6 PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: CODY HITS THE MARK

> CHEYENNE WELCOMES FIREARMS BUSINESS

SHERIDAN TAKES Center Stage



H

P

 (J_{J})

ß

IN THIS ISSUE

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: CODY HITS THE MARK

80

CHEYENNE WELCOMES FIREARMS BUSINESS

09

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

14

SHERIDAN TAK<mark>es</mark> Center Stage

ABOUT

Population: 583,279

Size: 97,814 square miles (253,348 kilometers)

Capital: Cheyenne

Governor: Mark Gordon

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- No corporate or personal state income tax
- No inventory tax
- No franchise tax
- No occupation tax
- No value-added tax of public land to hunt, fish, bike, hike, climb and roam.

THE FACTS

Spend Less & Earn More: Wyoming has the most business-friendly tax climate in the nation.

Lucrative Business Climate: No personal or corporate state income taxes, manufacturing sales tax exemptions and low sales and property taxes.

Room for Adventure: Wyoming boasts two national parks, five national forests, 12 state parks and countless acres of public land to hunt, fish, bike, hike, climb and roam.



The state of Wyoming is incredibly business-friendly, not just economically, but in our regulatory environment as well as the easy access to policymakers and influential leaders in our tight-knit state. When we work with businesses interested in expanding or relocating in our state, we show up as "Team Wyoming!"

Team Wyoming rides for the brand and includes key leaders in different agencies, fields, and industries across Wyoming from energy to tourism,

manufacturing, agricultural products and more. We want to ensure you're hearing all sides of our exciting story and can tap into all the resources we have available. We are always willing to roll up our sleeves to get things done, eager to help your business grow, and ready to collaborate in all phases of business growth. According to the Tax Foundation, Wyoming offers the "Best Business Friendly Tax Climate in the US," and we've been consistent about that for more than a decade. No personal or corporate income tax, very low property tax, no value-added tax,

> no gross receipts tax, exemptions from sales tax for manufacturing, as well as a state government committed to low regulation and businessfriendly policies all make Wyoming a very inviting

place for businesses to set up shop.

Come see what we can offer and learn for yourself why It's better in Wyoming!

NESS COUNCIL

EST 25 YEARS 1998



WHY WYOMING? Watch our video



LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY IN WYOMING

Wyoming is a state that provides unmatched beauty and endless opportunities for businesses. We are committed to providing a taxfriendly climate and establishing an environment that helps your company prosper. Don't just take our word for it, come see for yourself.

WYOUTDOORREC.ORG

Plan your next big game hunt or outdoor adventure with Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association.

307.265.2376 /// wyoga.org



CODY HITS THE MARK

recent business relocation prospect to Cody stepped out of his car, strapped on his revolver and belt and strode down the street. It was apparent that he was attempting to get a reaction. And a reaction he got. It wasn't long before a passerby stopped him asking, "Is that a Smith & Wesson?" So it goes in Cody – a place where not having a firearm is more unusual than having one.

RED

Firearms in Wyoming are as common to its residents as having a shovel or a hammer. To us, they are tools. Tools of protection and tools of provision. Our people know firearms and they know how to handle them. As the number two state for gun ownership, nearly two thirds of Wyoming residents own a firearm. Most have several. It makes sense to also be home to the manufacturers as well. Cody is home to a host of specialty firearms manufacturers including, Gunwerks, Best of the West, Big Horn Armory, Wyoming Arms and the Wyoming Armory. A half dozen shops carry munitions and about that many offer gunsmithing services. It's also home to well known industry names Randy Selby, Jim Zumbo, and John Linebaugh to name a few.

Why these people and companies chose to live in Cody is a short conversation. It's a place where you can live and use firearms and not be challenged for your beliefs. The conservative views of the residents carry an appeal to those wishing to escape a growing antigun culture. Our world-renowned

24

FIREARMS IN WYOMING ARE AS Common to its residents as having a shovel or a hammer.



museum, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West proudly displays over 7,000 firearms. Their display tells the story of how guns were instrumental in the development of the West. It also helps people see value in guns as a tool – not a weapon. Tens of thousands of people from around the world travel to visit the Cody Firearms Museum and view their exhibits.

Hunting in the shadow of Yellowstone Park and some of the wildest country in the world doesn't hurt either. The area boasts some of the



finest elk, deer, and Big Horn sheep hunting anywhere. And when you can't hunt, you can fish any of the four major rivers in the area or any of the dozens of mountain lakes. Outdoor recreation is a leading sector of our local economy.

