

Southeast Wyoming Welcome Center Site Map



Office of Tourism

Southeast Wyoming Welcome Center Fact Sheet

The Southeast Wyoming Welcome Center is the largest public investment in tourism infrastructure in decades. This facility was created to provide the visitors with an introduction to the very best that Wyoming has to offer. The interpretive displays boast an entrée of what visitors can see and do on their travels throughout Wyoming and provides a chance for personal interaction with visitors. Meeting the fundamental requirements of the traveling public, this Welcome Center is designed and located to be highly visible and easily accessible at this major gateway entrance into the state.

Like the State of Wyoming itself, this project is about energy. The building is a dynamic structure that activates the movement of visitors and staff, creating an energetic environment. The design intent respectfully speaks to the character of the State, while embracing a bold, energetic and optimistic vision of Wyoming. The building and site design fully encompass a sustainable design ethic in which the wind and solar energy systems are prominent features.

Visitor Center

- Groundbreaking: March 30, 2011
- First Day of operation: Sept. 24, 2012
- New center is strategically located off Interstate 25 at Exit 4— just north of the Colorado/Wyoming state line.
- Houses 21 employees of the Wyoming Office of Tourism
- Site includes remnants of old Park-to-Park road that once connected Mesa Verde National Park to Yellowstone National Park
- Center provides visitors with a fresh and progressive introduction to the state through interactive displays representing all corners of Wyoming
 - Life-sized cast of a Columbian Mammoth similar to “Dee” at the Tate Geological Museum in Casper.
- Entire site covers 26.6 acres with nearly one mile of walking trails.
 - Board formed concrete walls show the imprint of the wood planks that were used to form the concrete giving the walls an interesting and rustic character.
 - Wood paneling made from reclaimed Wyoming snow fence is seen the information reception area, the main conference room and on the exterior of the upper east side of the building overlooking the wildflower green roof.
- Square footage of building: 27,000 gross square feet (gross square feet includes wall thickness, mechanical chases and other non-usable square footage.)
- Architect: Anderson Mason Dale Architects of Denver, Colorado
- Design Team: Wenk Associates (Landscape), Benchmark Engineers (Civil), KL&A (Structural),

RMH Group (Mechanical/Electrical) and Rider Levett Bucknall (Cost)

- Contractor: Sampson Construction
- Exhibit Contractor: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Funding

- Legislature approval of funds: Initially \$652,468 was approved in 2008 to study the site development. That number was changed to \$2,112,772 in the 2009 session to begin some preliminary site development. \$14,598,000 was approved in 2010 for building design, construction and other related costs. Additional funding or capital investment commitments came from WyDOT, the State Energy Office, Granite Peak Development and the city of Cheyenne.
- Total project cost: \$16.5 million

Sustainability Features

- Building materials were selected to be either locally available or durable in a way that will serve the Welcome Center’s maintenance agenda
- All building finish materials are low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), a strategy which promotes a healthy indoor environment.
- A green roof system is used to minimize heat island effects, and to highlight perennials native to Wyoming.
- On-site renewable energy systems offset building’s electrical demand including wind turbines (installed capacity = 12 kW) and photovoltaic panels (Roof mounted: 26 kW AC; Wall Mounted (Glass): 3 kW AC).
- Mechanical systems include a geothermal exchange system for heating and cooling of the building. There is over 60,000 linear feet of coiled piping of this system placed under the southern landform.