



State Trust Lands

More than 120 years ago, our nations' leaders endowed Wyoming's citizens with a lasting legacy.

When Wyoming was admitted to the Union, it was granted certain lands to support public education and other state institutions like the University of Wyoming, the Veteran's Home and State Hospital. State Trust Land in Wyoming amounts to a surface area bigger than the entire state of Connecticut.

State Trust Lands are scattered throughout the state in a checkerboard pattern, (sections 16 and 36 in each township) with a few large consolidated parcels.

3.5 million surface acres

3.9 million mineral acres

Unlike BLM, Forest Service and other Public Lands, **State Trust Land** does not operate under a multiple use mandate. State Trust Land is held in a Trust for the benefit of public education and other state institutions. These lands are managed by the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners (SBLC). The Board is made up of the five state elected officials Board.

Governor Matt Mead, Chairman

Secretary of State Max Maxfield

State Auditor Cynthia Cloud

State Treasurer Joe Meyer

State Superintendent of Education Cindy Hill

State Trust Land Provides Income to Wyoming

86% of State Trust Lands are classified as "Common School Trust Lands" more commonly referred to as "State School Sections" and support K-12 education

14% of State Trust Lands generate revenues to support other state institutions such as the University of Wyoming, Veterans Home and the Girls and Boys Home

Grazing is the most prevalent use on State Trust Lands with 3,981 grazing leases covering over 90% of State Trust Land surface acreage

Mineral development generates the most income for the State Trust Land beneficiaries

Average earnings amount to ~\$157 million annually from State School Sections alone

An annual average of ~\$26 million is made available to the School Foundation Program to help fund public education in Wyoming

What uses are allowed?

State Trust Lands are used for a wide range of commercial endeavors including:

- Grazing and Agricultural
- Wind Energy Development
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Associated Uses
- Mining and Other Sub-Surface Activities
- Sub-Surface Pore Space Storage of Gas and CO₂
- Roadways and Other Infrastructure
- Other Commercial and Institutional Surface Facilities (schools)

These uses are authored by virtue of the following contractual lease and/or permits:

Grazing Leases, Mineral Leases, Special Use Leases, Wind Leases and Pore Space Leases, Temporary Use Permits, Easements, Mining Claims and Survey Permits

What About Public Use?

The Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners allows the public the privilege to use most State Trust Lands with some limitations.

Uses Allowed:

Hunting, fishing, shooting, hiking, horse back riding and other general recreational uses

Uses NOT Allowed:

No open fires, overnight camping or off road vehicle use are allowed on State Trust Lands. In some cases the Board is forced to limit public access or use of Trust Lands due to safety concerns, management issues or abuse by the public. Use of Trust Lands can be limited or in some cases public access may be prohibited.

When crossing private land to reach state land, you must have permission from the landowner. To help determine if certain state lands are legally accessible, please visit the State Land Access application found on the Office of State Lands and Investments website at <http://lands.state.wy.us>

Always use the lands in a respectful manner to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the same privilege.

Can educators utilize State Trust Lands?

The state manages State Trust Land ranches that can be utilized for education and research workshops.

While remote, the properties can be used for day trips.

The X Bar Ranch and Moriah Ranch are located in Albany County. The Duncan Ranch is located in Converse County. Many other parcels are located within walking distance or a short bus ride from schools.

TOPIC IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

State Trust Land History

Energy

Minerals

Forest Health

Geology

Grazing Management

Livestock Management

Riparian Management

Soil Management

Vegetation Enhancement

Wildland Fire Management

Watershed/Irrigation Management

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



The Office of State Lands and Investments' staff are available to assist during classroom or field trip activities. Staff can help you find your nearest trust land parcel or arrange for a visit to one of the state trust land ranches.

Please call 307.777.8510 or email cathy.lujan@wyo.gov