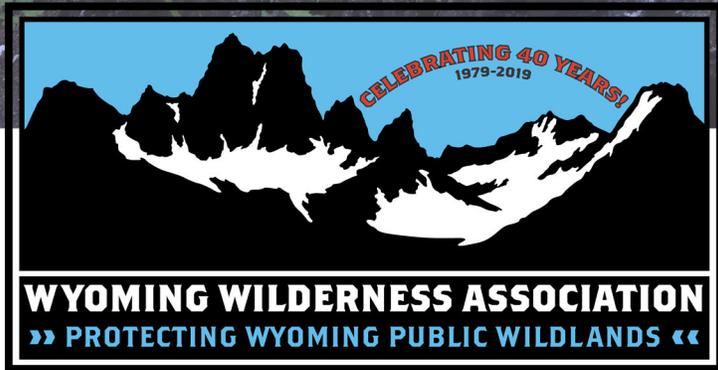


XVIII *Wyoming Wild*

*Celebrating Our Past
& Blazing Ahead*



2016 YAW participants & leaders take a hiking break to read *Ahead of Their Time* in Rock Creek Recommended Wilderness, omitted from the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act, by Julie Greer

It's been 40 years since current governing council member Bart Koehler penned that first letter to get this grassroots organization started and we could not be more thankful for his vision, along with the countless others helping shape what WWA is today. One of the originals, Mike Evans, of Fort Laramie, WY, reflects:

As I recall the origin of WWA was gradual. I suppose Bart may have had a hand or at least a strong push here and there to form some sort of organized group to support wilderness. There were efforts to push for a Wyoming Wilderness Bill in the early 80s and that was motivation. Timbering and the roads were threatening much of the RARE lands. In the early 1980s, Oil and Gas was not yet a big player in proposed wilderness lands. That soon changed. We were all pretty much 30 something and I suppose acted like it. The drive from Muddy Gap to Lander was considered a six-pack-a-piece away. The organization took shape. Letters were written to newspapers and the delegation. The meetings were usually held in someone's living room or kitchen. By the time the congressional hearings took place in late 1983, I think, the auditorium in Casper was packed with wilderness supporters and each deserving area had at least one speaker assigned to talk on its behalf. We had as Representative, Dick Cheney, and Senators Malcom Wallop and Alan Simpson. I have to say all three helped get the 1984 bill passed but many wild areas were left out.

As we reflect on our past and look to our future, **the work will always be there**: Public land management will continue to be a discussion, stewardship projects will never end, and engaging our youth with their wild backyards will always be paramount to any future advocacy. Protection and care of **Wyoming's wild country** is at the heart of our mission and **connects us all**, as Terry Tempest Williams so eloquently put it recently:

“And that's what the West is for me, these beautiful extended communities where we reach each other through water, through land, through history. You know, we're bound by beauty, right? That will sustain us.”

WWA works hard to allow these lands and waters to do just that: sustain us. Please join our efforts and thanks again for your support of Wild Wyoming. **Happy 40 years WWA!**

Khale Century Reno, Executive Director

www.wildwyo.org



Sheridan- Main Office

PO Box 6588
44 S Main St.
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 672-2751
info@wildwyo.org

Jackson Office

685 S Cache St.
Jackson, WY 83001

Laramie Office

710 E Garfield St. Rm 328
Laramie, WY 82070

STAFF

Khale Century T. Reno
Executive Director
Heidi Davidson
Marketing and Outreach Director
Shaleas Harrison
BLM Wildlands Community Organizer
Peggie dePasquale
Bridger-Teton Community Organizer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kim B. Springer Wilson, WY
President
Don Crecelius Sheridan, WY
Vice President
Brett Governanti Casper, WY
Secretary
Ben Read Jackson, WY
Treasurer

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Jennie Boulерice Bozeman, MT
Dennis Knight Laramie, WY
Bart Koehler Juneau, AK
Bryon Lee Laramie, WY
Tyler McLaughlin Gillette, WY
Bill Voigt Laramie, WY



Wilderness Study Area Stewardship:

A CALL FOR MORE EYES AND EARS

By Dennis H. Knight

With grassroots support in the previous century—not that long ago— Congress designated 15 Wilderness areas in Wyoming. Many hikers from across the nation now pay attention to how the Big W’s are faring.

At about the same time, 45 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) were established in our state. They are popular as well, but Wyomingites know them better than anyone else. WWA’s founders argued that most WSAs were meritorious of Wilderness designation. Our position is essentially the same, but our staff of four cannot monitor all of the WSAs often enough. With budget cuts, neither can the federal agencies.

