

SUMMARY of PROCEEDINGS



JOINT AGRICULTURE, STATE AND PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

October 28-29, 2025 | 8:30 AM
Capitol Extension, W006
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bob Ide, Co-chairman
Representative John Winter, Co-chairman
Senator Barry Crago
Senator Taft Love
Senator Laura Pearson
Representative Dalton Banks
Representative Bob Davis
Representative Steve Johnson
Representative Pepper Ottman
Representative Karlee Provenza
Representative Mike Schmid
Representative Tomi Strock

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Senator Troy McKeown
Representative John Eklund

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Anna Johnson, Legislative Attorney
Savannah Collins, Legislative Researcher
Eve Coker, Legislative Editor
Clayton Caldwell, Research Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to [Appendix 1-02](#) to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at www.wyoleg.gov.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee (Committee) met for two days in Cheyenne. The Committee considered legislation regarding cloud seeding and geoengineering and received public comments on both topics. Testimony regarding subleasing of state trust lands for grazing was given and related legislation was considered. Landowner hunting licenses were discussed and two bill drafts were considered. Lastly, eminent domain was discussed and the Committee considered one of two bill drafts related to the topic.

The Committee voted to sponsor the following bills, as amended, for the 2026 Budget Session:

- 26LSO-0208.4 Prohibiting unauthorized atmospheric engineering
- 26LSO-0211.5 Clean Air and Geoengineering Prohibition Act
- 26LSO-0213.4 Subleasing of state lands-exemptions
- 26LSO-0176.4 Landowner hunting licenses-limitation
- 26LSO-0212.5 Landowner hunting licenses-requirements

Senator Taft Love was appointed to the Committee following the departure of Senator Tim French.

CALL TO ORDER (OCTOBER 28, 2025)

Co-Chairman Winter called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to [Appendix 1-01](#) to review the Committee Meeting Agenda. The meeting can be viewed on YouTube – Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources, October 28, 2025, [AM](#), [PM](#), and October 29, 2025, [AM](#), [PM](#).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August 28-29, 2025 committee meeting were approved without any changes.

CLOUD SEEDING AND GEOENGINEERING

26LSO-0208 Prohibiting unauthorized atmospheric engineering.

Anna Johnson, Legislative Service Office (LSO) legislative attorney presented 26LSO-0208.4 Prohibiting unauthorized atmospheric engineering ([Appendix 2-01](#)) as a joint resolution that would request that Congress prohibit unauthorized atmospheric geoengineering and weather modification in the State of Wyoming.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Brad Brooks, Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities (BOPU)
- Maria Crisler, Global Wellness Forum, Casper
- Representative Tony Locke, Casper
- Jayme Locke, Casper
- Holly Kennedy, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
- Jeff French, Laramie
- Dane Wigington, California
- Clayton Baker, New York
- Lewis Arthur, Green River
- Augustus Doricko, California

- Sara Allstot, Idaho

Committee Action

Senator Pearson moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0208.4 during the 2026 Budget Session with the following amendments:

Page 2-lines 15-19 Strike and insert:

"WHEREAS, it is the duty of the state government to safeguard public health, defend private property, protect agricultural integrity and assert state sovereignty over activities conducted within its borders and above its skies, and the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution confirms that powers not delegated to the federal government remain reserved to the states and the people."

Delete "cloud seeding" throughout the draft and expressly state that Congress is not being asked to ban cloud seeding.

The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor of the motion except Representative Provenza and Co-Chairman Ide who voted against the motion. Senator McKeown and Representative Eklund were excused.

26LSO-0210 Cloud seeding moratorium.

Ms. Johnson, LSO, presented 26LSO-0210.5 Cloud seeding moratorium ([Appendix 2-02](#)), which would require a moratorium on cloud seeding and weather modification, provide legislative findings, require studies and reports and provide for criminal penalties.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WyDEQ)
- Jason Mead, Director, Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO)
- Jeff French, University of Wyoming Professor, Atmospheric Science
- Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer (SEO)
- Barry Lawrence, WWDO
- Brad Brooks, BOPU
- Jayme Locke, Casper

Committee Action

Senator Ide moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0210.5 during the 2026 Budget Session.

The motion failed on a roll call vote with all members voting against the motion except Representatives Johnson, Ottman, Strock and Co-Chairman Winter. Senator McKeown and Representatives Banks, Eklund and Schmid were excused.

26LSO-0211 Clean Air and Geoengineering Prohibition Act.

