

Revision 10/12/2017

Proposed Draft Legislation – Wyoming Public Lands Day

[Delete 36-12-101 through 36-12-109 and replace with this new section; or make as a new 36-13 – 101?]

CHAPTER 12 PUBLIC LANDS DAY

36-12-101. Legislative determinations.

(a) The legislature determines:

(i) America's federal public lands in Wyoming include national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness areas and lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service and other federal agencies and feature a diverse range of landscapes from desert and grasslands to vast sagebrush habitat to forested mountains and alpine tundra.

(ii) These federal public lands are available for multiple uses including support of our Wyoming lifestyle of outdoor pursuits; protection of wildlife habitat, water resources, scenic beauty, cultural and historic values; agricultural traditions; and economic development through timber, minerals extraction, tourism, recreation and other industries. The public lands in this state reflect our democratic and Equality State values of freedom and provide access to all persons regardless of income, gender or race.

(iii) Shared stewardship of our public lands requires the cooperation and support of citizens, business leaders, state and local officials. Land conservation efforts made by public land managers, public users and industry improve the access and condition of public lands for the enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans and for our Wyoming residents.

36-12-102. Public Lands Day

(a) The last Saturday in September of each year is established as "Public Lands Day" in the state of Wyoming.

(b) The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation encouraging the observance of Public Lands Day. The proclamation may, without limitation:

(i) Call upon the news media, state and local officers, private nonprofit groups and foundations, schools, businesses and other public and private entities to bring to the attention of the residents of this State the importance of the public lands in the State of Wyoming.

(ii) Recognize the economic, recreational, scenic, historical and other values of the public lands in the State of Wyoming; and

(iii) Encourage the residents of the State of Wyoming to engage in volunteer stewardship activities which contribute to the conservation of the unique public lands which are found in the State of Wyoming.

(iv) Encourage school districts to provide the Friday before Public Lands Day as a day off for youth as a hunting or outdoor recreation holiday to enjoy with their families.