

Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The department's mission is to provide excellent Wyoming experiences for everyone. The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources is a quality of life organization dedicated to improving the well-being of Wyoming residents and visitors through its programs and services. The department recognizes that Wyoming's vast recreational and cultural resources provide Wyoming people with unique opportunities. The department believes that responsible attention to and stewardship in developing, conserving and providing education about and access to these resources will enable this and future generations to attain an unparalleled quality of life. Thus, by wisely managing programs and services, the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources dedicates itself to facilitating the enrichment of the lives of the residents of Wyoming.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

Goal I: Enrich, educate and provide for the preservation, evaluation and development of cultural and recreational resources under the stewardship of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Objective 1: Annually contribute to the quality of life in Wyoming through the evaluation, preservation, promotion and development of cultural resources and institutions.

Outcome: Percentage of cultural materials preserved.

- Museum artifacts preserved, 884;
- Museum artifacts entered into MCMS data base, 2,039;
- Significant archaeological resources protected, 274;
- Cubic feet of records preserved by microfilming, 885; and
- Items preserved by archives through conservation measures, 6,663

Outcome: Sustain and/or increase the number of cultural opportunities.

Museum: 27 workshops, three education programs developed, 29 in-house exhibits installed.

State Archaeologist Office: 61 archaeology investigations on significant sites, 150 archaeological sites located and recorded.

Archives: 71 special outreach projects.

Arts Council: eight programs.

Outcome: Sustain and/or increase the number of customers served.

Museum counted 18,882 on-site and 29,767 Web visitors

State Archaeologist Office published and distributed 57 technical reports.

General information

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Agency contact

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Other locations

Arts Council, Cheyenne; State Archaeologist, Laramie; State Historic Preservation Cultural Records Office, Laramie; State Parks and Historic Sites, statewide; Collections Center, Cheyenne; Archives South, Cheyenne.

Year established and reorganized

Established 1895, reorganized July 1, 1999, as the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Statutory references

W.S. 9-2-1701 through 9-2-1708; 9-2-2001;36-4-101 through 36-4-123;36-8-105 through 36-8-106;9-2-401 through 9-2-419;9-2-901;9-2-91;9-2-2017;11-10-113;16-6-801;24-14-102; 36-8-301 through 36-8-320;36-8-401 through 36-8-407;36-8-501 through 36-8-502;36-8-601 through 36-8-602;36-8-801;36-8-1001;39-17-111.

Number of authorized personnel

163 full-time, 126 part-time

Organizational structure

Administration and Support (includes Executive Office), Division of Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks and Historic Sites

Clients served

General public (resident and nonresident), local governments, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, special friend groups, state boards and commissions, State Legislature, specific interest groups

Budget information

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|--------------|---------------------|
| General fund | \$7,773,138 |
| Federal | 1,733,889 |
| Other | 2,521,282 |
| Total | \$12,028,309 |

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| Goal I, Objective 1 | \$4,300,212 |
| Goal I, Objective 2 | 6,569,614 |
| Goal II, Objective 1 | 545,522 |
| Goal II, Objective 2 | \$612,961 |

Arts Council had 385,334 attendees related to all services, served individuals in 23 counties and 123 communities by one or more of the programs, directly served 300 organizations by the programs, mailed newsletter 10 times a year with a mailing list average of 3,535 and received 95,892 hits on the Arts Council Web page.

State Historic Preservation Office had 6,644 contacts with the public and 73 presentations.

Archives received 9,835 requests for information; 542 retention schedules were legally approved.

Outcome: Maintaining a percentage of customer satisfaction.

State Archaeologist Office presented 135 programs: slide presentation, lectures, discussions and various types of correspondence

Archives completed a survey of customers and had a 99.6 percent satisfaction rating.

Outcome: Number of partnerships.

Museum loaned 300 artifacts to other museums for viewing.

Arts Council awarded 206 grants.

