

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Game and fish department funding.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing an
2 appropriation for game and fish department funding;
3 specifying uses of the funds; providing for future
4 requested funding; making conforming amendments; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** (a) There is appropriated to the game and
10 fish commission from the general fund ten million five
11 hundred fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$10,557,000.00) for
12 the period commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30,
13 2006. The funds appropriated under this act shall be
14 placed in a separate account and notwithstanding W.S. 23-1-
15 501(b) shall not be placed within the game and fish fund

1 created in W.S. 23-1-501(b). The funds may be expended by
2 the game and fish commission in the manner authorized by
3 law for expenditures from the game and fish fund subject to
4 the following:

5

6 (i) To fund existing game and fish department
7 programs and for expansion of the following existing
8 programs, appropriations under this act shall be used:

9

10 (A) Within the wildlife division:

11

12 (I) Four hundred twenty-five thousand
13 dollars (\$425,000.00) shall be used for the existing
14 terrestrial native species program and one million eighty-
15 two thousand dollars (\$1,082,000.00) shall be used for the
16 expansion of that program. These funds shall be used for
17 five (5) existing permanent positions, six (6) additional
18 biologists and other program needs to improve comprehensive
19 planning, monitoring and sensitive species management
20 efforts. Of these funds for the expanded program five
21 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) shall be used for
22 local sage grouse working group projects;

23

1 (II) Two hundred thirty-five thousand
2 dollars (\$235,000.00) shall be used for the existing trophy
3 game conflict resolution program and five hundred fifty-
4 seven thousand dollars (\$557,000.00) shall be used for an
5 expansion of that program. These funds shall be used for
6 two (2) existing permanent positions, one-half (.5) of an
7 existing at-will contract employee position, four (4)
8 additional conflict resolution specialists and other
9 program needs to provide timely responses necessary for
10 effective conflict resolution;

11

12 (III) One hundred fifty thousand
13 dollars (\$150,000.00) shall be used for the existing
14 terrestrial habitat extension program and three hundred
15 eight-eight thousand dollars (\$388,000.00) shall be used
16 for an expansion of that program to provide habitat
17 extension services to landowners in order to benefit
18 wildlife habitat. These funds shall be used for two (2)
19 existing permanent positions, one-half (.5) of an existing
20 at-will contract employee position, four (4) additional
21 biologists and other program needs;

22

23 (IV) Five hundred five thousand
24 dollars (\$505,000.00) shall be used for the existing

1 wildlife disease management program and seven hundred
2 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$775,000.00) shall be used
3 for additional wildlife disease management efforts. These
4 funds shall be used for six (6) existing permanent
5 positions, three (3) additional biologists, one (1)
6 feedground manager, one (1) feedground maintenance worker,
7 one (1) secretarial position, one (1) coordinator position
8 and other program needs;

9

10 (V) Eight hundred twenty-five thousand
11 dollars (\$825,000.00) shall be used for the existing
12 terrestrial habitat management program and two hundred
13 ninety-one thousand dollars (\$291,000.00) shall be used for
14 an expansion of that program to monitor and address long-
15 term chronic habitat issues affecting wildlife. These
16 funds shall be used for eleven (11) existing permanent
17 positions, three (3) additional biologists and other
18 program needs.

19

20 (b) Within the fish division:

21

22 (I) One hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$100,000.00) shall be used for the existing aquatic native
24 species program and seven hundred seventy-five thousand

1 dollars (\$775,000.00) shall be used for an expansion of
2 that program to begin a systematic and scientific
3 assessment strategy leading to management of native aquatic
4 species in order to, among other goals, forestall potential
5 Endangered Species Act listings by providing additional
6 data on the status of native species. These funds shall be
7 used for one (1) existing permanent position, eight (8)
8 additional biologists and other program needs;

9

10 (II) Three hundred eighty-eight
11 thousand dollars (\$388,000.00) shall be used for expanded
12 aquatic habitat extension services to landowners in order
13 to benefit aquatic wildlife habitat. These funds shall be
14 used for four (4) additional biologists and other program
15 needs;

16

17 (III) Eighty hundred fifty thousand
18 dollars (\$850,000.00) shall be used for the existing
19 aquatic habitat management program and one hundred ninety-
20 four thousand dollars (\$194,000.00) shall be used for an
21 expansion of that program to monitor and restore aquatic
22 habitat. These funds shall be used for ten (10) existing
23 permanent positions, one (1) existing at-will contract

1 employee position, two (2) additional biologists and other
2 program needs.

