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Spirit OF PLACE



www.muriecenter.org

Two of the greatest spokespeople for appreciating wildlands are Olaus and Mardy Murie. From their home in Jackson Hole, they were key proponents in efforts to protect wildlands in the Greater Yellowstone, Wyoming and the nation. The Murie Center in Moose, Wyoming now preserves and celebrates their legacy. The Wyoming Wilderness Association carries on the heart of the Murie's life work as a homegrown, grassroots voice for Wyoming's wild places.

Olaus Murie was a naturalist, author and wildlife biologist who did groundbreaking field research on large, northern mammals. Along with his work as a trained biologist, Olaus Murie also reflected on the deeper meanings around our connection to nature. *Wapiti Wilderness*, by Olaus and Mardy Murie, is set in the Teton Wilderness and Grand Teton National Park. Olaus's journal captures his understanding of Spirit of Place:

"...When I go into the wilderness today it is not the mishaps, thrilling as they may be that I look forward to. Rather I seek the small adventures occurring from day to day. This morning for instance, I stepped out of my tent, and in the dense fog which had settled over the meadow a great dark form loomed up, came nearer, then slowly took the shape of a big bull moose...Then a pure white weasel came hopping up, carrying a field mouse...These are the adventures of the wilderness, the scenes and music which make up Nature's great mosaic. Why do we delight in the wild creatures of the forest, some of us so passionately that it colors our whole life? Why do we love Music, Art? Are not all akin, a part of beauty which we really do not understand? I know that when I have stood in Nature's domain, rapt in wonder, in the presence of some manifestation of her charm, perhaps a sunset, a mighty unfolding of mountain ranges to the horizon, or the soft hooting of an owl in the dusk, at such times I have had my greatest peace. At such times I can harbor no ill will toward my fellow man." ~ Wapiti Wilderness, pgs 187-189

W FACTS ABOUT Wilderness

"Without enough wilderness America will change. Democracy, with its myriad personalities and increasing sophistication, must be fibered and vitalized by regular contact with outdoor growths--animals, trees, sun warmth and free skies--or it will dwindle and pale." ~ Walt Whitman

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- Wilderness is federally designated land with **special qualities** • It is our **heritage** of wildlands that we must always ensure that these lands not be lost to expanding population and settlement • Wilderness ensures that nature is protected for **future generations** • These **wildlands** can be found within all our public lands--National Forests, National Parks and Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges and Bureau of Land Management • To protect forever, only **Congress** can designate a Wilderness in perpetuity • The **Wilderness Act** of 1964 says: *Wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man.*
- Wilderness is a place where humans and their technology do not control or restrict wildlife and **natural** processes • Certain activities are **prohibited** like commercial enterprises, roads and structures, landing of aircraft, motorized equipment and motor or mechanical transport, except in emergency situations • Many activities are **encouraged** such as hunting, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing and taking time for solitude away from civilization • Currently there are **3,111,232 acres** of designated national forest Wilderness in Wyoming, but approximately 5 million acres of primitive wild areas are left unprotected, deserving of Wilderness status • These roadless lands are important **backcountry** areas, offering sanctuaries for wildlife, a wide variety of plant communities and habitat, clean water and fresh air • **The Greater Yellowstone** has some of the best Wilderness in the world - Bridger Wilderness; Teton Wilderness; Washakie Wilderness; Gros Ventre Wilderness; Winegar Hole Wilderness; Jedediah Smith Wilderness; Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Δ

Value.....



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- Do you love wildlife?
- Do you treasure air and water?
- Do you appreciate science's knowledge of nature?
- Do you find great inspiration from nature's beauty?
- Do you enjoy escaping the demands of your modern life?

