

TRUE RANCHES LLC

455 NORTH POPLAR STREET

May 19, 2025

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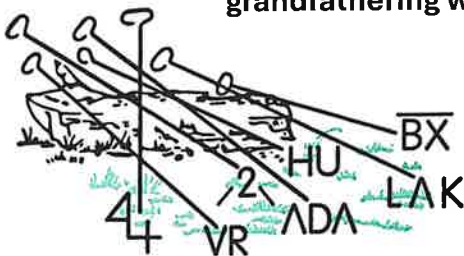
Testimony for the Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee.
Provided by Dave True.

Thank you very much for allowing me to provide testimony for the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. My name is Dave True, and I am a member of the True Family in Casper, Wyoming. We own and operate True Ranches, a diversified cattle operation in the eastern third of Wyoming. We have a long history of cooperating with the Wyoming Game & Fish which will be expanded upon later in this document.

The purpose of my testimony is to advance the idea of allowing landowners to market the game licenses for which they have historically qualified over the years. The concept is outlined in the following:

Landowner Licenses:

- **Allow landowners to market their licenses under the following conditions:**
 - o **Landowner has at least 2,000 ac of owned land in the respective game habitat in order to market the licenses.** This would not increase the number of potential licenses for qualifying landowners. Furthermore, this specific requirement would demonstrate that the landowner has adequate deeded acreage that can be hunted by the assignee to whom he/she conveyed the license.
 - o **Requiring the qualified landowner to allow some degree of public access to landowner's property for hunting that species.**
 - o **Giving Game and Fish Commission the option to limit the number of landowner licenses to no more than 40% of the licenses available in that hunt area.**
 - **If more than 40% of the total licenses are applied for by qualified landowner applicants, and the G & F Department decides to limit the number of available landowner licenses, all landowner applicants are put into special draw for 40% of the licenses.**
- **Raise the number of acres owned to qualify for a landowner license to 640 acres along with providing a minimum of 3,000 animal days per year on grasslands.**
 - o **Grandfather those previously qualifying with 160 to 640 acres. Such grandfathering would run with the owner, not the land.**



RANCHES

DOUBLE FOUR
Wheatland
ROCK RIVER
Rock River
ADA
Cheyenne
LAK
Newcastle

CHALK BLUFFS
Cheyenne
VR
Glenrock
HU
Iron Mountain
BIXBY
Glenrock

FARMS

Wheatland
Newcastle

FEEDLOT

Wheatland

This is intended to allow landowners an opportunity to offset the significant costs of providing habitat for the specific species. Speaking from experience, the expense of such care of Wyoming's wildlife is extensive ranging from loss of grazing and hay production, fence damage, along with the loss of harvested crops. The Department has long had tools to offset these carrying expenses, but they have fallen well short of fully compensating the landowner. By allowing those qualified landowners to market the licenses will provide some revenue to offset the costs associated with housing wildlife at no expense to the State.

Another related observation, many neighboring states including Idaho, Utah and Nevada allow the transfer of their landowner licenses.

As mentioned above, True Ranches has had a long history of cooperating with the G&F Department through access agreements. We have many Hunter Management areas along with Walk-In cooperative agreements. Additionally, through a similar arrangement, the public is allowed access to our LAK Lake in Weston County. Additionally, there are at least four of True Ranches' properties involved with Hunter Management and Walk-In areas.

In addition to these arrangements with the Game & Fish and other direct public access, we have thousands of acres signed up with Infinite Outdoors. Through the I.O. app and website, hunters and fishermen may reserve areas providing them a low-cost access to deeded lands carrying hundreds of huntable game and fish.

Returning to the main purpose of this testimony, we believe that allowing landowners to market their landowner licenses with the above-mentioned provisions will provide a just avenue to help offset the expense of providing habitat to Wyoming's wildlife without expanding the number of landowner licenses currently qualified for and not at the cost of our State.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration.