WYOMING AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

2017 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for growing with us as we continue on the difficult, but incredibly rewarding experience, of the Wyoming Stewardship Project. The lessons available to grade levels 2-5 are having tremendous impact on both educators and students. It has been powerful to read the comments from our pilot classrooms and see a collective Wyoming effort including agriculture, energy, and tourism.

We could not be more thrilled to share about our Educator of the Year, Jill Blazovich, from Rock Springs. Ms. Blazovich was a writer for the Wyoming Stewardship Project and does incredible work in her 2nd Grade classroom.

The Bookmark Program continues to warm our hearts and others around the state as students provide valuable Wyoming resource messages for all of Wyoming, and the world.

Thank you for your commitment to our program. You have made every picture, every comment, and every program possible through your support.

Our sincerest thank you!

Garrett Horton
President

Jessie Dafoe
Executive Director

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Thank you PBR Printing for your printing sponsorship for our 2017 Annual Report!

Beans in the class grow tower.

2017 Educator of the Year

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is proud to announce Jill Blazovich as the 2017 Educator of the Year. Ms. Blazovich is a 2nd Grade teacher in Rock Springs at Desert View Elementary. Jill's focus on student engagement and dedication to educating students about Wyoming's resources is admirable and worthy of this award.

Ms. Blazovich has participated both in the Bookmark Program and the Wyoming Stewardship Project. Jill commented when piloting the units in her classroom, "I was very excited to implement the lessons in my classroom. We learned about the history of agriculture in Wyoming, grew our own bean seeds … But most importantly the students learned of the importance of agriculture in Wyoming."

When Jill was asked why she participated in the Wyoming Stewardship Project she shared, "As a native of Wyoming, I have always been so proud and excited to live in such a beautiful and amazing state. I want to instill that same pride in my students so that our great state can remain strong, independent, and unique for all the generations to come. The Wyoming Stewardship Project teaches our young people about all the different ways people here live, work, and play across the state and helps gives them a better understanding of just how valuable Wyoming and its people really are."

2017 Bookmark Program

The 23rd Annual Bookmark Program did not disappoint as students from across the state submitted tremendous Wyoming messages and exceptional artwork! Our bookmark submission numbers doubled with over 3,000 submissions.

Thank you to the Wyoming community for voting during National Agriculture Week to select the 'People's Choice' award- congratulations Nyah Johnson! Eleven student finalists along with their families, educators, and administrators, were invited to Cheyenne for a celebration. Participants enjoyed canvas painting and a highlight was time with Governor Mead. Congratulations to all bookmark participants for sharing your creativity and important agriculture and natural resource messages!

2017 Bookmark Finalists

Annalene France
Educator: Rita Perkins

Adriana Gartrell
Educator: Joshua & Christina Gartrell

Nyah Johnson
Educator: Kix Carter

NIck Lawlar
Educator: Kathy Seale

Kyan Lawlar
Educator: Amy Smith

Karly Peterson
Educator: Rebecca Qualm

Kodi Rodenborg
Educator: Janaye Danko

Callie Rosner
Educator: Brandon Lance

Eleanor Shuman
Educator: Jane Raulston

Lainey Single
Educator: Misty Haefele

Samantha Williams
Educator: Brenda Leonhardt

Writing the Wyoming Stewardship Project

In June 2017, educators from across Wyoming gathered for two weeks to write and revise units for the Wyoming Stewardship Project. From the units piloted during the 2016-2017 school year, two were finalized: 2nd Grade Agriculture and 4th Grade Minerals & Energy. An additional ten units were developed and prepared for piloting in classrooms for the 2017-2018 school year. These units cover Agriculture, Minerals & Energy, and Outdoor Recreation & Tourism at each grade level 2-5.

Wyoming stakeholders generously offered their time to review lessons, visit with writers, and answer content specific questions. Their expertise was greatly appreciated, and helped ensure that units contain accurate content, while avoiding misconceptions specific to each content area. To assist with classroom integration, lessons from the Wyoming Stewardship Project have been fully aligned to Wyoming's Content and Performance Standards. Members of the Wyoming Department of Education standards team were on-hand to check alignment.

The cooperative nature of the Wyoming Stewardship Project, and the time invested by Wyoming educators, truly make this a project by Wyoming teachers, for Wyoming teachers.

WYOMING
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT

"Wow! What a project! Wyoming Ag in the Classroom, though having been around for years, is aspiring to reach a new comprehensive level. I came to this stewardship project with the hope of reaching more classroom standards through the use of Wyoming content. I am so excited about the process and the products being developed."

~ Peggy Anderson

"Wyoming students and teachers need to know about the unique features of the state they live in. The Wyoming Stewardship Project is the vehicle to ensure Wyoming students are educated stewards of this beautiful state."

