

Office of the Governor

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The mission of the Office of the Governor of Wyoming is to provide leadership that builds public trust through service, accountability, and cooperation. The philosophy of the governor is that public service is a public trust. Therefore, the office believes in personal responsibility, professionalism, high ethics, and honesty, requiring accountability, efficiency, and respect. The role of the Governor's Office is to provide opportunity through partnerships to meet the needs of Wyoming today and tomorrow.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

Outcome 1: The Governor's Office will administer the executive branch of government consistent with the Wyoming Constitution, state statutes and functional goals of state government. The functional goals are:

■ **Education** - to provide an opportunity for people to obtain skills, to develop their intellect, to experience art and to develop a greater appreciation of cultural resources;

■ **Regulatory and Economic Development** - to provide a business-friendly regulatory environment where the health and safety of people are ensured, consumers protected and goods and services made reasonably available;

■ **Natural Resources** - to protect Wyoming's environment and ensure wise, sustainable use of its natural resources;

■ **Health** - to protect and enhance the health and well-being of Wyoming people;

■ **Human Services** - to foster the development of responsible, productive, and self-sufficient people and to assist persons when they are unable to provide for themselves;

■ **Transportation** - to expand and enhance Wyoming's transportation system in order to provide reasonable access and availability to Wyoming people wherever they reside or wherever in Wyoming they do business;

■ **Public Safety and Corrections** - to ensure the safety of Wyoming people and Wyoming communities; and

■ **General Government** - to operate the state and local governments responsibly, effectively, and efficiently in an open, ethical, and accountable manner.

Outcome 2: The Governor's Office will provide efficient, cost-effective service, ensure accountability, and promote cooperation in carrying out the duties of the office.

Highlighted accomplishments during FY00

Governor Jim Geringer moved from chair-elect to chairman of the Education Commission of the States (ECS). The ECS is a national, nonprofit organization that helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify,

General information

Governor Jim Geringer

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Year established

1890

Statutory reference

Constitution of the State of Wyoming, Article 4; Wyoming Statute 9-1-201

Number of authorized employees

16 full-time

Clients served

Every resident of Wyoming is a client.

Budget information

\$1,093,862.00

develop and implement policies to improve student learning at all levels. A bipartisan organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colo. The governor's emphasis during his year of leadership was teacher quality and professional development.

The governor was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley, as a member of the John Glenn Commission on Math and Science. The aim of the commission is to develop a strategy to raise the quality of mathematics and science teaching in all of the nation's classrooms. The governor, in accepting the appointment, stated, "Our potential for growth and competitiveness is measured in how well our youth do in math and science. We want to increase achievement, confidence and enjoyment in math and science, but to do it in a way that students understand how those subjects relate to the rest of their education."

As part of his priority on education, the governor served on the National Educational Goals Panel as one of seven elected governors. For more than 10 years, the organization has moved toward more rigorous educational outcomes for K-12 students.

The governor appeared on E-School News' "Impact Thirty" list of high impact people who have had a powerful effect on technology in the nation's schools. The governor was honored for the Wyoming Equality Network and for his commitment to technology funding, which has led to the lowest student-to-computer ratio in the country.

The governor accepted the chairmanship of the National Governors' Association Information Technology Task Force.

The governor was pleased to announce in March that Wyoming is listed as the number one state in the country for students' access to computers in the classroom. The partnership of the Department of Education, Wyoming Equality Network and the Governor's Office advanced this accomplishment, which brought national attention.

The governor issued an executive order putting in place the Domestic Violence Elimination Council and followed with appointments, which were announced in August 1999. The governor stated, "The people on the council will focus on domestic violence prevention, work to increase awareness of the causes, effects and magnitude of domestic violence and make recommendations to assist in addressing domestic violence issues."

The governor took his budget message to communities in late summer and early fall by holding "focus" meetings in Laramie, Rock Springs, Afton, Powell, Gillette, Torrington, Riverton, Cheyenne, Lander, Sheridan and Jackson. The results of the comments from the public were used to drive his decisions regarding the budget, which was presented to the Legislature on Dec. 1, 1999.

The governor advanced two budgets to the Legislature in a startling, innovative way to bring home his point of the need for a long-term solution. The budget focused on education and the "new economy." One budget was termed "patchwork" by the gov-

ernor and the other as the long-term solution, requiring a broader tax base, along with budget reductions and diversions from earmarked accounts.

