

Local groups sponsor first Powder River Basin summit[Print Page](#)**By The News-Record staff**

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Local environmental groups will sponsor the first Powder River Basin summit on environmental and energy issues through Wednesday in Billings, Mont.

The summit will explore the rich tribal and settler history of the region, the current threats to the air, water, wildlife, climate and livelihoods and the social, economic and environmental costs to an energy boom and bust economy.

The event will start 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Rosebud Battlefield where participants will celebrate the National Historic Landmark status designation of the Rosebud and Wolf Mountain Battlefields.

Speakers include Winona Laduke, an internationally acclaimed author and activist, Samuel Western, writer specializing in Rocky Mountain economic history and economist correspondent, as well as ranchers and scientists from Wyoming.

It will be the first summit organized by the environmental groups of Montana and Wyoming including Sierra Club, Powder River Basin Resource Council and Northern Plains Resource Council.

"With all the energy development it's time that those who are concerned get together and start talking whether we want the Powder River Basin to be a national sacrifice area," said Brad Mohrmann, associate regional representative for Sierra Club. He added that the groups hope to make the summit an annual event.

The summit is open to public. To register go to www.powderriveraction.org. The registration fee is \$10 per person.

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