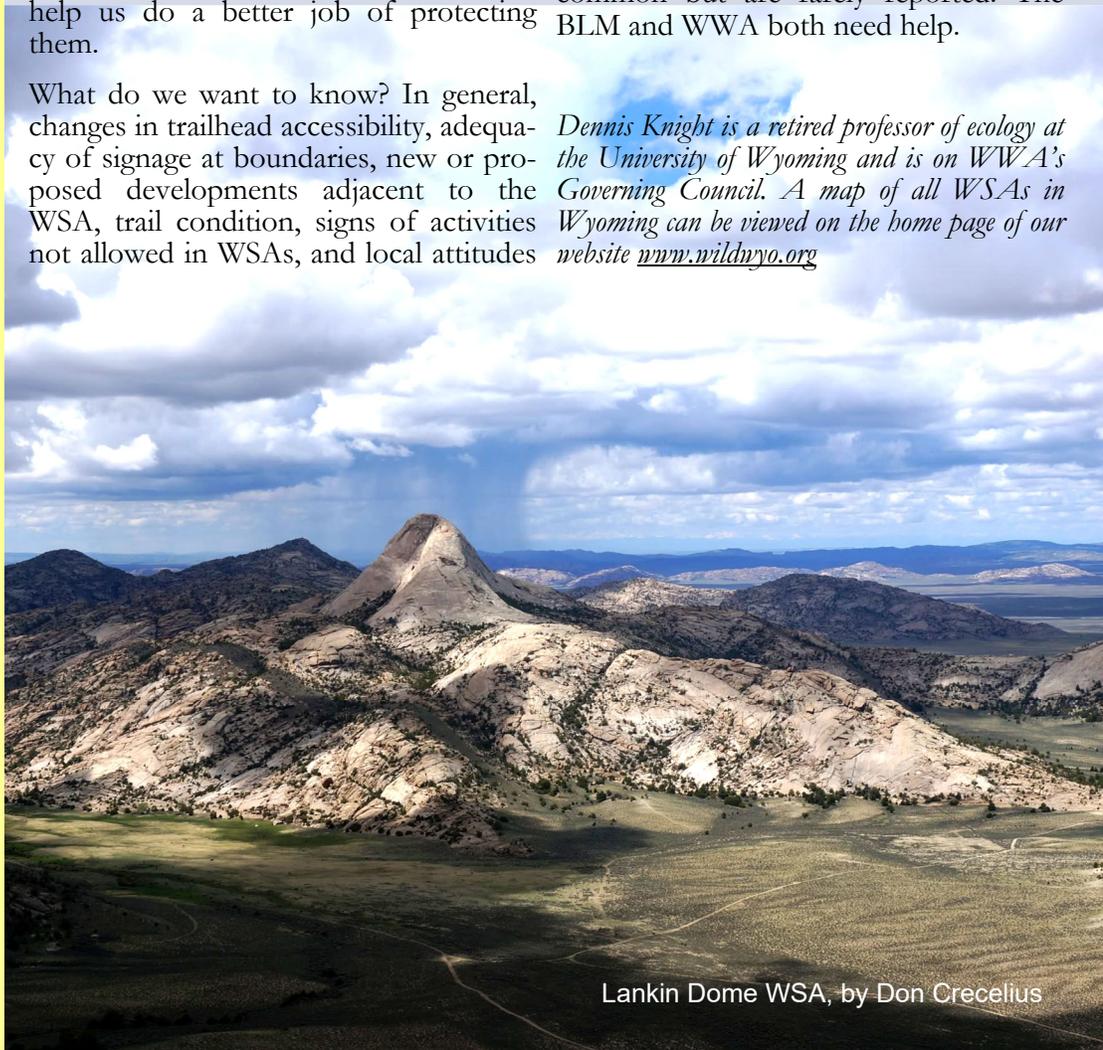
If you have a favorite WSA or two that you try to visit once or twice a year, please call our Sheridan office or contact one of our staff or Governing Council members. Our goal for every WSA is to identify several volunteers who would help us do a better job of protecting them.

What do we want to know? In general, changes in trailhead accessibility, adequacy of signage at boundaries, new or proposed developments adjacent to the WSA, trail condition, signs of activities not allowed in WSAs, and local attitudes

about downgrading the level of protection now in place. Compromises may be necessary, but most public land in our large state is already heavily roaded and available for mechanized travel.

A recent example of why wilderness stewardship requires more eyes and ears: Last year Bryon Lee, Shaleas Harrison, and I were returning from a Governing Council meeting in Lander. We stopped for a hike in the Lankin Dome WSA. Within five minutes we heard a noise that sounded like a chain saw. Soon we encountered two men from Oregon who were using a gas-powered rock saw to extract a charismatic miniature juniper that was at least 100 years old – to sell to bonsai enthusiasts. The collectors seemed unaware they were in a WSA and that this kind of activity requires a permit anywhere on public lands. Later we learned from our BLM contacts that such illegal activities are becoming more common but are rarely reported. The BLM and WWA both need help.

