

SENATE FILE NO. SF0106

2023 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 the act; specifying large projects approved
 4 for funding in 2023; specifying conditions for large
 5 project funding; authorizing distributions from the Wyoming
 6 wildlife and natural resource trust income account for
 7 approved large projects; providing for the reversion of
 8 funds; and providing for an effective date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

14 (a) As used in this section:

15

1 (i) "Board" means the Wyoming wildlife and
2 natural resource trust account board created by W.S.
3 9-15-104;

4

5 (ii) "Income account" means the Wyoming wildlife
6 and natural resource trust income account created by W.S.
7 9-15-103(b).

8

9 (b) Pursuant to the authority granted under W.S.
10 9-15-104(k) and subject to each recipient's certification
11 under W.S. 9-15-103(r), authorization is granted for
12 funding of the large projects provided for in subsections
13 (c) through (m) of this section.

14

15 (c) Teton Migration:

16

17 (i) Project sponsor: Teton County;

18

19 (ii) Project purpose: Fence construction,
20 roadway replacement and underpass construction on an area
21 of high wildlife and vehicle use west of the town of
22 Jackson in Teton County in order to:

23

1 (A) Allow for the safe movement of moose,
2 elk and deer across a major highway to increase
3 connectivity and maintain populations for a variety of
4 wildlife;

5

6 (B) Reduce and eliminate the potential for
7 catastrophic collisions that damage human life, wildlife
8 and property.

9

10 (iii) Project description: Highway crossing
11 construction;

12

13 (iv) Total project budget: Fifty-nine million
14 seven hundred seventy-seven thousand seven hundred fifteen
15 dollars (\$59,777,715.00);

16

17 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
18 grant to the sponsor two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00)
19 for the purposes specified in this subsection, as follows:

20

21 (A) One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)
22 provided by the board; and

23

1 (B) One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)
2 provided by funding from Teton County held by the board on
3 behalf of Teton County in the income account.

4

5 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
6 the income account to the board two million dollars
7 (\$2,000,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry
8 out the purposes of this subsection.

9

10 (d) Fish Hook Ranch Conservation Easement:

11

12 (i) Project sponsor: Rocky Mountain Elk
13 Foundation;

14

15 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
16 development rights on approximately one thousand two
17 hundred (1,200) acres in Carbon County in order to:

18

19 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
20 deer, elk, moose, antelope and wintering eagles;

21

22 (B) Maintain primary migration corridors
23 for native ungulates;

1

2 (C) Maintain core population areas for
3 greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species;

4

5 (D) Conserve valuable riparian, wetland,
6 grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

7

8 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
9 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

10

11 (iii) Project description: Conservation
12 easement;

13

14 (iv) Total project budget: Four million two
15 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,250,000.00);

16

17 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
18 grant five hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
19 (\$525,000.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in
20 this subsection;

21

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

1 thousand dollars (\$525,000.00) or as much thereof as is
2 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

3

4 (e) Lakeview Canal Fish Passage:

5

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

8

9 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of a fish
10 passage to allow migration of spawning fish and the return
11 of juvenile fish on the South Fork of the Shoshone River in
12 Park County in order to:

13

14 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
15 for native fish;

16

17 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
18 ecosystems;

19

20 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
21 infrastructure for local agricultural operations;

22

1 (D) Prevent entrainment of as many as
2 fifty-one thousand (51,000) fish annually.

3

4 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

5

6 (iv) Total project budget: Two million three
7 hundred twenty-three thousand seventy-six dollars
8 (\$2,323,076.00);

9

10 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
11 grant to the sponsor four hundred fifty thousand dollars
12 (\$450,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
13 subsection;

14

15 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
16 the income account to the board four hundred fifty thousand
17 dollars (\$450,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
18 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

19

20 (f) Wind River Feral Horse Removal:

21

22 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Wild Sheep
23 Foundation;

1

2 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of rangelands
3 by removal of feral horse populations on the Wind River
4 Reservation in central Wyoming in order to:

5

6 (A) Maintain seasonal habitats for bighorn
7 sheep, elk, mule deer, antelope and other native ungulates;

8

9 (B) Increase the productivity of rangeland
10 and subalpine habitats;

11

12 (C) Maintain and improve impacted riparian
13 areas and wetlands.

