

# Proposed Draft Legislation – Wyoming Public Lands Day

Delete 36-12-101 through 36-12-109 and replace with:

## CHAPTER 12 PUBLIC LANDS DAY

### **36-12-101. Legislative determinations.**

(a) The legislature determines:

(i) The 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) Unlike state owned and controlled school trust lands, these federal public lands are managed for a wide range of 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 Equality State values providing accessibility to all persons regardless of income, gender or race.

(iii) Efforts to transfer large tracts of the federal public lands in this State into private or state control are contrary to the wishes of Wyoming people and the democratic values of freedom and access that define our Equality State, as well as contrary to the State Constitution which states “The people of this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof...”

### **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.