Archives partnered with the Wyoming Territorial Prison and Old West park on technical assistance and planning exhibits, along with other issues relating to their exhibits; participated in Local Legacies Project with the Wyoming State Library, Old West Museum and American Heritage Center; and provided brochures and "Getting Better with Age" buttons to the Division on Aging, Department of Health, to be passed out throughout the state to senior centers and at senior-related workshops.

Outcome: Federal, state, and private funding generated.

Arts Council: \$2,281,464 locally raised funds to match grants awarded by the Arts Council.

State Archaeologist Office: a total of six different entities have entered into agreements with the office for archaeological services.

State Historic Preservation Office: six BLM, other federal government and private funding agreements.

Objective 2: Annually provide for the preservation, protection, development, use and enjoyment of and education about cultural and recreational resources under the stewardship of State Parks and Historic Sites.

Outcome: Number of cultural and recreational resources maintained.

All 24 of the different parks and historic sites located throughout the state have been maintained. The State Snowmobile Program has maintained 1,718 miles of groomed trails and 494 miles of ungroomed trails.

Outcome: Number of cultural and recreational resources opportunities developed

New construction projects numbered 35, repair projects numbered nine, and restoration projects numbered four. The Recreational Trails Program Grant projects totaled 38, and \$952,712.55 in grant money was awarded for these projects. Land and

Water Conservation Fund projects for this period number four ongoing for a total of \$189,000.

Outcome: Number of users

Visitor use figures for this time period are not available at this time due to computer problems but will be available later this winter. The Snowmobile Program sold 18,043 resident snowmobile decals, 17,453 non-resident and 1,013 commercial. The top three states in order for non-resident snowmobile decals were Minnesota, Colorado and South Dakota.

Outcome: Number of interpretive and educational services

Boysen State Park – new interpretive panel, interpretive maps in the highway rest areas, Wild West Winter Carnival, Mill Creek School Fair and the Game and Fish Department Heritage Expo

Buffalo Bill State Park – new TV/VCR for video programs, expanded Host Program, volunteer assistance at Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center, nature trail development and updated park map/brochure.

Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park – entrance sign rebuilt, hosted school groups on educational field trips and hosted Boy Scout field trips.

Fort Fetterman State Historic Site – school and Elderhostel tours; Fort Fetterman Days held June 9-11; Fetterman City, Hog Ranch Days held July 22-23; Clark Diaries Exhibit May 23 to June 14; Trails of the West Exhibit all summer; and rotating exhibit for Converse County Historical Society.

Fort Phil Kearny – numerous K-12 school tours, college and Elderhostel tours; Bozeman Trail Days held June 16 -18, Clark Diaries Exhibit June 15 to July 14, Centennial Anniversary Wagon Trail Sept. 6-8, Fetterman Fight Tour Dec. 21, TEAL grant, which included archaeology, ground surveillance radar, stockade and blockhouse reconstruction, 20 interpretive signs and a reproduction field Howitzer cannon.

Glendo State Park – installed an informational/interpretive kiosk, assisted the Game and Fish Department with creel survey, developed bird brochure and provided the public with site brochures/maps.

Historic Governors' Mansion – Original Joseph E. Stimson photographs copied and printed in color and hung in Governors' Den and dining room, bronze sculpture installed in living room, creation and distribution of a Cheyenne Museums rack card, first Annual Cheyenne Museum Weekend, meetings conducted to establish a Historic Governors' Mansion Foundation and conducted 56 school tours, 13 adult tours and 20 Hospitality House functions including State Dinner and Annual Candlelight Tours.

Hot Springs State Park – Annual Arts and Crafts Fair, Annual Wedding of the Waters Pageant, numerous educational tours/classes regarding the Bison Program and numerous educational tours/classes regarding the Terraces and Mineral Water Program.

Independence Rock State Historic Site – rebuilt two informational signs, hosted two groups of the Mormon Church educational system, hosted the

Grand Lodge AF&AM of Wyoming commemorative meeting and distributed numerous boxes of Mormon and Oregon Trail interpretive materials through the Department of Transportation rest area at the site.

