



PRESS RELEASE

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City launches Belvoir Ranch public tours

Cheyenne, October 15, 2007 – The City of Cheyenne has announced a schedule for public tours of the Belvoir Ranch and Big Hole properties. The tours are being conducted in conjunction with the Belvoir Ranch Master Plan process which is currently under development to establish a future vision for the management of the property.

The Belvoir Ranch includes 17,000-acres of property purchased by the City of Cheyenne in 2003 for the purpose of municipal water development and the siting of a landfill. In 2005, an additional 1,800-acres of property was purchased in coordination with The Nature Conservancy and Larimer County, Colorado. Commonly known as the 'Big Hole', this property includes dramatic views and spectacular cultural and natural resources. In addition to the above-mentioned uses for the property, additional uses for the area could include recreation opportunities, an interstate trail system, wind energy development and continued agricultural use of the Belvoir Ranch.

Two types of tours will be offered, weather permitting, during October and early November. A 'Short Tour' lasting approximately 3 hours will view the highlights of the property, including the Big Hole. A 'Long Tour' lasting approximately 5 hours will view the Big Hole and a more in-depth tour of the ranch. Tours will be offered on a first come, first served basis and are currently available on the following dates:

Friday October 19 - Short Tour - Depart: 12:00PM, Return: 3:00PM

Wednesday October 24 - Long Tour - Depart: 9:00AM, Return: 2:00PM

Wednesday October 31 - Long Tour - Depart: 9:00AM, Return: 2:00PM

Thursday November 1 - Short Tour - Depart 12:00PM, Return: 3:00PM

Wednesday November 7 - Long Tour - Depart 9:00AM, Return 2:00PM

To reserve your space on a tour, call the Planning Department at 637.6281.

“We expect that tours of the property will help the community gain better perspective on the rich resources and amenities located just outside of Cheyenne,” says Mayor Jack Spiker, noting that the property is a critical investment for future generations. The tours will also give residents a firsthand view of the property that is currently being planned under a community-driven planning process. That process has already developed a ‘Snapshot Atlas’ which benchmarks the key elements currently impacting the property. These include several property maps and short reports on history, ranching, water development, landfill development, wildlife, and others issues impacting the site. The first draft of the Snapshot Atlas can be downloaded from the project website at www.belvoirranch.org.

For those who are unable to take a tour in person this fall, it is expected that additional tours will be scheduled in the spring. If you can’t wait to view this spectacular property, a video tour of the property is also available on the project website, highlighting five key character areas of the property.

Want to get involved in planning the future of the Belvoir Ranch? Mark your calendar for **Thursday, October 25th at 6:00PM** and join us for a public meeting at the **Community House in Lions Park**. During this meeting, the public will be invited to review the first draft scenario of the land use plan and gather public feedback on the potential uses for the property.

The Belvoir Ranch Master Plan project kicked off in June and is expected to wrap up next spring. The plan is being funded by the City and Board of Public Utilities with grant assistance from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

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ABOUT BELVOIR RANCH MASTER PLAN

The Belvoir Ranch Master Plan will shape the use and development of an area encompassing 18,800 deeded acres and 3,400-acres of leased State Land sections. The project includes the Belvoir Ranch, purchased by the City in 2003 with the primary goal of developing municipal water resources and siting of a landfill. Additionally, the project includes the Wyoming portion of the Big Hole, an area unmatched in the region for its unique environment, cultural resources, and natural beauty. Purchased in 2005 in conjunction with partners from The Nature Conservancy and Larimer County, Colorado, the Big Hole serves as a bridge between protected lands in Wyoming and 33,264-acres of Open Space and protected lands in Northern Colorado. For more information on participating in the Belvoir Ranch Master Plan process, visit our website at www.belvoirranch.org.

ABOUT CHEYENNE, WYOMING

The City of Cheyenne is the northern anchor of the rapidly growing Rocky Mountain Front Range. Just 90-minutes from Denver, Cheyenne is the State Capital of Wyoming and home to the recently announced National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Supercomputer. Cheyenne’s mission is to be a ‘Community of Choice’ where people from all walks of life can live and thrive. Located at the intersection of Interstates 80 and 25, Cheyenne is experiencing significant growth, with a population approaching 60,000. For more information, call 307.637.6000.