



SUMMER OUTINGS 2019

Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA) is excited to connect you to some of the most pristine mountain and desert wild lands in the country this summer. Our annual outings program gives you the opportunity to explore a wide variety of terrain on 12 FREE hikes led by local experts in the field, starting with the May weekend execution into Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area. Join us on ventures into wild landscapes and on backcountry stewardship projects to maintain recreational opportunities and care for our public lands. You will experience for yourself what is at stake and why our imperiled wild lands urgently need your support. The summer outings program helps participants make informed decisions that could ensure protections of our wild places.

As WWA stays engaged in our campaigns, we need your support to continue defending and serving as the watchdog over Wyoming's remaining wild lands. Having hosted annual outings for more than a decade, WWA has connected thousands of participants to wilderness and public lands. Members of WWA get priority registration for our outings, so please join or renew today! Visit wildwyo.org to learn more about our campaigns and hikes, including updates, photos, and map.

Outings difficulty key:

* easy, ** moderate, *** strenuous

Sat, Jun 1 — Cody's National Trails Day Stewardship Project *

On Nat'l Trails Day, join Shoshone National Forest employees, Shoshone Back Country Horsemen, Sunlight Sports, and WWA for a day of recognition, stewardship, and celebration of our public lands and public trails. Multiple projects will be carried out, so the more volunteers—the better! All participants will receive a free t-shirt and be invited to the post-event social at the Wapiti Ranger Station.

Sat, Jun 8 — Sheridan's National Trails Day Stewardship Project *

Get out in the wild and make a difference on this stewardship outing while celebrating National Public Lands Day at Cutler Hill! The outing will be in partnership with Black Mountain Nordic Club members and Bighorn National Forest Service employees to conduct trail maintenance and area project work. All abilities are welcome. Lunch, swag, gloves, and hard hats will be provided.

Sat, Jun 8 (Rain Date: Sun, June 9) — Spring in the Dubois Badlands *

Due to popular demand, an exploration of the Dubois Badlands is being offered again this summer. Join us as we take to the trail with naturalist-educator, tracking specialist and Dubois local Bruce S. Thompson in an exploration of the Badlands as they *spring* back to life after a long winter. This outing will take you *beyond* the sculpted walls of Byrd Draw before ascending to *ridgelines* overlooking the vast and colorful Badlands. Along the way, Thompson will share information and anecdotes on the biotic, geologic and cultural forces defining this landscape. We will also be keeping our eyes peeled for bighorn sheep and a variety of birds, canids and felids as we go. Byrd Draw is only accessible via private land so this access is a privilege courtesy.

Sat, Jun 15—Sun, Jun 16 —Tribal Excursion of the Northern Red Desert *

Members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes are invited to join the Wind River Native Advocacy Center (WRNAC) and WWA to explore magical vistas, important cultural sites, native plants, and wildlife of the Northern Red Desert. Participants will explore an ancient buffalo jump while viewing desert elk, pronghorn, and deer. Expertise provided by tribal elders observing important cultural areas including the Oregon Buttes, Steamboat Mountain, and White Mountain Petroglyphs.

Sat, Jun 29 — Rock Creek, Medicine Bow National Forest **

Hike in a Recommended Wilderness Area south of Arlington in the Medicine Bow National Forest with ecologist Dennis Knight and mammalogist Steve Buskirk, both retired professors from UW. Learn about the ecology, plants, and wildlife of this beautiful

canyon while hiking through aspen groves, lodgepole pine forests, and creekside meadows with abundant wildflowers. Discuss the values and challenges of managing wilderness in the aftermath of widespread beetle epidemics and ongoing climate change. This is a one-day trip departing from Laramie early Saturday morning. Come prepared to hike 3-5 miles. Carpooling is available for those interested.

