

SENATE FILE NO. SF0072

2017 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 2017; requiring certifications regarding
5 kickbacks and gifts; providing appropriations; providing
6 for reversion of funds; and providing for an effective
7 date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-15-103 by creating a new subsection
12 (r) is amended to read:

13

14 **9-15-103. Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust**
15 **account created; income account created; expenditures;**
16 **purposes.**

1

2 (r) No funds shall be disbursed under this act unless
3 the person receiving the funds certifies that no
4 gratuities, kickbacks, gifts, commissions, contingency fees
5 or other considerations have been or will be made in
6 connection with the appropriation or the associated grant
7 made by the board.

8

9 **Section 2.**

10

11 (a) Pursuant to the authority granted under W.S.
12 9-15-104(k), authorization is granted for funding of the
13 large projects provided for in subsections (b) through (n)
14 of this section.

15

16 (b) Baggs Mule Deer Habitat:

17

18 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
19 Conservation District;

20

21 (ii) Project purpose: Removal of invasive
22 conifers and other invasive species on approximately eleven

1 thousand two hundred (11,200) acres in Carbon County in
2 order to:

3

4 (A) Maintain key seasonal habitats for mule
5 deer and Greater Sage-Grouse;

6

7 (B) Restore valuable aspen and intermediate
8 shrub land ecotypes;

9

10 (C) Increase the carrying capacity for mule
11 deer, Greater Sage-Grouse and elk; and

12

13 (D) Increase water infiltration and reduce
14 erosion and water yield on high quality upland habitats.

15

16 (iii) Project description: Invasive species
17 removal and reseeding of native plants;

18

19 (iv) Total project budget: Seven hundred seven
20 thousand fifty dollars (\$707,050.00);

21

22 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
23 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant

1 two hundred eighty thousand nine hundred dollars
2 (\$280,900.00) to the sponsor for the purposes specified in
3 this subsection;

4

5 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
6 the income account to the board two hundred eighty thousand
7 nine hundred dollars (\$280,900.00) or as much thereof as is
8 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

9

10 (c) Pete's Pond:

11

12 (i) Project sponsor: Dubois Anglers and Wildlife
13 Group;

14

15 (ii) Project purpose: Deepwater fisheries
16 habitat, wetland creation and riparian vegetation
17 enhancement in order to:

18

19 (A) Provide economic enhancement to a
20 community that is highly dependent on recreational tourism;

21

1 (B) Abate high stream flows through a
2 natural diversion, retention and wetland filtering system;
3 and

4

5 (C) Enhance habitats for waterfowl,
6 amphibians and other species of interest to the state of
7 Wyoming.

8

9 (iii) Project description: Pond and wetland
10 construction, channel design and modification and
11 enhancement of diversion structures;

12

13 (iv) Total project budget: Five hundred
14 ninety-seven thousand five hundred forty-two dollars
15 (\$597,542.00);

16

17 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
18 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
19 to the sponsor two hundred ninety thousand dollars
20 (\$290,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
21 subsection;

22

1 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
2 the income account to the board two hundred ninety thousand
3 dollars (\$290,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
4 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

5

6 (d) Coal Creek Rehabilitation:

7

8 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
9 commission;

10

11 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of stream
12 function and fish passage on a stream in an area with
13 extremely high wildlife diversity and critical habitat
14 function in Lincoln County in order to:

15

16 (A) Maintain habitats and migration passage
17 for Bonneville cutthroat trout;

18

19 (B) Reduce or eliminate large sediment
20 loads which affect downstream irrigators and fisheries;

21

22 (C) Stabilize streambanks and adjacent
23 riparian habitats to maintain proper stream function; and

1

2 (D) Provide reliable access and road
3 placement that will allow use by grazing permittees and
4 recreational users.

5

6 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

7

8 (iv) Total project budget: Nine hundred five
9 thousand seven hundred dollars (\$905,700.00);

10

11 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
12 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
13 to the sponsor two hundred ninety thousand dollars
14 (\$290,000.00) 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 ninety thousand
19 dollars (\$290,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
20 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

21

22 (e) Sunlight Basin Habitat:

23

1 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
2 commission;

3
4 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of stream
5 function and adjacent meadow and riparian uplands on
6 approximately four hundred (400) acres of lands providing
7 crucial winter range to elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep and
8 moose in Park County in order to:

9
10 (A) Maintain habitats and migration passage
11 for game species;

12
13 (B) Reduce or eliminate sediment loads on
14 Sunlight, Painter and Trail Creeks;

15
16 (C) Stabilize streambanks and adjacent
17 riparian habitats to maintain proper stream function; and

18
19 (D) Increase the amount of forage available
20 for wintering ungulates.

