

Ranch & Bird Tour

Welcome Letter & Logistical Information

Dear Workshop Attendee,

We are honored you have set aside the time to participate in the Ranch & Bird Tour!

Highlights include: Dr. Allen Williams presentation on the current status of grass-fed and pasture raised beef in the US, news from international grassland neighbors, current conservation work in the field, NRCS soil demonstration, bird banding, and lots of networking.

The workshop is designed with the following objectives in mind:

- Foster relationships and greater collaboration in order to further producer and conservation goals for all participants.
- Learn about sustainable management practices and monitoring and measurement techniques.
- See local bird species and learn how ranching practices can sustain bird and wildlife habitat.

To aid in your logistics planning, we have provided important details for you.

- Hotel reservations can be made at either:
The **Clarion Inn** - 1450 N Riverbend Dr, Douglas, WY 82633 - (307) 358-9790 or at the **Historic Hotel LaBonte** - 206 East Walnut Street, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 - 307-358-4343 extension 101 Note that you are responsible for your own lodging costs. **Please reserve your rooms by August 20th for the LaBonte or August 26th for the Clarion under the Audubon block.**
- If you are flying in to the workshop, please plan to land in Casper, WY no later than **11:00am** on Thursday, September 3rd and depart after **5:00 pm** on Friday, September 4th.
- There is a van headed from Casper to Douglas on Wednesday afternoon. To reserve a spot, email Jacelyn Downey (jdowney@audubon.org) otherwise, you can rent a car from the airport.
 - There will be an optional field trip to Ayers Natural Bridges Thursday morning from 9AM to 11:30AM for those arriving Wednesday. To reserve a spot, email Jacelyn at jdowney@audubon.org.
 - Attire for the classroom session of the workshop is casual.
 - For the field trips, dress comfortably in layers. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen may be useful. We'll provide binoculars and bird guides but you may wish to bring your own.

We will provide you with snacks and water during bus trips and onsite at hosts' operations, as well as all lunch on both days but dinner will be on your own. Please let us know if you have meal restrictions. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the organizers whose contact info is below.

Best wishes and safe travels!

Sincerely,
Ranch & Bird Tour Crew

Alison Holloran, Audubon Rockies
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Scott Cotton, UW Extension
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Ranch & Bird Tour Agenda

Day 1 | Thursday, September 3rd

9:00 AM-11:30AM

Optional Field Trip to Ayers Natural Bridges

12:00 PM

Welcome - Ruthe James Williams Center at the Douglas Fairgrounds Pioneer Museum (see attached map)

Lunch & Overview of workshop purpose, agenda review, and around-the-room introductions

1:00 PM

Opening Remarks

Alison Holloran, Executive Director of Audubon Rockies

Scott Cotton, University of Wyoming Extension Educator, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Systems

1:30 PM

Dr. Allan Williams

Holistic grazing and market connections

3:00 PM

Success Stories:

- 1) Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association - Success through partnerships
- 2) Corner Post Meats - Success through markets
- 3) RMBO – Success through bird science

4:30 PM

Wrap-up and Questions

Day 2 | Friday, September 4th

7:30 AM

Depart Hotel

8:00 AM

Arrive at Jay Butlers Ranch

- 1) Bird mist netting – Audubon Rockies Staff
- 2) Soil Demonstration – Cameron Clark, NRCS

9:00 AM

Ranch Tour, Birding, and Discussion

12:00 PM

Depart for Frank and Leslie Eathorne Ranch (Lunch on Bus)

1:30 PM

Arrive at Frank and Leslies Ranch

Ranch Tour, Birding, and Discussion

3:00 PM

Depart for Hotel (Wrap up on Bus)