

Wyoming Naturalist



General Interest Events

July 19th-22nd - Statewide Bio Blitz [iNaturalist](#)

(See the last page for an invite for WY Naturalists to join us in Bighorn N.F.)

July 19th @ 10am - Plant ID & Invasive Species Pull - [Sinks Canyon S.P.](#)

July 20th @ 11am - Plant Walk on Flood & Hindle Trail - [South Pass City S.H.S.](#)

July 20th - Moose Day Survey at North Crow Reservoir [Curt Gowdy S.P.](#)

July 20th @ 7pm - Raptor Program - Tatanka CG @ [Keyhole S.P.](#)

July 20th @ 9am - Plant Walk @ Pole Mountain in Laramie - [Register](#)

July 21st @ 9am - Tech in the Park (iNaturalist) - [Edness K. Wilkins S.P.](#)

August 1st - Hike to Pilot Knob at Fort Phil Kearny S.H.S. [Facebook](#)

August 2nd - 11a -12p Turkey Vulture Walk @ Curt Gowdy S.P. [Info](#)

August 3rd - Coulter Bay Hike at Keyhole S.P. [Information](#)

August 10th - Beartooth Hike - Shoshone N.F. - [Email to Register](#)

September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper

Advanced Training Opportunities

September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper

September 21st - Bird Banding @ Edness K. Wilkins S.P.

September 21st - Mammals @ Isaak Walton Lodge

September 22nd - Wildlife Diseases @ Isaak Walton Lodge

September - Bird Banding (Fall Migration)

In this issue:

WNP Service and Training Hours Submission

IMWSS Shorebird Survey-Fall

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Sage Grouse Markers
- Bitterbrush Seed Collection
- Bumble Bee Atlas Workshop
- USFS Seed Collecting
- Statewide BioBlitz Invite

Reminders

- WNP Annual Meeting
- [Silent Auction Donations Needed](#)