21
22 (iii) Project description: River restoration and
23 rangeland restoration;

1

2 (iv) Total project budget: One million six
3 hundred two thousand three hundred dollars (\$1,602,300.00);

4

5 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
6 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
7 to the sponsor seven hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars
8 (\$788,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
9 subsection;

10

11 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
12 the income account to the board seven hundred eighty-eight
13 thousand dollars (\$788,000.00) or as much thereof as is
14 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

15

16 (f) Medicine Lodge Creek Rehabilitation:

17

18 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
19 commission;

20

21 (ii) Project purpose: Restoration of stream
22 function and fish passage on a stream in an area with

1 extremely high wildlife diversity in Big Horn County in
2 order to:

3

4 (A) Maintain habitats and migration passage
5 for trout in an area with high levels of public
6 recreational use;

7

8 (B) Reduce or eliminate sediment loads and
9 improve irrigation infrastructure for downstream
10 irrigators;

11

12 (C) Stabilize streambanks and adjacent
13 riparian habitats to maintain proper stream function; and

14

15 (D) Provide reliable access and road
16 placement that will allow use by grazing permittees and
17 recreational users.

18

19 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

20

21 (iv) Total project budget: One million three
22 hundred eighty-five thousand two hundred dollars
23 (\$1,385,200.00);

1

2 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
3 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
4 to the sponsor five hundred seventy-two thousand seven
5 hundred fifty dollars (\$572,750.00) for the purposes
6 specified in this subsection;

7

8 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
9 the income account to the board five hundred seventy-two
10 thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$572,750.00) or as
11 much thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of
12 this subsection.

13

14 (g) Powder River Conservation Easement:

15

16 (i) Project sponsor: Rocky Mountain Elk
17 Foundation;

18

19 (ii) Project purpose: Conservation easement on
20 approximately five thousand five hundred (5,500) acres of
21 private land in Johnson County in order to:

22

1 (A) Maintain habitats for elk, mule deer,
2 antelope, Greater Sage-Grouse and a large variety of
3 passerine birds;

4

5 (B) Provide access to approximately
6 thirty-five thousand (35,000) acres of private and public
7 lands to allow harvest and management of elk herds at
8 appropriate herd levels; and

9

10 (C) Maintain agricultural production and
11 opportunity on high quality farm and ranch lands.

12

13 (iii) Project description: Conservation
14 easement;

15

16 (iv) Total project budget: One million two
17 hundred seven thousand dollars (\$1,207,000.00);

18

19 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
20 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
21 to the sponsor four hundred fifty-three thousand dollars
22 (\$453,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
23 subsection;

1

2 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
3 the income account to the board four hundred fifty-three
4 thousand dollars (\$453,000.00) or as much thereof as is
5 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

6

7 (h) Weber River Conservation Easement:

8

9 (i) Project sponsor: The Nature Conservancy;

10

11 (ii) Project purpose: Conservation easement on
12 approximately five hundred twelve (512) acres of private
13 land in Carbon County in order to:

14

15 (A) Maintain crucial habitats for mule
16 deer, antelope, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Greater
17 Sage-Grouse, amphibians and raptors; and

18

19 (B) Maintain agricultural production and
20 opportunity on high quality farm and ranch lands.

21

22 (iii) Project description: Conservation
23 easement;

1

2 (iv) Total project budget: One million eight
3 hundred twenty-one thousand three hundred thirty-two
4 dollars (\$1,821,332.00);

5

6 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
7 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
8 to the sponsor four hundred thirty thousand dollars
9 (\$430,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
10 subsection;

11

12 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
13 the income account to the board four hundred thirty
14 thousand dollars (\$430,000.00) or as much thereof as is
15 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

16

17 (j) Government Draw Invasives:

18

19 (i) Project sponsor: Fremont County Weed and
20 Pest District;

21

22 (ii) Project purpose: Treatment and eradication
23 of invasive species on approximately one hundred sixty

1 thousand (160,000) acres of state, private and federal
2 lands in Fremont County in order to:

3

4 (A) Maintain crucial habitats for mule
5 deer, antelope, Greater Sage-Grouse and other sagebrush
6 obligate species;

7

8 (B) Maintain and improve forage quantity
9 and quality for livestock; and

10

11 (C) Prevent expansion of invasive species
12 into other important habitats and agricultural production
13 areas.