Sustainable Recreation

- cross-country skiing
- backcountry skiing
- snowshoeing
- hiking
- fishing
- hunting
- photography
- wildlife viewing
- bird-watching
- horseback riding
- horse packing
- scientific research
- rock climbing
- mountaineering
- backpacking
- religious experience
- education
- volunteer & service
- stargazing
- journaling
- painting
- solo exploration
- survival skills

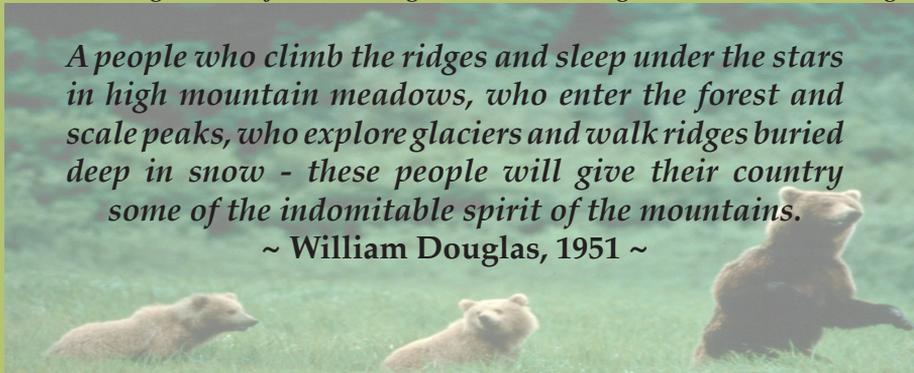
Wilderness is part of our identity and history as Americans; an idea that has inspired our best scientists, artists and writers. Wilderness is a basis for the scientific research that allows us to understand the natural systems that benefit and support humans, wildlife and the ecosystem with goods and services that benefit all.

According to the Wyoming Office of Travel/Tourism, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$4.4 billion annually to local economies and supports 52,000 jobs. Nearly 500,000 people hunt and fish annually in Wyoming; another million participate in wildlife viewing, according to the U.S Department of Interior. Δ

wildlands.org • voiceforthewild.org • wilderness.org • wildernesswatch.org

A people who climb the ridges and sleep under the stars in high mountain meadows, who enter the forest and scale peaks, who explore glaciers and walk ridges buried deep in snow - these people will give their country some of the indomitable spirit of the mountains.

~ William Douglas, 1951 ~



The Heart of **W**ildlife is Wildlife

Healthy Air & Water Quality

All wildlands protect airsheds and watersheds that provide us clean air to breathe and healthy drinking water. Wildlands in Wyoming provide these amenities to approximately one-fifth of the U.S. population. The value of these natural resources has been estimated at \$3.7 billion annually. Roads are the leading cause of water quality degradation. The healthiest populations of native fish are found in unroaded and unlogged watersheds.

Wildlife

Wild areas nationwide support over 280 threatened, endangered and sensitive species. These areas provide a place for wildlife to find refuge from industrial development. Roadless areas provide important habitat for wildlife beloved by visitors and residents, including at-risk cutthroat trout, lynx, goshawks and wolverines, plus game species like elk and bighorn sheep. More than 400 scientists have endorsed protection of all roadless areas from road building, commercial logging and mineral development, citing their critical importance for the recovery of endangered wildlife.

Being with Wildlife

"I love watching the deer, which always arrive like magic or miracle or the answer to an unasked question. Can there be a benediction on deer on a chilly spring morning? I think so. Their otherworldliness stops the day in its tracks, focuses it on the hypnotic beauty of nature and then starts the day again with a rush of wonder."

~ Diane Ackerman

When the Wild Comes Leaping Up



There is a critical relationship between pristine habitat and wildlife success. One of the primary reasons for protecting the wildlands of Wyoming is to protect the wildlife species that populate the state. The long-term viability of wildlife in Wyoming is directly tied to the protection of vast wild spaces. Wildlife needs

year-round, unrestricted access to food and water; large areas undisturbed by humans and pets; and corridors to move between summer and winter habitats.

In a poll taken of Wyoming voters in 2007, sponsored by the Ruckelshaus Institute of the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Wyoming Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 73% of respondents agreed that wildlife is an important part of their daily lives. In addition, 74% of voters supported "setting aside more state money to protect land, air, water, wildlife habitat and ranch lands," with 37% indicating they "strongly favor" this concept.

