

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

2014 Large project funding.

Sponsored by: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural
2 Resource Funding Act; providing for funding of large
3 projects under that act; specifying large projects approved
4 for funding in 2014; amending funding and timing for
5 specified previously approved large projects; requiring
6 specified conservation easements to include the state of
7 Wyoming as a third party beneficiary as specified;
8 requiring certifications regarding kickbacks and gifts;
9 providing appropriations; providing for reversion of funds;
10 and providing for an effective date.

11

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

13

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-15-901 through 9-15-911 are created
2 to read:

3

4

ARTICLE 9

5

2014 LARGE PROJECT FUNDING

6

7

9-15-901. Rim Ranch Conservation Easement.

8

9 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
10 following large project as provided in this section.

11

12

(b) Project: Rim Ranch conservation easement:

13

14

(i) Project sponsor: The Conservation Fund;

15

16

17

(ii) Project purpose: Permanent use restriction
on approximately three thousand nine hundred forty-five
(3,945) acres in Sublette county in order to:

18

19

20

(A) Preclude loss of habitat and key
migration corridors for elk, deer, antelope, sage grouse,
songbirds, amphibians and other species;

21

22

23

1 (B) Secure habitat for sage grouse in a
2 core population area; and

3

4 (C) Allow for continued agricultural
5 production.

6

7 (iii) Project description: Conservation
8 easement;

9

10 (iv) Total project budget: One million eight
11 hundred seventy-three thousand two hundred fifty dollars
12 (\$1,873,250.00);

13

14 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
15 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
16 four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$475,000.00) to
17 the sponsor for the purposes specified in this subsection;

18

19 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
20 the income account to the board four hundred seventy-five
21 thousand dollars (\$475,000.00) or as much thereof as is
22 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
23 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this

1 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
2 2017.

3

4 **9-15-902. Yellowtail Fire Rehabilitation.**

5

6 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
7 following large project as provided in this section.

8

9 (b) Project: Yellowtail fire rehabilitation:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Shoshone Conservation
12 District;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Habitat restoration and
15 conservation to address the effects of wildfire on an area
16 of high value to multiple species of wildlife and
17 recreational use on approximately one thousand five hundred
18 (1,500) acres in Big Horn county in order to:

19

20 (A) Preclude loss of habitat for deer,
21 amphibians, upland game birds, raptors and other species;

22

1 (B) Allow for continued agricultural
2 production.

3

4 (iii) Project description: Rangeland
5 enhancement;

6

7 (iv) Total project budget: Seven hundred sixty-
8 two thousand dollars (\$762,000.00);

9

10 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
11 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
12 to the sponsor two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)
13 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

14

15 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
16 the income account to the board two hundred thousand
17 dollars (\$200,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
18 carry out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and
19 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
20 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

21

22 **9-15-903. Yellowstone Lake II.**

23

1 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
2 following large project as provided in this section.

3

4 (b) Project: Yellowstone Lake II:

5

6 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Trout Unlimited;

7

8 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of non-native
9 fishes from a natural native fish area in order to:

10

11 (A) Prevent the loss or endangerment of
12 native species which could create ecological and economic
13 issues for a large portion of the State of Wyoming;

14

15 (B) Increase rearing of juvenile fish and
16 allow seasonal habitats for spawning fish.

17

18 (iii) Project description: Aquatic habitat
19 conservation;

20

21 (iv) Total project budget: One million four
22 hundred seventy-four thousand four hundred twenty-six
23 dollars (\$1,474,426.00);

1

2 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
3 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
4 to the sponsor six hundred twenty-one thousand five hundred
5 seventy-six dollars (\$621,576.00) for the purposes
6 specified in this subsection;

7

8 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
9 the income account to the board six hundred twenty-one
10 thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$621,576.00) or
11 as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes
12 of this subsection. Unexpended and unobligated funds
13 appropriated under this subsection shall revert to the
14 income account on June 30, 2017.

15

16 **9-15-904. Wapiti Ridge Conservation Easement.**

17

18 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
19 following large project as provided in this section.

20

21 (b) Project: Wapiti Ridge conservation easement:

22

1 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Game and Fish
2 Commission;

3

4 (ii) Project purpose: Permanent use restriction
5 on approximately two thousand eighty (2,080) acres in
6 Platte county in order to:

7

8 (A) Preclude loss of habitat for mule deer,
9 elk, sage grouse, antelope and other species; and

10

11 (B) Allow for continued agricultural
12 production.

13

14 (iii) Project description: Conservation
15 easement;

16

17 (iv) Total project budget: one million two
18 hundred fifty-two thousand dollars (\$1,252,000.00);

19

20 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
21 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
22 to the sponsor three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00)
23 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

1

2 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
3 the income account to the board three hundred thousand
4 dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
5 carry out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and
6 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
7 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

8

9 **9-15-905. Stateline Pike.**

10

11 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
12 following large project as provided in this section.