14

15 (iii) Project description: Invasive species
16 removal;

17

18 (iv) Total project budget: Six hundred fifty-two
19 thousand five hundred dollars (\$652,500.00);

20

21 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
22 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant

1 to the sponsor two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)
2 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

3

4 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
5 the income account to the board two hundred thousand
6 dollars (\$200,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this subsection.

8

9 (k) Wyoming Range Mule Deer III:

10

11 (i) Project sponsor: Wyoming game and fish
12 commission;

13

14 (ii) Project purpose: Treatment of habitats on
15 approximately fifty-six thousand (56,000) acres of state,
16 private and federal lands in Sublette County in order to:

17

18 (A) Maintain and improve crucial habitats
19 for mule deer, antelope, elk, Greater Sage-Grouse and other
20 sagebrush obligate species;

21

22 (B) Maintain and improve forage quantity
23 and quality for livestock and wildlife;

1

2 (C) Prevent expansion of invasive species
3 into other important habitats and agricultural production
4 areas; and

5

6 (D) Reduce the future risk of catastrophic
7 wildfire and disease transmission.

8

9 (iii) Project description: Rangeland habitat
10 enhancement;

11

12 (iv) Total project budget: Five million seventy
13 thousand twenty-eight dollars (\$5,070,028.00);

14

15 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
16 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
17 to the sponsor one million five hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$1,500,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
19 subsection;

20

21 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
22 the income account to the board one million five hundred

1 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) or as much thereof as is
2 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

3

4 (m) Muddy Creek Wetlands VI:

5

6 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
7 Conservation District;

8

9 (ii) Project purpose: Wetland creation and
10 enhancement on approximately sixty (60) acres of state,
11 private and federal lands in Carbon County in order to:

12

13 (A) Maintain valuable habitats for
14 waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds, amphibians and other
15 wetland species;

16

17 (B) Capture and reduce sediment loads into
18 the Little Snake River aquatic system; and

19

20 (C) Expand upon approximately six hundred
21 (600) acres of limited wetland habitat in southern Wyoming.

22

1 (iii) Project description: Wetland creation and
2 enhancement;

3

4 (iv) Total project budget: Five hundred
5 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$525,000.00);

6

7 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
8 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
9 to the sponsor two hundred fifteen thousand dollars
10 (\$215,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
11 subsection;

12

13 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
14 the income account to the board two hundred fifteen
15 thousand dollars (\$215,000.00) or as much thereof as is
16 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

17

18 (n) Little Snake River Restoration IV:

19

20 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
21 Conservation District;

22

1 (ii) Project purpose: Channel reconstruction and
2 wetland creation and enhancement on approximately one (1)
3 mile of riparian habitat in Carbon County in order to:

4
5 (A) Improve habitats for fish, waterfowl,
6 shore birds, wading birds, amphibians and other wetland
7 species;

8
9 (B) Reduce and eliminate streambank erosion
10 and sediment loading in the Little Snake River aquatic
11 system; and

12
13 (C) Improve irrigation efficiency and
14 agricultural production on historic ranch and farm lands in
15 southern Wyoming.

16
17 (iii) Project description: River restoration and
18 wetland creation;

19
20 (iv) Total project budget: Five hundred
21 fifty-eight thousand three hundred dollars (\$558,300.00);

22

1 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
2 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
3 to the sponsor two hundred twenty-three thousand three
4 hundred dollars (\$223,300.00) for the purposes specified in
5 this subsection;

6

7 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
8 the income account to the board two hundred twenty-three
9 thousand three hundred dollars (\$223,300.00) or as much
10 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
11 subsection.

12

13 **Section 3.** Unexpended and unobligated funds
14 appropriated under section 2 of this act shall revert to
15 the income account on June 30, 2020.

16

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

21

22

(END)