

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAJOR RED DESERT 'RENDEZVOUS' COMING IN JUNE

Cody — The Wyoming Association of Churches, in cooperation with the National Council of Churches and several statewide organizations, is sponsoring the inaugural Red Desert Rendezvous to be held June 17-19 in the Rock Springs area.

This event will feature once-in-a-lifetime tours of the desert, a public symposium on the Red Desert, an art show, dinner and an ecumenical worship service.

Special airplane tours by LightHawk are being offered to public officials and to the press.

“The Red Desert Rendezvous is a unique event — and a rare opportunity — for people of faith and the general public to take part in guided tours and focus their attention on the need to preserve the incredibly special places in the desert,” said the Rev. Warren Murphy, of the Wyoming Association of Churches.

This event was preceded by Red Desert educational programs held in Rock Springs, Laramie, Lander and Casper last month that generated a lot of interest in this special part of Wyoming, Murphy said.

Chris Madson, editor of *Wyoming Wildlife*, will be the Rendezvous’ keynote speaker on Saturday evening, June 18. His presentation will be followed by comments from three panelists representing different perspectives on the desert.

Bernadine Craft, state representative from Rock Springs and an active member of Holy Communion Episcopal Church, will speak from a faith perspective.

Mac Blewer, a former Wyoming Outdoor Council staff member and public lands specialist for the National Wildlife Federation, and University of Wyoming graduate student, will focus on the colorful history and legacy of the Red Desert.

Richard Baldes, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist on the Wind River Reservation and a member of the Shoshone tribe, will address Native American environmental and spiritual values.

The symposium will begin at 7 p.m. at the Young At Heart Senior Center in Rock Springs.

Several tours of the Red Desert will precede the symposium offering what for many will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience some of the most iconic portions of the desert firsthand.

An overnight camping trip will be offered June 17-18, with the option of departing from Lander or Rawlins and culminating in Rock Springs.

On Saturday morning, June 18, there will be two day-long tours originating in Rock Springs. The first tour will visit Adobe Town in the heart of the desert and the second will go to Boar's Tusk, the Killpecker Sand Dunes and the petroglyph site.

All tours are free to participants but are limited to 20 people per tour.

In addition to the symposium, there will be a public reception and art show beginning at 3 p.m. at the senior center. A catered dinner will be offered at 5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, June 19, there will be an ecumenical worship service entitled, "A Service for the Earth" to be held at 1 p.m.

Further information on the Red Desert Rendezvous and how to participate can be found at the WAC website, wyomingassociationofchurches.org.