The protection of wildlife is directly tied to the way we treat our public wildlands. It is also linked to our protection of open spaces and private lands. Everyone loves to see wildlife in their backyards, and yet the more we infill and add development to our region, the more wildlife will withdraw to remote areas or perish. In the winter, in particular, this retreat results in wildlife deaths - either from lack of food, water, highway deaths or unbearable conflicts with humans. Δ

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE)

wildrockiesalliance.org • greateryellowstone.org • www.wildlandsproject.org • www.winterwildlands.org • wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org • ypf.org

Backbone of Wild Northwest Wyoming

- The GYE is the headwaters for three major continental-scale river systems: the Missouri-Mississippi, Snake-Columbia and Green-Colorado.

- The greatest concentration of geysers and thermal activity on Earth are in Yellowstone.

- At least 85% of national forest and national park lands in the area are wild backcountry.

- GYE is an irreplaceable collection of habitats that support the largest concentration of wildlife species in the lower 48 states.

Custer National Forest

- The site of the discovery of the world's oldest living organisms – single cell species living in the hot springs are so unique that scientists assigned these species their own kingdom.

- Home to 109 species or communities considered to be imperiled globally, including critical habitat for the world's largest swan, the Trumpeter Swan.



• The location of the five longest remaining long-distance mammal migrations exist here – one of the most stunning and imperiled biological phenomena in the lower 48 states. The 170-mile pronghorn antelope migration to and from Grand Teton National Park is vulnerable to human development.



PEOPLE IN THE ECOSYSTEM

- More than two million acres of private land have been subdivided into plots of 200 acres or less in the 20 counties that encompass the GYE, reducing any possibility for large scale landscape protections for wildlife.
- Any human habitation in the ecosystem puts pressure on habitat, food, and migration corridors for the remarkable wildlife by invading food and water sources or limiting movement through transportation corridors.
- Each year, millions of people from all over the world visit for enjoyment, inspiration and to experience a place where the land and wildlife remain in a natural balance.
- Only 3% of the land base is privately owned but beginning in 1970, the population in the GYE grew almost twice as fast as the rest of the nation.

• Some of the best remaining waters for native cutthroat trout, due to habitat loss and competition from introduced species the trout inhabits, 15% of its original range.



- The GYE provides habitat for large concentrations of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, bison and pronghorn. The GYE also is the southern anchor of a large habitat corridor from Yellowstone to the Yukon for wide-ranging carnivores that are critical for ecosystem balance, including grizzly bears, wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, wolverines, Canada lynx and fox.





Bridger-Teton National Forest:
www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/

