SENATE FILE NO. SF0056

Study on transfer of public lands.

Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee

A BILL for

AN ACT relating to public lands; providing that the office of state lands and investments shall commission a study and provide a report addressing the transfer of management and control of public lands in Wyoming from the federal government to the state; specifying what the study shall not include; providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1.

(a) The office of state lands and investments shall commission a study to address the transfer of specified federally administered public lands in the state of Wyoming
from the federal government to the state of Wyoming in contemplation of congress turning over the management and control of those public lands to the state of Wyoming.

(b) The study shall include:

   (i) An identification of the public lands to be transferred and the interests, rights and uses associated with those lands;

   (ii) The development of a proposed plan for the administration, management and use of the public lands that includes, but is not limited to, a pledge to maintain public access to the lands for hunting, fishing and recreation subject to closure for special circumstances including public safety and environmental sensitivity;

   (iii) An economic analysis concerning the transfer of the public lands, including but not limited to:

       (A) The identification of the costs directly incident to the transfer of title of those lands;
(B) The identification of sources of revenue to pay for the administration and maintenance of those lands by the state of Wyoming;

(C) A determination of the amount of any revenue that is currently received by the state of Wyoming or political subdivision thereof in connection with those lands, including but not limited to, any payments made in lieu of taxes and mineral royalties and leases;

(D) The identification of any potential revenue to be received from those lands by the state of Wyoming after the transfer of the lands and recommendations for the distribution of those revenues;

(E) The identification of any loss of revenue to the state of Wyoming due to permitting delays associated with, or caused by, analysis of proposed actions on public lands under the National Environmental Protection Act or other federal law or regulation; and

(F) A consideration of other relevant federal actions or policies determined to impact revenues
to the state of Wyoming due to federally owned and managed lands.

(c) The study shall not include consideration for transfer of current congressionally designated wilderness areas, national conservation areas or lands currently administered by the department of energy, department of defense or the department of interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States fish and wildlife service or national park service.

(d) The office of state lands and investments may engage the services of research or consulting firms as necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. The office of state lands and investments shall consult with the attorney general's office, the governor's office and county commissioners in developing the study pursuant to this act.

(e) The office of state lands and investments shall regularly provide updates on the study to the select federal natural resource management committee. The office of state lands and investments shall submit a final report
to the select federal natural resource management committee
no later than November 30, 2017. The final report shall
include the study results and recommendations with respect
to the issues specified in subsections (b) and (d) of this
section. The select federal natural resource management
committee shall consider the recommendations and develop
legislation it deems appropriate for consideration by the
legislature.

Section 2. There is appropriated one hundred thousand
dollars ($100,000.00) from the general fund to the office
of state lands and investments. This appropriation shall
only be expended for the purpose of commissioning a study
and hiring consultants to assist in the study pursuant to
this act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
remaining from this appropriation shall revert on June 30,
2018.
Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.