Ms. Johnson presented 26LSO-0211.5 Clean Air and Geoengineering Prohibition Act ([Appendix 2-03](#)), which would prohibit the release of atmospheric contaminants into the airspace above Wyoming, provide legislative findings, authorize the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to issue cease and

desist orders, prohibit retaliation against persons who report violations, provide criminal penalties, require rulemaking and repeal obsolete provisions of related law.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Representative Tony Locke, Casper
- Todd Parfitt, Director, WyDEQ
- Jed Rockweiler, SEO
- Jayme Locke, Casper
- Brett Moline, Wyoming Farm Bureau (WyFB)
- Jeff French, Laramie
- Brad Brooks, BOPU
- Augustus Doricko, California

Committee Action

Senator Pearson moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0211.5 during the 2026 Budget Session with the following amendments:

Page 1-line 1 Delete "aeronautics" and insert "environmental quality".
 Page 3-lines 5 through 8 Delete entirely and insert:

"(iii) It is the duty of the state government to safeguard public health, defend private property, protect agricultural integrity and assert state sovereignty over activities conducted within its borders and above its skies, and the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution confirms that powers not delegated to the federal government remain reserved to the states and the people."

Page 6-line 17 Delete "agricultural crop dusting" and insert "agricultural chemical application pursuant to law".
 Page 7-line 2 Delete "or federal".
 Page 7-after line 2 Exempt cloud seeding and lawfully permitted snowmaking activities.
 Page 7-line 11 Before "law" insert "state".
 Page 7-line 14 After "shall" insert ":" and delete balance of line.
 Page 7-lines 15 and 16 Delete entirely.
 Page 7-after line 16 Insert:

"(i) Study whether the atmospheric contaminants listed in this act pose a threat to human and environmental health or safety;

(ii) Monitor all aircraft, drones, balloons or rockets that enter the state's airspace to determine whether atmospheric contaminants are being dispersed;

(iii) Monitor all space-based platforms above the state and ground-based facilities within the state to determine whether atmospheric contaminants are being dispersed;

(iv) Petition a court of competent jurisdiction to issue a cease and desist order upon discovery of any prohibited activity under this section."

Page 8-after line 21 Insert:

Section 2.

(a) The department of environmental quality is authorized up to two (2) full-time positions for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028 for purposes of implementing this act. It is the intent of the legislature that the department of environmental quality include these full-time positions in its standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

(b) There is appropriated five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from the general fund to the department of environmental quality to be expended only for the purpose of funding the positions authorized in subsection (a) of this section. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2028. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation be included in the standard budget for the department of environmental quality for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium."

Page 9-line 13	Delete "Section 2." and insert "Section 3."; delete "9-1-909" and insert "9-1-908".
Page 11-line 23	Delete "Section 3." and insert "Section 4.".
Page 11-line 26	Delete "Section 4." and insert "Section 5.".

The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor except Senator Crago and Representatives Banks, Davis, Johnson, and Provenza. Senator McKeown and Representatives Eklund and Schmid were excused.

SUBLEASING OF STATE TRUST LANDS FOR GRAZING

Ms. Johnson presented 26LSO-0213.4 Subleasing of state lands-exemptions ([Appendix 3-01](#)), which would create exemptions regarding the subleasing of state grazing lands, provide definitions, establish a non-owned livestock fee and repeal obsolete provisions of related law.

Stacia Berry, Director, Office of State Lands & Investments (OSLI), provided the Committee with information explaining how subleasing works and the funds generated. Director Berry suggested an amendment relating to a non-owned livestock fee.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association (WSGA)
- Brett Moline, WyFB

Representative Strock moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0213.4 during the 2026 Budget Session with the following amendments:

Page 4-lines 21 through 27 Delete entirely and insert:

"(k) If at any time the state grazing lessee notifies the office that the common ownership of the entities holding the state grazing lease and owning livestock grazing on the state grazing lease is eighty percent (80%) or more, a sublease or the non-owned livestock fee shall not be required."

The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor except Senator McKeown, and Representatives Banks, Eklund and Schmid who were excused.

MEETING RECESS

The Committee recessed at 6:55 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER (WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025)

Co-Chairman Ide called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

LANDOWNER HUNTING LICENSES

26LSO-0176 Landowner hunting licenses-limitation.

Ms. Johnson presented 26LSO-0176.4 Landowner hunting licenses-limitation ([Appendix 6-01](#)), which would authorize the Game and Fish Commission to establish limits on the number of landowner hunting licenses issued in any limited quota hunt area.

Director Angi Bruce, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and staff provided information regarding the determination of available licenses, the origins of the legislation and the public input received to date on the topic. This legislation will allow the WGFD to limit landowner tags in limited quota areas.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Karin Clarke, WyFB
- Landon Peterson, Cokeville
- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- John Masterson, WGFD Commissioner

Committee Action

Representative Ottman moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0176.4 during the 2026 Budget Session with the following amendments:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Page 2-line 11 | After "area" insert "when deemed necessary to maintain the public hunting opportunity". |
| Page 2-line 11 | Before "Fees" insert "At any time, not less than 40% of the game and fish hunting licenses in a limited quota hunt area shall be issued to landowners. The remaining licenses that are not taken by landowners shall revert to the limited quota hunt area to be purchased by the public.". |

The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor except Senator Crago and Representatives Davis, Provenza and Schmid. Senator McKeown and Representative Eklund were excused.