Dennis Knight is a retired professor of ecology at the University of Wyoming and is on WWA’s Governing Council. A map of all WSAs in Wyoming can be viewed on the home page of our website www.wildwyo.org



Lankin Dome WSA, by Don Crecelius

WELCOME NEW BOARD PRESIDENT: KIM B. SPRINGER

“In 1963 my mother piled my sister and me into her two-seater convertible VW Karman Ghia and headed west, driving across the country from Massachusetts to Laramie, to join my stepfather. Much to my delight, with my step-father’s new job as President of the University of Wyoming came access to a cabin in Centennial, and horses to ride. I still vividly remember the intense smell of sage as we explored the wild countryside on horseback. The landscape was vast, and a dramatic contrast to our suburban backyard in Massachusetts. From that time on, I’ve loved exploring the wild landscapes of the West. Now 55 years and several states later, I can’t think of anything more pressing than the protection of Wyoming’s irreplaceable wildlands. When I look to my past and what’s drawn me to fight for our last wilderness areas, it’s the years working as a science educator, naturalist mountain guide, and park ranger. From exploring the delicate sundew plants in the Teton potholes to climbing the highest glaciers on Rainier, I’ve been nourished and inspired by wild nature all my life.” ~ Kim Springer



A Sleeping Giant Stirs: recreation & conservation

By Peggie dePasquale

The conflict that exists between outdoor recreation and the conservation of wild places is nothing new. In 1949 Aldo Leopold published *The Sand County Almanac*. In the final chapter, called “Upshot”, Leopold says of the recreationist, “To enjoy he must possess, invade, appropriate. Hence the wilderness that he cannot personally see has no value to him.”

I am a recreationist. I am a backcountry skier, a mountain biker, a whitewater kayaker, a backpacker and all-round consumer of the natural world. When I first read Leopold’s words years ago, I thought that Leopold was embellishing the situation. Despite my own love of recreating, the health and well-being of the natural world has always seemed like the priority, and I assumed this awareness was widespread. Not until I stepped into my role with WWA and engaged in the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative, did I realize how accurate Leopold’s words were in describing an alarming number of engaged and vocal recreationists. For the first time, I realized just how significant the conflict between the human drive to recreate and the human responsibility to conserve truly is.

Recently, WWA hosted a presentation by Naturalist-Educator, Bruce S. Thompson, titled, “The Ecological Impacts of Recreation on Wildlife and Wildlands”, where he shared an overview of available research on interactions between recreation, wildlife and wildlands. The auditorium was packed with people. The takeaways were:

- 1) Every human use has an impact
- 2) Different uses have different levels of impact
- 3) No user wants to accept the role their use plays in the problem.

Mountain Journal author and founder, Todd Wilkinson, saw an abbreviated version of this presentation during the recent Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative symposium in Jackson and published an article covering

Thompson’s work. The point of Wilkinson’s article was that the negative recreational impact on wildlife and wildlands are well supported by the research, and it is time to do something.

The situation is pressing, and not just here in Wyoming, but across the entire west. In every current public land management discussion, land protections are being disputed in the name of recreation. Users want access and some of the best land protections, e.g. Wilderness, limit and filter access as a means to protect the land’s wild character. Therefore, such designations are being fought tooth and nail by recreationists.

This widespread conflict is not well understood by the general public. Many conservation minded people as well as recreationists are not aware of just how glaring the dispute is, or of the impacts that an access-hungry rhetoric can have. Yet, as Thompson demonstrated in his presentation, and as the available research supports, recreation is having negative impacts on the wild world.

As revisions of the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Plan, the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan and the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan unfold, WWA is gearing up to bring this topic to the forefront of the conversation. A film project titled, *The Palisades: A Sleeping Giant*, is underway in collaboration with the highly revered Emmy Award-Winning filmmaker, Peter Pilafian. Using the highly contentious Palisades Wilderness Study Area as our case study, the film will craft a fair and balanced run-down of this recreation vs. conservation dispute. WWA wants to tell a story that both nature lovers and recreationists alike can relate to, and one that will empower people to embrace a responsibility to care for our wildland and wildlife. Stay tuned as the specifics of our film project evolve and as the conversation around recreation and conservation continues to gain traction across the state.

A Race for a Wild Wyoming: Celebrating our first Public Lands Day in the Red Desert

By Shaleas Harrison

In the past two years, the Red Desert has witnessed unprecedented threats. BLM sold hundreds of oil and gas leases on thousands of acres within crucial wildlife habitat, including in the migration corridor and sage grouse habitat. Parcels were sold in culturally valuable areas, such as Skull Rim, and near Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Wyoming also witnessed one of the worst anti-Wilderness bills (HR 6939, which failed) in history opening up over 4.4 million acres of public land—mostly in the Red Desert—to motorized use, logging, and industrial exploitation.

