



2025

CONSERVATION VOTE REPORT

FOR THE 68TH WYOMING STATE LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Wyoming Outdoor Council’s 2025 Conservation Vote Report. This report describes select conservation bills from Wyoming's 68th Legislative Session, as well as identifies how state legislators voted on key conservation bills. We also share the broader themes that emerged, aiming to provide insight into the general tone of the session from a conservation perspective. We conclude with how you can continue to be involved in the interim — the time in between legislative sessions. Your voice and your vote matter. We hope that you will exercise both of them this year.

The Outdoor Council supports accountable and transparent governance as an important part of protecting Wyoming’s environment and quality of life. We believe that informed and engaged citizens matter and that conservation is not a partisan issue — it is a unifying Wyoming value. This belief drives our year-round efforts at the Capitol and at interim legislative committee meetings between sessions to help citizens of this ecologically and culturally diverse state engage in the legislative process.

Building proactive relationships and having ongoing conversations with those who have been elected to represent you is the best way to realize our shared mission and goals. To that end, we encourage you to reach out to your legislators, learn more about the specifics of their votes, and share what is important to you. If you’re not sure who your legislators are or how to contact them, [you can find that information here](#).

OVERVIEW OF BILLS WE TRACKED AND WHY

During the 2025 General Legislative session, the Outdoor Council tracked more than 100 bills related to wildlife, energy, clean air and water, state lands, tribal conservation, public lands, and more. We tracked and testified on key bills while engaging and encouraging citizens to speak on the issues they care about.

In this report, we describe six bills of high importance to the Outdoor Council’s mission.

Cover image: Steve Walser

BILL DESCRIPTIONS

HOUSE BILL 16: USED NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE-AMENDMENTS

Sponsor: Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Interim Committee

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Failed

**This vote was not included in the vote tally chart — details below.*

House Bill 16 was among one of the most controversial and highly debated bills that WOC tracked during the 2025 Session. It also had a short life — failing in the committee of its house of origin before more legislators had the opportunity to vote on it. Still, this bill prompted an important discussion.

By changing the definition of high-level radioactive waste to “used nuclear fuel,” HB16 would have opened the door to storing high-level radioactive waste from commercial nuclear power plants around the country in Wyoming. Using this more innocuous-sounding definition would have allowed proponents of this idea to streamline siting of a large-scale high-level radioactive waste storage facility. Although the bill was sponsored by the Minerals Committee, it advanced from the interim with remarkably little public engagement for such a consequential issue. During the session it was met with stiff resistance from both sides of the aisle, with legislators expressing concerns about the lack of a permanent national repository for nuclear waste, federal overreach, and the environmental and transportation risks of bringing this hazardous material to Wyoming.

Although HB16 failed in the House Minerals Committee after a 5–4 vote, it set the stage for another, more nuanced bill — Senate File 186 - Advanced nuclear manufacturers - fuel storage — to emerge. This hotly debated bill passed the Senate before also dying in the House Minerals Committee. With growing national interest in nuclear energy, we anticipate more bills related to nuclear energy and waste to emerge over the 2025 interim and future sessions.

HOUSE BILL 183: NET METERING AMENDMENTS

Sponsors: Representatives Heiner; Allemand; Brady; Davis; Kelly; Lucas; Pendergraft, and Winter, and Senators Boner and Pearson

WOC Position: Supported initially but opposed the final version

Status: Failed

The annual drama around rooftop solar and Wyoming’s net metering law continued during this year’s session, where we saw two opposing bills emerge: Senate File 111 - Net Metering Revisions, a bad bill sponsored Sen. Cale Case that would have made it more expensive and difficult to invest in rooftop solar, and House Bill 183 - Net Metering Amendments, that would have initially expanded rooftop solar by allowing larger installations up to 200kW, making it feasible for more schools, ranchers, and local governments to produce their own power. Although both of these bills were important, this report focuses on HB183, the bill that advanced the farthest.

Initially, HB183 was intended to allow ranchers and commercial customers to build larger rooftop solar systems to support their businesses by producing their own electricity. In this way, the third reading House votes in favor of HB183 (which you will see in this report) are in favor of rooftop solar and expanding net metering to more agricultural and commercial operations.