WILD

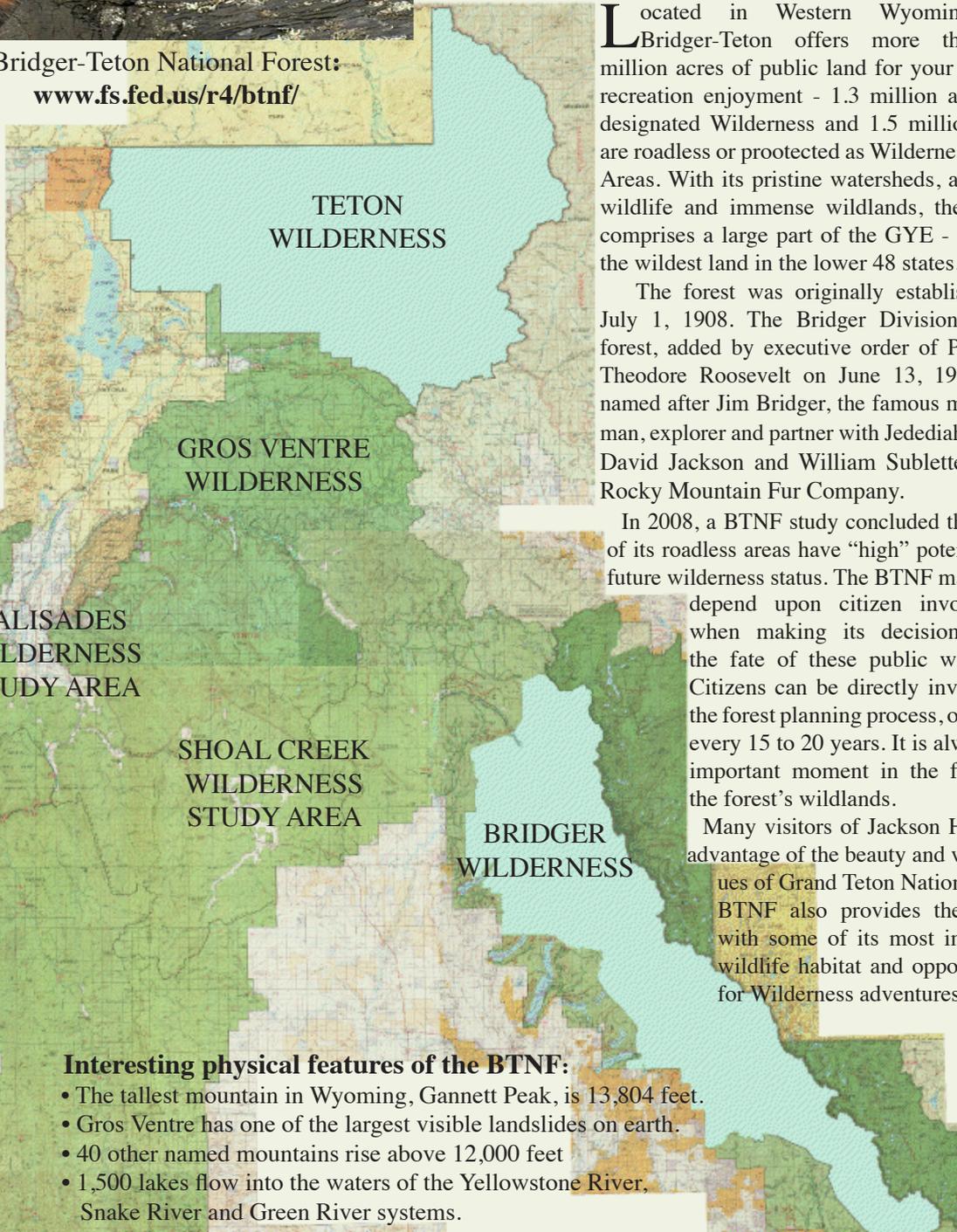
JACKSON HOLE WILD

Located in Western Wyoming, the Bridger-Teton offers more than 3.4 million acres of public land for your outdoor recreation enjoyment - 1.3 million acres are designated Wilderness and 1.5 million acres are roadless or protected as Wilderness Study Areas. With its pristine watersheds, abundant wildlife and immense wildlands, the BTNF comprises a large part of the GYE - some of the wildest land in the lower 48 states.

The forest was originally established on July 1, 1908. The Bridger Division of the forest, added by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt on June 13, 1911, was named after Jim Bridger, the famous mountain man, explorer and partner with Jedediah Smith, David Jackson and William Sublette in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.

In 2008, a BTNF study concluded that 87% of its roadless areas have "high" potential for future wilderness status. The BTNF managers depend upon citizen involvement when making its decisions about the fate of these public wildlands. Citizens can be directly involved in the forest planning process, occurring every 15 to 20 years. It is always an important moment in the future of the forest's wildlands.

Many visitors of Jackson Hole take advantage of the beauty and wild values of Grand Teton National Park. BTNF also provides the region with some of its most important wildlife habitat and opportunities for Wilderness adventures. Δ



Interesting physical features of the BTNF:

- The tallest mountain in Wyoming, Gannett Peak, is 13,804 feet.
- Gros Ventre has one of the largest visible landslides on earth.
- 40 other named mountains rise above 12,000 feet
- 1,500 lakes flow into the waters of the Yellowstone River, Snake River and Green River systems.

