

# Wyoming Stock Growers Association



*"Guardians of Wyoming Cow Country since 1872"*

## Policies and Directives

# December 2022

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## **AG FINANCE & TAX**

Purpose: To discuss and monitor financial matters affecting agriculture, and to ensure that the live-stock industry is treated equitably in all areas of national, state and locally levied taxes.

Policies:

1. Support the continual existence of farm mortgage loans through the State of Wyoming Farm Loan Pro-gram. (renewed 08/20)
2. Oppose any inheritance tax, estate tax or gift tax of any kind except soak-up taxes, and support efforts at the state or federal levels to reduce the burden on free enterprise that these taxes create. (renewed 08/20)
3. Oppose any tax which will unduly burden agriculture. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support income averaging for income tax purposes and modification of capital gains tax structures to reduce burdens on free enterprise. (renewed 08/20)
5. Support state and national legislation requiring an impact statement that would identify any significant harm to local tax base, education, economic or culture as a result of any activity by local, state or federal agencies. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support the concept of a balanced budget at all levels of government and encourage that it initially and primarily be achieved through spending cuts. (renewed 08/20)
7. Support taxation based on productivity of agricultural lands as determined by use of the land. (renewed 08/20)
8. Support continuation of the use of escrow waiver programs by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Taylor Act Lease/Permit Extensions by the U.S. Department of Interior in cooperation with agricultural lending institutions. (renewed 08/20)
9. Urge the Wyoming Department of Revenue and Wyoming Board of Equalization, in cooperation with Wyoming county assessors, to enhance the uniformity of taxation of agricultural property by:
  - a. Clearly defining the methodology to be used in assessing agricultural lands, farmsteads and agricultural improvements;
  - b. Requiring line-item classification for farmsteads, agricultural buildings and agricultural personal property on assessment schedules; and

- c. Providing sufficient uniformity and consistency among county assessors to assure proper adherence to the standards and land productivity classifications provided by the Department of Revenue. (renewed 06/19)
- 10. Continue to support the concept that allows all elementary and secondary public-school students to share equitability in Wyoming's financial resources while making control of curriculum, personnel, testing, building, and local budgets the responsibility of locally elected Boards of Trustees. (renewed 08/20)
- 11. Strongly oppose any classification of property qualified and used as agricultural lands or buildings into any other class regardless of any additional uses a county tax assessor may assert. (renewed 08/20)
- 12. Urge that a new section of the Internal Revenue Code on inheritance taxes be adopted to include the elective option of passing on a productive ranch or farm enterprise to succeeding generations tax free as long as the entity remains in agriculture production. (renewed 06/18)
- 13. Support legislation that limits the federal government to the enumerated powers under the Constitution and returns the balance of power to the states. (adopted 06/19)
- 14. Collaborate with neighboring states to come up with a fair and equitable solution to allow Wyoming to ship products through other states and to market products in other states. (adopted 12/19)
- 15. Support legislation to be considered in 2022 to increase the tax on non-exempt gasoline and diesel by not to exceed nine (9) cents. (amended 12/21)
- 16. Not oppose the adjustment of the minimum agricultural income requirement for agricultural land qualification up to \$5,000 for all agricultural land." (adopted 6/21)
- 17. Oppose implementation of any Environment Social Governance (ESG) government mandated rules, guidelines, and reports that will negatively impact Wyoming. (adopted 12/22)

## **AG PROMOTION, EDUCATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

Purpose: To promote and enhance animal care and resource stewardship practices of Wyoming ranchers through producer education, to foster public understanding of these practices and the ranching culture through communication programs, media relations and new social media and to support strong agricultural education programs in Wyoming at both K-12 and collegiate levels.

Policies:

1. Support the development of a public relations campaign using all available forms of the mass media with the specific goal of increasing the public's awareness of the vital importance of agriculture to them personally (Amended 6/19)
2. Promote how agriculture both sustains and enhances the "open space" of Wyoming's lands and support the mission of the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust. (Amended 06/19)
3. Support the Wyoming Office of Tourism in providing accurate and positive representation of ranching culture in their media campaigns. (renewed 06/17)
4. Urge the UW Board of Trustees and President to prioritize and request funding for the following:
  - a. Upgrade of the Laramie Research and Extension Center
  - b. Expansion of the Animal Science/Molecular Biology Building to at least its original intended size.
  - c. Long-term renovation of the main College of Agriculture building. (Adopted 6/19)
5. Support Wyoming Beef Council funding of promotion efforts by Wyoming Cattle Women. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support Wyoming Ag in the Classroom and its endeavors to gain adequate funding for project continuation and development. (renewed 08/20)
7. Support continued funding of the State Fair at a level that enables the Fair to maintain its role as the premier exposition of Wyoming's agricultural diversity and a showcase for youth agricultural activities. (amended/renewed 6/22)
8. Support and promote an individual student/school voucher system so all children and their families may be able to choose which type of accredited, quality education

will work best for them and receive the same financial assistance to offset costs as the school would if the students were attending the traditional brick and mortar facility. (adopted 08/20)