Call for Photos

Bird Banding Dates

WY Naturalist Website

<https://wyomingnaturalists.wyomingbiodiversity.org>

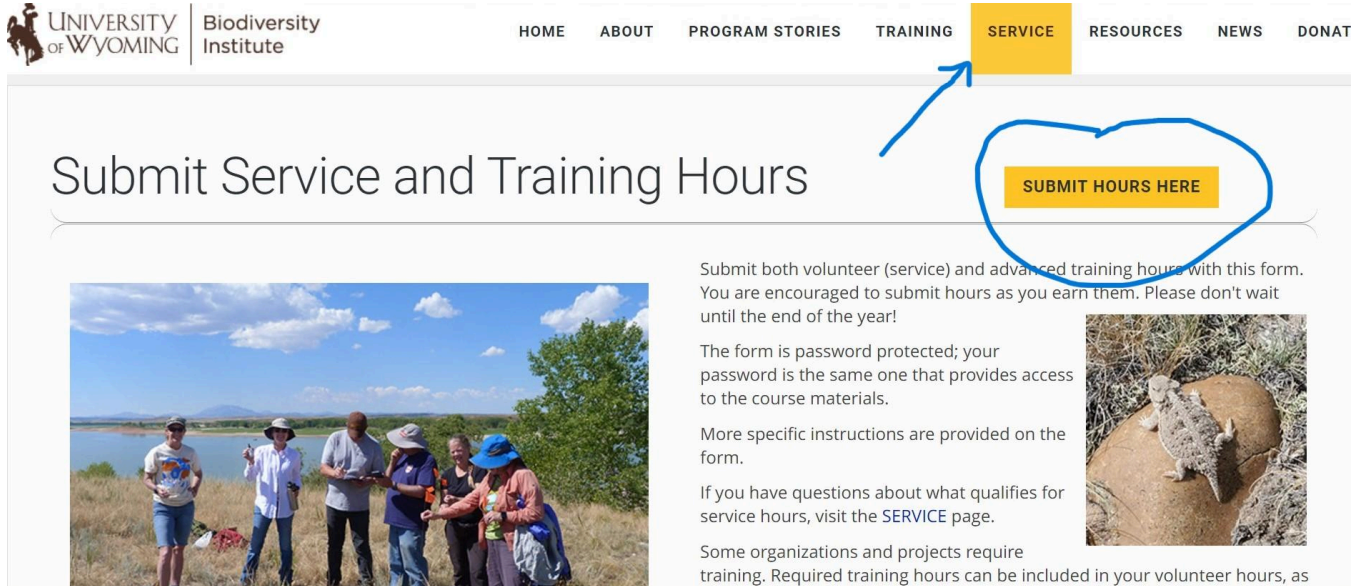
Volunteer Opportunities

- Bumble Bee Atlas Workshop - July 20th 12pm-3pm @ Berry Center on the UW Campus - [Register](#)
- Biodiversity Institute Summer Moose Day - July 21st & 22nd - Laramie Area - [Register](#)
- Bitterbrush Seed Collection with WY Wildlife Federation near Lander - [Register](#)
- Sage Grouse Markers with WY Game & Fish near Casper July 27th - [Register](#)
- Teton County Weed & Pest Tick Blitz - tcweed.org/vectorborne
- Laramie Peak WHMA Fence Removal with Wyoming Game and Fish - [Register](#)
- IMWSS Shorebird Survey Fall Migration - Statewide - [Register Here](#) or email max.malmquist@audubon.org
- USFS Seed Collection - August 9th & 10th in Shoshone N.F. - [Information](#)
- The Wyoming Naturalist Program has a [story map](#) of the conservation work/training that Wyoming Naturalists have been involved with. For each submission of a service project, or in-person advanced training, you can earn 1 hour of volunteer service. To submit your story projects, use this [easy form](#).

If you see an opportunity to help grow/organize/lift the Wyoming Naturalist Program in any way and would like to volunteer for the program, please contact zach.hutchinson@audubon.org. Opportunities could include organizing the annual meeting and/or the outdoor training, finding advanced training opportunities, curating volunteer service projects, or assisting/administrating other tasks to keep the machine running. The program only grows with your help!

WNP Service and Training Hours Submission

The September Wyoming Naturalist Program Annual Meeting in Casper is coming up soon, and **this is a terrific time to get your service and training hours submitted**. Volunteer time is an important component of matching funds for the Wyoming Naturalist program and the Biodiversity Institute grant applications. [You can find the form on the Biodiversity Institute under "service" - "submit service hours."](#)



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING | Biodiversity Institute

HOME ABOUT PROGRAM STORIES TRAINING SERVICE RESOURCES NEWS DONAT

Submit Service and Training Hours



Submit both volunteer (service) and advanced training hours with this form. You are encouraged to submit hours as you earn them. Please don't wait until the end of the year!

The form is password protected; your password is the same one that provides access to the course materials.

More specific instructions are provided on the form.

If you have questions about what qualifies for service hours, visit the [SERVICE](#) page.

Some organizations and projects require training. Required training hours can be included in your volunteer hours, as

Intermountain West Shorebird Survey – Fall

What is the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey?

Migratory shorebirds are key indicators of environmental health. They can tell us about the health of an individual ecosystem and the broader wetland networks upon which they rely.

Wetlands and saline lakes of the Intermountain West are oases for migrating shorebirds each spring and fall. Much has changed since the last comprehensive shorebird survey of the region in 1989-1995, and this program is replicating that census so we can better manage shorebirds today and into the future. During our last three migration seasons – over ~300 participants helped survey over 200 sites in 11 western states. 2024 will be our second full year of surveys, and we are looking to each and every one of you to continue to grow our impact and support of shorebird conservation. Sign-up [HERE](#).

The goals of the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey aim to sustain shorebird populations by empowering and inspiring stakeholders to take actions that conserve wetlands and water. The surveys will:

1. Document shorebird populations using synchronous surveys at 206 sites during spring and fall migrations from 2022-2026.
2. Compare shorebird populations today to those from 1989-1995 and identify factors influencing shorebird distributions.
3. Communicate scientific results to participants and conservation stakeholders including land and water managers and policy makers.

Ideal shorebird surveyors:

1. Can identify shorebirds in breeding and non-breeding plumage,
2. Have a passion for birds and time outdoors,
3. Can commit to one survey day in the spring and one survey day in the fall, and allow some flexibility for scheduling around bad weather,
4. Will be safety conscience and cooperate with field partners,
5. Can collect high-quality data in the field.

