



JOINT TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WYOMING TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM (W-TAP)

May 12, 2023

Whenever it is safe to do so, the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) try to facilitate local and regional travel during storm events with extended closures.

W-TAP OVERVIEW

The Wyoming Travel Authorization Program (W-TAP) allows drivers to register and receive authorization to travel on portions of otherwise closed roadways to facilitate local travel where possible while directing long-distance travelers to areas with adequate services.

- W-TAP consists of two subprograms: Wyoming Authorized Travel (WAT) and Rolling Closure Authorization (RCA). Not every closure will have WAT or RCA.
 - WAT is open to all travelers regardless of state of residence as long as their justifications meet the program's mission (such as travel to work, school, or medical appointments).
 - RCA is limited to Wyoming residents and allows residents to bypass any rolling closure statewide to access home or work, since locals will not strain resources.
- W-TAP is not intended for border-to-border or cross-state travel because at some point an impassable closure usually exists.
- Closure gates are located in specific areas with ample room for large semi-trucks to turn around.
- Not every closure will allow W-TAP since it cannot be used when the highway is impassable (from crash cleanup, extremely limited visibility, or drifted snow).
- Travel without authorization is treated like travel on closed roads, including potential fines and citations.
- Often W-TAP is implemented on a portion of road to facilitate travel to rural ranches, county subdivisions, or rural communities—but not necessarily all the way to the next town.
 - Example: Authorizing travel on I-80 to Buford to allow people who live between Cheyenne and Harriman to get home, but not authorizing travel completely to Laramie because of weather impacts on the I-80 summit.
- Most program users (about 90 percent) are Wyoming residents.
- Out-of-state users often travel to Wyoming for work (such as doctors or nurses serving rural Wyoming hospitals; industrial workers for mines, power plants, wind farms, or oil fields; and tourism workers)

W-TAP PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Wyoming residents (with WY driver's licenses) who select a prefilled reason during the application process (such as tending livestock, commuting to and from work or medical appointments, and other crucial tasks) receive automatic approval.
- Users receive passwords for W-TAP through email, a dial-in system, or the Wyoming 511 mobile app.
- Authorization can be revoked because of changes in conditions or a crash.
- WHP at the closure gates has final say on whether travel is authorized.