9. Request that “Natural Resources” remain in the name of the College of Agriculture. (adopted 6/22)



## **BRAND**

Purpose: To serve to monitor the brand inspection system, evaluating its effectiveness in the field and propose to the Wyoming Livestock Board any changes in execution and funding.

Policies:

1. Support a continued review of the Packers and Stockyards Administration regulations on bonding and custodial accounts to ensure producers are protected. (renewed 08/20)
2. Support the continued use of the G Form to approved markets in South Dakota. (renewed 08/20)
3. Support policies that provide and train adequate personnel to carry out brand inspection. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support publicizing and funding a reward of up to \$750 for information leading to arrest and conviction for the theft, endangerment or destruction of livestock as determined by the executive committee. (renewed 08/20)
5. Support having the Livestock Board maintain an adequate number of law enforcement personnel to properly assist and train local law enforcement in the enforcement of the brand and animal health laws and regulations. (amended & renewed 08/20)
6. Strongly support maintaining Wyoming's status as a fence-out state for cattle and horses. (adopted 06/18)
7. Urge the Wyoming legislature to continue funding of the Brand Program from the General Fund at a level of not less than the level of funding provided for the 2023-2024 biennium. (amended/renewed 6/22)
8. Urge the Wyoming Livestock Board to propose changes to the permit program that would include:
  - a. Establishing the pasture livestock movement permit fee on a per head of livestock basis of 50% of the rate for a full inspection;

- b. Requiring a minimum 48-hour notice prior to any movement under a permit to be given either to a brand inspector in the home county or entered onto a website database as provided by the WLB;
  - c. Establishing the inspection fee under an Out of State Range Permit at 50% of the rate for a full inspection
  - d. Establishing a separate permit with a single permit fee for the movement of livestock to another county or a contiguous state for veterinary care (adopted 06/18)
9. Cooperate and assist the Wyoming Livestock Board in the development of regulations that provide mechanisms for monitoring and administering permanent brands; and if a workable program cannot be devised and implemented, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association seek repeal of the legislation. (adopted 6/19)

## FEDERAL LANDS

Purpose: To provide a leadership role in developing public land policies.

Policies:

1. Support multiple use on federal lands. (renewed 08/20)
2. Oppose application of terms and conditions on private lands within BLM allotments and Section 15 leases without permission of private landholders. (renewed 06/19)
3. Oppose changing section 15 leases to grazing permits. (renewed 08/20)
4. Oppose any federal or state “wild and scenic” designation of any Wyoming river. (renewed 08/20)
5. Support the policy that all agencies of government shall develop, implement, and pursue an effective program for control and containment of noxious weeds, prairie dogs and predators on all lands under their control and jurisdiction, including wilderness areas. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support adequate line-item funding on the federal level for the Rangeland Research Budget. (renewed 08/20)
7. Encourage the identification, practice and recognition of good range management of public and private lands. (renewed 08/20)
8. Support no net loss of AUM’s on all grazing lands in Wyoming. (renewed 08/20)
9. Oppose the establishment of Research Natural Areas and Mineral Withdrawal. (renewed 08/20)
10. Support federal land sales and exchanges that are mutually agree- able to the federal government and private landowner and all affect- ed lessees or permittees. (renewed 08/20)
11. Support practices that foster healthy rangelands if they are voluntary, cost effective and based on sound science. (renewed 08/20)
12. Urge federal land management agencies and public land users to use the Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation system to resolve natural resource conflicts. (renewed 08/20)
13. Oppose BLM’s consideration of public access across private land as criteria in selecting successful applicants for grazing permits. (renewed 08/20)