Despite all of these setbacks, Wyoming residents statewide spoke on an issue that most believe in—public land. On February 26, 2019, HB 99 establishing a Wyoming Public Lands Day was approved by state legislators and signed by Governor Gordon the following day. Wyoming Public Lands Day will be celebrated annually, starting this year on Saturday, September 28th.

Whether one subsists, hunts, fishes, hikes, camps, picnics, climbs, or enjoys any other activity on public land, we all understand on some level the importance of keeping large swaths of land in public trust, owned by the people. This year, WWA invites you to commemorate Wyoming's first Public Lands Day with us at *Run the Red* in the Northern Red Desert.

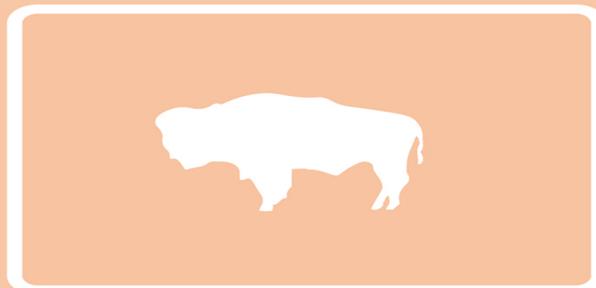
Run the Red is a race for a wild Wyoming landscape and is dedicated to helping more people enjoy the Red Desert. Originally conceived to honor the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the 30th anniversary of the Wyoming Wilderness Act, this event has become an annual celebration. The race has taken place for five consecutive years.

This year, the race will include the first ultra-race, a 120K (75 mile) course beginning in South Pass City, heading towards the Oregon and Honeycomb Butte WSAs through a maze of canyons, badlands, and even scales the top of Continental Peak. Runners will intersect National Historic Trails, including the Oregon, Mormon, California, and Pony Express routes, all of which retain their unspoiled viewsheds and intact wagon-wheel ruts. The event also provides runners with options to run a half marathon or the 45K (28 mile) race.

Don't want to run but still want to join in and help celebration? *Run the Red* has an array of events planned for families and runners including campfires, live music, yoga, and guided tours of the South Pass Historic Sites and nearby WSAs. Whether you are a runner, volunteer, or simply want to attend for the celebration, WWA and our partners encourage everyone to join us for Wyoming's first public lands day.

For more information go to runthereddesert.com

WYOMING *has a*



PUBLIC LANDS DAY!

Youth Ambassadors for Wilderness:

Seventh cohort geared up...

The Youth Ambassadors for Wilderness (YAW) is being offered to Teton County high school students for the seventh year this summer. The program, built on the pillars of *Stewardship and Advocacy*, engages participating students in a lineup of activities designed to cultivate the next generation of Wilderness Leaders. From a backpacking trip focused on Wilderness solitude monitoring to a Conservation Leadership Institute designed by the Conservation

Alliance, the 2019 YAW students will develop the skills they need to effect the change they want to see in the world. In 2018 four local students participated in YAW and this year we accepted eight students into the program.

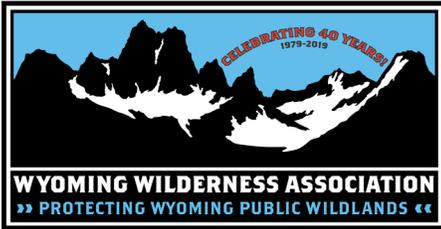
Wyoming Wilderness Association will be re-engaging in a partnership with the Bridger-Teton National Forest to bring the program to life, while also engaging in new partnerships with local organizations including Teton Science Schools, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates, Doug Coombs Foundation, and Friends of the Bridger-Teton. WWA is excited to see how these collaborative efforts increase the YAW impact for both the students and Wyoming public wildlands.

The YAW program is offered to all participating students entirely free of charge. This is to ensure that monetary barriers do not deter passionate youth from taking part. Our ability to offer the program for free is made possible by generous donors and grant awards. If this program is one you would like to learn more about and support, please visit our YAW website at wildwyo.org/yaw-program-1 -or- reach out to YAW Program Coordinator and Bridger-Teton Community Organizer, Peggie dePasquale.

We are beyond excited for the journey ahead. Stay tuned to learn more about the 2019 YAW students and their summer experiences in our next Wyoming Wild Newsletter.



YAW Participants &
Wilderness Ranger Chelsea Phillippe,
Palisades WSA, 2018



P.O. Box 6588, Sheridan, WY 82801

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 23
SHERIDAN, WY
82801

Return Service Requested

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
WWA'S ANNUAL MINI-ART EXHIBIT & AUCTION:
CELEBRATING WYOMING'S PUBLIC LANDS
AUG—OCT. 11, 2019
SHERIDAN, WY
MORE DETAIL TO COME...



The race for a wild Wyoming landscape.
Wyoming Public Lands Day | 09.28.19