ENROLLED ACT NO. 24, SENATE

SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING 2022 BUDGET SESSION

AN ACT relating to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Funding Act; providing for funding of large projects under that act; specifying large projects approved for funding in 2022; specifying conditions for large project funding; authorizing distributions from the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust income account for approved large projects; providing for the reversion of funds; repealing statutes previously authorizing large projects that are completed; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1.

- (a) As used in this section:
- (i) "Board" means the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust account board created by W.S. 9-15-104;
- (ii) "Income account" means the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust income account created by W.S. 9-15-103(b).
- (b) Pursuant to the authority granted under W.S. 9-15-104(k) and subject to each recipient's certification under W.S. 9-15-103(r), authorization is granted for funding of the projects provided for in this section.
 - (c) Northeast Forest Health:
- (i) Project sponsor: Crook County Conservation District;

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- (ii) Project purpose: Removal of encroaching conifers and other species from forest understory, and chemical and mechanical treatment of invasive annual grasses on a portion of approximately three hundred fifty thousand (350,000) acres of native forest in Crook and Weston counties in order to:
- (A) Improve and maintain existing habitats for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, turkey and neotropical migrant songbirds endemic to the Black Hills;
- (B) Improve and maintain the economic viability of ponderosa pine woodlands;
- (C) Reduce or eliminate the potential for catastrophic wildfire.
- (iii) Project description: Invasive species elimination;
- (iv) Total project budget: one million three hundred eight thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,308,800.00);
- (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant to the sponsor four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) for the purposes specified in this subsection;
- (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
 - (d) Kaycee-Buffalo Mule Deer Crossings:

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- (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming department of transportation;
- (ii) Project purpose: Fence construction, roadway replacement and underpass construction on approximately fifteen (15) miles of Interstate 25 between the towns of Buffalo and Kaycee in Johnson county in order to:
- (A) Allow for safe deer movement across the interstate highway to increase connectivity and maintain populations for an important herd of mule deer;
- (B) Reduce and eliminate the potential for catastrophic collisions that impact human life, wildlife and property damage.
- (iii) Project description: Highway crossing construction;
- (iv) Total project budget: five million fifty
 thousand dollars (\$5,050,000.00);
- (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant to the sponsor one million three hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$1,385,000.00) for the purposes specified in this subsection;
- (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
 - (e) Killdeer Wetlands II:

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- (i) Project Sponsor: Green River Greenbelt Task Force;
- (ii) Project purpose: Modification and retrofit of a stream channel and diversion structures on the Green River within the town of Green River in Sweetwater county in order to:
- (A) Maintain fish passage for native species;
- (B) Reduce the potential for catastrophic flooding;
- (C) Enhance the values from natural native wetland habitats.
 - (iii) Project description: River restoration;
- (iv) Total project budget: one million one hundred eighty-three thousand dollars (\$1,183,000.00);
- (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in this subsection;
- (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
 - (f) South Pass Aspen III:

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- (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming Game and Fish Commission;
- (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of aspen woodlands through removal of encroaching conifers by mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire treatment on approximately seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) acres in Fremont county in order to:
- (A) Maintain habitats and seasonal movement opportunities for mule deer, elk, antelope and other species;
- (B) Reduce or eliminate the potential for catastrophic wildfire;
- (C) Increase the productivity of rangelands for wildlife and livestock.
 - (iii) Project description: Aspen enhancement;
- (iv) Total project budget: two million five hundred fifty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,559,500.00);
- (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant to the sponsor nine hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$995,000.00) for the purposes specified in this subsection;
- (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

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- (g) Henry's Fork Fish Passage:
 - (i) Project sponsor: Trout Unlimited;
- (ii) Project purpose: modification and retrofit of stream channel and diversion structures on the Henry's Fork river in southern Wyoming in order to:
- (A) Maintain fish passage for native species;
- (B) Reduce the potential for catastrophic flooding;
- (C) Enhance the values from natural native wetland habitats;
- (D) Improve irrigation delivery and efficiency of water use.
 - (iii) Project description: river restoration;
- (iv) Total project budget: seven hundred fiftytwo thousand two hundred fifteen dollars (\$752,215.00);
- (v) Project grant: The board is authorized to grant two hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (\$296,000.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in this subsection;
- (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from the income account to the board two hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (\$296,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

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(h) Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this section shall revert to the income account on June 30, 2026.

Section 2. W.S. 9-15-907 is repealed.

Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)

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Speaker of the House	-	President	of	the Senate
G	Governor			
TIME APPRO	VED:			
DATE APPRO	VED:			
I hereby certify that this	act origi	nated in	the	Senate.
Chief Clerk				