But then there's work to do too. With quality infrastructure to support growing companies and positive support from the community, firearms companies find Cody to be a welcoming home. As a community of 10,000 residents, the ability to attract a workforce exists and for those needing growth in skills, training opportunities are nearby. We have what you need for your business to succeed.

The people who have chosen Cody as a place to set up business did so by intention. They chose to spend their time living the heritage they love, in country that you can't help but love.

EXPANDING SCOPE AND SIGHT CHERRENARD A CHE

TS no secret that the changing climate for firearms manufacturers and firearms related companies is leading to an exodus from states with burdensome regulations to Wyoming. The Cowboy State understands the value of this fast-growing sector, and local communities are more than happy to welcome those companies with open arms.

"Cheyenne came out on top on most of the individual criteria, and, considering our requirements as a whole, it was by far the superior site," said Elie Azar, Founder and CEO of White Wolf Capital LLC which owns a controlling interest in Stag Arms. "Not only is Wyoming an incredibly hospitable place to do business, but it is also a top destination for outdoor recreation, including hunting and shooting sports, which reflects its citizens' unwavering support for the Second Amendment."

Wyoming continues to affirm its support of the Second Amendment, and a Wyoming State Constitutional Provision also states that, "The rights of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be denied." This sets the stage for personal gun ownership rights and the rapid growth and extensive opportunities for firearms manufacturing and distribution.

Cheyenne, located in the southeast corner of the state and 15 miles north of Colorado, is a community that has used that support to attract firearms related companies including Magpul Industries, Thunder Beast and Stag Arms. Cheyenne LEADS, the economic development organization for Cheyenne and Laramie County, has assisted several companies by providing discounted land in their business parks and favorable lease agreements for those looking to move or expand their operations.

LEADS began purchasing land and developing infrastructure in two business parks starting in 1992. The Cheyenne Business Parkway and the North Range Business Park, both owned by LEADS, offer shovel-ready property of varying acreage, all dedicated to economic development. You will find both Stag Arms and Magpul in these parks. Other business parks also offer business friendly development opportunities, including the Cheyenne Logistics Hub, a privately owned park that boasts complete infrastructure, dual rail, and immediate access onto Interstate 25. With a growing demand for development, the Bison Business Park is currently under construction.

Cheyenne is at the crossroads of Interstates 80 and 25, with one connecting San Francisco to New York City, and the other connecting Cheyenne to Mexico via Denver, Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

The state's capital also offers rail versatility with two Class I railroads, BNSF and Union Pacific. While the availability of transportation is a key component of relocation decisions, so is the ability to run a business with minimal interruption. Wyoming has remained open for business throughout 2020 and 2021. With a current labor shed of over 183,000 and the continued migration of workers from more restrictive states, workforce availability will continue to increase. Add that to low crime rates, great outdoor spaces, good schools, clean air, and an involved community, it's no wonder that businesses continue to consider Cheyenne and Wyoming for relocation and expansion.

THE RIGH THE RIGHT OF THE CITIZENS TO BEAR ARMS IN DEFENSE OF THEMSELVES AND THE STATE SHALL NOT BE DENIED. STATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION - ARTICLE 1. SECTION 24

Wyoming does not restrict any type of firearm or magazine. In 1994, the Wyoming Legislature modified the Weapons Statutes (W.S. 6-8-101 et. seq.) in two important ways. First, Wyoming became a "shallissue" state, which meant that, subject to certain conditions (age, clean record and training,) no one could be denied a concealed carry permit. Second, state pre-emption over all local ordinances allowed the



permit holder statewide privilege. In 1999, in response to the spate of city and state lawsuits against gun manufacturers whose products were used in criminal activity, the Wyoming

> Legislature passed and the governor signed the Second Amendment Defense Act (W.S. 9-14-101). This bill authorized the state attorney general to intervene in court cases involving Wyoming firearms manufacturers and citizens as defendants. In 2001, reciprocity was authorized. As of April 2013, Wyoming has reciprocal concealed carry agreements with 35 states, including every

Wyoming resident women with a hunting license increased 19% from 2011 to 2016. The increase in resident women anglers follows suit, increasing 18% during the same period. Source: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

state with which it shares a border. In 2010, out-of-state concealed carry permit holders were provided more legal protection in Wyoming by the State Legislature. Wyoming licensees benefited when traveling to reciprocal states. In 2011, the

Wyoming Legislature approved concealed carry without a permit, recognizing the right to personal protection absent government licensure. Wyoming is one of 10 states to acknowledge this right.