14. Support the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management position that the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S. Section 558 (c) requires the following: When the grazing permittee/lessee has made timely and sufficient application for a renewal or a new permit/ lease in accordance with agency rules, a permit/lease with reference to an activity of a continuing nature does not expire until the application has been finally determined by the agency. This provision provides the authority to graze livestock on allotments while an administrative appeals process is underway. (renewed 08/20)
15. Advocate that the U.S. Forest Service re-establish the congressionally mandated multiple use concepts as the foundation for national forest management. (renewed 08/20)
16. Request the Bureau of Land Management to cease any management activities on private surfaces unless conducted with the full consent of the private landowner. (renewed 08/20)
17. Support requiring quantitative data be used to evaluate range condition and trend during standards and guidelines review, and when evaluating whether a permittee has met terms and conditions of his/her permit. (renewed 06/22)
18. Request that the BLM and USFS update range manuals and policies to reflect state of the art of range science. (renewed 06/22)
19. Request that permittees be authorized to use all range and livestock management tools available, especially during drought. (renewed 06/21)
20. Support the development of local working groups to address local resource concerns. (renewed 06/18)
21. Pursue actions through our congressional representatives to provide compensation for the permittees' financial investment when federal grazing or other permits are cancelled. (renewed 06/18)
22. Encourage the Bureau of Land Management to develop mitigation agreements with the affected grazing permittees and energy companies in the decision to approve a proposed energy development permit on federal lands. (renewed 06/19)
23. Encourage local government officials, in protecting our agriculture industry, to take advantage of the offer of cooperating agency status that is mandated to be made

available by all agencies under the Department of the Interior, and further encourage local government officials to develop Natural Resource Land Use Plans and to assert their right of coordination under federal law. (renewed 06/21)

24. Support that the BLM manage the wild horses according to the appropriate management levels and that there be no moratoriums on horse roundups. (renewed 08/20)
25. Support that grazing permittees who suffer the loss of AUM's due to the development of energy resources be compensated and/or mitigated. Reclamation should be mandatory with quantifiable, verifiable standards and include annual monitoring and status reports in a joint cooperative effort. (renewed 06/21)
26. Support the continuation of a process to identify local Sage Grouse issues and concerns and the development of recommended voluntary range and livestock management practices by groups or committees established at the local level. (renewed 06/21)
27. Support passage of legislation prohibiting any state agency from holding a federal grazing permit. (renewed 06/22)
28. Oppose authorization or permitting of any new recreational OHV roads or trails by any federal, state, or local governmental entity without first assessing the impact of the rules and regulations on existing roads and trails and mitigating previous negative impact on grazing. (renewed 06/22)
29. Urge the creation of a line item in the Department of Interior appropriations bill to provide annual funding for the purpose of wild horse management emergency issues such as the emergency removal of horses to prevent starvation and extreme adverse impacts to rangeland health on federal and intermingled private and state lands. (renewed 06/22)
30. Urge that the BLM and USFS take appropriate and timely actions to assure that expiring grazing permits will continue to be renewed under current terms and conditions, pending completion on adequate environmental analysis following the expiration of current appropriations language. (renewed 06/18)

31. Request that, in all areas of energy development on federal lands, grazing mitigation measures be agreed to by field operators and be included in the Record of Decision authorizing the development. Such measures should include:
- a. An annual operator meeting with permittees.
  - b. Full compensation for livestock lost to energy activities.
  - c. Establishment of a fund, or a firm commitment to funding, for development of range improvement projects that compensate for the development impacts.
  - d. Protection of necessary livestock movement corridors.
  - e. Appropriate management of pipeline and other trenching projects so as not to severely impact livestock's natural movement through pastures.
  - f. Construction and maintenance of quality fencing to assure that wild- life and livestock will not access contaminated water in pits.
  - g. Properly constructed and maintained cattle guards on all roads
  - h. Enforcement of appropriate speed limits on all roads.
  - i. Provision of alternative forage or feed sources if field development reaches a level where continued grazing is not economically viable for the permittee.
- (renewed 06/18)

32. Support the use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's) including motorcycles, 4-Wheelers and Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPV's) in the daily operations of ranches, the maintenance of range improvements and the herding of livestock as appropriate and necessary for the federal land ranchers in Wyoming. These are among the tools essential in modern day ranching to do the required maintenance and herding that is needed to accomplish multiple-use benefits while keeping the ranches economically competitive. These tools enable ranchers to respond in a timely manner to the needs of both livestock and the rangeland resource.

- In order to keep our industry in the lead of the efforts to protect and enhance the land we urge Wyoming ranchers to adopt the following principles and practices. To reduce the visibility from roads and reduce the possibility of creating a road or trail, we encourage varying the track or route when accessing a site on numerous occasions. In addition, we support practices such as:
  - a. Utilizing existing roads and trails when available.