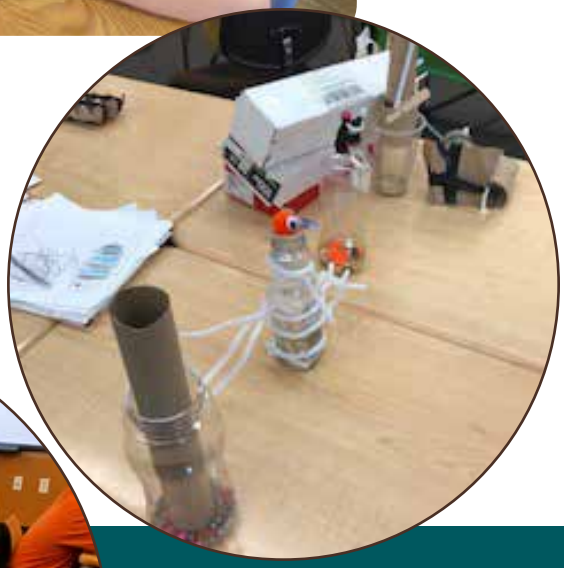
~ Ashley McKinney

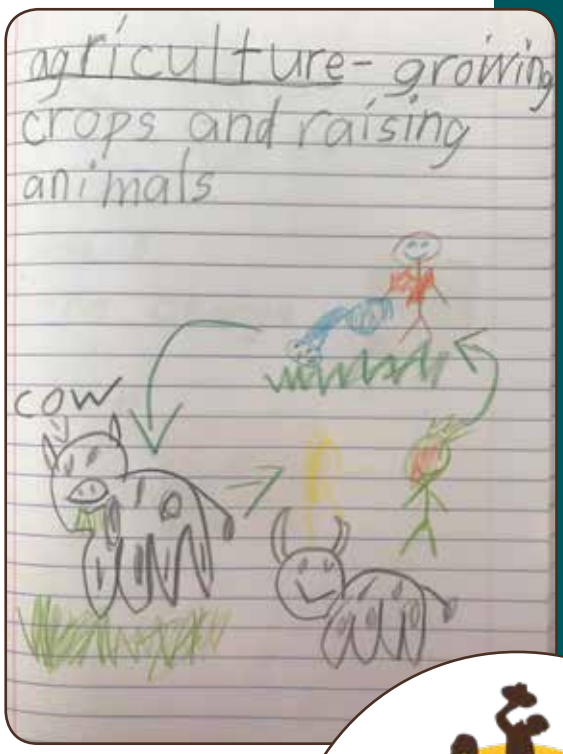
"I had no idea what to expect when I decided to participate in this process. It has been such a rewarding experience! I am a Wyoming native, yet I learned so much about the wonder of our state. It was powerful to work with other teachers and learn from their unique experiences. I am looking forward to seeing all of this hard work put into practical application in classrooms around the state."

~ Christine McCarrick

Wyoming Stewardship Project in Action

During the 2017-2018 school year, over 110 educators across Wyoming signed up to pilot units from the Wyoming Stewardship Project. Students in these classes engaged with Wyoming specific content; learning about agriculture production, mineral extraction and energy production, as well as Wyoming's public lands, and their use and management. All content areas connect to the overarching theme of stewardship. Students are challenged to think critically about the opportunities and challenges for Wyoming.





WYOMING STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

"Our students were very engaged in the lessons. They discussed the content and had a good understanding of the different types of resources and the responsible use of them. I liked that the students were able to form their own opinions and look at different points of view. I felt like they learned a great deal about our resources and how to identify each. The interactive maps were a great resource for the unit

~Tammy Schlenker, Meeteetse , WY

UW Seminars

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom presented a day-long workshop to students from the University of Wyoming preparing for a career in Elementary Education. A variety of topics including Wyoming beef, general agriculture production, and the Wyoming Stewardship Project were presented.

One of the students' favorite activities was learning about the pros and cons of different energy sources. At the beginning of the lesson, students were asked to choose their favorite energy source from the options of: wind, hydropower, nuclear, natural gas, oil, and coal. The majority of the students chose wind as their favorite source, with only a few choosing non-renewable energy sources. After the students chose their favorite source, they completed worksheets stating facts about each energy source. They were then asked to choose whether they felt mostly positive, negative, or neutral about each source individually, and stand in their position on a tape line stretching from positive to negative. Many students were surprised by the facts they learned.

The clearest example was coal, which only two students chose initially as their favorite source. After filling out the fact sheet, all of the students ended up on the positive end of the line. One student commented, "Just because you may not agree with the power source ideologically, doesn't mean that it isn't a good one." In the feedback survey at the end of the workshop, several students agreed that learning about the pros and cons of different energy sources was the most helpful activity of the day. Overall, the student teachers felt the lessons from the Wyoming Stewardship Project would be a valuable addition to their classrooms, and one student stated "The pros and cons lists with research can really teach students valuable lessons."

"Just because you may not agree with the power source ideologically, doesn't mean that it isn't a good one."