Volunteer Opportunities

From Zach Hutchison

Happy July, Wyoming Naturalists!

I was sent a unique volunteering opportunity from Wyoming Game & Fish to place 40,000 sage-grouse markers on wildlife-friendly fencing near Bates Creek, southwest of Casper. These markers help prevent fence collisions for the Greater Sage-Grouse, and Bates Hole has a significant population of Greater Sage-Grouse. I hope to see you there!

Who: All are welcome! Family-friendly event

Date: 07/27/24

Time: 6 AM to 4 PM (early departures okay)

Location: Meet at Casper Game & Fish office (3030 Energy Lane), then carpool to the work site (~60 to 90 minutes)

Lunch: TBD

Gear: Gloves, water, hats, sunscreen, bug spray, boots

Registration: <https://wgfd.volunteermatters.org/project-catalog/87>

To register, use the link above, then click the green "volunteer" button, and it will walk you through creating an account and signing the WYGF volunteer forms.

Then, each time you volunteer for a WYGF project, you must sign into the portal at

<https://wgfd.volunteermatters.org/> and press the blue button that says "submit hours" to record the hours you volunteered.

Time reporting is necessary for workers' compensation coverage.

If you have any questions, email zach.hutchison@audubon.org or contact Brandon Werner (WYGF) at the number listed on the registration page.



Volunteers needed July 24th @ 5pm

Want to make a tangible difference for mule deer? There's a dire need for improvement projects in critical mule deer habitat along the Lander front. The first of these projects is collecting bitterbrush seeds from local thriving vegetation for future planting projects to ultimately improve mule deer forage in the area.

The bitterbrush at our project sites looks excellent for collecting seed this year. All volunteers and staff will meet 17 miles south of Lander on Highway 28. The meeting place is a large pavement pull-out on the right as you drive south from Lander before the main Red Canyon lookout.

Thanks to support from the [LOR Foundation](#), there will be post-project burgers and beverages to thank volunteers for attending the event after work in the middle of the work week. Organizers need to know how many folks are joining for dinner and for supplies purposes. **[Be sure to RSVP to help collect these seeds with us by July 17th at 5:00 pm.](#)**



Mountain States BUMBLE BEE ATLAS
Wyoming Training Workshop

Saturday, July 20 | 12--3pm

Berry Biodiversity Center, Laramie, WY
Join us for a fun day learning about bumble bees and Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas community science project!

REGISTER NOW!

Click here or scan the QR Code to register
BumbleBeeAtlas.org

Logos: Colorado Native Plant Society, Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas, University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

The Mountain States Bumble Atlas is a collaborative effort to track and conserve the bumble bees of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. This in-person workshop will give you the knowledge, skills, confidence, and enthusiasm to become a Bumble Bee Atlas volunteer! The registration link for the training in Laramie is [HERE](#), and anyone outside of Laramie that would like to participate can watch the online training videos [HERE](#).

Join the Colorado Native Plant Society for seed collection to support the USDA Rocky Mountain Region Native Plant Materials Program. Come collect seeds for the restoration of National Forests and Grasslands across the Rocky Mountain region. The goal is to ensure there is genetically and geographically appropriate seed available for use by the USFS at no cost. This includes post-fire restoration, ensuring integrated benefits for long-term soil stability, maintaining or improving wildlife habitat, and providing for resilient ecosystems. Find more information and register [HERE](#).



BE A VOLUNTEER SEED COLLECTOR!

CALLING ALL PLANT ENTHUSIASTS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM @ Shoshone National Forest

COLLECT SEEDS FOR THE RESTORATION OF NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS ACROSS THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION FOR POST-FIRE RESTORATION, LONG-TERM SOIL STABILITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS. HELP THE USDA REGION 2 USFS PUT THE RIGHT SEED, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME!