26LSO-0212 Landowner hunting licenses-requirements.

Ms. Johnson presented 26LSO-0212.5 Landowner hunting licenses-requirements ([Appendix 6-02](#)) which would create requirements, such as limiting the number of licenses a landowner may be issued and requiring landowners to make an annual gross amount of income from farming or ranching operation for the issuance of landowner hunting licenses and the transfer of those licenses.

Director Bruce and Chief of Wildlife Dan Smith (WGFD) provided background information on the transfer of landowner hunting licenses.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- Karin Clark, WyFB
- Jason Thornock, Cokeville
- Landon Peterson, Cokeville
- Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation
- Sabrina King, Wyoming Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Committee Action

Representative Johnson moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0212.5 during the 2026 Budget Session with the following amendments:

Page 1-above line 1	In the catch title, before "Landowner" insert "Transferable".
Page 1-line 2	Before "landowner" insert "transferable".
Page 2-line 10	Before "landowner" insert "transferable".
Page 2-line 11	Before "landowners" insert "resident".
Page 2-line 13	Before "Landowners" insert "Resident".
Page 2-line 14	After "(2)" insert "available".
Page 2-line 17	After "eligible" insert "to transfer".
Page 2-line 18	Before "landowners" insert "resident".
Page 2-line 19	After "state" insert "and the land shall be assessed as agricultural land on the county tax rolls".
Page 2-line 21	Before "Landowners" insert "Resident".
Page 3-after line 2	Insert:

"(iv) The minimum income from the sale of agricultural commodities shall be a gross income of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00);

(v) This subsection shall be repealed June 30, 2031."

The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor except Senators Crago and Love and Representatives Davis, Provenza and Schmid. Senator McKeown and Representative Eklund were excused.

EMINENT DOMAIN

26LSO-0209 Eminent domain-carbon dioxide pipelines.

Ms. Johnson presented 26LSO-0209.4 Eminent domain-carbon dioxide pipelines ([Appendix 7-01](#)), which would limit the exercise of the power of condemnation for carbon dioxide pipelines, prohibit persons from using the power of eminent domain to place pipelines conveying carbon dioxide for the purpose of carbon dioxide sequestration, provide compensation standards for condemned property, require proof of compliance and notice of condemnation and provide requirements for existing easements.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Brett Moline, WyFB
- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- Pete Obermueller, Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW)
- Shelly Shelby, Continental Resources
- Renny McKay, Wyoming Business Alliance

Representative Strock moved that the Committee sponsor 26LSO-0209.4 during the 2026 Budget Session. The motion failed on a roll call vote with all members voting against the motion except Senator Pearson, Co-Chairman Ide and Representatives Banks, Strock and Co-Chairman Winter. Senator McKeown and Representative Eklund were excused.

26LSO-0227 Watershed improvement districts-eminent domain authority (Appendix 7-02)

The Committee chose to not consider this bill draft as a Committee bill. Members of the Committee may co-sponsor 26LSO-0227 if he decides to sponsor the bill at the 2026 Budget Session.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Ide adjourned the meeting at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative John Winter, Co-Chairman

Committee Meeting Materials Index

Index Number	Agenda Item	Document Description	Document Provider
1-01		Agenda	Legislative Service Office
1-02		Sign-In Sheet	Legislative Service Office
1-03	Call to Order	Meeting Minutes - August 28-29, 2025	Legislative Service Office
2-01	Cloud Seeding and Geoengineering	26LSO-0208 v0.4 Prohibiting unauthorized atmospheric geoengineering.	Legislative Service Office
2-02	Cloud Seeding and Geoengineering	26LSO-0210 v0.5 Cloud seeding moratorium.	Legislative Service Office
2-03	Cloud Seeding and Geoengineering	26LSO-0211 v0.5 Clean Air and Geoengineering Prohibition Act.	Legislative Service Office
2-04	Cloud Seeding and Geoengineering	Maria Crisler Testimony	Maria Crisler
3-01	Subleasing of State Trust Lands for Grazing	26LSO-0213 v0.4 Subleasing of state lands-exemptions.	Legislative Service Office
6-01	Landowner Hunting Licenses	26LSO-0176 v0.4 Landowner hunting licenses-limitation.	Legislative Service Office
6-02	Landowner Hunting Licenses	26LSO-0212 v0.5 Landowner hunting licenses-requirements.	Legislative Service Office
7-01	Eminent Domain	26LSO-0209 v0.4 Eminent domain-carbon dioxide pipelines.	Legislative Service Office
7-02	Eminent Domain	26LSO-0227 v0.4 Watershed improvement districts-eminent domain authority.	Legislative Service Office