- b. Limiting travel on soft or wet ground.
  - c. Utilizing brush or shrubs to obscure tracks.
  - d. Avoiding, when practical, travel on highly erosive soils and sites such as steep hillsides.
  - e. Controlling speeds or altering routes to minimize disturbance of big game animals.
  - f. We must emphasize the fact that no one effort or practice will fit all situations. We know there will, and should be, exceptions to any of these practices. It must be recognized that ranchers need to go off road in all kinds of conditions to check and treat sick livestock, tend to cows and sheep that are calving and lambing or to locate dead cattle and sheep to confirm predator losses.
- (renewed 06/18)

33. Urge that, in the BLM federal planning process, all existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and National Natural Land- marks (NNL) be reevaluated for compliance with established criteria and court decisions, and that any proposed new ACEC's and NNL's should be evaluated for compliance with existing criteria, legal precedent, and local land use laws. (renewed 06/18)

34. Support efforts to control the number of wild and feral horses on private, state and BLM lands both in and out of established Herd Management Areas (HMA's) at such level that the BLM can manage the annual increase in population in a manner consistent with Wild Horse Management Section 2 of the Wild Horse and Burro Act which states, "When the Secretary determines on the basis of information available to him] that an overpopulation exists on a given area of the public lands and that action is necessary to remove excess animals, he shall immediately remove excess animals from the range so as to achieve appropriate management levels. Such action shall be taken, [in a specified priority], until all excess animals have been removed to as to restore a thriving natural ecological balance to the range and protect the range from the deterioration associated with overpopulation." (renewed 06/19)

35. Support establishment of long-term holding pastures on leased lands in the mid-west and east to reduce horse numbers on BLM administered land to no more than

current appropriate management levels and further support that BLM employ all effective population control and management methods to assure that these levels are not exceeded in the future and further support reducing the breeding herd to the level that the annual reproduction can be managed through the adoption and/or ale programs. (renewed 08/20)

36. Support congressional efforts to re-establish the appropriate over- sight and reporting of the distribution of the fees obtained by entities using the Open and Equal Access to Justice Act. (renewed 08/20)
37. Encourage the BLM to implement an aggressive spay and neuter program to control the growth of wild horse populations. (renewed 06/22)
38. Support incentives promoting woody biomass utilization on private, state, and federal lands; encourage forest managers to utilize the woody biomass available in forested areas; support efforts to incorporate woody biomass generated electricity as a part of the electric grid renewable energy source profile; and encourage the development and funding of new technologies and wood-based markets for non-traditional products. (renewed 6/21)
39. Strongly supports “The Path Forward for Management of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros”, the collaborative effort of diverse interests including the livestock industry; and urges Congress to provide adequate funding to the BLM to proceed with aggressively implementing the recommendations of “The Path Forward”. (adopted 6/19)
40. Work with the Public Lands Council to petition the Department of the Interior to move the Public Scoping process and implementation of the resulting decisions to the District level and to create a consistent Field Office procedure for preparing documents and supporting a streamlined, dependable system. (adopted 12/19)
41. Urge that any revisions to the current federal sage grouse plans be state-specific, respect the primacy of the state in the management of sage grouse, and that revisions applicable federal lands in Wyoming be based on the current State Sage Grouse Management Plan. (adopted 6/22)
42. Strongly object to any fee title land acquisitions in Wyoming by the federal government unless an equal or greater acreage of federal land in the State is



concurrently transferred to state or private ownership; and urge the Wyoming Congressional Delegation to seek passage of legislation that would preclude the federal government from acquiring a net increase in fee title to lands. (adopted 6/22)

43. Strongly oppose any acquisition of private land by any federal agency without notice to the Governor and County Commissions of the counties involved with notice to be given prior to any negotiations on specific projects and without the approval of the state legislature prior to the acquisition. (Adopted 6/22)

Directive: The Officers and Staff of WSGA are directed to utilize all available tools, including litigation, to require BLM to reduce all BLM wild horse populations in Wyoming to lower AML and to maintain those populations within AML levels. (renewed 06/21)

## **LIVESTOCK HEALTH & PRODUCTION**

Purpose: To monitor and disseminate information to the livestock industry concerning livestock production, animal health and animal welfare. To act as a liaison between the livestock industry and governmental agencies in the livestock production field. To assist in directing the livestock production concerns of the members to the proper agencies.

