

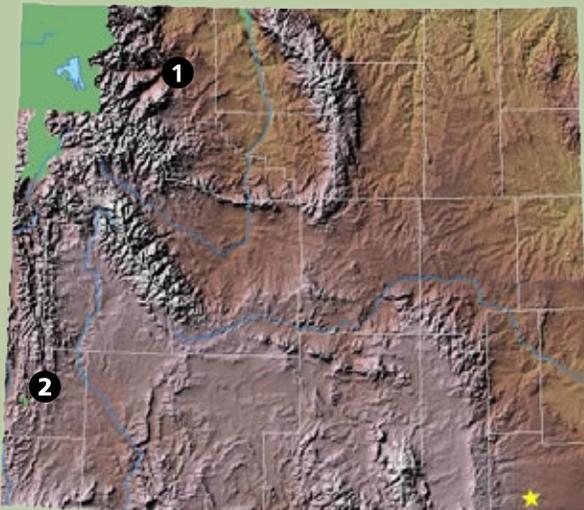


# Wyoming News



Hikers help to break in the Soldier Ridge Trail in Sheridan.  
Photo: Sheridan Community Land Trust

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Shoshone River Improvement**  
The Nature Conservancy
2. **Lincoln County Trails**  
Lincoln County

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

## Recent Successes

### Planning and Development of Land and Water Trails around Sheridan

The Sheridan Valley Land Trust has completed an assessment for a water trail on the Tongue River near Sheridan. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program guided the land trust and its advisory Recreation Working Group through planning for a high-quality water trail on the Tongue and two tributaries, Big Goose Creek and Little Goose Creek. The trail will enhance recreational boating on more than 60 miles of the Tongue from Dayton, Wyoming to Montana's Tongue River Reservoir and on roughly 20 miles of the two creeks from the Sheridan city limits north to the Tongue River. Connections with land trails will help to create a comprehensive regional recreational system.

The Tongue River Water Trail Assessment provides a vision for the regional water trail, documents and analyzes existing conditions on the waterways, and recommends steps for future work and investment. This initiative involved a broad variety of stakeholders, including river access owners, public agencies, members of local recreation clubs, and the general public.



View of the Bighorn Mountains from a proposed trail on the USFS section of the Red Grade Trails System. Photo: Nathan Barnes, BLM

## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

National Park Service technical assistance also led to recent successes in development of two land trails. The 4.2-mile Soldier Ridge trail was recently built through grassland and sagebrush on a prominent ridge on the west side of town. The path runs through conservation easements on private lands and offers public access for nonmotorized recreation. The future Red Grade Trails System includes 33 miles of nested loops on state and federal lands south of Sheridan at the gateway to the Bighorn Mountains. Now in the fundraising stage, the system will support a variety of trail activities but is designed to feature mountain biking opportunities.

To date, about \$140,000 has been raised for these three Sheridan area trails efforts.



Shoshone River at the Belfry access site in Cody. Photo: NPS

## Current Projects

### 1. Shoshone River Improvement

Project Partner: The Nature Conservancy  
NPS Contacts: Gary Weiner, Hugh Osborne  
Location: Cody  
Congressional District: WY - 1

#### Project Goal

Improve recreation and conservation on approximately 30 miles of the Shoshone River between Cody and Powell.

#### NPS Role

Assist project partners with conservation and recreation goals including improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, river access, whitewater recreation, trail connectivity, safety signage, community outreach, and formation of a new nonprofit organization.

### 2. Lincoln County Trails

Project Partner: Lincoln County  
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne  
Location: Lincoln County  
Congressional District: WY - 1

#### Project Goal

Identify gaps in the current system of trails in Lincoln County and prioritize projects to close those gaps and provide more information to the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### NPS Role

Facilitate meetings with the various land managers to identify what is missing in the trail system and its supporting facilities. Coordinate mapping of these gaps and develop criteria and a process to prioritize projects to improve the system. Work with the many communities and stakeholders to develop a uniform public outreach tool that can be utilized by advocates throughout the large county.