

SENATE FILE NO. SF0044

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 2015; requiring specified conservation
 5 easements to include the state of Wyoming as a third party
 6 beneficiary as specified; requiring certifications
 7 regarding kickbacks and gifts; providing appropriations;
 8 providing for reversion of funds; and providing for an
 9 effective date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-15-1001 through 9-15-1005 are
 14 created to read:

15

16

ARTICLE 10

1 (C) Maintain or increase forage quantity
2 and quality in an area of high importance to big game
3 species.

4

5 (iii) Project description: Water development;

6

7 (iv) Total project budget: One million four
8 hundred thirty-three thousand five hundred dollars
9 (\$1,433,500.00);

10

11 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
12 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
13 four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) to the sponsor
14 for the purposes specified in this subsection;

15

16 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
17 the income account to the board four hundred thousand
18 dollars (\$400,000.00) 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, 2018.

22

23 **9-15-1002. Neonatal Mule Deer II.**

1

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

4

5 (b) Project: Neonatal Mule Deer II:

6

7 (i) Project sponsor: University of Wyoming;

8

9 (ii) Project purpose: Research reproduction and
10 recruitment of juvenile mule deer in the Wyoming range in
11 order to:

12

13 (A) Determine the causes of loss or lack of
14 retention of neonatal and juvenile deer;

15

16 (B) Focus funding and action on habitat
17 enhancement and management of mule deer that will directly
18 address causal factors to loss or lack of retention of
19 juvenile deer.

20

21 (iii) Project description: Applied research and
22 habitat assessment;

23

1 (iv) Total project budget: Four hundred eighty-
2 nine thousand four hundred sixty-one dollars (\$489,461.00);

3

4 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
5 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
6 to the sponsor two hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars
7 (\$279,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
8 subsection;

9

10 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
11 the income account to the board one hundred thirty-one
12 thousand dollars (\$131,000.00) or as much thereof as is
13 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
14 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
15 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
16 2018.

17

18 **9-15-1003. Bolton Creek III.**

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

22

23 (b) Project: Bolton Creek III:

1

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

4

5 (ii) Project purpose: Watershed stabilization
6 and sediment reduction on a highly erodible landscape with
7 drainage into the North Platte River south of Casper,
8 Wyoming in order to:

9

10 (A) Provide habitat for beaver and other
11 aquatic species;

12

13 (B) Reduce sediment loading into a high-
14 quality wild trout fishery of importance to the state;

15

16 (C) Maintain late-season brooding areas for
17 Greater Sage Grouse in a core population area.

18

19 (iii) Project description: Habitat enhancement;

20

21 (iv) Total project budget: Eight hundred fifty-
22 five thousand six hundred forty-seven dollars
23 (\$855,647.00);

1

2 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
3 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
4 to the sponsor two hundred forty-two thousand five hundred
5 dollars (\$242,500.00) for the purposes specified in this
6 subsection;

7

8 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
9 the income account to the board eighty-six thousand five
10 hundred dollars (\$86,500.00) or as much thereof as is
11 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
12 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
13 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
14 2018.

15

16 **9-15-1004. Little Snake River Fisheries.**

17

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

20

21 (b) Project: Little Snake River Fisheries:

22

1 (i) Project sponsor: Little Snake River
2 Conservation District;

3
4 (ii) Project purpose: River stabilization,
5 wetland creation, irrigation efficiency and fish passage on
6 a highly valued fishery near Baggs, Wyoming in order to:

7
8 (A) Provide habitat for terrestrial and
9 aquatic species;

10
11 (B) Reduce flooding and sediment deposition
12 in areas where flooding is a high risk;

13
14 (C) Increase effective delivery of
15 irrigation water while allowing fish migrational access to
16 the full length of the river channel.

17
18 (iii) Project description: River restoration;

19
20 (iv) Total project budget: One million eight
21 hundred seventy-nine thousand one hundred five dollars
22 (\$1,879,105.00);

23

1 (v) Project grant: The Wyoming wildlife and
2 natural resource trust account board is authorized to grant
3 to the sponsor six hundred eleven thousand eight hundred
4 thirty-two dollars (\$611,832.00) for the purposes specified
5 in this subsection;

6
7 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
8 the income account to the board six hundred eleven thousand
9 eight hundred thirty-two dollars (\$611,832.00) or as much
10 thereof as is necessary to carry out the purpose of this
11 subsection. Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated
12 under this subsection shall revert to the income account on
13 June 30, 2018.

14

15 **9-15-1005. Little Laramie Conservation Easement.**

16

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

19

20 (b) Project: Little Laramie Conservation Easement:

21

22 (i) Project sponsor: Rocky Mountain Elk
23 Foundation;

1

2 (ii) Project purpose: Permanent deed restriction
3 by conservation easement in order to:

4

5 (A) Maintain agricultural production and
6 opportunity on high quality farm and ranch lands in Albany
7 County;

8

9 (B) Preclude loss of essential habitats for
10 a wide variety of species including elk, deer, antelope,
11 neotropical migrant songbirds, fish and amphibians; and

12

13 (C) Maintain effective stream function and
14 water management on a major river in southeast Wyoming.

15

16 (iii) Project description: Conservation
17 easement;

18

19 (iv) Total project budget: One million six
20 hundred fifty-three thousand dollars (\$1,653,000.00);

21

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

1 to the sponsor three hundred forty thousand dollars
2 (\$340,000.00) for the purposes specified in this
3 subsection;

4

5 (vi) Appropriation: There is appropriated from
6 the income account to the board three hundred forty
7 thousand dollars (\$340,000.00) or as much thereof as is
8 necessary to carry out the purpose of this subsection.
9 Unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated under this
10 subsection shall revert to the income account on June 30,
11 2018.

12

13 **Section 2.** Each conservation easement for which
14 funding is authorized under section 1 of this act shall
15 bind the parties thereto to an agreement which provides
16 that the state of Wyoming is a third party beneficiary to
17 the easement solely with the contingent right to enforce
18 the terms of the easement if the grantee fails to enforce
19 any of the terms of the easement. The agreement shall
20 provide that if the easement is transferred for value, sold
21 or extinguished without the consent of the Wyoming wildlife
22 and natural resource trust account board, the state of
23 Wyoming shall have the right to either take legal action to

1 enforce the terms of the easement or to recover from the
2 proceeds of the transfer for value, sale or extinguishment,
3 the state's pro rata share of the proceeds based on the
4 funds the state provided for the creation of the easement.

5

6 **Section 3.** Before any distribution of funds is made
7 pursuant to the appropriations authorized by section 1 of
8 this act, the person receiving the funds shall certify that
9 no gratuities, kickbacks, gifts, commissions, contingency
10 fees or other considerations have been or will be made in
11 connection with the appropriation or the associated grant
12 made by the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust
13 account board.

14

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

19

20

(END)