most important and 7 the least important).

- |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare               |   |                                  |

7. In what year were you born?

8. Which of the following BEST describes your current employment status?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Full time employed         | <input type="radio"/> Homemaker                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Part time employed         | <input type="radio"/> Retired or disabled               |
| <input type="radio"/> Student, and also employed | <input type="radio"/> Not currently employed or student |
| <input type="radio"/> Student, and not employed  |   |

9. Which of the following best describes your marital status?

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Single                     | <input type="radio"/> Divorced  |
| <input type="radio"/> Married                    | <input type="radio"/> Separated |
| <input type="radio"/> Living with a life partner | <input type="radio"/> Widowed   |

10. For how many years have you lived in Wyoming?

(If less than 1, please enter "1")

years

11. Including you, how many adults and children live in your household?

adults in household (18+)       children in household (<18)

12. Which ONE of the following describes BEST your race?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian                            | <input type="radio"/> White, Hispanic                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or African American        | <input type="radio"/> White, not Hispanic                       |

13. What is your zip code?

14. Are you:

- Male  
 Female

15. What was your total household income before taxes in 2017?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$15,000   | <input type="radio"/> \$75,000 to \$100,000  |
| <input type="radio"/> \$15,000 to \$25,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 to \$150,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$25,000 to \$50,000 | <input type="radio"/> Over \$150,000         |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50,000 to \$75,000 | <input type="radio"/> Don't know / Not sure  |

16. What would you say is the main issue or concern for outdoor recreation in Wyoming?

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## Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019 - 2023

**Governor**  
Matthew H. Mead

**Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources**  
Darin Westby, Director

**Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails**  
Domenic Bravo, Division Administrator

Nick Neylon  
Deputy Administrator

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Mabel Jankovsky-Jones  
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Tracy Williams  
Grants Specialist

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### **Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission**

Aaron Bannon — Lander  
Wayne Deahl — Torrington  
Julie Greer — Sheridan  
Chuck Engebretsen — Lost Springs  
Kathy Lenz — Sundance  
Dudley Gardner Ph.D. — Rock Springs  
Dr. Robert Tyrell — Kemmerer  
Don Schmalz — Cody  
Susan Robertson-Peters — Riverton



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Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails and Outdoor Recreation Office

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