FREARING INUDISTRY PROFILE







SUCCESS STORIES

WEATHERBY

After announcing their plans to relocate at SHOT Show in 2018, Weatherby has since celebrated three years of being located in Sheridan, WY. They employ over 100 people in their state-of-the-art facility that fits right in to the backdrop of the beautiful Bighorn Mountains.

MAVEN OPTICS

Maven Optics, a locally grown company that opened in Lander, WY in 2013, had the privilege of supplying the United States Archery Team with custom-made spotting scopes and binoculars during this summer's Olympics. Maven is built around a direct to consumer model that allows them to provide quality and high performance equipment while avoiding retail markup.

STAG ARMS

Since it's founding, Stag Arms has specialized in the advancement of the AR firearms platform, and pioneered the first left-handed modern sporting rifle. In November of 2019, Stag announced its move to Cheyenne, WY from Connecticut. That move inspired a whole new rebranding and product offering, showcasing the pride in their new Wyoming home.



DIVERSE BUSINESS PROFILE

From rifles to optics, from sights to ammunition—our local communities support these thriving businesses. Like many other outdoor recreation businesses across the country, the pandemic created an increased demand for

these local companies, most of whom found creative ways to hire additional workforce, increase production capacity, and add new product lines.

SUPPORTING INDUSTRY TRAINING

Wyoming is like the incubator of great gun companies, and that's going to create a critical mass of talent here. - ZAK SMITH

Co-owner Thunder Beast Arms Corporation

FAVORABLE CULTURE

Wyoming enjoys easy access to year-round recreation opportunities and wide-open spaces. Here the great outdoors and economic opportunity go hand-inhand, making Wyoming an ideal spot for firearms

manufacturing and other supporting recreation-related businesses.

AVAILABLE WORKFORCE

The Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund offers training grants up to \$1,500 per employee per year. They also have a robust apprenticeship and internship program. Find out more by visiting wyomingworkforce.org/businesses/wdtf.

Wyoming's seven community colleges located across the state offer a wide array of

programs that serve the needs of firearms and advanced manufacturing training needs. Community colleges work diligently with local businesses to help provide training programs in CNC manufacturing, fabrication and welding, that bolster the talent of the manufacturing workforce. Manufacturing Works, the State's manufacturing extension partnership, is also available to assist Wyoming manufacturers, producers and entrepreneurs—strategically identifying and solving their most pressing issues and enabling the to take their business to the next level.

WYOMING IS RANKED #1 IN GUN REGISTRATION

Registered guns per capita is 5x more than the #2 ranking



SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON ELECTRICITY USED IN MANUFACTURING

The sales tax burden is exempt on sales of power or fuel to a person engaged in the business of manufacturing, processing or agriculture when the same is consumed directly in the manufacturing process.

MANUFACTURING SALES TAX EXEMPTION

The sales tax burden is exempt on the sale or lease of machinery to be used in the state of Wyoming directly and predominantly in manufacturing tangible personal property.

Find out more at **WHYWYOMING.ORG**



AVAILABLE SITES

Wyoming has available sites and buildings across the state, ranging from shovel-ready to shell buildings and existing industrial buildings.

Whether you need 2,000 square feet or 50,000 square feet, or are looking for office space with room to expand, you can explore current inventory as well as relevant community data and facts at **WyomingSites.com**.



WIRED FOR BUSINESS

The Wyoming Business Council aims to leave no Wyoming citizen behind and position every business to compete on a global scale by ensuring they each connect to the rest of the digital world with broadband internet capabilities that set the standard for all others to follow by 2025.

Utilizing broadband infrastructure grant programs as well as a coalition of public officials and private telecommunications leaders, the state is working to improve service to rural areas of Wyoming.



BOASTING secluded canyons, miles of hiking, biking, and riding trails, secret fishing holes, epic climbing lines, and so much more, the Bighorn Mountains have been at the center of the essential Wyoming experience for generations.

Spanning over 1.1 million acres and encompassing 1,200 miles of trails, 30 campgrounds, 10 picnic areas, 6 mountain lodges, and hundreds of miles of waterways, the Bighorn National Forest offers near limitless outdoor recreation opportunities.

At the heart of the Bighorn National Forest stands the iconic Cloud Peak Wilderness, long recognized as having some of the most majestic alpine scenery in America. For 27 miles along the spine of the Bighorns, the 189,039acre Cloud Peak Wilderness preserves many sharp summits and towering sheer rock faces standing above glacier-carved valleys. Located roughly halfway between Mount Rushmore to the east and Yellowstone National Park to the west, the Bighorns span across Johnson and Sheridan Counties, two of the most authentically western destinations in the Mountain West. What we lack in crowded parking lots and tour bus traffic we make up for in blissful serenity, wide-open spaces, and sensational craft culture.

