

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Forest health grant program-3.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) HDraft

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state forestry; creating the forest
2 health grant program; providing duties to the state
3 forester; creating an account; requiring the attorney
4 general to approve grants; requiring reports; providing an
5 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 36-1-601 is created to read:

10

11

ARTICLE 6

12

FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

13

1 **36-1-601. Forest health grant program; duties of**
2 **state forester; account created; attorney general approval.**

3
4 (a) There is created the forest health grant program.
5 The grant program shall be administered by the state
6 forester, who shall establish the application process and
7 any other requirements of the grant program not otherwise
8 provided by this section.

9
10 (b) Grants under the forest health grant program
11 shall pay for not more than seventy-five percent (75%) of
12 the cost of a forest health project. Any other source of
13 funds, cash or in-kind contributions may be used as
14 matching funds to cover the remainder of a project's costs
15 and the state forester may require that matching funds be
16 obligated to pay for a portion of any project. Forest
17 health projects eligible for grant funding under this
18 section shall be conducted on state, local government or
19 private land and shall be designed to accomplish one (1) or
20 more of the following:

21
22 (i) Enhancement of water yield or quality;

23

1 (ii) Reduction of the risk of catastrophic
2 wildfire damage;

3

4 (iii) Increase production of forest products;

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6 (iv) Improvement of habitat conditions for
7 wildlife and livestock;

8

9 (v) Any other project that is beneficial to
10 forest health, that is substantially beneficial to the
11 interest of the state and that has a public purpose as
12 determined by the state forester.

13

14 (c) No forest health grant shall be made without the
15 written opinion of the attorney general certifying the
16 legality of the grant and all documents connected with the
17 grant and project.

18

19 (d) There is created the forest health grant program
20 account. The account shall consist of those funds
21 designated to the account by law. Funds in the account
22 shall be used for grants authorized to be made under this
23 article. Individuals and other entities may also grant,

1 give, transfer, bequest or donate funds to the account. Any
2 funds remaining in this account at the end of any fiscal
3 year shall not lapse or revert as provided by W.S. 9-4-207
4 but shall remain in the account and be used to implement
5 the purposes of this article. Accrued interest and other
6 earnings on unexpended funds within the forest health grant
7 program account shall be credited to the account.

8

9 (e) The state forester shall annually report to the
10 joint agriculture, state and public lands and water
11 resources interim committee not later than September 1 on
12 all grants awarded under this section including the amounts
13 of the grants and the projects the grants were authorized
14 to fund.

15

16 **Section 2.** There is appropriated three million
17 dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the general fund to the forest
18 health grant program account for purposes of implementing
19 this act and making grants authorized by this act. This
20 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
21 other purpose without further legislative authorization.
22 Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207,
23 this appropriation shall remain in effect and not lapse or

1 revert at the end of any fiscal period except upon further
2 legislative action. It is the intent of the legislature
3 that additional funding for this purpose be included in the
4 state forester's next budget request submitted under W.S.
5 9-2-1013.

6

7 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

8

9

(END)