LANDS

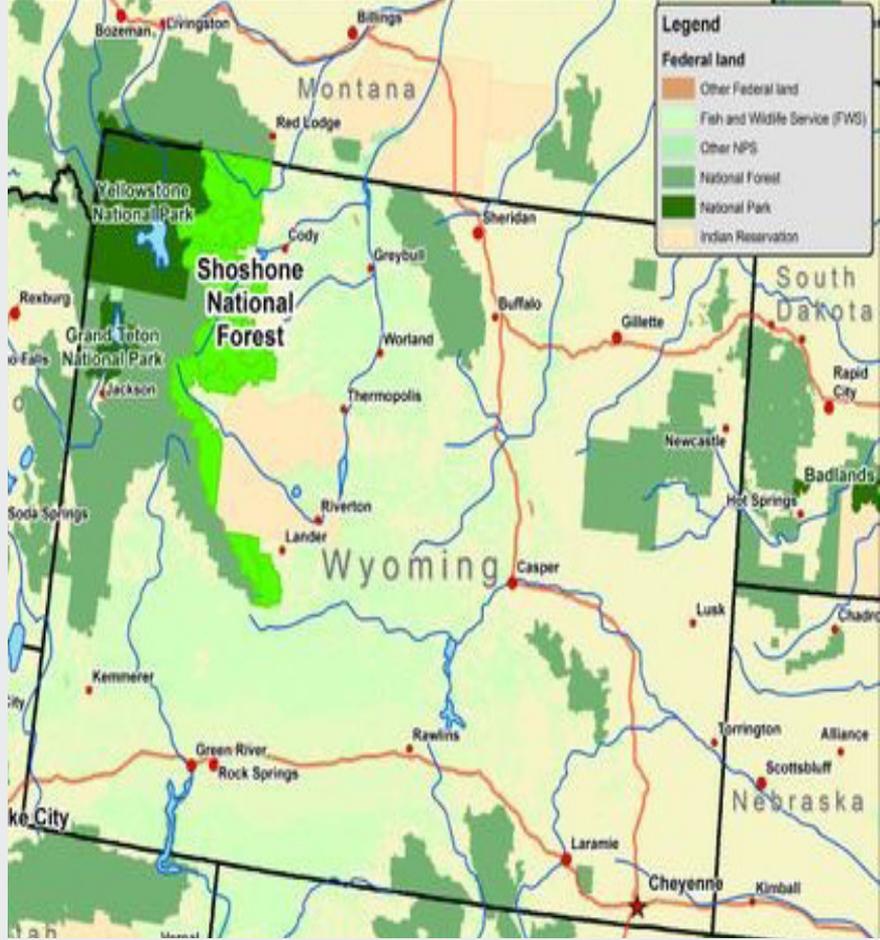


NORTHERN WYOMING WILD

Shoshone National Forest (SNF) is a popular wild area east of Yellowstone, extending down the northern spine of the Wind River Range. It hosts nearly 2.4 million acres of some of the most raw and rugged country in the lower 48. Established in 1891, it is the oldest of our national forests, boasting part of the 19th century covered wagon route, the Oregon Trail. From sagebrush plains through dense spruce and fir forest to craggy mountain peaks, Shoshone National Forest has a rich biodiversity rarely matched in any protected area.

Nearly 1.5 million acres of the SNF are designated as Wilderness. These five areas of pristine Wilderness have remained untouched by human activities such as mining, logging, and road construction. These areas are: North Absaroka Wilderness, Washakie Wilderness, Fitzpatrick Wilderness, Popo Agie Wilderness, and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Two areas of the forest have been recommended for Wilderness designation by SNF officials. The DuNoir Special Management Unit contains critical migration habitat for elk and fabulous backcountry recreation opportunities for visitors. The High Lakes Wilderness Study Area is littered with dozens of spectacular lakes creating a perfect recreation opportunity. Presently, the campaign for protecting remaining roadless areas has begun by the Wyoming Wilderness Assoc-



iation. The SNF remains a timeless cornerstone of all that we value in the Rocky Mountain wilds—in its romantic history of mountain men, Native cultures and the love of Amelia Earhart; the present large chunks of roadless country and untrammelled wildlife habitat; and its promise of a wild future of memorable outdoor experience for generations to come. Δ



POPO AGIE

SNF: fs.usda.gov/Shoshone • National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center: www.bighorn.org

Dubois Anglers & Wildlife Group: www.dawgsonline.org • Wyoming Backcountry Horsemen: www.wyobch.org

Wind River Alliance: www.windriveralliance.org

DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT WILD LANDS

Love the land There are many simple ways for you to participate in the campaign to protect Wyoming's wild landscape. It starts with an attitude of love and respect.

