

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

3

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

6

7           (b) Project: Wyoming Range Mule Deer Habitat:

8

9                   (i) Project sponsor: Bureau of Land Management;

10

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

15

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

19

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

22

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)