

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland

# Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Mary Grace Bedwell

(307) 274-1751

mary.bedwell@usda.gov

fs.usda.gov/mbr

## Second Pole Mountain Gateways virtual public meeting scheduled for March 4

### Users asked to share values and vision for the Pole Mountain unit

**Laramie, Wyo., February 19, 2021**— In partnership with the University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is pleased to host the Pole Mountain Gateways Virtual Public Engagement Meeting on Thursday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting is the second in a series of virtual events held to gather public input on the Pole Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest in advance of a broad-scale Forest Service planning project for nonmotorized recreation. Interested members of the public are asked to register in advance using an [online form](https://uwyo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsd-Crrj8tG9ErwtWE1fokSqP6oDCM9c59).

This Virtual Public Engagement Meetingwill provide opportunities for the public to interact with each other and staff from the Ruckelshaus Institute and the Forest Service. Small group discussions will focus on attendees’ values and vision for the Pole Mountain Unit, as well as areas of opportunity. In virtual small groups, attendees will be able to provide feedback and suggestions for trails, facilities, parking, signage, and other aspects of nonmotorized recreation in a facilitated roundtable discussion

These discussions will build on user data [collected online](https://pole-mountain-gateways.wygisc.org/) over the last nine months. All feedback will be used to inform the future nonmotorized recreation analysis for the area. Updates on the digital storytelling gallery and submission tool will also be provided.

The Pole Mountain Gateways Project’s public involvement sessions kicked off on Jan. 28 with an Informational Webinar hosted via Zoom. For individuals who were unable to attend, a [recording of the webinar](https://vimeo.com/507620691) is available to learn about the project, and listen to a Q&A with Ruckelshaus and Laramie Ranger District staff.

Additional resources informing the project include an [interactive data collection website](https://pole-mountain-gateways.wygisc.org/) that hosts a submission tool for user reports and a digital storytelling gallery. Interested individuals can also join the project’s [Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1604111743086858) and receive notifications regarding project updates.

For details on the Pole Mountain area, contact the Laramie Ranger District at (307) 745-2300. Additional information may be found on our [website](https://www.fs.usda.gov/mbr) or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, [@FS\_MBRTB](https://twitter.com/FS_MBRTB).