13

14 (b) Project: Stateline Pike:

15

16 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
17 Conservation District;

18

19 (ii) Project purpose: Permanent structures and
20 irrigation improvements on the Little Snake River in Carbon
21 county in order to:

22

1 (A) Preclude loss of habitat for Colorado
2 River cutthroat trout and other aquatic species;

3

4 (B) Secure migration routes and crucial
5 habitat for important fish species;

6

7 (C) Improve efficiency of irrigation
8 systems; and

9

10 (D) Allow for continued agricultural
11 production.

12

13 (iii) Project description: Stream habitat
14 improvement;

15

16 (iv) Total project budget: One million two
17 hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$1,255,000.00);

18

19 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
20 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
21 to the sponsor three hundred forty-five thousand dollars
22 (\$345,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
23 subsection;

1

2 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
3 the income account to the board three hundred forty-five
4 thousand dollars (\$345,000.00) or as much thereof as is
5 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
6 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
7 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
8 2017.

9

10 **9-15-906. Croonberg Ranch Conservation Easement.**

11

12 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
13 following large project as provided in this section.

14

15 (b) Project: Croonberg Ranch conservation easement:

16

17 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Stock Growers
18 Agricultural Land Trust;

19

20 (ii) Project purpose: Permanent use restriction
21 on approximately six thousand six hundred forty (6,640)
22 acres in Albany county in order to:

23

1 (A) Preclude loss of habitat for mule deer,
2 antelope, songbirds and other species;

3

4 (B) Secure migration routes and crucial
5 habitat for a variety of wildlife species; and

6

7 (C) Allow for continued agricultural
8 production.

9

10 (iii) Project description: Conservation
11 easement;

12

13 (iv) Total project budget: two million five
14 hundred forty-eight thousand one hundred fifty dollars
15 (\$2,548,150.00);

16

17 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
18 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
19 to the sponsor five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00)
20 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

21

22 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
23 the income account to the board five hundred thousand

1 dollars (\$500,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
2 carry out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and
3 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
4 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

5

6 **9-15-907. Platte River Casper II.**

7

8 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
9 following large project as provided in this section.

10

11 (b) Project: Platte River Casper II:

12

13 (i) Project sponsor: City of Casper;

14

15 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration and
16 rehabilitation of the Platte River corridor along
17 approximately fourteen (14) miles of habitat through the
18 City of Casper, through vegetation treatment, instream
19 structures and wetland habitat establishment in order to:

20

21 (A) Restore habitats for fish in a blue
22 ribbon trout fishery;

23

1 (B) Restore streamside habitats for
2 songbirds, waterfowl and other riparian species; and

3

4 (C) Provide an enhanced opportunity for
5 economic development associated with wildlife and natural
6 resources.

7

8 (iii) Project description: Stream habitat
9 enhancement and restoration;

10

11 (iv) Total project budget: Eleven million three
12 hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred seventy-six
13 dollars and two cents (\$11,387,576.02);

14

15 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
16 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
17 to the sponsor two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for the
18 purposes specified in this subsection;

19

20 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
21 the income account to the board two million dollars
22 (\$2,000,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry
23 out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and

1 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
2 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

3

4 **9-15-908. Table Mountain Water II.**

5

6 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
7 following large project as provided in this section.

8

9 (b) Project: Table Mountain Water II:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Game and Fish
12 Commission;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Water development and
15 management of wetland habitats on approximately three
16 hundred ninety-five (395) acres in Goshen county in order
17 to:

18

19 (A) Enhance aquatic habitats and nesting
20 areas for waterfowl and upland game birds;

21

22 (B) Maintain and increase vital migration
23 habitat for waterfowl; and

1

2 (C) Maintain irrigation efficiency for
3 landowners in the area.

4

5 (iii) Project description: Water development and
6 aquatic habitat improvement;

7

8 (iv) Total project budget: Nine hundred twenty-
9 three thousand eight hundred seventy dollars (\$923,870.00);

10

11 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
12 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
13 to the sponsor three hundred twenty-four thousand seven
14 hundred dollars (\$324,700.00) for the purposes specified in
15 this subsection;

16

17 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
18 the income account to the board two hundred sixty-four
19 thousand dollars (\$264,000.00) or as much thereof as is
20 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
21 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
22 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
23 2017.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

9-15-909. Wyoming Range Mule Deer Habitat.

(a) Authorization is granted for funding of the following large project as provided in this section.

(b) Project: Wyoming Range Mule Deer Habitat:

(i) Project sponsor: Bureau of Land Management;

(ii) Project purpose: Habitat enhancement through chemical, mechanical, prescribed fire, livestock management and other means on approximately four hundred thousand (400,000) acres in Sublette county in order to:

(A) Preclude loss of crucial habitat for mule deer and sage grouse and seasonal habitats for moose, elk and other species;

(B) Secure migration routes and crucial habitat for sage grouse in a core population area; and

1 (C) Restore aspen and native shrub habitats
2 essential to mule deer.

3

4 (iii) Project description: Terrestrial rangeland
5 habitat enhancement;

6

7 (iv) Total project budget: three million six
8 hundred ninety-eight thousand three hundred ninety dollars
9 (\$3,698,390.00);

10

11 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
12 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
13 to the sponsor five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00)
14 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

15

16 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
17 the income account to the board five hundred thousand
18 dollars (\$500,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
19 carry out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and
20 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
21 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

22

23 **9-15-910. Harmony Diversion.**

1

2 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
3 following large project as provided in this section.

