

Lynn Budd
Director, Homeland Security Advisor,
Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Speaker Bio:

Lynn Budd was appointed by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon as the Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) and the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor in January 2019.

The Office of Homeland Security is responsible for both the homeland security and emergency management functions for the State of Wyoming, with approximately 22 employees, in four divisions, Administration, Preparedness, Logistics and Finance. Along with the Director and the Deputy Director, the Critical Infrastructure Protection program staff act as liaisons to the Wyoming Information Analysis Team (WIAT), the state's fusion center.

WOHS is also the coordinating member of the Cyber Assistance Response Effort – CARE Team. The CARE Team is a multi-agency group made up of state and federal partners that work to create a more resilient state in response to cyber-attacks. The agency serves as the State Administrative Agency for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. The office is responsible for the administration of all FEMA Disaster and Hazard Mitigation funding, including management of all sub-applicants.

Lynn has worked at the Office of Homeland Security since April of 2011, serving the state and agency in multiple positions. As a member of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), she serves on the Homeland Security Committee (past Vice Chair), and as a member of the Resilience, Legislative and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Committees. She has served on the NEMA Board of Directors as the FEMA Region 8 Vice President representing the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Utah, South Dakota and North Dakota, and the Board Secretary and the Vice President. She currently serves as the President of the Board.

She is a member of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to FEMA Region 8 and served as the Chair from April 2022 to November 2023. As the Homeland Security

Advisor to the Governor, Lynn is active in the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council (GHSAC) through the National Governor's Association.

Lynn received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University, her Paralegal Certificate from Kaplan University and was named the 2018 recipient of the Wyoming Women of Influence award for Government, Military and Law. She is currently completing the Executive Leaders Program with the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Post Graduate School.

Prior to coming to the Office of Homeland Security, she worked with her family in the management of The Nature Conservancy's Red Canyon Ranch, a 50,000-acre working cattle ranch south of Lander, Wyoming for 12 years. Lynn lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming with her husband, Bob, who is the Director of the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust for the State of Wyoming. Bob and Lynn have three grown children

Presentation:

Living and Working in the Wyoming Frontier

Living and working in rural locations can be challenging for anyone. When your job is the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the state, it can be especially challenging. All state programs are held to the same level of performance concerning preparedness, response, and recovery. But working in the least populated state, with less than six people per square mile only exacerbates the challenges of limited resources, lots of geography, and distance to services for residents. When working with resilient (or fiercely independent) rural populations the conversations can be very different than in larger cities. But the needs of those people in a disaster are no different. Partnerships and collaboration are essential as force multipliers, so developing those partnerships is a large part of the work we do. While there are only 17 of us who are "dual hatted", the lines separating the worlds of emergency management and homeland are becoming increasingly blurred. Partnerships between emergency management personnel and homeland security personnel must continue to develop as we all are here for the safety of our residents.