

Big Horn Basin

RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities

USDA **NRCS**
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Wyoming Tourism Development

Tourism is Wyoming's second biggest industry. To encourage 21st century tourism infrastructure development in the state, the RC&D has been working on the Big Horn Basin Nature & Discovery Center project to be located within Hot Springs State Park. This facility will utilize technology and the diverse natural resources of the Big Horn Basin to significantly increase the number of tourists visiting the state.

Big Horn Basin Nature & Discovery Center in Hot Springs State Park, Wyoming

The Big Horn Basin RC&D Council worked with many partners to receive Wyoming Legislative approval on \$100,000 in planning funds to determine the feasibility of locating the Discovery Center project within Hot Springs State Park that is adjacent to Thermopolis, Wyoming. A geotechnical study was recently completed on the proposed project site that has the conclusion the site can be built on. Cost of the project is \$10,000,000.



Development of interpretive tours and project planning support from the Wyoming Legislature

Part of the Discovery Center project is the development of interpretive tours within Hot Springs State Park and surrounding Big Horn Basin area (such as the world-class petroglyphs at nearby Legend Rock).

Now that planning support funds are being utilized, the RC&D Council and other partners are currently working with the 2011 Wyoming Legislature to show the project is in the State's best interest for funding (the funding decision is planned to be decided in the 2012 Wyoming Legislature).



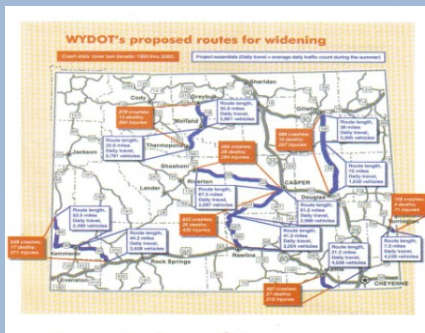
Other Big Horn Basin RC&D tourism projects and partners

The RC&D worked with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to achieve scenic byway status for the Wind River Canyon that is located between Shoshoni and Thermopolis, Wyoming.



Public dedication of the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway on May 3, 2007 that was a statewide media event.

Wyoming Highway Support Project



Tourists and other travelers in Wyoming need good highways to get to and from their destination. The RC&D led a statewide lobbying effort with highway support partners that resulted in the Wyoming Legislature funding an additional \$175 million dollars in highway support projects for 2007-2009.

The Big Horn Basin RC&D partnered again with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to procure \$57,750 in National Scenic Byway funding to develop a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for the scenic byway. The CMP will identify visitor infrastructure improvements along the byway and the CMP will begin in 2011.



Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan for 2011

Recognizing partners is key to success for RC&D projects. Howard Brown (representing the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes), accepts a partnership award for the Tribes leadership role with the RC&D to obtain scenic byway designation for the Wind River Canyon area. Big Horn Basin RC&D Chairman Roger Bower is happy to see the Tribes get the award from the Wyoming Association of RC&D Councils at its 2009 annual meeting.



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