3

4 (c) Within the services division:

5

6 (I) Three hundred seventy-five
7 thousand dollars (\$375,000.00) shall be used for the
8 existing program to coordinate hunting and fishing
9 workshops and similar events and ninety-six thousand
10 dollars (\$96,000.00) shall be used to expand that program
11 in support of hunting and fishing activities. These funds
12 shall be used for five (5) existing permanent positions,
13 one (1) additional events coordinator position and other
14 program needs;

15

16 (II) Six hundred seventy-five thousand
17 dollars (\$675,000.00) shall be used for existing
18 publication services. These funds shall be used for four
19 (4) existing permanent positions and other program needs;

20

21 (III) Eighty-five thousand dollars
22 (\$85,000.00) shall be used for the existing wildlife
23 habitat imaging technology program and two hundred ninety-
24 one thousand dollars (\$291,000.00) shall be used for an

1 expansion of that program to assist in the monitoring and
2 management of wildlife and wildlife habitat. These funds
3 shall be used for one (1) existing permanent position and
4 three (3) additional technicians and other program needs.

5

6 (d) Within the office of the director:

7

8 (I) Six hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$600,000.00) shall be used for the allocation of funding
10 of the functions of that office for the programs specified
11 in this section;

12

13 (II) Two hundred seventy-five thousand
14 dollars (\$275,000.00) shall be used for the allocation of
15 the SALECS functions for the programs specified in this
16 section.

17

18 (ii) For the creation of new game and fish
19 department programs appropriations under this act shall be
20 used as follows:

21

22 (A) Within the fish division ninety-seven
23 thousand dollars (\$97,000.00) shall be used for a program
24 to address issues relating to aquatic nuisance species

1 which pose a threat to the state's ecosystems. These funds
2 shall be used for one (1) additional biologist and other
3 program needs.

4

5 (B) Within the services division:

6

7 (I) Three hundred eighty-eight
8 thousand dollars (\$388,000.00) shall be used for a program
9 to address issues relating to energy and transportation
10 infrastructure development and coordination with wildlife
11 issues. These funds shall be used for four (4) additional
12 biologists and other program needs;

13

14 (II) One hundred thirty-five thousand
15 dollars (\$135,000.00) shall be used for grants management.
16 These funds shall be used for two (2) financial specialists
17 and other program needs.

18

19 (iii) The game and fish commission shall use
20 funds appropriated under this act for the programs and
21 positions specified, including payment of salary and all
22 employer paid benefits.

23

24 ***** STAFF COMMENTS *****
25 **The status of continued funding for the above**
programs was left uncertain by the motion passed

1 **by the Committee. The following would require**
2 **the game and fish commission to submit a budget**
3 **request for these general fund programs in the**
4 **manner as other state agencies. If that is not**
5 **the Committee's intent, all of the following**
6 **could be deleted.**
7

8 (b) The game and fish commission shall submit a
9 request for continued state general funding of the programs
10 and positions specified in this act for the fiscal biennium
11 commencing July 1, 2006. The request for continued state
12 general funding of these programs shall be submitted in
13 accordance with and subject to the budgeting process for
14 state agencies under W.S. 9-2-1001 through 9-2-1014.

15
16 **Section 3.** W.S. 9-2-1002(a)(iii) and 9-2-1010(a)(iii)
17 are amended to read:

18
19 **9-2-1002. Definitions; powers generally; duties of**
20 **governor; provisions construed; cooperation with**
21 **legislature and judiciary; divisions enumerated.**

22
23 (a) As used in this act:

24
25 (iii) "Entity" means any governmental unit,
26 special district, corporation, partnership or person which
27 will receive a legislative appropriation, directly or

1 indirectly, excluding the legislature, the judiciary and
2 the Wyoming department of transportation, game and fish
3 department for appropriations other than from the general
4 fund, counties, municipalities and school districts;

5

6 **9-2-1010. Duties of budget division; biennial budgets**
7 **and appropriations.**

8

9 (a) The department through the budget division shall:

10

11 (iii) Consult with each entity which will
12 require a legislative appropriation either directly or
13 indirectly, excluding the Wyoming highway department, and
14 excluding the game and fish ~~departments~~ department for
15 appropriations other than from the general fund, in
16 submitting budget estimates or requests for funds, or for
17 instituting, recording and reporting all financial and
18 budget transactions of the state.

19

20 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2005.

21

22

(END)