

Natural Resources

Wildlife is Natural Resource Asset

Wildlife is Hot Springs County's number one asset.

Wildlife is big business in Wyoming, and the Big Horn Basin region provides rich and varied opportunities for visitors.

Only Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Alaska have such a large population and diverse species of wildlife. This includes healthy populations of big game animals -- grizzly bears, wolves, Bighorn sheep, elk, mountain goats, pronghorn antelope, deer and moose. It also includes smaller species of animals, birds, waterfowl and fish, ranging across prairie and mountainous habitats.



Building on Our Assets

- \$676 million in revenue and 9500 jobs are sustained in Wyoming annually through outdoor recreation -- hunting, angling and wildlife watching.
- Award-winning taxidermists, nature photographers, writers and artisans live and work in the region, with wildlife and outdoor recreation as part of their inspiration and livelihood.



Natural Sciences Associates

Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation is currently working with numerous natural sciences organizations to provide nature-based activities in the area:

- Audubon Wyoming
- Big Horn Basin Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Central Wyoming College, Riverton; and Thermopolis-Outreach
- Hot Springs County School District
- University of Wyoming Science & Mathematics Center
- U.S. Forest Service
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation
- Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources
- Wyoming Travel & Tourism

What visitors like to do in Wyoming

According to 2006 statistics, Wyoming visitors enjoyed:

- 68% - visiting a state/national park
- 66% - scenic drive
- 48% - watching wildlife
- 45% - hiking & biking
- 38% - historic sites
- 36% - museums
- 31% - camping
- 21% - visiting hot springs
- 21% - fishing
- 17% - bird watching

Source: Wyoming Travel & Tourism; figures rounded

Wildlife Assets

- Wyoming has over 600 species of wildlife. Most can be found in the Big Horn Basin region.
- Wyoming has the largest single-state population of pronghorn antelope, largest single desert elk herd, largest single-state sage-grouse population.



Photos: White-tail deer fawns, burrowing owl, Jim Yule, Worland; Vultures sunning, Rex Blakey, Thermopolis