Sat, Jul 20 — Solitude in the Teton Wilderness: A Stewardship Opportunity **

Join us as we partner with Bridger-Teton Wilderness Ranger Chelsea Phillippe on the Teton Wilderness to experience solitude with nothing but the packs on our backs and boots on our feet. Along the way enjoy this slice of Wyoming wild country by observing wildlife, soaking up incredible vistas *and* assisting with an ongoing Forest Service “Solitude Monitoring” project aimed at measuring how well this specific Wilderness characteristic is being upheld. Be prepared to hike 5-8 miles with moderate elevation change.

Sat, Jul 20 — Lake Creek Hike in the Littlehorn Roadless Area **

Join retired environmental scientist Jack Smith on a hike exploring the Lake Creek valley of the northern Bighorn Mountains. The valley, located within the Little Bighorn Roadless Area, is one of the few areas within the northern, sedimentary rock region of the range that was shaped by early glaciation. This hike will identify numerous glacial features such as moraines, kettle ponds, and roche moutonnées (sheep rocks) found in the area. The wildlife-rich Little Bighorn Roadless area possesses numerous elk security areas and is also where Canada Lynx observations have been confirmed. Although not critical habitat, the Little Bighorn area has been identified as Peripheral Area habitat for the threatened lynx. The hike entails approximately 4 miles of off-trail hiking with an elevation gain of 400 feet (all on the way out).

Wed, Aug 7 – Thu, Aug 8 — Lost Twin Lakes Backpacking Excursion & TRAC Survey ***

This outing will be a summer highlight for any who can partake! Lost Twin Lakes, in Cloud Peak Wilderness, is accessed from the heavily used West Tensleep Trailhead. A strenuous trail, the lakes are located almost 7 miles deep into the wilderness with ample views along the way of towering peaks, glistening lakes, and chirping birds. The outing’s main purpose is to conduct a TRAC Survey for the Bighorn National Forest’s trail management program.

Sat, Aug 10 — Palisades Wilderness Study Area: Wolf Mountain Hike ***

Wolf Mountain is easily one of the most notable peaks as you gaze south into the Palisades WSA. This 10 mile hike will take you through the Dog Creek Drainage and up steep switchbacks that will carry you to the top of the spectacular Wolf Mountain Summit (8823 ft). From the top you will enjoy unforgettable views of the untrammeled landscape and beyond. Along the way WWA’s Peggie dePasquale will lead conversations focused on the current and future management of the Palisade and explore the simmering local conflict that exists between conservation efforts and the community’s love to recreate. The discussion will also include an overview of the best available and relevant science and the key stakeholders involved in this land management gridlock.

Sat, Sept 7– Sun, Sep 8 — Rock Creek Recommended Wilderness Geology Hike & Campout ***

Departing from the historic HF Bar Ranch, join Steve Stresky, local geoscientist and trekker extraordinaire, on an interpretive and steep hike into Rock Creek’s geologically rich backcountry with unique spires, canyons, and peaks. The hike, with an optional overnight, will provide visitors the opportunity to use Leave No Trace outdoor ethics and learn the about WWA’s long campaign to achieve congressional wilderness designation for the area, contiguous with Cloud Peak Wilderness.

Sat, Sept 28 — Run the Red Desert Trail Run ***

On National Public Lands Day, join *Run the Red*, Wyoming’s premier ultra-, full-, and half-marathon race, dedicated to conserving the vast, rugged, and historical landscape of the Red Desert. Runners of all races will experience one of the last undeveloped high desert steppe ecosystems in the country. For more information, go to runthereddesert.com.

To sign up for an outing...Please call WWA at (307) 672-2751 or email heidi@wildwyo.org

A few things to note...

- Please be aware of the hike difficulty ratings and gauge your interest accordingly: difficulty level= * **easy**, ** **moderate**, *** **strenuous**
- All trips are subject to change or cancel due to health of trip leader, weather, and road conditions or low participant registration.
- Typically, space is limited on our outings to only 12 people, including trip leaders.

**WWA extends a big thanks to the trip leaders who generously donate their time and expertise!
We look forward to seeing you on the trail!**



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