

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0085

Game and fish-funding.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; authorizing funding for
2 certain programs; providing an appropriation; specifying
3 legislative intent; requiring a report; and providing for
4 an effective date.

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

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8 **Section 1.** The legislature finds that a number of
9 programs managed by the game and fish commission are of
10 benefit to the citizens of the state of Wyoming whether or
11 not those citizens hunt and fish. Historically, funding
12 for wildlife conservation has been almost totally dependent
13 on user fees from hunters and anglers. The intent of this
14 act is to provide general funding for programs managed by
15 the game and fish commission that benefit the population in
16 general.

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Section 2.

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(a) The game and fish commission shall maintain the programs specified in this section. The programs to be maintained under this act, in such manner as determined to be best by the commission are:

(i) Sensitive species programs: The programs include management of terrestrial native nongame species, aquatic native nongame species and trophy game conflict resolution;

(ii) Habitat programs: The programs include aquatic habitat management, habitat extension and terrestrial habitat management;

(iii) Conservation education programs: The programs include publications and education, excluding hunter education;

(iv) General programs: The programs include cost allocation which consists of costs that are a result of services provided to the commission by other entities in

1 state government as required by state law and costs for use
2 of the state agency law enforcement communications system;

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4 (v) Sage grouse conservation: This program
5 includes continued funding for sage grouse planning and
6 protection;

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8 (vi) Veterinary services programs: This
9 includes continued funding for brucellosis, chronic wasting
10 disease and other disease management.

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12 (b) No funds appropriated from the general fund for
13 programs under subsection (a) of this section shall be
14 expended for the acquisition of fee simple title in real
15 estate.

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17 **Section 3.** There is appropriated from the general
18 fund to an earmarked account within the game and fish fund,
19 two million eight hundred thirty thousand dollars
20 (\$2,830,000.00) for the period beginning July 1, 2007 and
21 ending June 30, 2008. The state auditor shall transfer the
22 appropriation in this section to the Wyoming game and fish
23 fund as created by W.S. 23-1-501 on the effective date of
24 this act. Funds transferred under this act that remain

1 unencumbered or unobligated as of June 30, 2008 shall
2 revert to the budget reserve account. The commission shall
3 not expend more than fifty percent (50%) of this
4 appropriation on any single program specified in section 2
5 of this act.

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7 **Section 4.** The commission shall report to the joint
8 travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources interim
9 committee not later than December 1, 2007 regarding
10 expenditures under this act. The report shall contain a
11 summary of expenditures for programs under this act and
12 identification of additional funding needs in the areas
13 identified under section 2 of this act or other areas the
14 commission deems appropriate as potential areas for general
15 funding.

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17 **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

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19 (END)