

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Wyoming	FS Funds Used:	\$ 117,000
National Forest/Grassland:	Medicine Bow-Routt NF	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$ 586,000
Project Name:	Medicine Bow Rail-Trail	Total Project Cost:	\$ 703,000

Project Purpose/Objectives: The Medicine Bow Rail-Trail project consists of the conversion of a 22.7 mile stretch of abandoned railway to a non-motorized recreational trail, suitable for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding, and complete with developed trailheads, interpretive facilities, safety and regulatory signage, and a barrier-free access trail from the Lake Owen Campground to the railbed. The 22.7 mile segment lies within the boundaries of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests on the Laramie Ranger District. The objectives of this project were largely twofold: to provide an extended non-motorized trail system for use by the public that traverses numerous historical and scenic attractions, offering individuals and families unique recreation opportunities that currently do not exist in the Forest or region; and, to provide for the preservation of the significant historical attributes of the railway corridor.

Work Performed:

- * Trail construction (clearing and grubbing of railbed; scarification and shaping railbed surface; cutbank stabilization; road crossing improvements; cattle guard installation; bollard/gate installation; culvert cleaning/repair/replacement; gravel hauling, placement, and compaction).
- * Information and regulatory sign design, fabrication, and installation.
- * Development of cultural resource interpretive plan.
- * Construction of a of wheelchair-accessible trail around Lake Owen, including a section of helical pier boardwalk through a wetland.
- * Construction of a wheel-chair accessible fishing pier/shelter, with accessible approach trail.
- * Closure/rehabilitation of unauthorized, heavily impacted dispersed campsites.
- * Construction of 6 trailheads and associated amenities (parking lot construction, installation of restrooms, picnic tables, grills, kiosks, fee stations, and perimeter fencing).
- * Implementation of interplan, including sign design, fabrication, and installation.
- * Fence construction/installation on segments of the railbed for motorized traffic control purposes.

Benefits: The benefits of this project are numerous and include enhanced recreation opportunities, wetland preservation, public education (historic and natural), opportunities for the disabled to enjoy a mountain lake environs (trails & fishing pier), heritage preservation, resource impact mitigations, partnership enrichment, local economic development, and volunteer opportunities. Several key partnerships were developed during this project, with monetary contributions exceeding \$575,000. These include the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, Albany County, City of Cheyenne, and the Laramie Bicycling Network (recipient of the 2004 Regional Forester’s Recreation Partner award). Additionally, two Centennial of Service Challenge grants were awarded to this project, totaling \$75,000.

Additional Information

Partners: Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, Albany County, City of Cheyenne, and the Laramie Bicycling Network