A breakthrough in the long road to state cooperation with the federal government in land management issues was the signing of the nation's first cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The governor commented, "The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to include a significant state and local government role in federal decision-making processes. This agreement seals that intent, and the Forest Service no longer functions as an island. States and communities have much to offer in defining the issues and developing the solutions." This culminated work by the Governor's Office that spanned over a two-year period.

Continuing his aggressive defense of Wyoming being heard by the federal government, the governor announced in December that the state would file a "friend of the court" brief against Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, in the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the many western agricultural interests. Wyoming's appeal challenged Secretary Babbitt's "rangeland reforms," which would dramatically change the grazing practices on Bureau of Land Management lands that western stock growers have relied upon for more than 60 years.

The governor cosponsored resolutions, which unanimously passed during the Western Governors' Association winter meeting, to oppose the President's executive action to create roadless areas on federal lands, to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to interpret the statute on telecommunications that allows rural areas access to telecommunications services similar to urban areas and to advocate a moratorium on further withdrawals of traditional pesticides until effective and viable substitutes can be provided and/or until scientific findings justify U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions.

The Online Government Commission, established by statute and composed of the five elected officials, with the governor as chair, began the daunting task of moving the State forward to deliver services to Wyoming's constituents online. The governor's vision is to enable the residents of Wyoming, through increased accessibility and improved efficiency, to have more control and take greater responsibility for what they want and need from government. The delivery of government services in a totally different way has huge potential, and the development of pilot projects within state agencies will begin after a full assessment has been made of current infrastructure.

To the governor's elation, it was reported in late January that the total hit count for 1999 on the state Web site was 17,526,441. The figure represents twice the hits that were reported for 1998. In the month of January, the hits were already at 2,134,299.

Collectively, the states of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming are taking the proper steps toward de-listing and to receiving the draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy from the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These states are taking a proactive strategy approach by working together to assure the success of grizzly bear populations and developing sound recommendations for management. Governors Geringer, Marc Racicot of Mont. and Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho agreed to establish a citizen roundtable, made up of five members from each state representing diverse backgrounds, to review the Conservation Strategy and to make recommendations on how the states and the USFWS should proceed toward delisting of the grizzly bear. In May of 2000, the governors accepted 24 of the 26 roundtable recommendations. The other two were modified to meet the approval of the roundtable.

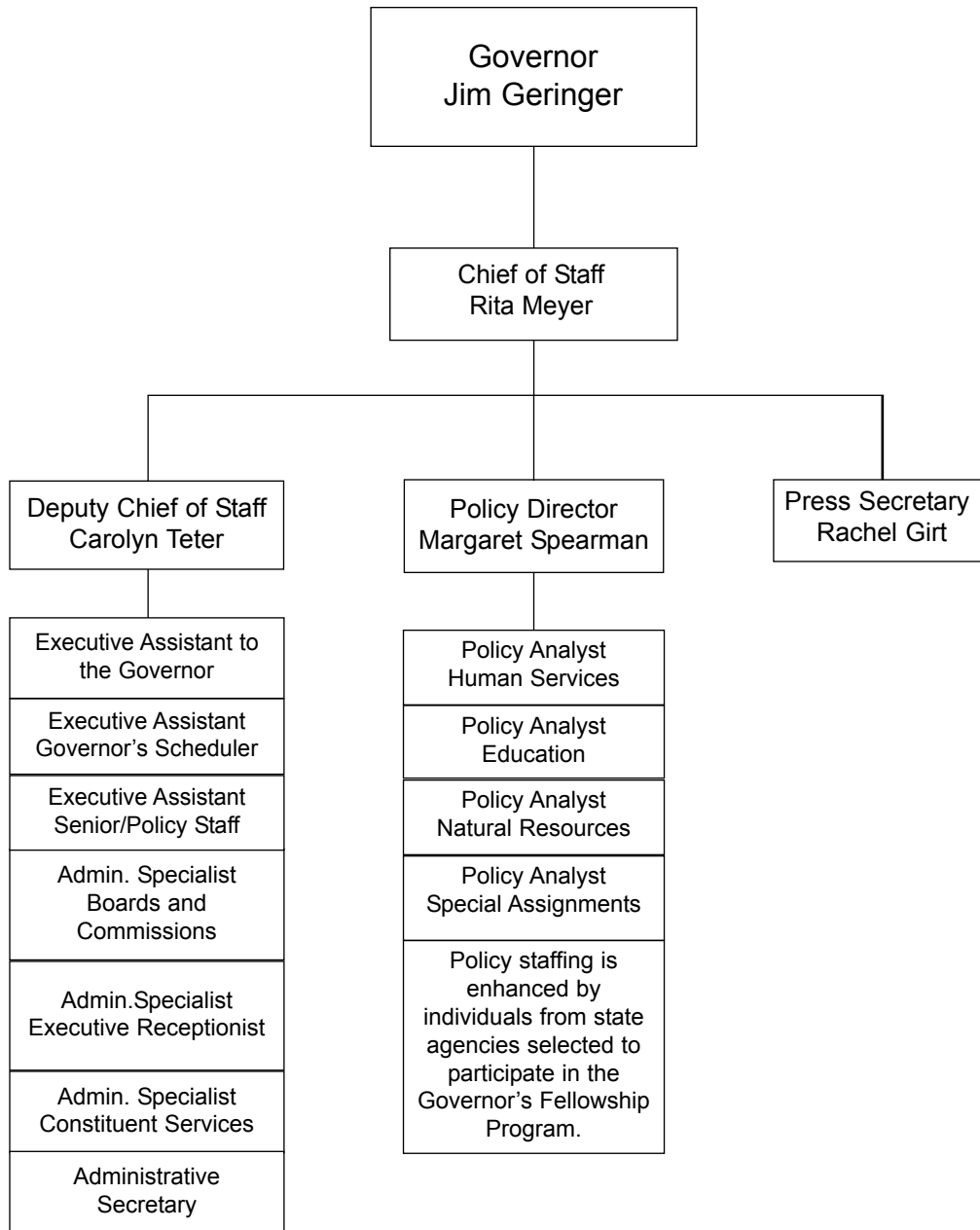
In a joint letter to Jamie Rappaport-Clark, director of the USFWS, the governors endorsed the recommendations, committed their states to developing management plans, requested any additional criteria necessary for delisting and encouraged delisting. They also emphasized that the states stand ready to demonstrate leadership called for by the roundtable but stressed the importance of the national public accepting responsibility to fund conservation and management of these bears commensurate with the national interest in this species.

