



— W Y O M I N G —
AGRICULTURE
IN THE CLASSROOM

2020

Annual Report





JoAnn Skeim-True, Board President

“Because of your support, we stand ready and more resilient than ever.”



Jessie Dafoe, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year that many of us were ready to leave behind. The challenges seemed overwhelming at times, but as many of you know all too well, it was not a time to give up. We had been diligently working for the last six years to draft, write, pilot, and revise lessons for the classroom. The Wyoming Stewardship Project was ready, pilot workshops were conducted, and our implementation plan was set. We were ready. The excitement we felt and promise in the air for dramatic progress at the beginning of 2020 cannot be understated.

However, like many of you, we found that spring came with different plans; and not just the typical snowstorms that shut us down for a few days at a time. This shutdown was different. It was immediate and frustrating. Schools went into crisis mode with parents and teachers trying to survive the remaining academic year. To provide hope during this time we created the Family Learning Series. These small, fun lessons can be done with various ages and point back to the Wyoming Stewardship Project. Many parents and educators were thankful for a resource to use when there didn't seem to be many answers for how to handle the newfound virtual world.

Our classroom visits were canceled, and we were left wondering if our 12 in person workshops would be a reality. Sadly, they were not. Our staff quickly adjusted to create and provide a meaningful online learning experience. As we all worked through the challenges of virtual learning and networking, we appreciate the relationships we were able to build. Another bright spot was the chance to create virtual field trips. Something that has become so popular with students and teachers, we plan to continue the work and add more as resources allow.

The fall gave us hope as the majority of schools were back in person. Even though we couldn't physically join classrooms, were we able to create and provide additional online education resources and support teachers.

2020 has taught us to turn catastrophe into creation and to shift chaos to clarity. Looking back, we appreciate the challenges the year gave us to grow. Because of your support, we stand ready and more resilient than ever.

Thank you, your support means the world to us and gives us the courage to never give up.

Our most sincere thank you,

JoAnn Skeim-True
Board President

Jessie Dafoe
Executive Director

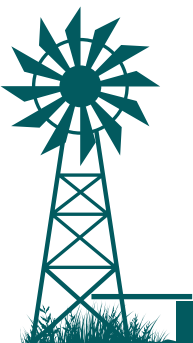
Educator of the Year

Marissa Cornelison, a 5th Grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary in Uinta County was named the 2020 Educator of the Year. She has been involved with writing, revising, and teaching the Wyoming Stewardship Project over the past three years. Over the last two years, Marissa has taught the Wyoming Stewardship Project to every 5th Grade student at Mountain View Elementary. She appreciates the unbiased way information is presented, and the sense of stewardship and state pride the lessons inspire in her students.



"I am constantly telling the people I meet about this wonderful project I am a part of and sharing why I think it is so exceptional."

~ Marissa Cornelison





Bookmark & Beyond

We were so encouraged by the participation in our annual Bookmark & Beyond program. In total we had 1,941 entries. Students were recognized for their amazing message and artwork during a 'Party in the Park' with Governor and First Lady Gordon. We were also able to highlight an amazing online mapping project thank you to the support of AgTerra. Truly a day to remember in the sun and congratulations to the students, families, and teachers! We are so grateful for the donors who make this program possible.





Family Learning Series

In response to COVID-19, we felt it was important to provide immediate support and assistance to teachers and the families who were struggling to go virtual. With that in mind, the Family Learning Series was born. These are a series of hands-on, multi-aged, integrated activities for families to do together. All lessons include a video and have a connection to the Wyoming Stewardship Project lessons. Activities were sent to educators and posted on Facebook. The response was very positive from both teachers and parents. There are currently ten different activities available. Due to the success of this series, we will develop additional activities as time and resources allow. You can view the Family Learning Series on our website.



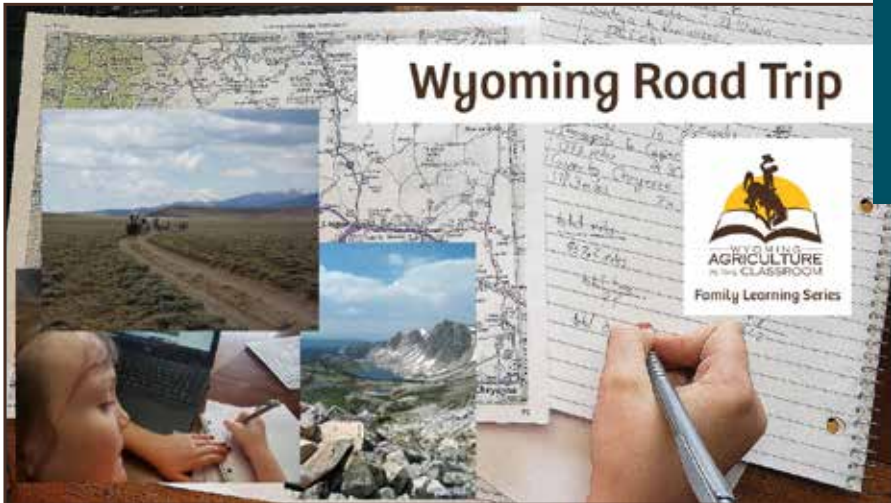
Let it Grow



Add water, and place your plants in a sunny window. Some plants may take a week or two before you notice them growing. That's okay!