Once HB183 passed the House, however, a “poison pill” amendment was added that flipped the bill’s intent by allowing utilities to impose additional, undefined fees on current and future rooftop solar customers. By the time HB183 reached the full Senate, it had morphed into something that WOC and our partners were no longer able to support. In a narrow 15–16 vote, the bill died on the Senate floor. In this way, the third reading Senate votes against HB183 are supportive of rooftop solar and expanding net metering. While the unraveling of a bill that originally supported rooftop solar was disappointing, the intensity of the bipartisan and community backing for rooftop solar was a powerful signal that net metering is supported by a number of grassroots advocates, ranchers, businesses, local government officials, and others.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2: RESOLUTION DEMANDING EQUAL FOOTING

Sponsors: Senators Ide; Biteman; French; Hutchings; Laursen, D.; McKeown; Smith, D., and Steinmetz, and Representatives Allemand; Banks; Bear; Neiman; Smith, S., and Winter

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Failed

Perhaps one of the most controversial subjects relating to public lands — public lands transfer — was alive and well in the Senate as seen through Senate Joint Resolution 2. Although it would have been a non-binding statement by the Legislature, the resolution called upon Congress to facilitate the transfer of all federal public lands within Wyoming (with the exception of Yellowstone) to be owned and managed by the state.

Efforts to privatize our public lands, including transferring them to state ownership, would open the door to privatization and unfettered development. As with previous privatization efforts, WOC staff worked directly with citizens and conservation partner organizations to oppose this short-sighted effort. Despite robust public opposition, the Senate Agriculture committee passed the resolution. In a close vote by the full Senate, SJ2 failed but was then resurrected on a reconsideration motion. Luckily, the resolution failed on a third reading vote and again on another subsequent reconsideration motion, though both by a narrow margin.

SENATE FILE 88: 2024 LARGE PROJECT FUNDING

Sponsor: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Passed

Each year, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust invests in important conservation projects that enhance watershed health, strengthen wildlife habitat, and benefit local communities. Although this work does not draw on any general funds, for projects more than \$400,000, legislative approval is required before the work can begin. Senate File 88 was the approval package for 11 such projects across the state this past session, representing the largest annual investment WWNRT has proposed to date. Thanks to strong support in the House and Senate, SF88 passed, and Wyoming will see \$16.4 million invested in wildlife, rangeland, and watershed projects in the next fiscal year.

SENATE FILE 91: PETROGLYPH, PICTOGRAPH AND HISTORIC INSCRIPTION PROTECTION

Sponsor: Select Committee on Tribal Relations

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Passed

Senate File 91 strengthens protections for cultural resources by making the vandalism of petroglyphs and other historic inscriptions on state lands a criminal offense. This bill, supported by the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribal governments, was passed and signed into law by the governor. Protected sites encompass both Indigenous rock imagery and historic inscriptions from the Emigrant Trail era. Before SF91, no protections existed for these sites, despite their significance to Wyoming's cultural history. SF91 also authorizes the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources to survey, document, and create models of all known petroglyphs and pictographs on state, school, and institutional land. While an initial \$441,340 appropriation for this surveying work was removed from the bill, the core protections of the bill were successfully enacted. Representatives emphasized the need to pass the protections, with assurances from the department that they would seek funding in a future session. Despite the removal of the appropriation, the bill received strong support and represents a significant step towards safeguarding Wyoming's cultural heritage.

SENATE FILE 152: WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT-AMENDMENTS

Sponsors: Senators Barlow; Boner; Cooper; Crago; Dockstader; Driskill; Landen; Schuler; Smith, D., and Steinmetz, and Representatives Angelos; Byron; Connolly; Haroldson; Williams, and Winter

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Passed (Amended)

After last year’s devastating fires in northeast Wyoming, Gov. Gordon requested \$130 million for fire recovery and to fend off invasive annual grasses. After funding was slashed and converted from grants to loans early in the session, Senate File 148 offered a way to reinstate the original funding request and act as an insurance policy against future attacks on these vital dollars. This proved wise when senators threw funding priorities into chaos and decided not to pass a supplemental budget in the waning days of the session.