Keyhole State Park – hosted eight fishing tournaments with the Game and Fish Department, Pine Haven Fourth of July Celebration, Pine Haven 5K walk/run/bike and Campbell County Parks and Recreation Splash and Dash Triathlon

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site – opened the Elk Habitat Visitor Center on June 1; developed a vegetation display to show some of the food items an elk eats ; summer seasonal interpretation program with Archaeologist Sara Davis, who developed a simulated dig site; four summer program talks – archaeology, Medicine Lodge, flint knapping and petroglyphs and pictographs (all in slide show format); development of an interpretive sign regarding Medicine Lodge Creek and/or the trout fishery; and school group talks and tours.

Pioneer Memorial Museum – billboard with Fort Fetterman State Historic Site, Platte River Primitive Skills Rendezvous weekend, Wyoming State Fair, interpretive display Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, Wyoming Authors Day, Wyoming Pioneer Association 4th grade essay contest, Annual Art Show and Sale, Oregon Trail presentation and book signing and reprint of site brochure.

Seminole State Park – two new information shelters at South Red Hills and Sunshine Beach.

Sinks Canyon State Park – interpretive signs located at the Rise, the Sinks, the Visitor Center and the Popo Agie nature trails; the Visitor Center contains displays, dioramas animal and bird mounts that interpret the natural and cultural resources of the canyon; self guided interpretive nature trails; Summer Speakers Series; and school groups and tours.

South Pass City State Historic Site – Fourth of July Celebration, new self guided tour brochure, Riniker cabin exhibited, Smith/Sherlock store exhibit expanded (50 percent complete), restoration work on theater, new exhibit in Visitor Center and numerous school tours.

Trail End State Historic Site – continuation and update of “Days of Wonder” exhibit (whole-house exhibit with interpretive panels plus room exhibits), filming of “Christmas Castles” episode for HGTV, installation of new interpretive exhibit at Sheridan Tourist Information Center, completion and activation of new Trail End Web site containing text portions of three whole-house exhibits (www.trailend.org), Annual three-day Holiday Open House, quarterly site newsletter and guided school and group tours.

Goal II: Operate the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources responsibly, effectively and efficiently in an open, ethical and accountable manner.

Objective 1: Annually provide policy-level support and leadership, prioritize and coordinate activities, establish and direct department programs and poli-

cies, allocate department resources and provide for effective coordination with other entities.

Outcome: A survey to determine the percent of satisfaction of board/commission members with the department was mailed to 19 of the members of the Wyoming Parks and Cultural Resources Commission and the Arts Council. Six surveys were returned with 100 percent of the responses indicating “satisfied” to “very satisfied” with the department’s coordination and direction for FY00.

In addition, a survey to determine the confidence level of the department employees with department administration was mailed to 161 employees of the agency. Eighty-four surveys were returned with 63 percent of the responses indicating “satisfied” to “very satisfied” with the department’s coordination and direction.

Objective 2: Annually provide support services to external and internal customers through responsible management of the human, procurement, financial, legal and management information services (MIS) resources.

Outcome: Percent of satisfaction of internal and external customers

A survey to determine the percent of satisfaction of the department employees with the support services provided by the administration support division was sent by email to 161 full-time employees of the agency. Eighty-seven surveys were returned with 82 percent of the responses indicating “satisfied” to “very satisfied” with the overall services.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The department’s strategic plan has been revised to reflect the comments and concerns raised to the organization in the past two years, and it reflects a significant change in the overall philosophical direction of the department. The mission has been totally revised to reflect the increasing emphasis on the provision of quality cultural and recreational experiences for both Wyoming residents and non-residents. The vision statement recognizes that the programs and services provided by the department must be driven by the legislative intent involved in the creation of these programs over the years. The intent of the Legislature in creating state parks and historic sites, a state museum, state archives, state arts council and other programs was to assure an understanding of the heritage, culture and people of Wyoming and to provide quality opportunities for the public to be exposed to the state’s many natural and cultural wonders. They did this, recognizing that these very resources that define the state and its people must be maintained, preserved and made accessible to present and future generations of residents and visitors if Wyoming is to provide a high quality of life.

Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources organization chart

