

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Water development program eligibility-forest health.

Sponsored by: Select Water Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to water development; clarifying that
2 forest health projects are eligible for the water
3 development program; and providing for an effective date.

4

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

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 41-2-112(a) and 41-2-113(a) by
8 creating a new paragraph (iv) are amended to read:

9

10 **41-2-112. Wyoming water development program.**

11

12 (a) The Wyoming water development program is
13 established to foster, promote and encourage the optimal

1 development of the state's human, industrial, mineral,
2 agricultural, water and recreational resources. The
3 program shall provide, through the commission, procedures
4 and policies for the planning, selection, financing,
5 construction, acquisition and operation of projects and
6 facilities for the conservation, storage, distribution and
7 use of water, necessary in the public interest to develop
8 and preserve Wyoming's water and related land resources.
9 The program shall encourage development of water facilities
10 for irrigation, for reduction of flood damage, for
11 abatement of pollution, for preservation and development of
12 fish and wildlife resources and for protection and
13 improvement of public lands and shall help make available
14 the waters of this state for all beneficial uses, including
15 but not limited to municipal, domestic, agricultural,
16 industrial, instream flows, hydroelectric power and
17 recreational purposes, conservation of land resources,
18 forest health and protection of the health, safety and
19 general welfare of the people of the state of Wyoming.

20

21 **41-2-113. Definitions.**

22

1 (a) As used in W.S. 41-1-106 through 41-1-108 and 41-
2 2-107 through 41-2-118:

4 (iv) "Forest health" means a project on state,
5 local government or private forest land that is designed to
6 enhance water yield or quality from the forest land and
7 that may also be designed to reduce the risk of
8 catastrophic wildfire damage, increase the production of
9 forest products, improve habitat conditions for wildlife
10 and livestock or any other benefit to the people of the
11 state of Wyoming.

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

15 (END)