

Wyoming Outdoor Council Strategic Plan 2009–2013

Adopted by the Board of Directors December 13, 2008

Vision Statement

We envision a state that thrives with wildlife, open space, wildlands, clean air and water, healthy communities, and people sustained by renewable energy.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wyoming Outdoor Council is to protect Wyoming's environment and quality of life for future generations.

Role in Wyoming

We are advocates, watchdogs, problem solvers, capacity builders, and leaders.

We advocate for a healthy environment—with wildlife and wildlands—that contributes to the wellbeing of our communities and people. We advocate for and defend sound environmental public policies and private practices, and against any abuse of Wyoming's land, air, and water.

We help to develop constructive solutions to conflicts that threaten environmental health. We bring people together—the many voices and concerns of Wyoming—to develop practical, collaborative, and consensus-based approaches to stewardship.

We are also leaders in the environmental field. We help to build the strength of the environmental movement in Wyoming. We promote awareness and understanding of conservation issues by Wyoming citizens.

We are prepared, when necessary, to use the legal system to protect Wyoming's environment.

Our Path

Since 1967, the Wyoming Outdoor Council has worked to protect Wyoming's environment and quality of life for future generations. In that time, we have served as advocates, watchdogs, coalition-builders, problem-solvers, and legal experts in a strong and consistent way that makes us leaders in the area of environmental protection in the state.

While addressing the challenges to Wyoming's environment today, we are also planning for Wyoming's future. We have the experience to see the big picture; have a track record of bringing the stakeholders to the table to solve problems; and aren't afraid to think about new directions that we must take to achieve our mission in the decades to come.

Beliefs and Values

- We treasure Wyoming's wild places, clear air, clean water, and wildlife.
- We believe environmental issues are entwined with our quality of life, including human health, economic wellbeing, healthy wildlife, open space, and our children's future.
- We are bound to protect those nation's treasures located in Wyoming—our public lands.
- We believe the health of the environment affects the health of the individual.
- We value jobs that build and sustain stable and sustainable communities. We believe that Wyoming can create such jobs with a greater emphasis on clean, renewable energy production and visionary economic development.
- We value democracy. Citizens have a right to participate in developing solutions that protect Wyoming's unique environment.

A. Protecting Wyoming's Land, Air, Water, and Wildlife

1. Heritage Landscapes

The Wyoming Outdoor Council will seek to protect large tracts of federal land by pursuing enforcement of and development of appropriate and needed federal and state laws, rules, plans and policies. The focus of these state and federal efforts will be preventing energy development or other substantial impacts in these iconic areas. The heritage landscapes we have identified for protection include

- The Wyoming Range;
- Wind River Front;
- Areas in the Bridger-Teton National Forest currently closed to oil and gas leasing;
- Jack Morrow Hills;
- Adobe Town;
- Fortification Creek;
- Beartooth Front;
- Shirley Basin;
- All national forests in Wyoming;
- BLM areas of critical environmental concern;
- Citizens' proposed wilderness areas on BLM lands;
- National parks, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges.

We may also seek to protect other areas of federal land if they are identified as having significant environmental, historic, cultural, or social values threatened by energy development; however our primary focus will be on the identified areas. If other threats besides energy development become significant, we will address them.

2. Best Available Technology and Practices

We will seek to ensure that on all areas of federal lands where energy development occurs or is proposed (including any development that occurs in the heritage landscapes), the development is regulated to protect environmental, cultural, historic, and social resources to the maximum extent possible. In other words, we will ensure that the agencies and operators are “doing it right.” We will focus on oil and gas development proposals; there may be other energy technologies and infrastructure we choose to address (see Energy section).

3. Wildlife

The Wyoming Outdoor Council will work to ensure the health, sustainability, and continued protection of Wyoming’s native wildlife. We will support the Endangered Species Act and advocate for protection of threatened and endangered species and species of special concern. We will employ media and outreach strategies; other tools may include engagement with agencies, legislation, and litigation. We will work to protect wildlife in the face of energy development in the heritage landscapes listed above and in places where development does proceed.

4. Energy

The Council will work to work toward a viable energy policy for Wyoming and the nation. We will promote the reduction of greenhouse gases, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, nuclear waste, and toxic heavy metals from the electric and gas utility industry by advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy, including wind, geothermal, photovoltaic, hydrogen fuel cells, and biomass. We will monitor wind development, uranium mining, synthetic fuel production, carbon sequestration, solar power, geothermal development, coal-fired power plants, and electrical transmission lines and pipelines for impacts to wildlife, air quality, water quality, and the Wyoming landscape.

B. Outreach and Legislative Advocacy

The Wyoming Outdoor Council will inform people, agencies, legislators, and organizations of the mission of the Wyoming Outdoor Council and support them in their related work.

C. Organizational Strategies

1. Build broad support for mission and recognition of the Council’s brand;
2. Secure the Council’s financial future;
3. Strengthen board capacity;
4. Build organizational capacity; and
5. Continue to develop organizational structure and management to accomplish strategic goals.