Northern Wyoming's beauty extends far beyond the mountains. At first blush, the picturesque City of Sheridan is all archetypal mountain verve and Wyoming vigor, but there is an artistic dynamism and cultural allure here the belies its cow-town reputation.

Sheridan's ranching roots run centuries deep, but so too does its polo legacy, which is 120 years old.

The flagship Sheridan WYO Rodeo draws nearly 30,000 visitors to the town every July, while the Sheridan WYO Film Festival, WYO Theater, Brinton Museum, and the Whitney Center for the Arts have become artistic touchstones with significant regional cachet.

National attractions also abound starting with the Historic Sheridan Inn is a siren song to the legend and lore of the Wild West. The ancient Medicine Wheel, at an altitude of 9,462-feet, lords over the mountains with a mystical presence that defies explanation.

And the Indian battle sites like Fort Phil Kearny, the Fetterman Fight, and the Wagon Box Fight, all located along the Bozeman Trail, offer endless educational and historical attractions.

It's even a wild place in the winter – the Bighorns are home to two ski areas, 6 mountain lodges that are popular among snowmobile, cross-country, and fat biking enthusiasts, and the annual Sheridan WYO Winter Rodeo, a spectacle that transforms chilly downtown Sheridan into the skijoring capital of the nation every February.







There's no surprise that Northern Wyoming is booming – frankly, what is surprising is that it didn't boom sooner. Long viewed as an outdoor paradise, the eastern slope of the Bighorns has become a destination for both established businesses and startups searching for a business-friendly climate, a community where the quality of life is paramount, and a place where they can grow on their terms. With a population of 17,866 and six constituent neighborhoods, Sheridan is the sixth-largest city in Wyoming. With the bedroom communities in Sheridan County that include Ra nchester, Dayton, Big Horn, Story, Arvada, Clearmont, and Ucross, the total county population of 30,210. There's a myth that says it's difficult for employers to attract workers to Wyoming, but when Weatherby set up shop in Sheridan, they had several thousand applications come in from across the nation for their first round of jobs. That myth must have come from someone on a crowded California freeway.

29.63% of adults in Sheridan have obtained at least a bachelor's degree, versus the American average of 21. 84%. Residents report some of the shortest commute times in the country at an average of 13.74 minutes per day. Just think of what you can do with all your free time when your commute lasts less than half a Chris LeDoux album. Sheridan is home to more than 40 foundations, non-profit groups, and community organizations, with a strong focus on education, the arts, senior care, recreation, and history. Air service is provided by SkyWest Airlines, flying as United Express, with daily return flights between Sheridan County Airport (SHR) and Denver International Airport (DEN). Sheridan is served by rail facilities operated by Burlington Northern Santa Fe, a Class 1 Railway, and has interstate access to I-90, with three interchanges serving the community, with access to I-25 a little more than 30 miles to the south.

All this begs a simple question. Why Sheridan, and why now? This artsy little outdoor playground at the base of the Bighorn Mountains is not just the finest postcard-perfect western getaway in the United States; it is also among the best small towns in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.

CROSSROADS OF THE SETTE SETTE

Wyoming's advantageous geographic location and ample transportation infrastructure provide reliable access to and from communities statewide.

LOS ANGELES

SAN FRANCISCO

S major international airports surround wy

/// Billings, MT/// Denver, CO/// Salt Lake City, UT

466 MILE RADIUS FROM GEOGRAPHIC CENTER

PHEONIX

SALT LAKE CITY

BILLINGS

CHEYENNE

DENVER

11,307,444 consumers can be reached within an 8-hour drive (466 miles) from Wyoming.



YOMING: **WHERE YOUR BUSINESS AND IFESTYLE UNIT**



POSITIVE REGULATORY SUPPORT

Wyoming does not believe in regulating honest American companies out of business. That's why Gov. Mark Gordon is committed to promoting the firearms industry in our state.

Wyoming's open-door access to the Governor and legislators is especially attractive to companies in highly regulated industries like firearms. This access, coupled with numerous grant, loan and incentive programs, provides businesses with key financial resources.

In addition to earning the nation's "Most Business Friendly Tax Climate" by the Tax Foundation every year since 2013, Wyoming provides a variety of advantages for businesses looking to relocate or expand.

QUALITY OF LIFE makes a community worth living in: comprehensive planning/visioning, cultural and recreational opportunities, adequate and affordable housing, health care, good schools, police and fire protection and curb appeal. Wyomingites enjoy boundless recreational and cultural opportunities. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy the outdoors and a night on the town – all in the same day.

