

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pilot Hill Project seeking public input through online survey
Pledge agreement available for accepting gifts**

A new online survey is now available at PilotHill.org to gather public input about the Pilot Hill Project.

The Albany County Commission signed a purchase agreement in September approving the purchase of about 5,500 acres of private land east of Laramie, with the purchase price set at \$10.5 million following an appraisal earlier this year. Price will be raised by the community, not funded through

The survey asks respondents about their current recreation activities, ways they might use the Pilot Hill parcel in the future, how they would like the parcel to be managed, how they would prefer to fund the purchase and whether they have concerns about the purchase.

Results will be used by the Pilot Hill Project Committee to guide fundraising and shape future management of the parcel.

The survey was developed in partnership with Steve Smutko at the University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, which works with stakeholders to develop shared solutions.

A new pledge agreement is also now available at PilotHill.org, allowing people to pledge monetary gifts to be paid in full no later than 30 days after the closing date of the purchase. Pledges larger than \$10,000 can be made in installments for up to three years.

In the event the purchase of the Pilot Hill property does not occur, pledges will be withdrawn.

The parcel, which would be open to the public after the purchase, stretches from the eastern edge of Laramie to the Pole Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest, and from near Pilot Hill south to Interstate 80. The Pilot Hill property overlies 13 percent of the Casper Aquifer recharge zone, which is a major source of Laramie's drinking water.

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***About the Pilot Hill Project:** The objective of the Pilot Hill Project is to provide new public access to about 5,500 acres of undeveloped open space east of Laramie while simultaneously protecting the Casper Aquifer drinking water resource, enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, and promoting economic development by providing a world-class natural amenity to attract and retain businesses and their employees.*