

## Roping the Wind conference also on tap

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For several years, the Roping the Wind conference has helped Wyoming people focus on and learn about renewable energy resources. The conference will undergo some changes, but will continue, now as part of the Wyoming Winter Ag Expo.

Previous organizer CANDO handed the project to Ed Werner and his Werner Solutions. The annual event is funded by the Wyoming State Energy Office and Wyoming Business Council. It presents innovative and educational information about renewable energy for state agriculture producers and rural landowners.

"We mainly target rural land owners," Werner said. "Renewable energy requires land. Pure and simple. Mostly rural land, not too many cities will let you put up a 150-foot tower on your land."

While many people may think of renewable energy as strictly an environmental friendly form of energy, it also has the potential to generate significant amount of income.

"As much as everyone likes to think that it is just about the environment, its actually big business. They (energy industry) want to do this because it pays," Werner said. "What makes sense economically are the large scale projects, particularly large scale wind."

As area projects develop, landowners will be approached about their land, he said.

"We have told landowners to be extremely careful into entering into an agreement. Get professional help," Werner said. "If there has been one reoccurring theme we have had, especially through the last three years of the conference, it's this isn't something to trifle with. You are truly bringing in a partner on your land that will be an intrusive partner for a long time."

In an attempt to reach a more diverse group of people, "Roping the Wind" has joined up with the ag expo on Jan. 7-8, at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

"The idea is that we have smaller conferences and shows going on at the same time. It's an opportunity for people who may not think about this kind of stuff, to come down for the more traditional presentations and maybe step out of the box for a little bit" Werner said.