### Policies:

1. Support continued diligence in prevention and control of animal diseases of significance to Wyoming. (renewed 08/20)
2. Maintain Wyoming's status as brucellosis-free. (renewed 08/20)
3. Support continuation of the Beef Quality Assurance program. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support the concept that animal welfare is a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of livestock production. (renewed 08/20)
5. Support equal mandatory USDA health inspection of all domestic and imported meat, poultry and fish. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support the Veterinary Practice Act. (renewed 06/18)
7. Encourage the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to increase its efforts to control brucellosis in the state elk herds and to increase its communications with landowners and producers in areas of invested elk. (renewed 06/18)
8. Support the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory and adequate funding to continue with its many functions, including wildlife and public health issues, as well as domestic animal issues. (renewed 08/20)
9. Support the Wyoming Wildlife/Livestock Disease Research partnership and its efforts to secure federal and other funding for its research on diseases of concern to both wildlife and domestic live- stock. (renewed 06/21)
10. Support a contractual relationship between USDA-APHIS and the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab for operation of Brucellosis & other regulatory Serology Lab by WSVL in lieu of a joint state federal lab. (renewed 06/22)
11. Encourage Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to vigorously pursue recruiting and training students with the aptitude and desire to fill the increasing void of food animal veterinarians and recommend an attempt be made to identify a process of

recruitment that selects individuals with skills and physical capabilities in addition to academics. (renewed 06/22)

12. Support a significantly greater dedication of financial resources at all levels of government to mosquito control, as this is the only effective tool to reduce the exposure of both humans and susceptible animal species to West Nile Virus infection. (renewed 06/18)
13. Request that USDA and the Wyoming Livestock Board require all foreign imported livestock be individually ID'd to allow tracking of individual animals. (amended & renewed 06/18)
14. Encourage continued funding of the Wyoming Emergency Insect Control Act. (renewed 06/19)
15. Continue to remain in staunch support of the WLB remaining a stand-alone, autonomous agency governed and controlled by livestock producers most directly affected by decisions emanating from that agency. Oppose any efforts to weaken or diminish the WLB and its authority over the areas of Wyoming policy and issues that most directly affect and impact livestock producers. (renewed 06/21)
16. Urge Congress to adopt legislation that authorizes and protects the ability to humanely transport and dispose of surplus horses. (renewed 06/22)
17. Oppose a mandatory national animal identification program and urge that the legitimate need for animal trace back for disease purpose be met through voluntary state programs that; are cost effective and confidential; that do not infringe on the movement and handling of livestock at the speed of commerce; and that utilize to the fullest extent practicable existing state brands programs. (renewed 06/19)
18. Support enforcement of required testing (for trichomoniasis) and tracking of non-virgin bulls sold for breeding purposes. (renewed 06/19)
19. Support the UW Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science and assist in efforts to secure adequate federal, state and/or private funding for approved research projects. (renewed 6/19)
20. Urge APHIS to maintain and strengthen its commitment to provide full funding for brucellosis-infected herd depopulation and request that the Wyoming Congressional Delegation assure that USDA-APHIS appropriations include funding for this purpose.

Urge Wyoming's Governor to take all appropriate actions to assure that funding for depopulation is available to all qualifying cattle producers who voluntarily depopulate infected herds. (renewed 08/20)

21. Support Brucellosis surveillance testing and adult vaccination of cattle in any area where known infected wildlife are found, to be paid for through state appropriated funds. (adopted 06/18)
22. Support the conversion of existing law enforcement positions, as determined by the WLB Board and Director, to livestock health field personnel positions charged with responding to livestock neglect or abuse reports. (adopted 06/18)
23. Support using general fund appropriated monies for Brucellosis testing in areas of imminent concern as designated by the Livestock Board and approved by the Governor. (adopted 12/18)
24. Urge APHIS to fully recognize the effectiveness of the Wyoming program, to refrain from imposing any additional requirements on Wyoming livestock and to encourage other states to accept Wyoming livestock without additional testing requirements. (adopted 11/22)
25. Strongly oppose the efforts of the Federal Government to require all animal antibiotics to be purchased and used under a vet's prescription. (adopted 12/19)

## **MARKETING, TRANSPORTATION & LABOR**

Purpose: To proactively address issues and problems directly related to marketing, labor and transportation

Policies:

1. Support requiring that all cattle moving between Canada and the U.S. be subject to the same health requirements. (amended & renewed 08/20)
2. Support prohibiting the importation of beef and beef products from countries that feed ruminant by-products or are known to be infected with any "A" list disease. (renewed 08/20)
3. Strongly support the enforcement of the federal Packers and Stock- yards Act. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support the concept of a USDA inspected processing and fabrication plant in Wyoming and facilitate interested processing facilities in becoming USDA inspected. (amended 11/17)
5. Support the current Beef Check-off program and support an increase of revenues to adjust for inflation, recommended not to exceed and additional \$1.00 per head. (adopted 08/20)
6. Strongly opposed the 2016 Rule promulgated by the US Department of Labor requiring the payment of overtime for any salaried employee earning under \$970 per week and urges the US Congress to take immediate action to stop implementation of the rule which will have significant negative impacts on ranchers, ranch employees. (adopted 06/21)
7. Foster and support programs that provide for voluntary country of origin labeling of U.S. beef; and federal government establishment of a voluntary label defining and raised in the U.S. as a product of the U.S. (adopted 06/22)
8. Work with the Wyoming State Legislature to support passage of a Right-to-Repair bill that would require equipment manufactures to offer the diagnostic tools, manuals, and other supplies that farmers and ranchers need to repair their own equipment. (adopted 6/19)
9. Oppose any further restrictions on employers. (amended & renewed 06/21)

10. Support maintaining Wyoming's 2021 labor laws that are safe, manageable and agreeable for H2A workers and oppose any further restrictions on employers. (adopted 6/21)
11. Support an amendment to the Beef Promotion and Research Act to provide for a mandatory producer referendum every 25 years by posing the following questions:
- "Shall the Beef Checkoff be continued to provide funding for beef research and promotion?"
  - "Shall the amount to be collected under the Beef Promotion and Research Order be adjusted by [an amount as recommended by the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board not to exceed changes in the beef specific parity for the previous covered period]? (adopted 12/21)

Directive: The officers and staff of the WSGA are directed to continue to explore expanding foreign markets for Wyoming beef. (renewed 06/22)

## PRIVATE & STATE LANDS

Purpose: To provide a leadership role in developing private and state land policies, while protecting private lands and state lessee interests.

Policies:

1. Support no net loss of private lands in Wyoming. (renewed 08/20)
2. Oppose the use of abandoned railroad rights of way across private land for public recreational use. (amended & renewed 08/20)
3. Support requiring the BLM to implement surface owners' specifications of reclamation on split estate lands. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support statutes providing adequate compensation for regulatory takings. (renewed 08/20)
5. Support strengthening and protection of private property rights. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support requiring governmental agencies to quantify the efforts of their actions on private property rights. (renewed 08/20)
7. Support that all railroad entities should abide by Wyoming Statutes #37-9-301—305 and –309 regarding fences and fire guards, be a good neighbor, and take responsibility for the timely maintenance of their fire guards, fences, cattle guards and noxious weeds and that the State Attorney General have the ability to investigate and levy the maximum penalty possible until the problems are permanently resolved., (amended & renewed 08/20)
8. Oppose the taking of private property for access when legal access exists. (renewed 08/20)
9. Oppose any effort to force private landowners to provide access within or along streams on private lands. (renewed 08/20)
10. Support preserving development rights of landowners. (renewed 08/20)
11. Support sound, long-term financial planning for Wyoming schools, including a large base of school trust lands—managed on the land by people with a long-term interest in that land. (renewed 08/20)
12. Support an agricultural or grazing lessee's preferential right to purchase state land. (renewed 08/20)

13. Support that nominations of state lands for sale should be by the State Land Board or the lessee. (renewed 08/20)
14. Request that the Office of State Lands and Investments consult with land lessees of the land to be disposed of or acquired before proposing the sale, exchange or acquisition of any state lands and that the Board of Land Commissioners fully consider the impacts of the ranching operations of existing lessees prior to approving any sales or exchanges. (renewed 06/21)
15. Support legislation that requires good faith negotiations for compensation to the surface owner for all damage, use and loss incurred as a result of mineral exploration and/or extraction. (renewed 06/19)
16. Urge that any government agency seeking entry on private land seek written permission from the landowner and pay a reasonable and customary fee. (renewed 08/20)
17. Support changing federal and state laws and policies regarding cultural and biological surveys to return to the owner of the private property the right to stop any study and administrative enforcement activities that the owner does not desire. (renewed 06/21)
18. Support full funding and staffing for the High Plains Grassland Research Station at the USDA/ARS in Cheyenne, Wyoming. As the last USDA/ARS research facility in Wyoming, it provides valuable grass- lands/range and carbon sequestration research. WSGA opposes transfer of funding and staff to Fort Collins, Colorado, or any other ARS facility. (renewed 06/21)
19. Oppose any legislation that impacts the family subdivision exemption. (renewed 06/18).
20. Support open access to all transmission line capacity in Wyoming by all electrical power producers through competitive bidding. (renewed 06/19)
21. Support legislative and regulatory changes that assure that the standards and requirements for the routing and construction of energy transmission facilities on federal and state lands are not more restrictive than those imposed on private lands and to assure that payments on private lands are not less than those on federal and state lands. (renewed 06/19)



