

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0218

Jackson hole rodeo and fairgrounds-state historic site.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winter and Senator(s)  
Hutchings

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state lands; providing legislative  
2 findings; designating the Teton county fairgrounds as the  
3 Rylee McCollum Teton county fairgrounds state historic  
4 site; specifying restrictions; and providing for an  
5 effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) The legislature finds that:

12

13 (i) Beginning in 1941, the Teton county  
14 fairgrounds and Jackson Hole rodeo have been a gathering  
15 place for the Teton county community for generations and

1 has been used year-round for 4-H, future farmers of  
2 America, horseback riding, quinceaneras, parades, shed  
3 hunts, festivals, ice skating, hockey games, rodeos and the  
4 Teton county fair;

5

6 (ii) The Teton county fairgrounds are where  
7 citizens and tourists alike come together to celebrate and  
8 mourn;

9

10 (iii) In 2021 at the Jackson Hole rodeo, the  
11 Teton county community honored the life of Lance Corporal  
12 Rylee McCollum, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on  
13 August 26, 2021;

14

15 (iv) Annually, the Teton county fair has an  
16 attendance of more than fifteen thousand (15,000) people  
17 from around the region. The Jackson Hole rodeo has  
18 approximately seventy thousand (70,000) visitors and  
19 participants from all over the world;

20

21 (v) The original land for the fairgrounds was  
22 sold to the town of Jackson in 1941 and, at the time of the  
23 sale, constituted approximately twenty-six (26) acres.

1 Throughout the decades, the town took land for projects  
2 from the fairgrounds to where today, the fairgrounds  
3 constitute only twelve and thirty-five hundredths (12.35)  
4 acres;

5  
6 (vi) In the past year, the town council of  
7 Jackson decided to take approximately one (1) acre from the  
8 fairgrounds for housing and, in 2030, there are plans to  
9 utilize the remaining acreage of the fairgrounds for  
10 housing. The town's actions will leave Teton county without  
11 access to Wyoming heritage and cultural events and  
12 activities. Another fairgrounds site has not been  
13 identified because approximately ninety-seven percent (97%)  
14 of the county is protected from development;

15  
16 (vii) As Wyoming's fossil fuel industry remains  
17 under assault, tourism has emerged as the economic engine  
18 of the state;

19  
20 (viii) The town of Jackson, as the gateway to  
21 Yellowstone National Park, is a great place to introduce  
22 Wyoming's proud western heritage to the world. There is no

1 better way to showcase that history than the Teton county  
2 fairgrounds and rodeo;

3

4 (ix) A famous sign welcomes travelers to the  
5 Jackson hole area and reads "Howdy stranger; Yonder is  
6 Jackson Hole; The Last of the Old West";

7

8 (x) It is the state of Wyoming's obligation to  
9 ensure that the message specified in paragraph (ix) of this  
10 subsection remains true for generations to follow.

11

12 **Section 2.** W.S. 36-8-1801 is created to read:

13

14 ARTICLE 18

15 TETON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

16

17 **36-8-1801. Rylee McCollum Teton county fairgrounds**  
18 **state historic site; designation; restrictions.**

19

20 (a) The lands in Teton county comprised of  
21 approximately twenty-six and nine hundredths (26.09) acres  
22 located in township 41, range 116, SE1/4 and NE1/4 of  
23 section 33 (map T60-B and map T-57), known as the

1 fairgrounds and including Mateosky park, the public works  
2 department and exhibit hall are hereby declared to be the  
3 Rylee McCollum Teton county fairgrounds state historic  
4 site. The department of state parks and cultural resources  
5 shall by rule specify the legal description of the state  
6 historic site.

7

8 (b) If the lands specified in subsection (a) of this  
9 section, including the public works department and exhibit  
10 hall currently used by the public works department and  
11 Teton county fair are used for any purpose other than  
12 purposes for which the land and facilities are used before  
13 January 1, 2023, those lands shall become part of the state  
14 historic site created in this section.

15

16 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all  
17 lands designated in subsections (a) and (b) of this section  
18 shall be used only as the Teton county fairgrounds and for  
19 other western heritage, agricultural and public  
20 recreational purposes and shall not be modified, altered,  
21 traded, sold or otherwise disposed of without approval of  
22 the legislature.

23

1           **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
4 Constitution.

5

6 ( END )