In this activity you will:

- Research attractions and tourist sites around Wyoming
- Select several places you would like to visit
- Plan a travel route to visit those sites
- Calculate how many miles you will travel
- Write a letter to your family telling them about the road trip you would like to take



Wyoming Road Trip



Do You Want to Catch a Snowflake?





Fun with Crystals



Let the string sag in the middle. It should look like a smile.

Set 2 small jars or cups on a plate or dish to catch any solution that drips.

Cut a piece of string or yarn about 12 inches long.

Tie a paperclip or weight to each end of the string.

Put each end of the string into a jar.

Divide the baking soda solution evenly between your two jars.



After you've found the best spot, test it with your pinwheels! Does it work, or do you need to try another place?



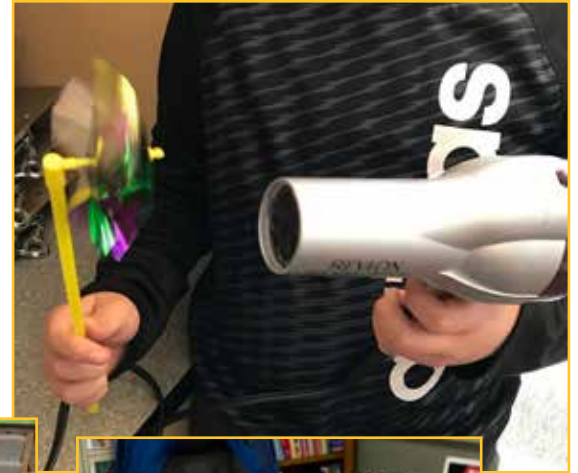
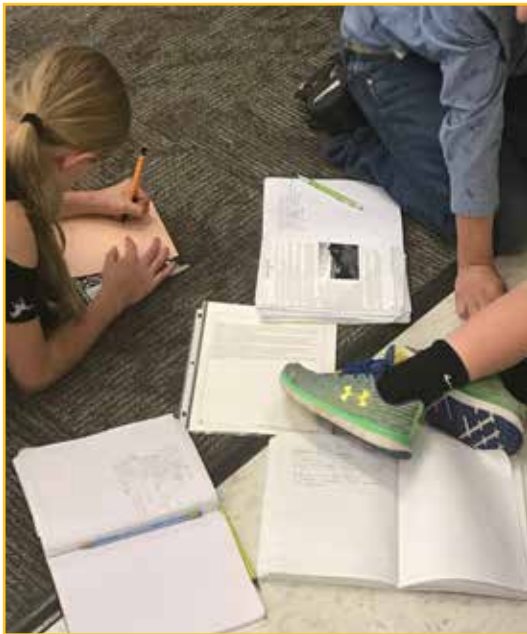
Try moving and adjusting your pinwheels to create a model wind farm.



Wyoming Stewardship Project

The Wyoming Stewardship Project made a significant impact in classrooms this past year due to your support. These lessons are hands-on and aligned with standards for second through fifth grade students. Each grade level includes:

- Agriculture Unit
- Minerals & Energy Unit
- Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Unit



Classroom Feedback

Educator Q&A

Unit taught: 3rd Grade Agriculture

What impacts did this unit have on your students?

"The kids came away with an appreciation for ranchers and farmers. They realized how hard it is, and that it is a real job. They didn't really understand that."

Unit taught: 2nd Grade Minerals & Energy

What impacts did this unit have on your students?

"One thing that amazed my students is how Wyoming helps so much of our nation and the world with its natural resources. The students were astonished by the amount of trona Wyoming supplies to the world. They were also surprised by how many every-day items come from the natural resources produced here. I was born and raised here in Wyoming and I never knew of all the natural resources Wyoming has to offer.

I love that through the Wyoming Stewardship Project we are actually teaching students about their surroundings and all our state has to offer - not only to our citizens but the world!"

Student Q&A

Tell me one thing you know now, that you didn't before you started this unit?

