



# **RECREATION & STATE TRUST LANDS**

**Wyoming Office of State  
Lands & Investments**

**MISSION:**

**To effectively manage natural  
resources and funds for current  
and future generations**

## MISSION:

The State Board of Land Commissioners (SBLC) was constitutionally created in 1890, and is charged with generating and maximizing revenue from state trust lands to support public education and beneficiary institutions, while concurrently striving to protect, conserve, and maintain the lands so they may benefit future generations.

## MISSION:

- ❑ 86% of State Trust Lands are classified as “Common School Trust Lands,” referred to as “State School Sections,” and support public K-12 education.
  
- ❑ 14% of State Trust Lands generate revenues to support other state institutions.
  - ❑ University of Wyoming
  - ❑ Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Dept. of Health, Dept. of Corrections, Dept. of Family Services
  - ❑ Veteran’s Home, State Hospital, State Penitentiary
  - ❑ Public Buildings, State Library, Law Library
  - ❑ Retirement Center, Honor Farm, Girl’s School, Boy’s School, School for Deaf

- Framework for recreation
- Recreation opportunities
- Recreation permitting
- Current and historic management

# FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION

Our guidance to manage recreation on  
Wyoming's State Trust Lands

## FRAMEWORK

### *Wyoming Constitution, Article 18, Section 1:*

- ▣ *The State of Wyoming accepts the grants of lands made by the United States to the state, for educational purposes, for public buildings and institutions and for other objects*

### *Wyoming Constitution, Article 18, Section 3:*

- ▣ *Board of Land Commissioners shall have direction, control, disposition and care of all lands granted to the state*

*Wyoming Statute 36-2-107(a)*

- ▣ *Board to preserve the value of the land and to recognize the fiduciary duties of the state land office*



- First indication Board was amenable to some public recreation
  - 1948 Grazing and agricultural lease reserved:
    - “The right and privilege of any person to fish in any streams, lakes or ponds, and to hunt, pursue and kill game animals, game birds and migratory birds under applicable State or Federal hunting and fishing laws on said premises.”

- 1988: Board adopted Chapter 13 - Public Hunting, Fishing and General Recreational Use
  - Formalized public hunting and fishing as privileges and introduced general recreation use privilege
    - Legally accessible lands, unless closed by the Board
    - Not resulting in damage to state lands
    - No hunting/fishing on cultivated cropland
    - No organized recreational use without special use lease
  - No public use fee or license established

- Chapter 13 prohibitions pursuant to W.S. 36-2-107(b)
  - Motor vehicle use is confined to established roads (provides criteria for road closures)
  - Fees and charges prohibited
  - Open fires prohibited
  - Overnight camping prohibited
- Adds waiver of liability

## Wyoming Statute 36-2-107

- ▣ *(b) Misdemeanor/restitution for...prohibited acts:*
  - ▣ *Damaging state lands*
  - ▣ *Off-road motor vehicles*
  - ▣ *Third-party charging for recreation*
  - ▣ *Open fire, charcoal grill (unless authorized)*
  - ▣ *Camping overnight (unless authorized)*
  - ▣ *Violating Board order to protect assets*
  - ▣ *Violating Board order to protect safety*
- ▣ *(c) Peace officers and game wardens have authority to enforce this section on state lands.*

*Wyoming Statute 36-5-114(a, d); 115*

- ▣ *Board may lease for recreational purposes*
- ▣ *Shall promulgate rules and regulations for long-term leasing for recreational purposes*
- ▣ *Defined as: cabin sites, public camp sites, public parks and recreation areas, golf courses, youth groups and ski or winter sports areas*

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Existing opportunities for recreation on  
Wyoming's State Trust Lands

- State trust lands available for recreation opportunities
- Acreages
  - 3.6 million total surface estate
  - 2.5 million “accessible” = 70% of state trust lands are accessible for recreation
  - 140,000 acres “restricted” = 5.6% of accessible lands
    - Majority are WGF D Walk-In Areas available for all non-motorized recreation
    - Remainder are related to safety and resource damage
  - State Land Access Map @ [lands.wyo.gov](https://lands.wyo.gov)

## RECREATIONAL LEASING

Permitting trail systems on  
Wyoming's State Trust Lands



- Chapter 5 Special Use Leasing (SUL)
  - Recreational uses as defined by W.S. 36-5-115
  - SULs
    - Cabin Sites
    - WGFD (parking, access roads, boat launches)
    - State Parks
    - Cities, counties, private
    - Trails, youth camps, recreation areas

- Special Use Leasing (SUL)
  - Application (available at [lands.wyo.gov](https://lands.wyo.gov))
    - Applicant preference
    - Written consent from existing lease holder
    - \$250 application fee and minimum annual rental shall not be less than \$250.
      - Determined by appraisal
    - Existing trail lease duration of 25 years
    - Market rate at 5-year review, bonding.
    - Board Meeting for approval decision

# Bus Loops Sections History

Current and historic management

- Legal Descriptions
- Grazing Leases
  - Improvements
- Easements
- Access
- Restrictions and Trust preservation and Enhancement project
- Existing TUP, SUL, Mineral leases
- Known Issues

- Questions

THANKS!

# Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

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