Wyoming features two national parks, 12 state parks and five national forests along with plenty of open spaces to hunt, fish, bike, hike and climb. The state is home to seven ski areas and resorts, from Jackson Hole in the northwest corner to minutes from Laramie in the southeast. Arts and culture? Wyoming offers an array of Western- and urban-themed events throughout the state: rodeos, galleries, symphonies, farmers markets, brew fests and more.

Find the Travel Wyoming calendar of events at travelwyoming.com/events.





STACCAT

THE WYOMING GOVERNOR'S MIATCH PRESENTED BY VORTEX OPTICS IS A NATIONAL MULTI-GUN MIATCH FEATURING SOME OF THE BEST COMIPETITORS IN THE COUNTRY.



FIND OUT MORE AT WYOREC.INFO/GOVERNORSMATCH





TOURISM IS THE #2 INDUSTRY in Wyoming

THERE ARE 41 STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES encompassing 49,400 acres of public lands.

8.7 MILLION VISITORS to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in 2021

25% INCREASE in State Park visitation

2.9 BILLION in visitor spending

WYOMING IS RANKED #1 PER CAPITA in outdoor recreation participation

180,000 MILES OF RIVERS

in Wyoming with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers bring around \$1 billion into the state each year.

2,160 HIKING TRAILS

in Wyoming contributing \$19 million to the state GDP

370 RV PARKS

in Wyoming contributing \$85 million to the state GDP

27,000 JOBS

have been created in the outdoor recreation industry

26,000 STUDENTS

are taught at The National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander every year.

94% OF WYOMINGITES

call public lands essential to Wyoming's economy

74% of Wyoming Citizens

say the State's public lands help attract high-quality employers and good jobs.



\$365 MILLION

in economic activity is contributed annually by snowmobiling.

22



Owning an outdoor business in Wyoming is really a privilege. We have residents that live here in part to be close to our amazing recreation opportunities and are avid outdoor participants. Plus, every

year, millions of other people come from around the world to join us in enjoying Wyoming's unparalleled wilderness areas and national parks. No matter what flavor of outdoor rec your business serves, there is an opportunity to have a healthy enterprise.

- WES ALLEN Owner, Sunlight Sports, Cody, WY

WYOMING'S FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

CULTURE

Wyoming enjoys easy access to national and state parks, year-round recreational opportunities, open spaces, and events. Here, recreation and economic opportunity are connected so The State invests in outdoor recreation to attract employers and active workforces.

CLIMATE



The sun shines 60% of the time in winter...

and 75% in the summer. Year round outdoor activities contribute to many products made in Wyoming including: hunting and shooting accessories, fishing lures and flies, knives, optics, outdoor gear, and clothing. This year we saw the revival of 'The Great American Road Trip' as travelers looked to explore the outdoors. As the least populated state with the most room for adventure, Wyoming experienced high visitation throughout all national forests and parks, state parks, and other popular outdoor destinations. As we continue to see an increase in outdoor recreation, Wyoming has a unique opportunity to be the leading voice behind sustainable and mindful travel. - DIANE SHOBER

Wyoming office of Tourism Executive Director

The rawness of Wyoming and untamed beauty cannot be matched by places of concrete. Consumers today are looking for not just a product but authentic branding and Wyoming offers that to outdoor companies like Weatherby. - BRENDA WEATHERBY

Director of People and Culture at Weatherby, Inc.





33rd Governor of the State of Wyoming

WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL

214 West 15th St. Cheyenne, WY 82002-0240 Phone: 307.777.2800 Email: chance.price@wyo.gov wyomingbusiness.org

OFFICE OF Governor Mark Gordon

State Capitol 200 West 24th St. Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010 Phone: 307.777.7434 governor.wyo.gov

- THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY TAX CLIMATE IN THE US

- A PRO-BUSINESS ATTITUDE
- WIDE-OPEN SPACES FULL OF ADVENTURE
- A SKILLED WORKFORCE
- INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

STATE OF Wyoming Legislature

213 State Capitol Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone: 307.777.7881 legisweb.state.wy.us



Through leadership, policy, and investments, the Wyoming Business Council stands firmly upon Wyoming's heritage while advancing innovation, business creation, recruitment, and growth in order to build resilient communities and create opportunities to thrive.

We envision a future where traditional Wyoming values and innovation go hand-in-hand to create opportunities so communities can confidently withstand economic uncertainties and continue to thrive for generations to come.