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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High Desert Interpretive Center moves forward with Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. — Plans for the High Desert Interpretive Center are moving toward fruition, thanks in part to a \$12,500 grant from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. The concept is to build a center that brings industry, travel and tourism together.

“We’re pleased the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation can help move the High Desert Interpretive Center closer to breaking ground,” said Craig Nelson, Rocky Mountain Power customer and community manager. “The promising new facility will help educate visitors and residents about local activities, and the important role natural resources play in this area’s economy.”

Rock Springs plans to build the High Desert Interpretive Center to entice travelers and local citizens to explore Sweetwater County’s museums, galleries, geology, wildlife, industry, archaeology and history. “People drive by many of these industrial facilities on Interstate 80 and often have no idea what they’re seeing,” said David Kathka, president of the High Desert Interpretive Center Association, a nonprofit entity.

“We’re just starting the fundraising process for the facility,” Kathka said. “When the idea first arose in the 1990s we were tasked by the Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce to develop a proposal for a center that only covered the wild horses in the area. However, we thought a new interpretive center could be more informative about the region.”

The land for the center, located by Western Wyoming Community College, has been purchased and architectural plans of the facility are being completed. The High Desert Interpretive Center committee estimates 30,000 visitors will visit the facility each year. Construction on the project will begin once fundraising is completed.

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About the High Desert Interpretive Center

High Desert Interpretive Center will serve as a hub for providing an overview of the high desert area in Sweetwater County.

About the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation's mission, through

charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information, visit www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation.