



STATE of WYOMING LEGISLATURE

Memorandum

DATE March 17, 2026

TO Members, Management Council

FROM Senator Ide, Co-Chairman
Representative Banks, Co-Chairman

SUBJECT 2026 Interim Topics Proposed for the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee

The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee met on March 5, 2026 to discuss proposed interim study topics. This memorandum represents the list of proposed priorities for the Committee for the 2026 interim. If approved, the Committee intends to study these topics in three meetings, prior to the 2027 General Session.

2026 INTERIM TOPICS

Priority #1 – Non-Certified Pregnancy Testing of Cattle and Proactive Herd Management

The Committee will review the current requirements for pregnancy testing cattle and consider providing an exemption to permit non-certified persons to perform pregnancy tests on cattle that are not being sold as bred cattle. The Committee will also explore the positive impacts of non-veterinarians conducting livestock pregnancy testing via blood tests or providing ultrasounds via trained technicians.

Priority #2 – Review of State Land Recreation Rules and Regulations

The Committee will compare the recreation rules used for federal public lands and state public lands. The Committee will consider legislation that would make state public lands accessible for recreation purposes.

Priority #3 – Update on Electronic Identification of Cattle

The Committee will review the requirements to use electronic identification of cattle provided under the USDA Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate Rule. The Committee will review the confidentiality requirements created under 2021 HB 229, Livestock identification choice act, and how the Committee may support agricultural producers that do not wish to use electronic identification.

Priority #4 – Preventing Orphaned Water Rights

The Committee will continue discussing the issue of orphaned water rights that began during the 2025 interim. The Committee will explore the process of establishing irrigation district subdivisions, hear from irrigation district managers regarding existing mechanisms to prevent orphaned water rights, and consider legislation addressing areas in water rights law where water rights may become orphaned.

Priority #5 – Fence-Out Laws for Livestock

The Committee will review fence-out and fence-in rules and statutes in Wyoming and consider adding additional laws allowing county sheriffs to intervene in cases where repeated offenses have occurred. The Committee will also explore how Wyoming fence-out laws may intersect with rivers and other bodies of water.

Meeting Schedule and Budget

The Committee requests \$60,000 to accomplish this work and hold the following meetings:

Meeting 1: June 11-12 (Casper)

Meeting 2: July 28-29 (Riverton/Lander)

Meeting 3: September 21-22 (Gillette)

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. We look forward to discussing these proposed topics with the members of Management Council.



Senator Ide, Co-chairman



Representative Banks, Co-chairman

State of Wyoming Legislature Memorandum