

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Good neighbor authority-amendments.

Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management  
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state lands; removing the restriction on  
2 the number of authorized good neighbor authority employee  
3 positions; requiring employee positions to be funded only  
4 using funds from the Wyoming state forestry good neighbor  
5 authority revolving account; authorizing gifts, donations  
6 and bequests to be deposited into the account; prohibiting  
7 the acceptance of real property for purposes of the good  
8 neighbor authority; and providing for an effective date.

9

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

11

1       **Section 1.** W.S. 36-1-502 and 36-1-503(a) by creating a  
2 new paragraph (vi) and (b) are amended to read:

3

4       **36-1-502. Wyoming state forestry good neighbor**  
5 **authority revolving account; creation; investment of funds;**  
6 **authorized expenditures.**

7

8       (a) There is created the Wyoming state forestry good  
9 neighbor authority revolving account. The account shall  
10 include all legislative appropriations, federal funds,  
11 county funds, partner funds, funds generated from good  
12 neighbor authority projects or other federally funded  
13 cooperative forest management projects, grants, gifts,  
14 transfers, bequests, donations and all income from  
15 investments of monies in the account. The state forester is  
16 specifically empowered to accept grants, gifts, transfers,  
17 bequests and donations for deposit in the account,  
18 including those which are limited in their purpose by the  
19 grantor except as provided in W.S. 36-1-503(a)(vi). If a  
20 contract is entered into pursuant to W.S. 36-1-503(a)(iii),  
21 funds in the account may be expanded on good neighbor  
22 authority projects prior to receipt of federal fund  
23 reimbursements. Funds deposited into the account are

1 continuously appropriated to the state forester to be  
2 expended only as provided in this section. Unless otherwise  
3 specifically provided, appropriations to the account shall  
4 not lapse or revert at the end of any fiscal period.

5  
6 (b) Upon written approval of the state forester,  
7 expenditures shall be made out of the account for good  
8 neighbor authority projects, ~~or~~ other cooperative forest  
9 management projects or hiring additional employees under  
10 W.S. 36-1-503(b).

11  
12 **36-1-503. Powers and duties of state forester.**

13  
14 (a) The state forester shall:

15  
16 (vi) Not accept any interest in real property for  
17 purposes of good neighbor authority projects.

18  
19 \*\*\*\*\*  
20 \*\*\*\*\*

21 **STAFF COMMENT**

22 The Select Committee expressed concern about the proposed  
23 language authorizing donations of "property." This language  
24 was added to address these concerns. A similar concept is  
25 included in W.S. 9-15-103(h), where the Wyoming Wildlife  
26 Natural Resource Trust Account Board, cannot outright  
27 accept fee simple real property but can recommend that the

1 Board of Land Commissioners accept the property for the  
2 credit to the account. This statute is provided below for  
3 your consideration and reference.  
4

5 9-15-103. Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust  
6 account created; income account created; expenditures;  
7 purposes.  
8

9 (h) The board shall not accept any fee simple  
10 interest in real property but shall make recommendations to  
11 the board of land commissioners regarding acceptance of any  
12 such interest. The board of land commissioners shall only  
13 accept a fee simple interest in real property under this  
14 act, and the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust  
15 account board shall only accept any other interest in  
16 property if the property is willingly conveyed by the  
17 holder of the interest. The board of land commissioners  
18 may in its sole discretion reject any offer to convey a fee  
19 simple interest in real property to any account under this  
20 act. The Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust  
21 account board may in its sole discretion reject any offer  
22 to convey any other interest in property to any account  
23 under this act. Any appraisal of real property conducted  
24 at the direction of the board or the board of land  
25 commissioners under this act shall reflect the fair market  
26 value of the property.

27 \*\*\*\*\*  
28 \*\*\*\*\*  
29

30 (b) The state forester may hire additional employees  
31 as necessary to conduct good neighbor authority projects or  
32 other federally funded cooperative forest management  
33 projects funded through the account. Employees hired under  
34 this subsection shall be funded using ~~federal~~ funds  
35 deposited in the account. ~~The state forester shall not fill~~  
36 ~~more than four (4) full-time employee positions and six (6)~~  
37 ~~at-will employee contract positions under this subsection.~~

1

2 \*\*\*\*\*

3 \*\*\*\*\*

4 STAFF COMMENT

5 The word "federal" is stricken in subsection (b) above,  
6 which would allow employees to be hired using funds from  
7 any source in the account including federal funds,  
8 legislative appropriations (state funds), county funds,  
9 partner funds, donations etc.

10 \*\*\*\*\*

11 \*\*\*\*\*

12

13 Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2026.

14

15 (END)