tetonscience.org • tetonraptorcenter.org • centerofwonder.org

Live Sustainably There is a direct link between sustainable living practices and wild land protection, such as recycling, using less energy, composting and buying local or green products. The pressure on wildlands from our energy intensive lifestyles is threatening global wildlife. Human activity and disease is taking a devastating toll on vulnerable wildlife species, according to a major review by conservationists. If we can change our behaviors in simple ways, many species will benefit, including our own.

howdoyourrr.org • jacksonecofair.org • tetonwyo.org/jhesp/ • myfootprint.org

Participate Many local organizations and agencies work every day to protect wildlands.

jhalliance.org • jhwildlife.org • naturemappingjh.org

Leave No Trace

You can visit wildlands while camping, recreating, hunting and fishing, and leave little trace of your presence.

- Plan ahead
- Know the regulations
- Prepare for extreme weather
- Visit in small groups
- Protect riparian areas
- Use good campsites
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife.
- LNT.org • nols.edu



To create your own sense of place means finding a sense of belonging with nature. Our modern lives tend to encourage us to speed our way through life, looking for our own stimulation. Slowing down and looking for connection will help you build a bridge to stewardship of all of nature. If you take time to use your five senses (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting) while sauntering in nature, you will experience nature in some new and different ways.



Ecofair in Jackson, WY.

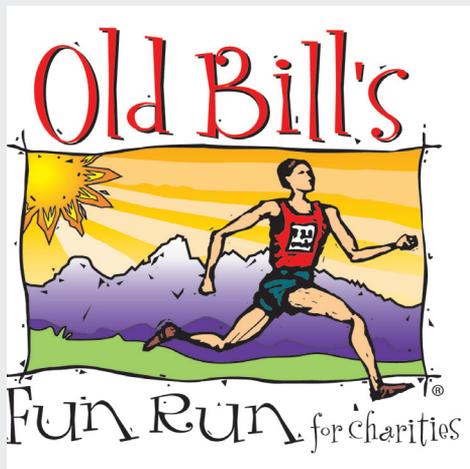
Northwest Wyoming is fortunate to have many, many non-profits and federal agencies dedicated to understanding and educating about the value of wild. Consider the value to your life becoming a volunteer. Any of the websites in this booklet will lead you to organizations that can use your help. You can also check out volunteer opportunities listed on the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole website, www.cfjacksonhole.org. The federal agencies that manage most of the wildlands of the area are constantly proposing actions and changes to management policies. It is important that you provide your input to these ongoing decisions which determine the long term fate of wild areas. You can receive alerts on these proposals when you join Wyoming Wilderness Association, www.wildwyo.org.



THANKS to our SUPPORTERS

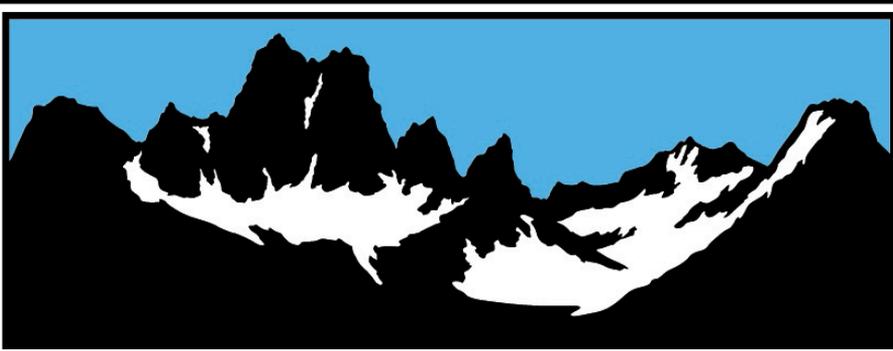


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WYOMING WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

WORKING TO PROTECT WYOMING'S WILDLANDS

WWA is a homegrown, spirited Wilderness organization that works everyday to protect pristine watersheds, intact ecosystems, old growth forests, important wildlife habitat and wildlife migration corridors - Wyoming landscapes that deserve our lasting protection.

PLEASE JOIN US!

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