14

15 (iii) Project description: Rangeland
16 improvement;

17

18 (iv) Total project budget: Two million one
19 hundred forty-nine thousand one hundred ninety-eight
20 dollars (\$2,149,198.00);

21

22 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
23 grant to the sponsor two hundred seventy thousand dollars

1 (\$270,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
2 subsection;

3

4 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
5 the income account to the board two hundred seventy
6 thousand dollars (\$270,000.00) or as much thereof as is
7 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

8

9 (g) SR Cattle Company Conservation Easement:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Stock Growers Land
12 Trust;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
15 development rights on approximately two thousand five
16 hundred (2,500) acres in Sheridan County in order to:

17

18 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
19 deer, elk, antelope and a variety of native wildlife
20 species;

21

22 (B) Maintain primary seasonal movement for
23 native ungulates;

1

2 (C) Maintain aquatic systems for native
3 fish and other species;

4

5 (D) Conserve valuable riparian, wetland,
6 grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

7

8 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
9 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

10

11 (iii) Project description: Conservation
12 easement;

13

14 (iv) Total project budget: Seven million three
15 hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars
16 (\$7,393,200.00);

17

18 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
19 grant eight hundred ninety-five thousand five hundred
20 dollars (\$895,500.00) to the sponsor for the purposes
21 specified in this subsection;

22

1 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
2 the income account to the board eight hundred ninety-five
3 thousand five hundred dollars (\$895,500.00) or as much
4 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
5 subsection.

6

7 (h) Sims Creek Slough:

8

9 (i) Project sponsor: Uinta County Conservation
10 District;

11

12 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of a fish
13 passage to allow migration of spawning fish and the return
14 of juvenile fish on approximately twelve (12) miles of the
15 Bear River in Uinta County in order to:

16

17 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
18 for native fish;

19

20 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
21 ecosystems;

22

1 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
2 infrastructure for local agricultural operations.

3

4 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

5

6 (iv) Total project budget: Eight hundred twenty-
7 nine thousand dollars (\$829,000.00);

8

9 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
10 grant to the sponsor two hundred twenty-five thousand
11 dollars (\$225,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
12 subsection;

13

14 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
15 the income account to the board two hundred twenty-five
16 thousand dollars (\$225,000.00) or as much thereof as is
17 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

18

19 (j) Little Medicine Bow River:

20

21 (i) Project sponsor: Medicine Bow Conservation
22 District;

23

1 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of the river
2 system to allow migration of spawning fish, maintain stream
3 function and improve adjacent habitats on approximately
4 twenty-five (25) miles of the Little Medicine Bow River in
5 Carbon County in order to:

6

7 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
8 for native fish;

9

10 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
11 and wetland ecosystems;

12

13 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
14 infrastructure for local agricultural operations;

15

16 (D) Reduce erosion and maintain water
17 quality;

18

19 (E) Maintain uplands to provide habitat for
20 deer, antelope, greater sage-grouse and a variety of
21 migratory songbirds.

22

23 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

1

2 (iv) Total project budget: One million one
3 hundred sixty thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,160,600.00);

4

5 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
6 grant to the sponsor three hundred thousand dollars
7 (\$300,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
8 subsection;

9

10 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
11 the income account to the board three hundred thousand
12 dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
13 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

14

15 (k) Ellsbury Ranch Conservation Easement:

16

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

19

20 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of residential
21 development rights on approximately two thousand six
22 hundred (2,600) acres in Crook County in order to:

23

1 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for
2 deer, elk, antelope and a wide array of migratory birds;

3

4 (B) Maintain primary movement corridors for
5 native ungulates;

6

7 (C) Maintain habitats for a variety of
8 endemic amphibians and reptiles;

9

10 (D) Conserve valuable forest, riparian,
11 wetland, grassland and intermediate shrubland ecotypes;

12

13 (E) Maintain agricultural production and
14 opportunity on high-quality farm and ranch lands.

15

16 (iii) Project description: Conservation
17 easement;

18

19 (iv) Total project budget: Five million three
20 hundred ninety-one thousand two hundred dollars
21 (\$5,391,200.00);

22

1 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
2 grant six hundred sixty-three thousand five hundred dollars
3 (\$663,500.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in
4 this subsection;

5

6 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
7 the income account to the board six hundred sixty-three
8 thousand five hundred dollars (\$663,500.00) or as much
9 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
10 subsection.

11

12 (m) New Fork 351:

13

14 (i) Project sponsor: Trout Unlimited;

15

16 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of the river
17 channel to allow migration of fish and stabilize stream
18 function on approximately three (3) miles of the New Fork
19 River in Sublette County in order to:

20

21 (A) Maintain seasonal movement opportunity
22 for native fish;

23

1 (B) Increase the productivity of aquatic
2 ecosystems;

3

4 (C) Maintain and improve irrigation
5 infrastructure for local agricultural operations.

6

7 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

8

9 (iv) Total project budget: Six hundred eighty-
10 five thousand six hundred thirty-six dollars (\$685,636.00);

11

12 (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to
13 grant to the sponsor two hundred twenty thousand dollars
14 (\$220,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
15 subsection;

16

17 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
18 the income account to the board two hundred twenty thousand
19 dollars (\$220,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
20 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

21

1 (n) Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated
2 under this section shall revert to the income account on
3 June 30, 2027.

4

5 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
6 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
7 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
8 Constitution.

9

10

(END)