

# RITA MEYER



## GOVERNOR

REPUBLICAN

6. Do you support or oppose the state's continuation of elk feed grounds? Please explain your support/opposition.

RITA MEYER: I support the continuation of the elk feed grounds which help elk survive the winter. Eliminating feed grounds would not eliminate brucellosis. Eliminating feed grounds would only serve to diminish the number of elk in Wyoming. What is at issue is brucellosis being transmitted to cattle. Eliminating Wyoming's elk feed grounds is not the best way to eliminate brucellosis. A better approach is to support efforts to develop a better vaccine.

7. As the next Governor, will you continue to allow the G&F Department to promote educational campaigns about "how to live with bears and wolves" rather than emphasizing the impacts bears and wolves are having on our once sustainable wildlife populations and the necessity to restore management authority of large predators to the state?

RITA MEYER: Bears and wolves can be dangerous to humans, livestock and obviously prey on big and small game. From a public safety issue, we must continue this educational campaign especially if our management options are currently limited due to listing status or on-going litigation. I think that a balanced approach is in order that emphasized how to live with predators and their impact on wildlife populations; however, the best solution for bears and wolves would be to have them delisted and put into state management..

8. As Wind Energy Development begins to expand throughout Wyoming, how will you ensure that our hunting, fishing, and trapping heritage is protected, maintained, and/or enhanced?

RITA MEYER: I strongly believe that Wyoming can continue to be proper stewards and still make full use of our resources. As Governor, I will support solutions that promote balance between energy production and protection of the environment for the benefit of Wyoming's wildlife, water and air quality and future generations. Wildlife issues in Wyoming are too important not to seek public input, and, as Governor, I will work with public and private partners to promote programs that preserve our hunting and fishing legacy for future generations. I also feel it is important to continue to support programs like the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

9. As the next Governor, what will you do to get large predators de-listed and under state management, restore lost hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, and get our economy moving forward again?

RITA MEYER: I would continue to fight for Wyoming's plan, which is based on sound science. Wyoming needs a solution that it can live with not one forced down our throats.

In terms of the economy, I am committed to making Wyoming more business friendly, adding value to our energy and natural resources and increasing access to high speed Internet and technology both for people and businesses. State government will not become an impediment to business and job growth in Wyoming during my watch, and I will lead efforts to help Wyoming build a business friendly climate. I will continue to promote efforts to create friendly entrepreneur environment like investments in business incubators, which create a safe environment to grow start-ups into companies, and I will support assistance programs that grow existing businesses and encourage entrepreneurs to start businesses. I support targeted recruitment efforts of companies that actually fit within Wyoming such as manufacturing of wind turbine components, data centers, other technology related businesses, or other businesses that communities want to attract. . The continued vibrancy of Wyoming's tourism industry is vital, and I will continue investments to promote and grow Wyoming's tourism economy, assist communities to pursue niche marketing efforts and to help protect our sportsmen and recreational economies.

10. What is the next step for Wyoming should the courts in Missoula, MT or Cheyenne, WY rule against us? (Us being the ones that wish to manage our wildlife in Wyoming?)

RITA MEYER: We must continue to fight for Wyoming's wolf management plan in order to protect our wildlife and game herds. Wyoming's dual status plan has been reviewed by renowned wolf biologists and was found to be more than sufficient to protect big game herds and livestock and maintain a recovered wolf population. This isn't really about science anymore but politics. Frankly, our big game herds can't take much more wolf recovery.

11. Why is the outfitter welfare law still in play, WHY does this law not have hikers, fishermen, birdwatchers, campers, and trappers, have to have a guide in wilderness areas? What is the problem with only having hunters abide by this welfare law?

RITA MEYER: Because of impacts to tourism and safety considerations I support the current outfitter requirement in designated wilderness area.

12. If elected Governor of Wyoming, would you be willing to pursue/investigate the fact that the wolf introduction was done so illegally, on the basis that they were a non-native species and their introduction basically eliminated any remnant native populations?

RITA MEYER: I would be open to reviewing this although the plan has already lost in federal district court many years ago. However, I believe state resources are better spent fighting for a Wyoming voice/plan in the management of wolves.

13. As the next Governor, what actions will you take to eliminate the poor attitude towards sportsmen and our wildlife?

RITA MEYER: I do not believe that there is a poor attitude towards sportsmen and our wildlife. Hunting and fishing are important parts of Wyoming's culture that must be preserved for future generations. I would work with Game and Fish, which is doing a good job with the annual Sportsmen's Expo, and other private and public groups to help promote hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities.

14. Will you support the return of Fire power over the Director to the Game and Fish commission?

RITA MEYER: No, the current practice of working with the Game and Fish Commission to select a new director and potentially fire one is working.