The governor's staff continues to coordinate with agencies in successful collaborative activities, such as the sub-cabinets for natural resources and human services.

The volume of activities that impact the governor's schedule continues to escalate:

The governor issued 103 proclamations of the 162 requested, delivered 178 speeches, participated in 136 photo opportunities with individuals and organizations, averaged six to eight meetings per working day in the office, signed an average of 400 letters/documents a month, received an average of 300-500 e-mails per week, made 381 appointments to the state's more than 130 boards and commissions and held more than 50 press conferences.

Office of the Governor organization chart



Governor's Residence

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The Governor's Residence is a state-owned building that serves as a private home for Governor Jim Geringer and his family and serves as the primary site for most of the official functions that Governor and Mrs. Geringer conduct on behalf of the state of Wyoming. Because the Governor's Residence is a semi-public building, it also serves the state well by providing a place to display Wyoming's history, art, antiques and artifacts.

The primary role of the Governor's Residence is to provide the governor and his family with a safe, comfortable, family home during his tenure as the governor of Wyoming. The residence is the only place where privacy is available to the governor and his family.

The public role of the Governor's Residence provides the people of the state of Wyoming with a visible symbol of state history and culture. Official functions include entertaining legislators and their spouses, Supreme Court Justices, elected officials, visiting government and business officials, and state and foreign dignitaries. Public functions include activities such as public tours, educational tours for students and receptions.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

To protect the privacy of the First Family and to provide for as normal a life as possible while they live at the Governor's Residence, the work of all staff (Governor's Residence and other agency staff) must be scheduled with the First Lady's assistant.

With the assistance of Wyoming State Museum volunteers, 16 open houses and individually scheduled tours were conducted. Other opportunities for the public to visit the Governor's Residence included receptions, meetings, luncheons and dinners. Approximately 2,700 people visited the Governor's Residence during the time period July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The Governor's Residence does not anticipate any significant changes in the existing strategic plan.

General information

Sherri Geringer, Wyoming's First Lady

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Year established

1901

Statutory references

Statutes 9-1-213 and 9-5-103

Number of authorized personnel

Two full-time, two part-time

Clients served

Governor and Mrs. Geringer and members of their family; federal, state, and local elected leaders; foreign dignitaries; business officials; Wyoming residents; visitors to Wyoming

Budget information

General fund \$103,994

Governor's Residence organization chart

