

IN THE FIELD



Your Spring Update from the Wyoming Outdoor Council



Dear friend,

The promise of another Wyoming springtime is upon us — though I've been around the block a time or two and know we might still be surprised by sideways snow at any moment. Even though it's impossible not to focus on the rejuvenation happening in the world all around us, and all there is to look forward to in the summer months that follow, I'd be remiss not to also look back on what we accomplished together this winter.

With gratitude,

Executive Director

lisa@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org

Members like you also made your voices heard in a petition to the EPA, calling on the agency to protect the Madison Aquifer from oilfield pollution. You provided valuable local input on land use planning decisions in Park and Sublette counties, called for federal agencies to keep oil and gas development out of important wildlife habitat and finalize overdue reforms to the way our public lands are leased to private companies, and supported new methane emissions standards that will keep climate-warming pollutants out of the atmosphere while benefiting businesses and taxpayers in Wyoming.

And importantly, you stood behind a new drive to protect special areas of Wyoming's Red Desert. Following the vision and leadership of Yufna Soldier Wolf, the Outdoor Council's tribal conservation advocate, the Indigenous Land Alliance of Wyoming has nominated Boars Tusk and Indian Gap Trail for new designations that would protect their rich cultural history and overlapping wildlife habitat. The proposal also suggests a co-stewardship arrangement between tribes and federal land managers, which would be a first in Wyoming.

Still, springtime is about looking ahead — and we have a lot to look forward to, with many opportunities for you to get involved with the Outdoor Council. Here's a quick look at what's on tap in the coming months.

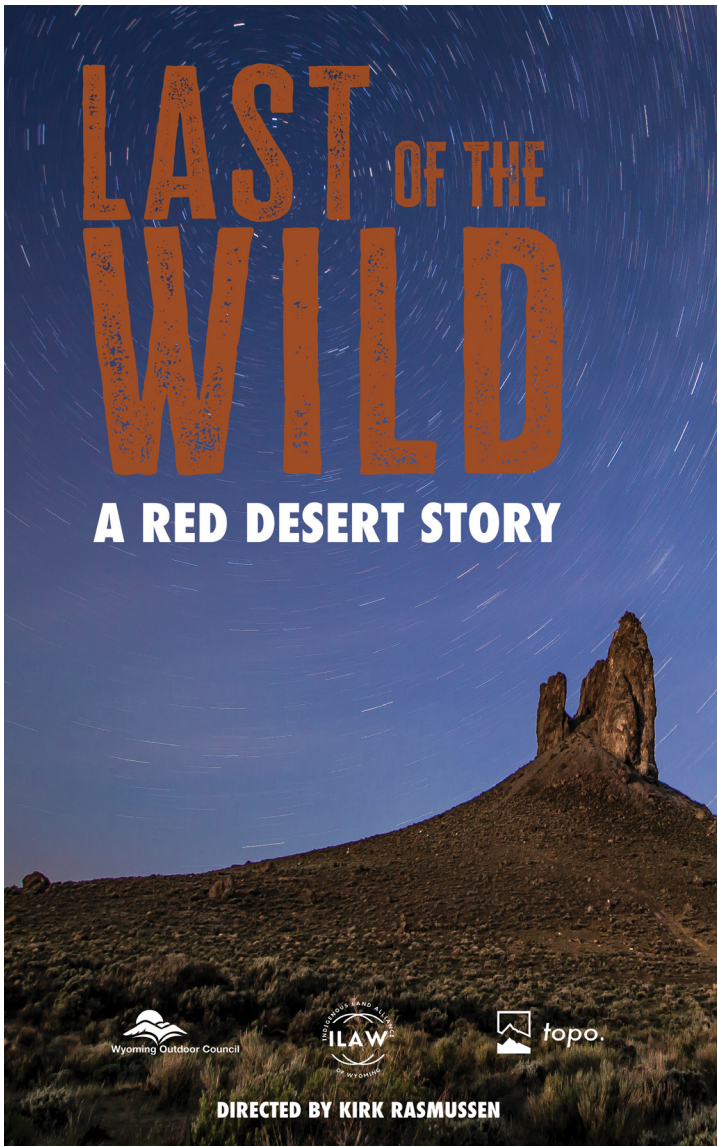
THE YEAR TO DATE

You, and other Wyoming Outdoor Council members once again pushed back against a bill in the Wyoming Legislature that would have ended net metering in Wyoming — raising the cost of rooftop solar and backyard wind energy while harming the small businesses that serve these customers. Your emails and public testimony to legislators made a difference. You can learn more about this bill, and other pieces of legislation with implications for lands, wildlife, and clean air and water in our 2023 Conservation Vote Report, which can be found on our website.

LAST OF THE WILD FILM TOUR

We're thrilled to announce the release of *Last of the Wild*: a short documentary about the Red Desert. The film examines the Indigenous cultural and historic significance of the Red Desert, highlights the need for us to be responsible stewards of these lands and the wildlife they support, and makes it clear that this iconic landscape is a national treasure.

Last of the Wild premieres April 22 at Central Wyoming College in Riverton with a reception and panel discussion, followed by screenings in Laramie (April 27), Rock Springs (April 28), Pinedale (May 11), and Lander (May 19). All are free and open to the public. We'll also let you know when the film is available to view online, and about any additional screenings later in the year. For more details, visit wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org/last-of-the-wild.



RUN THE RED

On September 23 — Wyoming Public Lands Day — runners will set out from South Pass City for Run the Red. The half marathon, 50K, and grueling 100K courses wind through the open country of the Red Desert to drive home the scope and significance of our public lands. The Outdoor Council co-hosts the races each year with our friends at Wyoming Wilderness Association and NOLS.

If you've thought about signing up in past years but never made the commitment, now is your chance! Registration is open. We're also looking for volunteers to make the race a memorable success once again. All the information you need is at runthereddesert.com.

BEERS & BILLS

We enjoyed our recent Beers & Bills events in Cheyenne and Laramie so much that we decided to keep the good times rolling. At our spring events we'll start with team trivia, share insights from the 2023 legislative session, look ahead to issues that lawmakers will deal with during the interim, and most importantly enjoy some fellowship with members like you. We kicked things off at Frontier Brewing in Casper on April 10 and will be heading to Lander (May 3), Jackson (May 8), and Cody (May 11). Be on the lookout for an invitation if you haven't received one already.

THANK YOU!

Your support of the Wyoming Outdoor Council means your values are being represented wherever decisions are made about Wyoming's lands, wildlife, air, water, and future. I cannot thank you enough for standing up for this place we all love.