

Wyoming Firsts



First Business West of the Missouri River: In 1834, Fort William was erected at the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte Rivers by veteran fur traders William Sublette and Robert Campbell. Thus, the first trading post west of the Missouri River was established.

First Women to Vote: John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first Territorial Governor, signed a bill December 10, 1869 making Wyoming the first state to grant women the right to vote.

First Woman Justice of the Peace: Esther Hobart Morris was appointed February 17, 1870 in South Pass City.

First All Woman Jury: The first all woman jury was sworn in March 7, 1870 in Laramie.

First Woman Bailiff: In 1870, Martha Symons - Boies - Atkinson of Albany County was appointed the first woman bailiff in the world.

First National Park: In 1872, Congress named Yellowstone National Park in northwestern Wyoming as the first national park in the world.

First State to Have a County Public Library System: The Laramie County Public Library System was organized in August of 1886.

First National Forest: By an Act signed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, Shoshone National Forest became the first national forest. Wyoming now has 9 national forests.

First Ranger Station: Wapiti Ranger Station was established in the Shoshone National Forest in 1891.

First Woman Statewide Elected Official: Estelle Reel Meyer was elected as Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1894.

First National Monument: Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming was designated the first national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

First Town in America to be Governed Entirely by Women: The city of Jackson, from 1920 to 1921, had a woman mayor, town council and town marshal. One of the councilwomen defeated her husband for her council seat.

First Artificially Lit Evening Football Game: The first interscholastic football game to be played under artificial light took place in Midwest in 1925.

First Woman Governor in the U.S.: Nellie Tayloe Ross was elected to complete the term of her husband who died in office. She served from 1925 to 1927. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her the first woman to head the U.S. Mint, a position she held until 1953.

State Capital: Cheyenne

State Nickname: Big Wyoming, Equality State, Cowboy State

Admitted to Union: July 10, 1890, 44th state

Size: 97,914 square miles, 9th largest state

Population: 576,851 (2020 Census)

Highest Point: Gannet Peak at 13,804 feet

Lowest Point: Belle Fourche River at 3,100 feet

State Seal: The State Seal was adopted by the 2nd Legislature in 1893.

State Flower: Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja linariaefolia*), 1917

State Bird: Meadowlark (genus *Sturnella*), 1927

State Tree: Cottonwood (*Populus Sargentii*), 1947

State Motto: "Equal Rights," 1955

State Song: "Wyoming," words by Charles E. Winter and music by George E. Knapp, 1955

State Gemstone: Jade (nephrite), 1967

State Mammal: Bison (*Bison bison*), 1985

State Fish: Cutthroat Trout (*Salmo clarki*), 1987

State Fossil: *Knightia* (fossilized fish), 1987

State Reptile: Horned Toad (*Phrynosoma douglassi brevirostre* (Girard)), 1993

State Dinosaur: Triceratops, 1994

State Sport: Rodeo, 2003

State Coin: Sacajawea Golden Dollar Coin, 2004

State Grass: Western Wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), 2007

State Insect: Sheridan's Green Hairstreak Butterfly, (*Callophrys sheridanii*), 2009

State Code: As derived from the book, Cowboy Ethics, by James P. Owen, 2010

More About Wyoming: Since the 16th century, a number of governments have claimed parts of what is now the State of Wyoming. The following national flags flew over the Wyoming Territory: France, Great Britain, Mexico, Spain, Texas, and the United States. And, the following territorial flags have flown over Wyoming: Dakotas, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

The leading industries in Wyoming are agriculture, recreation, tourism, and minerals. In fact, the largest (cleanest burning) coal resources in the United States are found in Wyoming. Wyoming lands are estimated to contain 1.4 trillion tons of coal. The world's largest surface coal mine complex is located near Gillette. Wyoming leads the nation in the production of coal, bentonite, and trona.

Wyoming contains many gemstones including jade, moss agates, rubies, jasper, bloodstones, star sapphires, diamonds, peridot, and others.

Wyoming is a fisherman's paradise with 15,846 miles of fishing streams and 297,633 acres of fishing lakes. There are 3,400 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that support 76 species of fish, 31 species of which are game fish.

Nearly 1 million big game animals (including elk, deer, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats) winter in Wyoming. Trophy game animals also include black bear, grizzly bear, and mountain lions.

Wyoming has the oldest and largest outdoor rodeo in the world which has been celebrated every year since 1897 and almost every summer night you could attend a hometown rodeo somewhere in Wyoming. It is easy to see why many call us the Cowboy State.

The Bucking Horse and Rider (BH&R) is recognized worldwide as the insignia for Wyoming and is our federally registered trademark. Throughout the state you will see the BH&R trademark with the phrase Wyoming Authentic/Wyoming Proud.

Wyoming Facts



Secretary of State