22. Adamantly oppose any federal efforts through any means, including presidential executive order, to create a situation of land acquisition and taking of our constitutionally protected private property. (renewed 08/20)
23. Urge that base layer in GIS mapping reflect the surface property status and that the status be included in any analysis during Federal planning processes. (renewed 08/20)
24. Strongly support that livestock must be recognized as private property and that the owner has the responsibility to practice humane animal husbandry and the right to employ practices and practitioners of the owner's choosing. (renewed 08/20)
25. Support actions that will make a surface property right dominant over a severed wind right. (renewed (06/21)
26. Support requiring common carriers and their assignees to post a performance bond or contribute to a fund adequate to fulfill all obligations of an easement agreement including reclamation. (Renewed 06/21)
27. Support strengthening Wyoming's eminent domain laws to provide greater protection to private property owners including the following:
  - a. The right to payment for both initial damage and interruption of activities to include all incurred attorney's fees and other incurred expenses.
  - b. A jury trial on issues of public benefits
  - c. Prioritization of the use of public lands over private lands.
  - d. That condemner must be required to post bond for attorney's fees which are payable to the condemnee if project is abandoned halfway through.
  - e. The ability to participate in planning activities affecting their lands.
  - f. The condemnee may elect to take payment as a single payment or multiple payments or in the form of rents and royalties.
  - g. In the event of an abandoned condemnation the condemnee shall be entitled to all incurred attorney's fees and other incurred expenses. (renewed 06/21)
28. Oppose any United Nations Agenda 21 and Agenda 2030 programs (amended & renewed 06/21)
29. Support legislation that will establish a pipeline reclamation and liability fund that will help protect landowners. (adopted 06/18)

30. Support state legislation requiring all drones that are operated by a government agency on official business to be painted florescent orange. (renewed 06/18)
31. Support state legislation requiring all other drones or other un- manned aircraft or flying devices not having fixed wings or large rotors assume the risk of criminal trespass or loss if operated above private property without the express written consent of the property owner. (adopted 06/18)
32. Oppose EPA regulations that further restrict air quality standards in Wyoming and the nation. (renewed 06/18)
33. Support increasing the penalty for trespassing to hunt on private land to a level that would provide a deterrent to trespassing. (Adopted 12/18)
34. Pursue regulatory and policy changes and, if necessary, Congressional action to bring much needed reforms to the application of the NHPA. (adopted 6/22)
35. Support fines and penalties for tampering or destroying of private property installed by a lessee on state lands. (amended 12/21)
36. Strongly support efforts by the Wyoming Legislature and by the Board of Land Commissioners to provide greater security to these leases through changes to the lease renewal process, greater flexibility in livestock grazing and a strengthening of the requirement that a lessee has actual and necessary use for the leased land for its agricultural purposes. (adopted 12/22)
37. Support all necessary judicial and legislative actions to defend against the threat to private property rights presented by attempts to force access to public lands by corner crossing on private lands. (adopted 12/22)
38. Urge Congress to pass legislation prohibiting ownership of any land, water rights or minerals or interests in any of the above within the United States by any foreign government deemed unfriendly to the United States including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea or by any entity deemed to be controlled by such foreign government; and  
Requests that the Wyoming Legislature pass legislation that prohibits Wyoming state and local governments from recognizing such ownership. (adopted 12/22)

Directive: The officers and staff of Wyoming Stock Growers Association are directed to monitor National Historic Trails Designations and advise members of their impact.  
(adopted 6/22)

## **WATER**

Purpose: To provide a leadership role in developing water policies while protecting water rights.

