

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

2026 large project funding.

Sponsored by: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural
2 Resource Funding Act; providing for the funding of large
3 projects under that act; specifying large projects approved
4 for funding in 2026; authorizing distributions from the
5 Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust income account
6 for approved large projects; providing for the reversion of
7 funds; and providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.**

12

13 (a) As used in this section:

1

2 (i) "Board" means the Wyoming wildlife and
3 natural resource trust account board created by W.S. 9-15-
4 104;

5

6 (ii) "Income account" means the Wyoming wildlife
7 and natural resource trust income account created by W.S.
8 9-15-103(b).

9

10 (b) Pursuant to the authority granted under W.S. 9-
11 15-104(k) and subject to each recipient's certification
12 under W.S. 9-15-103(r), authorization is granted for
13 funding of the large projects provided for in subsections
14 (c) through (j) of this section.

15

16 (c) Upper Greybull Fish Passage III:

17

18 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
19 commission;

20

21 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of native
22 fisheries, riparian and aquatic ecosystems through
23 vegetation management, riparian restoration and removal of

1 barriers to fish movement on approximately forty eight
2 thousand eight hundred fifty (48,850) miles of streams in
3 northeast Wyoming in order to:

4

5 (A) Maintain migration and movement for
6 native fish species;

7

8 (B) Maintain river function;

9

10 (C) Reduce or eliminate excessive erosion;

11

12 (D) Stabilize irrigation delivery systems.

13

14 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

15

16 (iv) Total project budget: Three million three
17 hundred seventy-three thousand nine hundred eleven dollars
18 (\$3,373,911.00);

19

20 (v) Project grant: The total grant for the
21 project, including all grants previously awarded for the
22 project and the additional one hundred fifty thousand
23 dollar (\$150,000.00) grant authorized under this

1 subsection, shall be one million three hundred thousand
2 dollars (\$1,300,000.00);

3

4 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
5 the income account to the board one hundred fifty thousand
6 dollars (\$150,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

8

9 (d) Baggs Valley Headwaters V:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
12 conservation district;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of native
15 vegetation through mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire
16 across a varied landscape of approximately five thousand
17 five hundred (5,500) acres in Carbon county in order to:

18

19 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
20 deer, elk, moose, antelope and other species;

21

22 (B) Maintain primary migration corridors for
23 native ungulates;

1

2 (C) Maintain core population areas for
3 greater sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate species;

4

5 (D) Conserve valuable grassland and
6 intermediate shrubland ecotypes.

7

8 (iii) Project description: Rangeland restoration;

9

10 (iv) Total project budget: Five million two
11 hundred six thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,206,500.00);

12

13 (v) Project grant: The total grant for the
14 project, including all grants previously awarded for the
15 project and the additional seven hundred thousand dollar
16 (\$700,000.00) grant authorized under this subsection, shall
17 be two million one hundred forty-eight thousand dollars
18 (\$2,148,000.00);

19

20 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
21 the income account to the board seven hundred thousand
22 dollars (\$700,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
23 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

1

2 (e) Absaroka Front Cheatgrass:

3

4 (i) Project sponsor: Park county weed and pest
5 district;

6

7 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of invasive grasses
8 on approximately forty-eight thousand (48,000) acres in
9 Park county in order to:

10

11 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
12 deer, elk, moose, antelope and bighorn sheep;

13

14 (B) Maintain core population areas for
15 greater sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate species;

16

17 (C) Conserve valuable grassland and
18 intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

19

20 (D) Maintain agricultural production and
21 opportunity on high-quality ranch lands.

22

1 (iii) Project description: Invasive species
2 management;

3

4 (iv) Total project budget: Three million five
5 hundred thirty-four thousand eight hundred ninety dollars
6 (\$3,534,890.00);

7

8 (v) Project grant: The total grant for the
9 project, including all grants previously awarded for the
10 project and the additional three hundred ninety-five
11 thousand dollar (\$395,000.00) grant authorized under this
12 subsection, shall be six hundred eighty-five thousand
13 dollars (\$685,000.00);

14

15 (f) Cody Canal Fish Screen:

16

17 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
18 commission;

19

20 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of fish species
21 from entrainment in irrigation systems by screening and by
22 returning to the main headgate infrastructure in Park
23 county in order to:

1

2 (A) Maintain fish populations on a river
3 system with extraordinarily high losses of fish;

4

5 (B) Maintain recreational opportunity on a
6 river with high values for fishing;

7

8 (C) Conserve species considered vulnerable
9 to loss.

10

11 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

12

13 (iv) Total project budget: Four million four
14 hundred twenty-nine thousand three hundred sixty-seven
15 dollars (\$4,429,367.00);

16

17 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
18 grant to the sponsor eight hundred thousand dollars
19 (\$800,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
20 subsection;

21

22 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
23 the income account to the board eight hundred thousand

1 dollars (\$800,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
2 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

3

4 (g) North Platte Cheatgrass:

5

6 (i) Project sponsor: Natrona county weed and pest
7 district;

8

9 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of invasive grasses
10 on approximately nine thousand (9,000) acres in Natrona
11 county in order to:

12

13 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
14 deer, elk and antelope;

15

16 (B) Reduce or eliminate the potential for
17 catastrophic fire;

18

19 (C) Allow regeneration of cottonwood gallery
20 forests.

21

22 (iii) Project description: Invasive species
23 management;

1

2 (iv) Total project budget: Two million nine
3 hundred sixteen thousand dollars (\$2,916,000.00);

4

5 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
6 grant one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to the sponsor
7 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

8

9 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
10 the income account to the board one million dollars
11 (\$1,000,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry
12 out the purposes of this subsection.

13

14 (h) Western Wyoming Cheatgrass:

15

16 (i) Project sponsor: Teton county weed and pest
17 district;

18

19 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of invasive grasses
20 on approximately forty-eight thousand five hundred (48,500)
21 acres in western Wyoming in order to:

22

1 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
2 deer, elk, moose, antelope and bighorn sheep;

3
4 (B) Maintain core population areas for
5 greater sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate species;

6
7 (C) Conserve valuable grassland and
8 intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

9
10 (D) Maintain agricultural production and
11 opportunity on high-quality ranch lands.

12
13 (iii) Project description: Invasive species
14 management;

15
16 (iv) Total project budget: Six million nine
17 hundred sixty-three thousand eight hundred three dollars
18 (\$6,963,803.00);

19
20 (v) Project grant: The total grant for the
21 project, including all grants previously awarded for the
22 project and the additional two million dollar
23 (\$2,000,000.00) grant authorized under this subsection,

1 shall be three million four hundred thousand
2 (\$3,400,000.00);

3

4 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
5 the income account to the board two million dollars
6 (\$2,000,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry
7 out the purposes of this subsection.

8

9 (j) Any unexpended and unobligated funds remaining
10 from appropriations under this section shall revert to the
11 income account on June 30, 2030.

12

13 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
14 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
15 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
16 Constitution.

17

18 (END)