

Protecting the Great Divide

The Western Heritage Alternative



You Can Help Protect Wyoming's Wild Deserts!

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Sunset over Whiskey Peak, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance photo by Erik Mober

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The Great Divide — Heart of the Wild West

The Great Divide region includes the eastern half of Wyoming's Red Desert, with its spectacular badlands, high rims, and part of the largest active sand dune field in North America. Stretching across isolated mountain ranges and vast desert basins, this land provides habitat for a vast array of wildlife and outstanding recreational opportunities. These lands are home to some of the largest remaining herds of pronghorn antelope, and one of the last strongholds of declining wildlife such as the ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl.

It is a land with a colorful past, and includes the ancestral homelands of the Shoshone and Ute peoples, the Overland and Cherokee trails traveled by the pioneers, and the favorite outlaw haunts of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. These open spaces are vitally important to Wyoming's wildlife, our western heritage, and our quality of life.



Fertis Dunes

Photo by Scott Green



Flattop Mountain

BCA photo by Erik Mober



Ferruginous hawk nestings

Photo by Larry Apple, BLM

Our Western Heritage Under Siege

Wyoming's high deserts have now become one of the primary targets of the oil and gas industry. Bulldozers and drilling rigs are already gobbling up some of our most pristine wildlands and most sensitive wildlife habitats. And now, the BLM is renewing its long-term plan for the 3.5 million acres of public land in the Great Divide area, and must weigh input from the public before deciding which public lands will be set aside for recreation and wildlife, and which will be turned into gas fields and strip mines.

Cover Photo: Pronghorn silhouette photo by Stephen Turbin

Erik Mober Biodiversity Conservation Alliance photo by Erik Mober