

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. [BILL NUMBER]

2023 large project funding.

Sponsored by: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural
2 Resource Funding Act; providing for funding of large
3 projects under the act; specifying large projects approved
4 for funding in 2023; specifying conditions for large
5 project funding; authorizing distributions from the Wyoming
6 wildlife and natural resource trust income account for
7 approved large projects; providing for the reversion of
8 funds; and providing for an effective date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

1 (a) As used in this section:

2

3 (i) "Board" means the Wyoming wildlife and
4 natural resource trust account board created by W.S. 9-15-
5 104;

6

7 (ii) "Income account" means the Wyoming wildlife
8 and natural resource trust income account created by W.S.
9 9-15-103(b).

10

11 (b) Pursuant to the authority granted under W.S. 9-15-
12 104(k) and subject to each recipient's certification under
13 W.S. 9-15-103(r), authorization is granted for funding of
14 the large projects provided for in subsections (c) through
15 (m) of this section.

16

17 (c) Teton Migration:

18

19 (i) Project sponsor: Teton County;

20

21 (ii) Project purpose: Fence construction, roadway
22 replacement and underpass construction on an area of high

1 wildlife and vehicle use south of the town of Jackson in
2 Teton County in order to:

3

4 (A) Allow for the safe movement of moose,
5 elk and deer across a major highway to increase
6 connectivity and maintain populations for a variety of
7 wildlife;

8

9 (B) Reduce and eliminate the potential for
10 catastrophic collisions that damage human life, wildlife
11 and property.

12

13 (iii) Project description: Highway crossing
14 construction;

15

16 (iv) Total project budget: Thirty-five million
17 sixty-six thousand four hundred fifty-five dollars
18 (\$35,066,455.00);

19

20 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
21 grant to the sponsor one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)
22 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

23

1 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
2 the income account to the board two million dollars
3 (\$2,000,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry
4 out the purposes of this subsection.

5
6 (d) Fish Hook Ranch Conservation Easement:

7
8 (i) Project sponsor: Rocky Mountain Elk
9 Foundation;

10
11 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
12 development rights on approximately one thousand two
13 hundred (1,200) acres in Carbon County in order to:

14
15 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
16 deer, elk, moose, antelope and wintering eagles;

17
18 (B) Maintain primary migration corridors for
19 native ungulates;

20
21 (C) Maintain core population areas for
22 greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species;

23

1 (D) Conserve valuable riparian, wetland,
2 grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

3
4 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
5 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

6
7 (iii) Project description: Conservation easement;

8
9 (iv) Total project budget: Four million two
10 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,250,000.00);

11
12 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
13 grant five hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
14 (\$525,000.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in
15 this subsection;

16
17 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
18 the income account to the board five hundred twenty-five
19 thousand dollars (\$525,000.00) or as much thereof as is
20 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

21
22 (e) Lakeview Canal Fish Passage:

23

1 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Game and Fish
2 Commission;

3
4 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of a fish
5 passage to allow migration of spawning fish and the return
6 of juvenile fish on the South Fork of the Shoshone River in
7 Park County in order to:

8
9 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
10 for native fish;

11
12 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
13 ecosystems;

14
15 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
16 infrastructure for local agricultural operations;

17
18 (D) Prevent entrainment of as many as fifty-
19 one thousand (51,000) fish annually.

20
21 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

22

1 (iv) Total project budget: Two million three
2 hundred twenty-three thousand seventy-six dollars
3 (\$2,323,076.00);

4

5 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
6 grant to the sponsor four hundred fifty thousand dollars
7 (\$450,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
8 subsection;

9

10 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
11 the income account to the board four hundred fifty thousand
12 dollars (\$450,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
13 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

14

15 (f) Wind River Feral Horse Removal:

16

17 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Wild Sheep
18 Foundation;

19

20 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of rangelands
21 by removal of feral horse populations on the Wind River
22 Reservation in central Wyoming in order to:

23

1 (A) Maintain seasonal habitats for bighorn
2 sheep, elk, mule deer, antelope and other native ungulates;

3

4 (B) Increase the productivity of rangeland
5 and subalpine habitats;

6

7 (C) Maintain and improve impacted riparian
8 areas and wetlands.

