

SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS



JOINT AGRICULTURE, STATE AND PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

June 11-12, 2026 | 8:30 AM
Central Wyoming College, HS 100
2660 Peck Avenue
Riverton, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bob Ide, Co-chairman
Representative Dalton Banks, Co-chairman
Senator Taft Love
Senator Troy McKeown
Senator Laura Pearson
Representative Bob Davis
Representative Justin Fornstrom
Representative Steve Johnson
Representative Pepper Ottman
Representative Tomi Strock
Representative John Winter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Senator Barry Crago
Representative Karlee Provenza
Representative Mike Schmid

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Anna Johnson, Legislative Attorney
Savannah Collins, Legislative Attorney
Clayton Caldwell, Research Analyst
Katie Talbott, Legislative Editor/House Chief Clerk

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 met for two days in Riverton. The Committee considered options for allowing individuals who are not licensed veterinarians to perform pregnancy evaluations on livestock. Continuing a discussion from the previous interim, the Committee considered a proposed amendment regarding orphaned water rights. The Committee reviewed differences in recreational use on federal and state lands. Wyoming State Treasurer Curt Meier outlined the state land leasing policy. The Committee considered numerous amendments to the Wyoming Food Freedom Act in response to current issues in the state. Finally, livestock fencing requirements were discussed both historically and practically. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 28-29, 2026.

CALL TO ORDER (THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026)

Co-chairman Banks 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, June 11 [AM](#), [PM](#), and June 12 [AM](#).

LIVESTOCK PREGNANCY EXAMINATIONS

Anna Johnson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Service Office (LSO), provided an overview of the Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act, which provides definitions and requirements for pregnancy testing of cattle by licensed veterinarians in Wyoming. ([Appendix 2-01](#)).

JoAnn Reid, Administrator, A&I Professional Licensing Boards and representing the Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine (WBVM), indicated that there are 763 licensed veterinarians in Wyoming and of those, 380 have a Wyoming address.

Dr. Ben Osborne, Vice President of the WBVM and a Fort Bridger veterinarian with more than 20 years of experience, discussed the importance of licensing and Board oversight in veterinary medicine. He explained that the Board verifies licenses, monitors licensed practice and is working to update the Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act. Dr. Osborne stated that the Board intends to recommend that pregnancy testing and diagnosis be performed by licensed Wyoming veterinarians because pregnancy is a diagnosis under the Practice Act and should be conducted by a practitioner subject to Board oversight. He also raised concerns about lay palpators practicing in Wyoming, noting that reporting may be difficult, that the Board has not aggressively pursued the issue and that producers may have no recourse when pregnancy checking is performed without a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR). Dr. Osborne suggested that pregnancy checking in livestock may need statutory clarification, acknowledged that direct oversight could be difficult because veterinarians are spread across the state and noted that an open or non bred animal may have other medical issues requiring diagnosis by a licensed veterinarian. ([Appendix 2-02](#)).

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Dustin Taylor, rancher, Meeteetse
- Dr. Joe Dona, Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA)
- Dr. Brooke Hursh, Riverton
- Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association (WSGA)
- Karin Clark, Wyoming Farm Bureau (WyFB)
- Dr. Kevin Dickey, Owl Creek Veterinary Services, Meeteetse and Thermopolis
- Dr. Matthew Asay, Lovell

- Dr. Glen Gamble, WVMA, Riverton
- Dr. Jim Logan, former Wyoming State Veterinarian, retired, Riverton
- Hadessa Clyde, Riverton
- Era Aranow, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Janet Beiermann, Western Veterinary Service, Big Piney
- Dr. Nikki Weaver, Sublette County
- Travis Clyde, rancher, Riverton

Committee Action

The Committee requested additional research regarding other states' requirements and training for lay people to perform pregnancy checking in livestock and additional information concerning insurance coverage for producers and veterinary practitioners.

ORPHANED WATER RIGHTS

Keith Kennedy, Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID), and Ric Herman, WAID and Casper Alcova Irrigation District, provided a proposed amendment (**Appendix 3-01**) to the subdivision statutes regarding water rights and suggested a 60-day time frame for irrigation districts to respond before forfeiting their interest to the subdivision. Mr. Kennedy suggested adding a provision that, if no agreement can be reached, the matter be resolved through district court. Mr. Herman noted that the goal of the proposed amendment is to keep water rights from being abandoned in the first place.

Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer, explained that when land with associated water rights is sold or transferred for subdivision development, those rights must be addressed through transfer, voluntary abandonment or other changes approved by the State Engineer or Board of Control.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Karin Clark, WyFB
- Kelly Kennedy, Wheatland

Committee Action

The Committee requested a bill draft regarding the proposed orphaned water rights amendments from WAID.

FEDERAL VS. STATE LANDS: RECREATIONAL USE

Clayton Caldwell, Research Analyst, LSO, presented a research memorandum on recreation rules for Wyoming state trust lands, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and Forest Service (USFS) lands. He explained that, under the Wyoming Constitution, the State Board of Land Commissioners must manage state trust lands for the benefit of public education and other state institutions, while the BLM and Forest Service manage federal lands under multiple-use mandates that balance recreational access with other land uses. (**Appendix 5-01**).

Stacia Berry, Director of the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI), provided additional information and slides on recreation rules for state trust lands. Director Berry described the beneficiaries of the state land trust, explained how benefits to those recipients are determined, and summarized the State Board of Land Commissioners' regulations governing recreational access to state trust lands. She also outlined

statutory restrictions on recreational use and discussed recreational leasing and temporary use permits administered by the Board. [\(Appendix 5-02\)](#).

