

## 50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Anniversary

The Logan Ranger District is hosting a Wilderness Walk and Wilderness Education Event commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Anniversary.

1. The 1-mile walk and educational event are scheduled for September 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the American West Heritage Center in Wellsville, Utah. Participants will gather at the center at 9:00 a.m. with the walk beginning at 9:30 a.m. They will have the opportunity to browse the education booths before and after the walk. Youth participants will receive packets that will include activities they will complete along the walking route.

The walk and event are designed to raise awareness and increase knowledge of the Wilderness and the value it has to youth, communities and the general public. In conjunction with the Wilderness 50's Goals; 1. We will engage the public to better understand and appreciate the many benefits and values of wilderness, ultimately resulting in more people supporting responsible wildlands stewardship; 2. Bring the wilderness community together to efficiently and consistently steward Wilderness for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the American people; 3. Connect with today's youth and with non-wilderness using groups to find the thread that ties their lives to wild places so they can more directly relate to, understand, and value Wilderness.

Leave No Trace and Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center educational material will be available to the public. Booths and activities will provide participants the opportunity to learn more about the Wilderness Act, Forest Service management of Wilderness, local Wilderness information, and how to become a steward through volunteer projects.

Ten activity stations will be placed along the 1-mile route. Each station will provide participants with brief training, information and education to preserve the values and benefits of Wilderness for present and future generations. Participants will learn about things from "What is Wilderness?" to "How is Wilderness managed?" They will also receive a timeline of the history of the Wilderness leading up to the enactment of the Wilderness Act in 1964. Each activity has been selected from the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Wilderness Awareness Training Curriculum.

2. The Logan Ranger District will partner with Utah State University (USU) Environmental Education Department. USU will provide wilderness educational brochures and handouts, displays of the local Wilderness areas, university staff and students to manage the booth and staff the activity stations along the route. The American West Heritage Center is located at the foot of the majestic Wellsville Wilderness Mountains and will create an educational and entertaining environment for our event. They will provide the venue, facilities and limited staff to assist us in the event preparation. The Logan Ranger District will provide Wilderness educational material, Wilderness displays, and experienced and knowledgeable staff to hand out material and brochures, educate participants and staff the stations with a Utah State student. Leave No Trace (LNT) teaches people of all ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. LNT has identified three strategic priorities; local community participation; youth education; and frontcountry

outreach. As the leading educator of outdoor ethics, their vision is to grow a nation of outdoor advocates to put the LNT principles into action. They will share these messages with the participants. LNT Ethics Reference cards will be included in packets given to the walk participants. Sam's Club is a local partner and is supportive of the event. They have agreed to donate trail mix and granola bars that will be included in the informational packets at the completion of the walk.

3. The requested funds of \$3500 will be used to purchase 50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Anniversary material, items and event venue. Please see attached invoice.

50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Anniversary purchased items such as, pins, stickers, patches, Leave No Trace Ethics Reference cards; Rite-In-The-Rain pocket notebooks and water bottles will go to each participant upon completion of the 1-mile walk. Wilderness informational banners will be displayed at the event in celebration of the anniversary. They will also be displayed at a Wilderness seminar being hosted at Utah State University on September 3. The Logan Ranger District staff will be present at the seminar representing the agency. The banners will also be displayed for a one week period at the Logan Ranger District. The District will have wilderness items available for the public throughout the remainder of the year once they become available.

Additional wilderness informational banners have been reserved from the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center. Shipping is the responsibility of the recipient. Funding for the American West Heritage Center will cover reservation and venue fees for the duration of the walk and event and staff. The Center is closed during this time. However, with the importance of this event and the message it will deliver, they have agreed to open for one day to accommodate our request.

4. Additional funding of \$3000, 50% of the total estimated project and event cost will be acquired from the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

5. The walk and the event is being designed to raise awareness and increase knowledge of the Wilderness and the value it has to youth, communities and the general public. In conjunction with the Wilderness50's Goals, we will engage our local community to better understand and appreciate the many benefits and values of the Wellsville Mountain Wilderness and Mount Naomi Wilderness in Northern Utah. This will ultimately result in more people supporting responsible wildland stewardship and bring the wilderness community together to efficiently and consistently steward wilderness for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the American people. It will also connect with today's youth and with non-wilderness using groups to find the thread that ties their lives to wild places so they can more directly relate to, understand, and value wilderness.

6. Lisa Thompson is the Project Coordinator and will provide walk, event and seminar support for activities scheduled on the Logan Ranger District.