9

10 (iii) Project description: Rangeland improvement;

11

12 (iv) Total project budget: Two million one
13 hundred forty-nine thousand one hundred ninety-eight
14 dollars (\$2,149,198.00);

15

16 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
17 grant to the sponsor two hundred seventy thousand dollars
18 (\$270,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
19 subsection;

20

21 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
22 the income account to the board two hundred seventy

1 thousand dollars (\$270,000.00) or as much thereof as is
2 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

3

4 (g) SR Cattle Company Conservation Easement:

5

6 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Stock Growers Land
7 Trust;

8

9 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
10 development rights on approximately two thousand five
11 hundred (2,500) acres in Sheridan County in order to:

12

13 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
14 deer, elk, antelope and a variety of native wildlife
15 species;

16

17 (B) Maintain primary seasonal movement for
18 native ungulates;

19

20 (C) Maintain aquatic systems for native fish
21 and other species;

22

1 (D) Conserve valuable riparian, wetland,
2 grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

3

4 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
5 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

6

7 (iii) Project description: Conservation easement;

8

9 (iv) Total project budget: Seven million three
10 hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars
11 (\$7,393,200.00);

12

13 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
14 grant eight hundred ninety-five thousand five hundred
15 dollars (\$895,500.00) to the sponsor for the purposes
16 specified in this subsection;

17

18 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
19 the income account to the board eight hundred ninety-five
20 thousand five hundred dollars (\$895,500.00) or as much
21 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
22 subsection.

23

1 (h) Sims Creek Slough:

2

3 (i) Project sponsor: Uinta County Conservation
4 District;

5

6 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of a fish
7 passage to allow migration of spawning fish and the return
8 of juvenile fish on approximately twelve (12) miles of the
9 Bear River in Uinta County in order to:

10

11 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
12 for native fish;

13

14 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
15 ecosystems;

16

17 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
18 infrastructure for local agricultural operations.

19

20 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

21

22 (iv) Total project budget: Eight hundred twenty-
23 nine thousand dollars (\$829,000.00);

1

2 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
3 grant to the sponsor two hundred twenty-five thousand
4 dollars (\$225,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
5 subsection;

6

7 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
8 the income account to the board two hundred twenty-five
9 thousand dollars (\$225,000.00) or as much thereof as is
10 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

11

12 (j) Little Medicine Bow River:

13

14 (i) Project sponsor: Medicine Bow Conservation
15 District;

16

17 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of the river
18 system to allow migration of spawning fish, maintain stream
19 function and improve adjacent habitats on approximately
20 twenty-five (25) miles of the Little Medicine Bow River in
21 Carbon County in order to:

22

1 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
2 for native fish;

3

4 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic and
5 wetland ecosystems;

6

7 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
8 infrastructure for local agricultural operations;

9

10 (D) Reduce erosion and maintain water
11 quality;

12

13 (E) Maintain uplands to provide habitat for
14 deer, antelope, greater sage-grouse and a variety of
15 migratory songbirds.

16

17 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

18

19 (iv) Total project budget: One million one
20 hundred sixty thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,160,600.00);

21

22 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
23 grant to the sponsor three hundred thousand dollars

1 (\$300,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
2 subsection;

3

4 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
5 the income account to the board three hundred thousand
6 dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

8

9 (k) Ellsbury Ranch Conservation Easement:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Stock Growers Land
12 Trust;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
15 development rights on approximately two thousand six
16 hundred (2,600) acres in Crook County in order to:

17

18 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for deer,
19 elk, antelope and a wide array of migratory birds;

20

21 (B) Maintain primary movement corridors for
22 native ungulates;

23

1 (C) Maintain habitats for a variety of
2 endemic amphibians and reptiles;

3
4 (D) Conserve valuable forest, riparian,
5 wetland, grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

6
7 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
8 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

9
10 (iii) Project description: Conservation easement;

11
12 (iv) Total project budget: Five million three
13 hundred ninety-one thousand two hundred dollars
14 (\$5,391,200.00);

15
16 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
17 grant six hundred sixty-three thousand five hundred dollars
18 (\$663,500.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in
19 this subsection;

20
21 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
22 the income account to the board six hundred sixty-three
23 thousand five hundred dollars (\$663,500.00) or as much

1 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
2 subsection.

3
4 (m) New Fork 351:

5
6 (i) Project sponsor: Trout Unlimited;

7
8 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of the river
9 channel to allow migration of fish and stabilize stream
10 function on approximately three (3) miles of the New Fork
11 River in Sublette County in order to:

12
13 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
14 for native fish;

15
16 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
17 ecosystems;

18
19 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
20 infrastructure for local agricultural operations.

21
22 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

(iv) Total project budget: Six hundred eighty-five thousand six hundred thirty-six dollars (\$685,636.00);

(v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant to the sponsor two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00) for the purposes specified in this subsection;

(vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

(n) Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this section shall revert to the income account on June 30, 2027.

Section 2. 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.

(END)