Run at the Ranch 5k

& Little Buckaroo Stick Horse Race

Runners of all ages participated in the 2017 Run at the Ranch. Little Buckaroos raced their stick horses with great speed, while 5k runners enjoyed a course taking them along Crow Creek, around barns at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch headquarters, and out through hay meadows. Thank you to all who made this a memorable event!

2017 Donors

Thank you to all our supporters. It is your generosity that has kept us moving forward. We do not take the task of providing agriculture and natural resource education lightly and want our supporters to know our efforts are as diligent as ever.

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.

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Wyoming Livestock Roundup

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Doug Thompson
University of Wyoming
Riley West
Wyoming Business Council
Wyoming Department of Education
Wyoming Hereford Ranch
Wyoming Livestock Roundup

*We apologize for any mistakes; please contact us so we can correct the error immediately.

Financials - 12/31/2017

Assets

Cash & Equivalents	195,988.05
Receivables	44,220.00
Net Fixed Assets	25,472.55
Investments	
Legacy Endowment	1,958,172.74
Deposit	1,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,224,853.34

Liabilities

Accrued PTO	2,083.33
Deferred Income	0
Payables	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,083.33

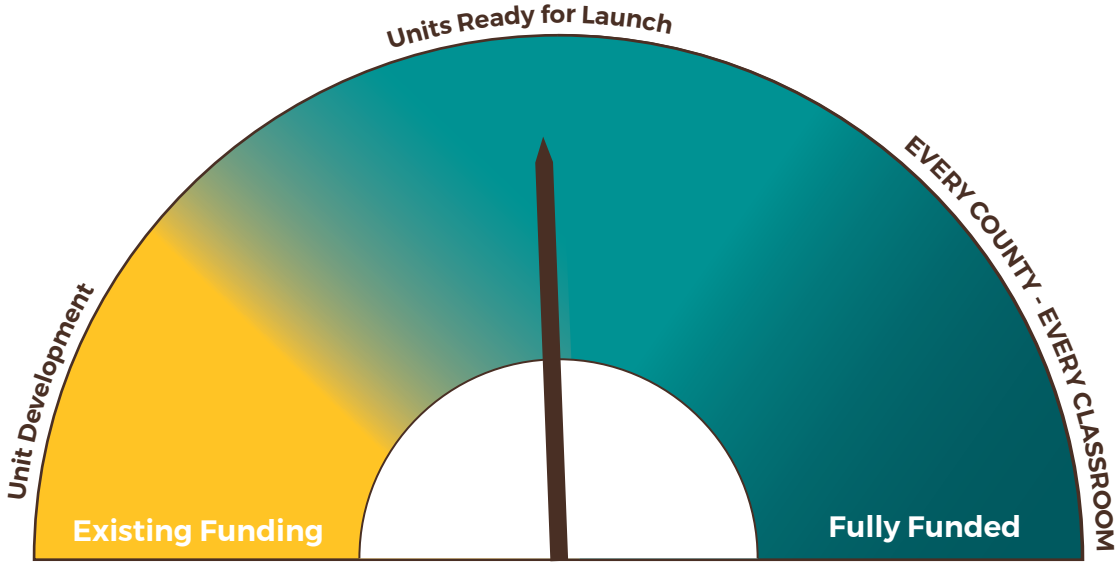
Net Assets

Unrestricted	207,597.27
Board Restricted	57,000.00
Restricted	
Legacy Endowment	1,958,172.74
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,222,770.01

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 2,224,853.34

Moving Forward – with YOUR help

The Wyoming Stewardship Project is ready to launch! All twelve units for grades 2-5 will be available on our website in the fall of 2018 as a FREE resource for Wyoming teachers and students. To keep up our momentum, and continue the growth of this program, we need your help. Please consider how you might help us reach every county, every classroom in this great state.



Did you know that Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit?

Of course you did, and as such there are many options to support this great organization! While Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom's Endowment has benefited from cash donations, other gifts might not be so obvious.

Here are other ideas to consider:

1) Real Estate – Do you own real estate or land that you would like to sell but wish to avoid paying capital gains? Talk to your tax advisor about donating the property, or selling it to Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom for a reduced price as a bargain sale. You might also consider a transfer on death deed, naming Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom as the beneficiary upon death or even as the alternate beneficiary.

2) Designated Beneficiary - Designate Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom as a beneficiary on a banking account, retirement or investment account, or on a life insurance policy. (Check with Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom to see what options are available.)

3) You - We could use your volunteer support at our fundraisers, events, and even as hosts for activities and class tours!

We would love to visit with you about the amazing opportunities that are unique, different, and work best for you to make a difference to our educational efforts! Don't hesitate to contact us, and ask for Jessie Dafoe or Rindy West. We couldn't do all of this without your support.

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom
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Cheyenne, WY 82003

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Thank You!

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We appreciate your printing sponsorship for our 2017 Annual Report.

Thank You!

Your support makes a difference for Wyoming!