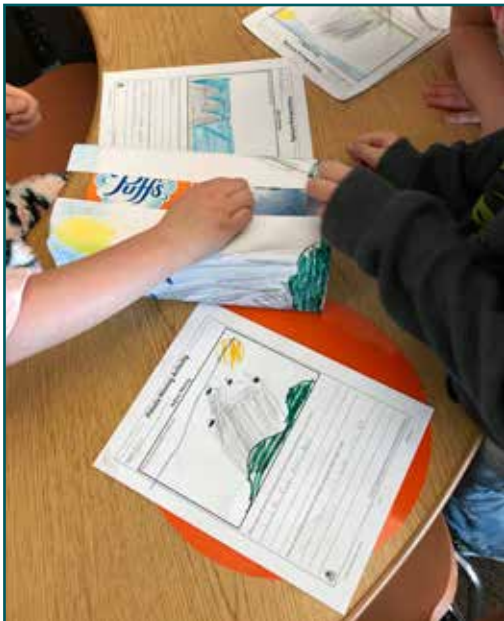
- "Without agriculture, we'd all starve."
- "We get our food from farms and ranches: meat from livestock, eggs from chickens, fruits and veggies from crops."
- "Mining gives a lot of jobs to people."
- "Reclamation is expensive, but we should still do it for the land and the earth"
- "I didn't know they still mined in places. I just thought they just found rocks and stuff."



Wyoming Stewardship Project

Educator Feedback

- “They are important to focus on because it is not written into mainstream curriculums so implementing these lessons is a great way to expose children to being a steward of Wyoming.”
- “All the lessons are focused on Wyoming’s resources and are well designed from the perspectives of childrens’ learning and style. It’s great to build up the pride for local communities.”
- “Teaching students to be good stewards leads them to be good citizens in our communities.”
- “Huge connections between the academic world and the world where they live. Learning how to care for the world where they live.”
- “Our students are the next generation. They will one day be voting about our minerals and how we use them. This is information they will need as adults in our communities.”



Virtual Workshops

Never before had we created online workshops for teachers. After many long days and late nights, we were able to create a meaningful online experience for our participants. A highly anticipated portion of our in-person summer workshops have always been the onsite tours, therefore, we created virtual tours. The response has been overwhelming and we are working to create more excursions to highlight Wyoming for students to experience.

What, specifically did you find effective in this professional development experience?

- "Gaining a complete lesson with ideas on how to implement it."
- "I liked that we had to walk through the activities to understand them; they were not just handed to us and said, 'good luck.'"
- "I liked being able to do the work at my own pace from my own living room. My summers are very busy, and if the class hadn't been so flexible, I may not have been able to fit it in."
- "The instructors were extremely helpful and effective. As a teacher, I appreciated the amount of time and work that went into creating the units. These units were made by teachers - for teachers, and it shows!"
- "I found a set of materials that is very comprehensive and well organized for ease of use."
- "The hands-on practice with unpacking lessons and the tour through the website was extremely beneficial. It showed me what my resources are and gave me tools to be a better teacher."

Watch the Virtual Tour



Watch the Virtual Tour



Watch the Virtual Tour



2020 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) non-profit and all donations may be tax deductible.

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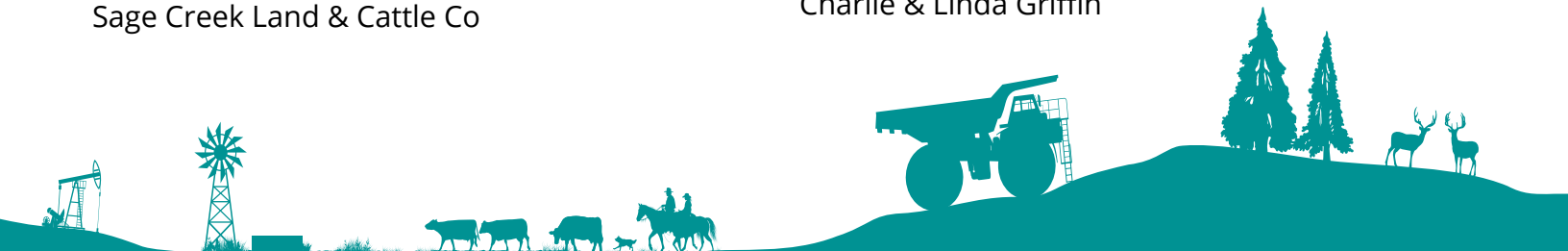
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Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is the grateful recipient of a leased 2019 Ford EcoSport, thanks to a generous partnership between Laramie Peak Motors, Platte Valley Bank, and WyoTech.

Financials: 12/31/2020

Assets

Cash & Equivalents	1,531,050.56
Receivables	17,607.00
Net Fixed Assets	320,600.58
Investments	
Legacy Endowment	2,076,507.88
Deposit	0
TOTAL ASSETS	3,945,766.02

Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities	2,550.50
Deferred Income	812,012.96
Payables	244,759.13
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,059,322.59

Net Assets

Unrestricted	809,935.55
Restricted	
Legacy Endowment	2,076,507.88
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,886,443.43

Total Liabilities

& Net Assets 3,945,766.02





Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom
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