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- Karin Clark, WyFB
- Era Aranow, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

STATE LANDS LEASING POLICY

Curt Meier, Wyoming State Treasurer, discussed Wyoming's state land leasing policies and compared them with those of other states. Treasurer Meier also described the Joint Appropriations Committee's periodic review of state land trust funds, which typically occurs every four years, and emphasized the importance of maximizing returns for the state land trust.

MEETING RECESS

The Committee recessed at 3:15 PM.

CALL TO ORDER (FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026)

Co-chairman Ide called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

WYOMING FOOD FREEDOM – AMENDMENTS

Doug Miyamoto, Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), and Joe Budd, Deputy Director of the WDA, discussed the Department's efforts to comply with federal meat inspection requirements and the potential impacts of the proposed bill draft. Director Miyamoto explained that Wyoming's state inspection program must meet or exceed federal food safety standards. Mr. Budd discussed how the bill draft uses the term "commercial food establishment" and explained the distinction between reselling a product and delivering a product through an agent. [\(Appendix 9-01\)](#).

Ms. Johnson presented two individual bill drafts related to the Wyoming Food Freedom Act and Department of Agriculture rulemaking. First, she reviewed 27LSO-0046, Wyoming Food Freedom Act amendments, [\(Appendix 9-03\)](#), which would allow commercial food establishments to use homemade or uninspected food as an ingredient. She also described the federal PRIME Act, which would allow custom slaughter facilities to distribute animals and meat within a state, and explained Wyoming's PRIME Act, enacted during the 2025 General Session, which allows producers to sell producer-raised homemade meat products if the federal PRIME Act or similar legislation is enacted. Ms. Johnson further discussed the relationship between federal and Wyoming meat processing laws. Finally, she presented 27LSO-0040, Department of Agriculture rules—cost-benefit analysis, [\(Appendix 9-02\)](#), which would require the Department of Agriculture to prepare a cost-benefit analysis for new rules and regulations.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Tyler Lindholm, former Representative, and Americans for Prosperity
- Mark Nelson, Hippy Cow Creamery, Cody
- Brad Tyndall, President, Central Wyoming College, Wyoming Food Coalition
- A.J. Richards, From the Farm

- Karin Clark, WyFB
- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- Sadie Clarendon, Wyoming Food Coalition
- BJ Edwards, Taste of the Wind
- Tommie Kniseley, WyFresh
- Era Aranow, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- David Kniseley, WyFresh

LIVESTOCK FENCING REQUIREMENTS IN WYOMING

Savannah Collins, Attorney, LSO, presented a memorandum summarizing Wyoming's fence-out and fence-in laws ([Appendix 10-01](#)). The memorandum described the types of fences considered lawful under Wyoming statutes, explained fence-out requirements and related liabilities, and noted that the owner of livestock that enters another owner's fenced property may be liable for fence damage. Ms. Collins explained that Wyoming is generally considered a fence-out state for cattle and does not have statutes requiring livestock to be fenced in. She also discussed common-law principles related to fencing out animals and noted that sheep are generally treated differently under common law, with owners expected to fence them in.

Mr. Magagna discussed Wyoming's fence-out requirements, including the state's historical rejection of the common-law principle requiring livestock owners to fence in their animals. He explained the current process for compensating landowners for damaged fences and suggested that refusal to pay for fence damage could be addressed through a financial penalty or misdemeanor charge. Mr. Magagna also discussed whether the Bureau of Land Management or grazing lessees should be required to compensate landowners for fence damage, whether the statutory definition of "fence" should be expanded to include electric or digital fences, and how wildlife-friendly fencing requirements could affect livestock operations. He recommended maintaining Wyoming's current fence-out approach for cattle.

Following some discussion regarding a situation on the Wind River Indian Reservation involving bison, Steve True, Director of the Wyoming Livestock Board, discussed Joint Rule 41 between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Livestock Board, which determines whether bison are classified as livestock or wildlife. Director True explained that bison are treated as wildlife on the Wind River Indian Reservation and within Yellowstone National Park but are classified as livestock throughout the rest of Wyoming. He also noted that Wyoming does not conduct brand inspections for bison.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Karin Clark, WyFB
- Joy Hill, Wyoming Planning Association (WyoPass) provided information and suggested amendments to statutes. ([Appendix 10-02](#)).
- David Kniseley, WyFresh
- Edward Taliaferro, Kemmerer

Committee Action

The Committee requested additional information for the next meeting concerning fencing, breach of enclosure and potential misdemeanor criminal penalties.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-chairman Ide adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Dalton Banks, 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
2-01	Livestock Pregnancy Examinations	LSO Memo - Cattle Preg Testing	Legislative Service Office
2-02	Livestock Pregnancy Examinations	WVMA-AABP Information	Public Comment - Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
3-01	Orphaned Water Rights	Proposed Amendment WAID	Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts
5-01	Federal vs. State Lands: Recreational Use	LSO Memo - Recreation Rules for State, BLM, USFS	Legislative Service Office
5-02	Federal vs. State Lands: Recreational Use	OSLI - Federal vs State Recreation Use	Office of State Lands & Investments
9-01	Wyoming Food Freedom - Amendments	Wy Dept of Ag Memo - Hippy Cow Creamery	Wyoming Department of Agriculture
9-02	Wyoming Food Freedom - Amendments	27LSO-0040 v0.5 Department of agriculture rules-cost-benefit analysis.	Legislative Service Office
9-03	Wyoming Food Freedom - Amendments	27LSO-0046 v0.4 Wyoming Food Freedom Act amendments.	Legislative Service Office
10-01	Livestock Fencing Requirements in Wyoming	LSO Memo - Fencing Laws	Legislative Service Office
10-02	Livestock Fencing Requirements in Wyoming	Wy Planning Association - Fencing	Public Comment - Wyoming Planning Association