



Lander Trail Charrette A Public Trail System Discussion

For Immediate Release –

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Public invited to attend the Lander Trail Charrette, a collaborative discussion

Wyoming Pathways, in conjunction with the UW Ruckelshaus Institute and local partners invites all trail users and Lander area public land managers to attend the Lander Trail Charrette, Friday April 5th and Open House Saturday April 6th at the Lander Community Center.

A charrette is an intensive period of design or planning activity. In this case, it will focus on creating stakeholder driven recommendations for Lander's front-country nonmotorized trail systems. Charrettes serve as a way of quickly generating a design solution while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of people. Although the structure of charrettes may vary, the general idea of a charrette is to create an innovative atmosphere in which local stakeholders come together to collaborate and "generate visions for the future".

The Trail Charrette is not empowered to make any decisions; rather it is a planning exercise that will create informed and shared recommendations and priorities for use by public agencies and the Lander community.

The Trail Charrette discussions will be collected and organized into a final report. That will be posted on the project website for the public and presented to the public land agencies. The intent is for the Trail Charrette Report to be used as a springboard for future public discussion, potential trail projects, and enhanced partnerships.

The charrette will include two sessions:

April 5th from 10am to 3pm with a working lunch. This is the main planning session, which will focus on current conditions and future opportunities, with a facilitated discussion on trail system goals, identifying priorities, and what next steps should be considered. It will be led by Nicole Gautier and Steve Smutko, with the UW Ruckelshaus Institute. Presentations by Lander-area public land managers are anticipated.

On April 6th, a morning open house session will then take place from 9:30 to 11am, structured open house style so trail users can drop in, look at the work from the previous day, and provide additional comments. Both sessions are in the Community Center.

A Lander Trail Charrette Website has been created, <https://landertrails.org> where the public can browse trail information for the Lander area, including the Sinks Canyon area, Bus Loops, and Johnny Behind the Rocks. There is also a map showing Lander area trails, and opportunities for the public to comment on issues and opportunities to help inform the Trail Charrette April 5th. An additional way for the public to comment is on the Charette's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/landertrails/>

"The public is invited to comment online and attend the Charrette and open house. Local wisdom is critical to the success of a planning effort like this," said Tim Young with Wyoming Pathways.

"Trails are an important aspect of Lander's quality of life and economic success" said Brian Fabel, Lander Chamber of Commerce Director. Fabel noted "Great trail systems require collaborative planning, and we support the Trail Charrette as a great step to help our public land managers".

State and federal land managers of the public lands around Lander have been invited to the Trail Charrette. Agencies will have representatives attending to listen and help answer land management questions. This could include talks on the current trail systems and trail users, trail projects underway, explaining agency policies that govern nonmotorized uses, and participating in discussions on enhancing partnerships with trail user groups.

The invited land managing agencies include the Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone National Forest Cody Office and Washakie Ranger District, Wyoming State Parks, WY State Lands, City of Lander, and other interested agencies. The organizers and Lander community are thankful for their participation.