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Wind River Visitors Council**

Wyoming Towns and Attractions Recipient of a Dozen Tourism Awards Over Past Six Years.

Fremont County, WY – Wyoming’s Wind River Country and its communities have had a successful six years with all the awards and recognitions garnered county-wide reflecting many of the opportunities awaiting visitors and residents alike. In 2005, Rand McNally voted the Circle the Continental Divide Driving Loop Tour the “Best of the Road.” The towns of Lander and Dubois have been recognized by several magazines as a “Best” town. The Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail won first place national recognition for the third time in a row. As a special event, The American Bus Association announced that the 50th and 51st Annual Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow and All Indian Rodeo 2009 and 2010 was designated as one of the “Top 100 Events” in North America.

Driving Tours

Named as one of Rand McNally’s “Best of the Road” road trips, the Circle the Continental Divide Driving Tour is a sampling of Wyoming’s finest. This 480-mile Loop Tour is the quintessential Wyoming vacation, showing everything the West has to offer in a spectacular driving tour in the Northwest part of the state. It maximizes your vacation experience while limiting your driving time. Experience the true flavor of Wyoming with this best-of-the-west driving tour. <http://www.wind-river.org/info/drivingtours/index.php>

Lander Awards

Lander was recognized as “The Best in Undiscovered Fishing” where fisherman can choose from 626 lakes and reservoirs or 2,057 miles of rivers and streams. The March 2009 issue of Fly Rod & Reel called Lander, “a fisherman’s paradise.... In fact, the world-record Golden Trout, which measured 28 inches and weighed 11.5 pounds, was taken in the Winds,” touts the magazine. But, whether you’re an outdoorsman, or just like a small western-town atmosphere, Lander has something for everyone.

<http://www.landerchamber.org>



Another recognition was from the 2008 National Geographic Adventure Magazine naming Lander, Wyoming as one of the “50 Next Great Adventure Towns.” They based their criteria on the city not only being a prime relocation spot right now, but also a smart choice for the future. With a paid circulation of over 1/2 million, National Geographic Adventure Magazine considered Lander a “Hot Bargain” where “Stetsons meet Birkenstocks.” This town was the only Wyoming winner. Read the full coverage in the

National Geographic Adventure September 2008 issue at <http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/2008/09/weekend-getaways/best-places-to-live/adventure-towns-text>

Sunset's March 2009 edition listed Lander as one of the West's "20 Best Small Towns." Editors based their criteria on "a sense of connectedness where people commute less, know their neighbors and follow their passions." Lander was also named in 2009 & 2010 as one of the "Towns To Watch" by TrueWest Magazine. "Lander has no shortage of Western pride or tales to tell. Especially in the past years: restoration of the 1917 Noble Hotel under the National Register of Historic Structures and the completion of the Museum of the American West. Much credit goes to the Lander Pioneer group, which has restored 11 significant historic structures in six years," writes the TrueWest editors in January, 2009. http://www.truewestmagazine.com/stories/towns_to_watch_in_2009/935/ More western recognition came in May 2009 when American Cowboy Magazine included Lander in the Top 20 Most Authentic Western Towns.

In 2004 Outside Magazine rated Lander in the Top 20 Adventure Towns. Called the "Rodeo Hearts and Adventure Souls" it has everything from abundant bouldering routes to sandstone and limestone cliffs to multipitch granite peaks in the Wind River Range." http://outside.away.com/outside/destinations/200408/best_american_dream_towns_splash.html.

Dubois Awards

In 2008 American Cowboy Magazine named Dubois one of its "20 Best Places to Live in the West." Based on factors from outdoor adventures to towns where history comes alive, the magazine compiled a list of the top spots in the nation to experience authentic Western culture today. In 2009 Dubois was voted as one of the top six "Coolest Towns" in the West by Budget Travel Magazine through an on-line popularity vote of the public. Also in the spring of 2009 this town was listed by **National Geographic Adventure Magazine**—*Hiking The Winds* as one of the Top 50 Best American Adventures. "For Wyoming's highest mountains and best climbing, hike five days and 42 miles from the Big Sandy Trailhead into Wind River solitude."



This year, Dubois was awarded the #4 ranking among *True West Magazine's* 2010 Top 10 Western Towns. "Dubois is one those places that's escaped the ravages of time," said TrueWest Magazine Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. "That's no accident. It takes a lot of determination by local folks to keep their heritage intact. They are most deserving of this recognition." According to TrueWest Magazine, the word is getting around. "For a true Western town surrounded by wildlife, and one that embraces its heritage, look no further than Dubois." Dubois is featured in the January/February 2010 issue, now on newsstands.

http://www.truewestmagazine.com/stories/top_10_true_western_towns_of_2010/1353/all/
<http://www.duboiswyoming.org>

Snowmobile Trail Awards

For the third year in a row Wyoming's Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) is the number one snowmobile trail in the west. This favorite western riding spot was voted number one by the readers of SnoWest Magazine, the sport's leading authority on adventure snowmobile riding. The #1 designation is the result of a survey published in the annual "Western Guide to Snowmobiling" ranking scenery, grooming, signage, map, off-trail, snow quality, crowds, terrain, services and weather by the people who know it best, the riders. Four Wyoming trails were ranked in the top 7 spots by snowmobile enthusiasts.



<http://www.sledwyoming.com> <http://www.wind-river.org> or for information on all Wyoming Snowmobile trails <http://wyotrails.state.wy.us>

Indian Powwow Awards

The American Bus Association (ABA) announced that the 50th and the 51st Annual Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow was designated as one of the Top 100 Events in North America. Inclusion in the Top 100 list indicates that the Eastern Shoshone Indian Days offered excellent entertainment value to both tour groups and individual travelers from around the world, said ABA. "The attractiveness of the 50th Annual Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow and All Indian Rodeo as a don't-miss entertainment value is only part of why its selection is such a distinction for Wind River Country," said Peter J. Pantuso, ABA's president and CEO. "The real news here is that the powwow has been recognized as a potential magnet for tourism dollars, at a time when reenergizing domestic tourism is so important to our spirit and our economy. The honor gives The Wind River Indian Reservation an important boost in visibility among professional tour planners."

ABA's 2009 and 2010 Top 100 Events Selection Committee selected this powwow from among hundreds of U.S. and Canadian events nominated by state and provincial tourism offices and convention and visitors bureaus. The Top 100 Events list is available online at www.buses.org.

For a complete list of adventures and vacation information about Wyoming's Wind River Country, go to <http://www.wind-river.org> or call 800-645-6233 for a vacation packet.

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