Unfortunately, SF148 died in the House. But a compromise bill, Senate File 152, passed the Senate and the House to provide just shy of \$50 million for invasive annual grass control. The money is sorely needed to keep aggressive species such as cheatgrass, medusahead, and ventenata from taking over. While the nearly \$50 million appropriated is a start for maintaining rangeland health and protecting against future catastrophic wildfires, more funding will be needed to finish the job. The issue is sure to come up again at future legislative sessions.

HOW TO READ THIS VOTE REPORT

The Conservation Vote Report is a snapshot of how Wyoming legislators voted on key conservation bills. The type of vote is captured below the bill's title. If you would like to see the votes for bills not included in this report, [you can visit the Wyoming Legislature’s 2025 bills page](#). (Click on the bill of interest, then navigate to the “Votes” tab and/or the “Digest” tab to see a list of all recorded votes.)

The vote record is a compilation of how legislators voted on key issues during the 2025 General Session. It is meant to provide information for the public on how legislators voted on key conservation issues from this year’s session. Data was compiled by WOC staff from official Wyoming legislative records. The report is produced for nonpartisan informational purposes so that WOC members can begin to understand how lawmakers voted on issues of concern. Support for or opposition to any given bill or resolution is not intended to provide an endorsement or rejection of any legislator. Reach out to individual legislators for a full understanding of their individual vote choices.

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

Y Voted yes
N Voted no
E Excused
C Conflict
— Not applicable

BILLS

HB 183: Net metering amendments
SJ 2: Resolution demanding equal footing
SF 88: 2024 large project funding
SF 91: Petroglyph, pictograph and historic inscription protection
SF 152: Wildfire management amendments

REPRESENTATIVE	HB183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Allemand, Bill	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Andrew, Ocean	Y	—	Y	N	Y
Angelos , Abby	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Banks , Dalton	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Bear, John	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Brady, Marlene	Y	—	Y	N	N
Bratten, Laurie	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Brown, Gary	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Brown, Landon	E	—	Y	Y	N
Byron, Andrew	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Campbell, Elissa	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Campbell, Kevin	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Chestek, Ken	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Clouston, Ken	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Connolly, Marilyn	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Davis, Bob	Y	—	Y	Y	N

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

Y Voted yes
N Voted no
E Excused
C Conflict
— Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill
HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2
HB 94: Net metering
SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized
SF 60: 2024 large project funding
SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds
SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Eklund, John	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Erickson, McKay	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Filer, Lee	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Geringer, Rob	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Guggenmos, Joel	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Haroldson, Jeremy	N	—	Y	Y	Y
Harshman, Steve	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Heiner, Scott	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Hoeft, Paul	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Jarvis, Julie	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Johnson, Steve	Y	—	N	Y	Y
Kelly, Tom	Y	—	Y	N	Y
Knapp, Christopher	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Larsen, Lloyd	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Larson, J.T.	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Lawley, Martha	Y	—	Y	Y	Y

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

- Y Voted yes
- N Voted no
- E Excused
- C Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2

HB 94: Net metering

SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized

SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Lien, Jayme	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Locke, Tony	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Lucas, Ann	Y	—	Y	E	Y
Mccann, Darin	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Nieman, Chip	N	—	Y	Y	Y
Nicholas, Bob	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Ottman, Pepper	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Pendergraft, Ken	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Posey, Ivan	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Provenza, Karlee	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Riggins, J.R.	E	—	E	Y	E
Rodriguez-Williams, Rachel	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Schmid, Mike	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Sherwood, Trey	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Singh, Daniel	Y	—	Y	Y	Y

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

- Y Voted yes
- N Voted no
- E Excused
- C Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2

HB 94: Net metering

SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized

SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Smith, Scott	Y	—	Y	N	Y
Storer, Liz	Y	—	Y	E	N
Strock, Tomi	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Styvar, Clarence	N	—	N	Y	Y
Tarver, Reuben	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Thayer, Pam	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Washut, Art	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Wasserburger, Jacob	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Webb, Joe	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Webber, Nina	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Wharff, Robert	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
Williams, JD	N	—	Y	Y	Y
Winter, John	Y	—	Y	Y	E
Wylie, Cody	Y	—	Y	Y	N
Yin, Mike	Y	—	Y	Y	Y

SENATE VOTES

KEY

- Y Voted yes
- N Voted no
- E Excused
- C Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2