SEED COLLECTION IS A LOW-IMPACT ACTIVITY
CAMPING IS AVAILABLE

Logos: Colorado Native Plant Society, USDA Forest Service

SCAN ME



Do you have plans for Statewide Virtual BioBlitz July 19-22? Join the Newsletter Team in the Bighorn National Forest! We will be surveying around Meadowlark Lake for the 3rd year in a row. We have encountered many moose, unique plants, and picturesque landscapes during our surveys. There are several campgrounds in the area including Boulder Park, Island Park, Sitting Bull and Deer Park (First come first served only). There is dispersed camping available, as well. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please email or text Jaci at jacihark@gmail.com or 307-431-1609. Happy Virtual Bioblitzing!!

Reminders!

Wyoming Naturalist Program Annual Meeting - September

The WNP Annual Meeting will be held at the Izaak Walton League campground and lodge in Casper from September 20th through the 22nd. Free camping is available on the 20th and 21st at the Izaak Walton campground. Inexpensive hotels are available in the area. Lunch and dinner on the 21st, and breakfast on the 22nd will be provided by the WNP. All other meals will be on your own. *This schedule is tentative and subject to change by the meeting dates.*

Friday	Activity	Location	Saturday	Activity	Location
3pm	Camp & Lodge Open	Izaak Walton Lodge	3:30pm	Advanced Training: TBD	Izaak Walton Lodge
10am	Social hour/Cohort mingle	Izaak Walton Lodge	5pm	Group Dinner	Izaak Walton Lodge
Saturday	Activity	Location	6:30pm	Capstone Social Hour	Izaak Walton Lodge
7am	Bird Banding	Edness K Wilkins SP	8pm	Astronomy Training	TBD
9:30am	Welcome	Izaak Walton Lodge	Sunday	Activity	Location
10am	Service Project	TBD	7:30am	Group Breakfast	Izaak Walton Lodge
12pm	Group Lunch	TBD	8:45am	Awards	Izaak Walton Lodge
2pm	Service Project Ends	TBD	10am	Advanced Training: Wildlife Diseases with Jessica Jennings	Izaak Walton Lodge
2:30pm	Advanced Training: Mammals	Izaak Walton Lodge	11am	Wrap-up	Izaak Walton Lodge

Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting - Donations Needed!

Wyoming Naturalists will have an opportunity to further support the program through a silent auction event at this year’s meeting! If you have items to donate (e.g. art, field guides, naturalist equipment, etc..) please contact Jennie Lawrence at missjennae@yahoo.com with information about what the object is, what the minimum bid should be, and how the item will get to Casper (hopefully with the donator!) All money raised from the auction will benefit the Wyoming Naturalist Program by helping pay for the campground during the field weekend for new cohorts and acquiring meeting space for a new Annual Meeting location in 2025.

*****Call for Photos*****

The Wyoming Naturalist Program Steering Committee is calling on naturalists to share photos from the field. Share photos of your volunteering or recreational activities. If you are a photographer, please share photos we might be able to use in the newsletter, website, and promotions for the program. All images will be credited.

Upload images to Box - Your name must be part of the file name.

Please title images using the following format:

Image title or species name -your name- date image was taken

Example: Red Crossbill - Zach Hutchinson - Jan 19 2024

****Please be sure to title your images before uploading! We can’t share photos without credit.**





Swainson's Hawk - Kurt Warmbier - May 11, 2024



Rainbow Grasshopper - Jaci Harkink - June 26, 2024



Polemonium - Angela Leone - July 8, 2024

2024 Tentative Bird Banding Dates

MAPS EKWS (Casper) - July 16th, 23rd, 30th

MAPS BART (Casper Mountain) - July 17th, 24th, 31st

MAPS KEYS (Keyhole State Park) - July 25th, August 3rd

Hummingbirds (Casper Mountain) - July 28th, August 10th, 24th,
September 7th

Attending training qualifies for advanced training hours, and attendance at MAPS and hummingbird dates can be submitted as volunteer hours. A typical MAPS day is worth 6-10 volunteer hours. Most of these opportunities start between 5-6am and are finished between 12-1pm. Attendance for the full day is not required.

If you would like to volunteer at a Casper MAPS station, register [HERE](#).

If you would like to volunteer at a Keyhole MAPS station, contact Jacelyn at jacelyn.downey@audubon.org.



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Learn more about the Wyoming Naturalist Program: <https://wyomingnaturalists.wyomingbiodiversity.org/>