

# WYOMING OFFICE OF STATE LANDS AND INVESTMENTS

122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307.777.7331  
Fax: 307.777.3524  
[slfmail@wvo.gov](mailto:slfmail@wvo.gov)



MATTHEW H. MEAD  
Governor  
BRIDGET HILL  
Director

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CONTACT: Ben Bump, Assistant Director  
Office of State Lands and Investments

## **Devon Energy partners with Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments, Bureau of Land Management and Wyoming Conservation Corps for 10-day training, education and conservation project focused on sage-grouse habitat preservation in Wind River Basin**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) recently volunteered alongside Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff members for a 10-day conservation and resource-management project sponsored by Devon Energy in the Wind River Basin. The program ran from July 27 – Aug. 5 and focused on Coyote Gulch, where University of Wyoming students, OSLI and BLM Lander Field Office employees implemented a riparian enhancement project, which entailed fencing off unstable portions of the system. Their combined efforts helped to preserve the health and value of the ecosystem within a core sage-grouse habitat, where elk, deer and pronghorn also live.

The goal of the partnership is to help preserve and protect public and state lands while providing University of Wyoming students with hands-on learning about Devon’s enhanced oil recovery project in Fremont County, the diversity of management activities handled by the OSLI, as well as energy development throughout Wyoming. This summer marked the eighth year Devon has sponsored the WCC in support of a series of preservation, restoration and education projects in Wyoming. In mid-August, Devon will also partner with the BLM and WCC on a 10-day conservation project in the Powder River Basin.

"This is the 8th year that Devon Energy has directly supported the growth and development of the Wyoming Conservation Corps, its members and Wyoming’s natural resources," said Patrick Harrington, assistant director for the WCC. "Through our partnership with Devon, the Office of State Lands and Investments, and Bureau of Land Management, WCC members are introduced to the complex nature of natural resource management and the balance we must strike to protect the environment while advancing the energy industry throughout Wyoming."

Devon also hosted its annual education day in the Wind River Basin for WCC students, which included a field tour of Devon’s enhanced oil recovery project in Fremont County and classroom discussion about energy development throughout the state. Fremont County commissioners, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, the OSLI and The Nature Conservancy also participated.

"Devon Energy is dedicated to operations excellence and environmental stewardship in Wyoming and everywhere we do business," said Bill Skelton, Devon’s senior superintendent of production for the Wind River and Bighorn basins. "We are proud of our long-standing partnership with the WCC, BLM and OSLI to preserve and protect public and state lands."

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### **About Wyoming Conservation Corps**

Founded in 2006, the WCC builds on the long legacy created by the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the Youth Conservation Corps of the 1970s. The WCC continues this legacy by carrying out the highest caliber of service for Wyoming's public lands. The organization is part of the University of Wyoming and strives to instill the value of education into their students by providing upper-division credits and extended learning opportunities throughout the program year. Participation in the WCC program provides members with an opportunity to learn firsthand the complexity involved with current natural resource management decisions in Wyoming. <http://www.wyoconservationcorps.org>

### **About the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments**

Through the 1890 Wyoming Act of Admissions, Congress granted two sections of land in every township to support public schools and other designated state institutions. The State Board of Land Commissioners, consisting of the State's five elected officials, is responsible for managing State Trust Lands to preserve and protect trust lands and optimize revenue for its trust beneficiaries. OSLI administers approximately 3.5 million surface acres and 3.9 million sub-surface acres. <http://lands.wyo.gov>

### **About the Bureau of Land Management**

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

### **About Devon Energy**

Devon Energy Corp. (NYSE: DVN) is a leading independent energy company engaged in finding and producing oil and natural gas. Based in Oklahoma City and included in the S&P 500, Devon operates in several of the most prolific oil and natural gas plays in the U.S. and Canada and is the second-largest oil producer among North American onshore independents. Devon has been recognized as one of the nation's most community-minded companies and supports the areas where it operates by being stewards of the environment and contributing to youth and education programs, the arts, civic initiatives and emergency response organizations. In Wyoming, Devon has approximately 160 employees and operates primarily in four areas: the Powder River Basin, Wind River Basin, Big Horn Basin and Washakie Basin. For more information, please visit [www.devonenergy.com](http://www.devonenergy.com).

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