HB 94: Net metering

SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized

SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

SENATOR	HB 183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Anderson, Jim	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barlow, Eric	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Biteman, Bo	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Boner, Brian	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brennan, Evie	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Case, Cale	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Cooper , Ed	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Crago, Barry	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Crum, Gary	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Dockstader, Dan	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Driskill , Ogden	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
French, Tim	N	Y	Y	Y	E
Gireau, Mike	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Hicks, Larry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hutchings, Lynn	N	Y	N	Y	N

SENATE VOTES

KEY

- Y Voted yes
- N Voted no
- E Excused
- C Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

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SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

SENATOR	HB 183	SJ 2	SF 88	SF 91	SF 152
Ide, Bob	Y	Y	N	N	N
Jones, Stacy	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Kolb, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Landen, Bill	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Laursen, Dan	N	Y	Y	Y	N
McKeown, Troy	N	Y	N	N	N
Nethercott, Tara	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Olsen, Jared	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Pappas, Stephan	N	E	Y	Y	Y
Pearson, Laura	N	Y	N	N	Y
Rothfuss, Chris	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Salazar, Tim	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schuler, Wendy	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Scott, Charles	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Smith, Darin	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Steinmetz, Cheri	N	Y	Y	N	N

HOW CONSERVATION FAIRED AT WYOMING’S 68TH LEGISLATURE

Though it would be difficult to label the 2025 Wyoming Legislative Session as a “success” or “failure” for conservation priorities, key policies affecting Wyoming’s lands, waters, wildlife, and cultural resources went largely unaffected by legislation.

That said, we saw attacks on public lands, a renewed push for storing the nation’s nuclear waste, and a continuation of net-metering legislation that targeted current and future rooftop solar customers. Luckily, WOC and other conservation organizations, along with the help of active and engaged citizens like you, were able to quell this bad legislation.

At the same time, we saw some productive legislation that passed in the form of investments in wildfire restoration and large project funding that will support rangeland health and Wyoming’s iconic wildlife species. We also saw significant progress in tribal cultural preservation and notification through strengthening protections for cultural resources and ensuring tribal governments are notified of industrial siting permit applications.

Defending conservation values and advancing positive legislation during the session couldn't have been achieved without the active engagement of Wyoming citizens. In several occurrences, legislators mentioned the sheer volume of such citizens reaching out about legislation that could impact our environment and communities. We thank all citizens who spoke up for the things that matter most — your voices truly made a difference this year.

LOOKING AHEAD: INTERIM COMMITTEES AND WHAT TO EXPECT FOR NEXT YEAR’S BUDGET SESSION

We anticipate a narrower focus on enabling advanced nuclear manufacturing and promoting new types of nuclear technology. We’ve already seen Utah and other states move in this direction. For the time being, though, based on the strong public opposition we saw this session, it seems unlikely that Wyoming would open its doors to storing the country’s nuclear waste.

With commitments from the Freedom Caucus to continue slashing the budget, we anticipate the need to advocate for funding

for essential services such as wildland fire and treating invasive annual grasses during the upcoming session. We hope to ensure that the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust can continue to fund boots-on-the-ground conservation work across Wyoming, while also maintaining the independence of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission in managing our wildlife.

HOW YOU CAN STAY ENGAGED

Significant legislative work happens in the interim, and you can get involved! Attending a committee meeting is a great opportunity to participate in the legislative process close to home. You can find meeting topics, sign up to testify, and watch meetings live on YouTube [all from the legislative calendar](#) (click the “Details” link.) Agendas are usually posted two weeks before the meeting (also at the “Details” link). We hope to see you there!

You can also stay informed by keeping an eye on [our legislative webpage](#) and the [Wyoming Legislature's website](#).

Finally, our advocacy for Wyoming’s wide-open spaces, wildlife, clean air, and clean water is only possible with your support. If you’ve appreciated having a voice at the table wherever important conservation decisions are made — during the session and throughout the interim — [consider making a gift to the Outdoor Council](#). Your contributions help sustain this vital work. Thank you!



From the halls of the Capitol to interim meetings across the state, your gift to the Wyoming Outdoor Council ...

... Amplifies your voice and values wherever conservation decisions are made.

... Empowers citizens with news and knowledge that enable action.

... Sustains year-round advocacy for our lands, wildlife, clean air, and clean water.

Ready to support and strengthen our legislative work?

Make a gift today.