4

5 (b) Project: Harmony Diversion:

6

7 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Game and Fish
8 Commission;

9

10 (ii) Project purpose: Improvement and
11 restoration of river function on the Nowood River in Big
12 Horn county in order to:

13

14 (A) Allow migration and passage of fish
15 species in the main stem of the Nowood River;

16

17 (B) Improve and maintain irrigation
18 efficiency; and

19

20 (C) Improve water quality by eliminating
21 sediment discharge in the main stem of the Nowood River.

22

1 (iii) Project description: Stream habitat
2 enhancement;

3

4 (iv) Total project budget: two million dollars
5 (\$2,000,000.00);

6

7 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
8 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
9 to the sponsor five hundred fifty thousand dollars
10 (\$550,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
11 subsection;

12

13 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
14 the income account to the board five hundred fifty thousand
15 dollars (\$550,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
16 carry out the purposes of this subsection. Unexpended and
17 unobligated funds appropriated under this subsection shall
18 revert to the income account on June 30, 2017.

19

20 **9-15-911. Purple Sage Ranch Conservation Easement.**

21

22 (a) Authorization is granted for funding of the
23 following large project as provided in this section.

1

2 (b) Project: Purple Sage Ranch conservation

3 easement:

4

5 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Stock Growers

6 Agricultural Land Trust;

7

8 (ii) Project purpose: Permanent use restriction

9 on approximately two thousand eight hundred (2,800) acres

10 in Carbon county in order to:

11

12 (A) Preclude loss of habitat for mule deer,

13 elk, antelope, songbirds and other species;

14

15 (B) Maintain important river and wetland

16 habitats;

17

18 (C) Secure migration routes and crucial

19 habitat for a variety of wildlife species; and

20

21 (D) Allow for continued agricultural

22 production.

23

1 (iii) Project description: Conservation
2 easement;

3

4 (iv) Total project budget: one million six
5 hundred sixty-eight thousand one hundred fifty dollars
6 (\$1,668,150.00);

7

8 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
9 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
10 to the sponsor three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
11 (\$375,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
12 subsection;

13

14 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
15 the income account to the board three hundred seventy-five
16 thousand dollars (\$375,000.00) or as much thereof as is
17 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
18 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
19 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
20 2017.

21

22 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-15 201(b) (iv) through (vi) and W.S.
23 9-15-613, are amended to read:

1

2 **9-15-201. Wyoming wildlife and natural resource large**
3 **project funding; 2007.**

4

5 (b) Project - Bates Creek Watershed Restoration:

6

7 (iv) Total project budget: ~~two million four~~
8 ~~hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$2,425,000.00)~~ four
9 million thirty-five thousand three hundred nine dollars
10 (\$4,035,309.00) over an anticipated period of approximately
11 sixteen (16) years;

12

13 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
14 natural resource trust account board is authorized to
15 grant to the sponsors not to exceed ~~eight hundred sixty~~
16 ~~seven thousand two hundred ninety-three dollars~~
17 ~~(\$867,293.00) over a period of not more than three (3)~~
18 ~~years~~ one million one hundred sixty-two thousand eight
19 hundred forty-three dollars (\$1,162,843.00) for the
20 purposes specified in this subsection;

21

22 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
23 the income account to the board three hundred thousand

1 dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
2 carry out the purpose of this subsection. In addition to
3 any amounts appropriated prior to 2009, there is
4 appropriated from the income account to the board two
5 hundred sixty-seven thousand two hundred ninety-three
6 dollars (\$267,293.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
7 carry out the purpose of this subsection. In addition to
8 any amounts appropriated prior to 2010, there is
9 appropriated from the income account to the board three
10 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof
11 as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
12 subsection. In addition to any amounts appropriated prior
13 to 2014, there is appropriated from the income account to
14 the board two hundred ninety-five thousand five hundred
15 fifty dollars (\$295,550.00) or as much thereof as is
16 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
17 Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207(a),
18 unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
19 subsection shall ~~not lapse on June 30, 2012, but shall~~
20 revert to the income account on ~~June 30, 2013~~June 30, 2017.

21

22 **Section 3.** Each conservation easement for which
23 funding is authorized under Section 1 or 2 of this act

1 shall include the state of Wyoming as a third party
2 beneficiary with the right to enforce the terms of the
3 agreement and, if the easement is transferred or
4 extinguished, the right to recover the state's pro rata
5 share of funds provided for the creation of the easement up
6 to one hundred percent (100%) of the funds granted by the
7 state for the creation of the easement.

8

9 **Section 4.** Before any distribution of funds is made
10 pursuant to the appropriations authorized by Sections 1 and
11 2 of this act, the person receiving the funds shall certify
12 that no gratuities, kickbacks, gifts, commissions,
13 contingency fees or other considerations have been or will
14 be made in connection with the appropriation or the
15 associated grant made by the Wyoming wildlife and natural
16 resource trust account board.

17

18 **Section 5.** This act is effective immediately upon
19 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
20 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
21 Constitution.

22

23

(END)