

# WYOMING STATUTE

## **36-2-107. Rules and regulations; general penalty for violations; enforcement.**

(a) The board shall have the power and authority to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the State, as it may from time to time deem necessary in the direction, control, disposition and care of all State lands, and to preserve the value of the land and to recognize the fiduciary duties of the State land office.

(b) Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both. The acts prohibited under this subsection are:

(i) Damaging State lands under circumstances not a violation of W.S. 6-3-201;

(ii) Using a motor vehicle on State lands off an established road as defined by the board or on a road closed by the board;

(iii) Charging for or receiving payment for purposes of allowing persons to engage in hunting, fishing or any other recreational use of State lands, unless the payment is collected pursuant to a lease or temporary use permit issued by the State;

(iv) Building, maintaining, using or attending an open fire, campfire or charcoal grill on State land except in areas established by the board; and

(v) Camping overnight on State land except in areas established by the Board.

(c) Any peace officer as defined in W.S. 7-2-101 shall have the authority to enforce this section on State lands. Any game and fish department law enforcement personnel qualified pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-707 shall have authority to enforce this section to the extent that there is no diminishment in federal funds provided for under W.S. 23-1-601 and



Office of State Lands and  
Investments  
122 W. 25th Street  
Herschler Bldg., 3W  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0600

Office of State Lands and Investments  
Real Estate Management Division  
122 W. 25th Street  
Herschler Bldg., 3W  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0600

## WYOMING STATE TRUST LAND

### *PUBLIC USE RULES*



OFFICE OF STATE LANDS  
AND INVESTMENTS

WYOMING BOARD OF LAND  
COMMISSIONERS

Put Stamp Here  
The Post Office  
will not deliver  
mail without  
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## The Story of State Lands

When Wyoming became a State on July 10, 1890 the federal government granted approximately 4.2 million acres of land to the State. Unlike BLM and Forest Service lands -- federal public lands managed for multiple-use -- the law requires that this state land be held in trust and managed by the State Board of Land Commissioners (the Board) and the Office of State Lands and Investments (the Office) to produce income to support public schools and other State institutions named in the original grants. Accordingly, these lands are known as "State trust lands," "school trust lands," or simply "State lands." State lands are designated in blue on BLM land status maps. The most current State land ownership information is available by clicking on the WyGIS link at the Office's homepage, <http://slf-web.state.wy.us/>.

For decades the public could not use State lands without the permission of the State's lessees. In 1988, the Board adopted rules extending to the public the *privilege* of hunting, fishing and general recreational use on much of the remaining 3.5 million acres of State land. The rules defining this privilege are simple. First, the land must be legally accessible via public road, right-of-way, easement, public waters, or adjacent state, local or federal land. Anyone wishing to cross private land to reach State land must have the permission of the private landowner. The landowner is under no obligation to grant such permission. Second, off-road vehicle use, overnight camping, and open fires are prohibited on State land. All motor vehicles must remain on established roads. New roads or tracks cannot be created, nor can established roads be extended by public users. Activities that would damage State lands, roads, improvements, or the lessee's property are also prohibited. Finally, cultivated croplands are not open to public use. Please refer to Chapter 13 of the Board's Rules, which can be found at <http://soswy.State.wy.us/rules/rules.htm>.

Many residents and nonresidents enjoy the privilege of hunting, fishing, and recreating on State land. In most cases, the public uses this land in a responsible manner. However, there are those who choose to abuse the rules and, in some cases, the land. Where the privilege is abused or lessee interests damaged, the Board may close specific State land, roads and areas on a temporary or permanent basis. Public users must obey all authorized closures, restrictions, and postings.

In order to improve the public's knowledge of and compliance with Board rules and to prevent the closure of legally accessible State land, the Wyoming Legislature recently amended WYO. STAT. ANN. 36-2-107. As of July 1, 2006, it is a misdemeanor to damage State land, use motorized vehicles off established roads, charge for the use of State land, and build fires or camp on State land. Peace officers and game wardens now have the authority to issue citations to those who choose to violate the law intended to protect the public schools and other beneficiaries who are entitled to revenue from the State lands.

The Board and Office encourage the public to continue to enjoy the privilege of using State land for hunting, fishing and other recreational purposes. However, with this privilege comes the responsibility of using the land in a proper manner so the beneficiaries aren't harmed and so future generations will continue to enjoy the same privilege. The public is encouraged to notify the county sheriff's office, the local game warden, or the Office of any observed violations of the Board rules or WYO. STAT. ANN. 36-2-107 (b). We appreciate your cooperation, continued responsible behavior and mutual respect in sharing the use of State land.

If you desire to use State lands outside the scope of activities permitted under WYO. STAT. ANN. 36-2-107(b) or Board rules, please contact the Office about the possibility of obtaining a Temporary Use Permit or a Special Use Lease.

08/06

## SURVEY

1. Would you be willing to pay an annual fee or daily fee to camp on State land in designated areas?

Yes

No

If "yes" how much would you be willing to pay per year \_\_\_\_\_? Daily \_\_\_\_\_?

2. Would you be willing to pay an annual fee or daily fee for off road vehicle use on State land in designated areas?

Yes

No

If "yes" how much would you be willing to pay per year \_\_\_\_\_? Daily \_\_\_\_\_?

3. Please share any specific questions or suggestions you have concerning public use of State trust lands.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

### Office of State Lands and Investments Real Estate Management Division

122 W. 25th Street  
Herschler Bldg., 3W  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0600

Phone: 307-777-7333

Fax: 307-777-6526

E-mail: [slfmail@State.wy.us](mailto:slfmail@State.wy.us)