Policies:

1. Urge that the state continue to defend the primacy of its authority in administration of all Wyoming waters and oppose all actions by the federal government which adversely affect states' rights where water law is concerned. (renewed 08/20)
2. Oppose any Federal Acreage Limitation and Water Conservation rules and regulations due to the excessive burdens and costs, and federal intrusion into local control. (renewed 08/20)
3. Support upstream storage and equitable allocation of all irrigation water in Wyoming. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support keeping agricultural practices under the voluntary non-point pollution program. (renewed 08/20)
5. Request the Governor and the state legislature withdraw support and funding for the Platte River Basin Recovery Program if the governance committee endorses any course of action that may directly or indirectly conflict with the Prior Appropriations Doctrine, existing water rights or with Wyoming primacy over control and allocation of water resources within the state's boundaries. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support the Wyoming Water Coalition paper on water policy. (renewed 08/20)
7. Support the development of water storage facilities that could use their associated water rights to make releases timed to enhance year-round flows, provided this practice would conform to existing state water law and would not occur at the expense, in either money or water, of existing water right holders. (renewed 06/21)
8. Support modification of existing federal clean water regulations to allow recognition of the difference between livestock feeding and livestock working operations. This modification should specifically stipulate that the confinement of livestock for 45 consecutive days rather than the confinement of livestock for a total of 45 days within a 12-month period be a required condition for meeting the definition of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). (renewed 06/21)

9. Support the following strategies to address further development of Wyoming's water for beneficial uses:
  - a. Priority should be given to the development of water storage projects to ensure Wyoming's water is utilized to the benefit of Wyoming people.
  - b. Support the current in-stream flow statute and oppose any legislation to broaden the current in-stream flow statute.
  - c. A comprehensive effort to address flow should be supported, to include water storage development, in-bank storage through direct diversion, and watershed/forest health management, predator management, etc.
  - d. Restore funding that has been diverted from the Water
  - e. Development Program since fiscal year 2016. (adopted 06/18)
10. Urge that all excess Wyoming water should be utilized by Wyoming users first and that Nebraska be allowed to use the water only if they replace it and forfeit their right to exercise the water call the following year. (renewed 06/19)
11. Urge the Governor and the State Legislature to maintain and protect the current funding mechanism for Water Development Accounts I, II and III and to continue to provide adequate funding to address rehabilitation or replacement of the agriculture water delivery infra- structure and the development of new water storage facilities that contribute toward full use of Wyoming's water allocations. (adopted 06/21)
12. Oppose any pipeline across southern Wyoming to transport water from the Green River or Flaming Gorge to Colorado. (renewed 08/20)
13. Oppose the EPA granting administrative authority under TAS (Treatment As States) provisions of either the Clean Water Act or Clean Air Act to the Joint Business Council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes. (renewed 06/19)
14. Oppose the State Engineers Office's use of wildlife management issues and approval from Wyoming Game & Fish to determine the issuance of water use permits. (renewed 06/19)
15. Support and vigorously pursue any necessary actions to assure that stock water permits or rights on federal land cannot be held by the federal government independent of the permittee/lessee who is authorized to graze the lands on which the permit or right is granted. (renewed 08/20)

16. Support efforts to ensure that Wyoming Water Law is adhered to in all cases.  
(renewed 06/22)
17. Support increasing the financial limits for both total project cost and state funding and the extension of the small water projects program. (renewed 6/19)
18. Strongly oppose the EPA's and USGS's unauthorized attempt to expand federal management, permitting or review of water rights, water use of water quantities in violation of state permit. (adopted 06/22)
19. Support that the building of Beaver Dam Analogs require a permit from State Engineers office. (adopted 12/19)

## **WILDLIFE**

Purpose: To give WSGA members an opportunity to communicate with wildlife management agencies, recreation interests and each other about issues concerning game, wildlife, and predator control, and to give WSGA direction in addressing these issues.

### Policies:

1. Support control of prairie dogs on the Thunder Basin National Grass- land and oppose the introduction of the black-footed ferret in the Thunder Basin National Grassland as long as the ferrets are on the Endangered Species list. (renewed 08/20)
2. Request that the State of Wyoming develop a comprehensive plan with adequate funding to manage and control brucellosis in wildlife. (renewed and amended 06/18)
3. Support legislation limiting ownership of land by the Game and Fish Department to present holdings. (renewed 08/20)
4. Support fair and just compensation for damages caused by wildlife. (renewed 08/20)
5. Encourage the Game & Fish Commission to consider the economic impact on the communities and the state of any rule of regulation before actual implementation. (renewed 08/20)
6. Support the policy of zero tolerance of free roaming bison outside Yellowstone National Park and oppose the return to the Park of any bison that have tested positive for brucellosis. (renewed 06/21)
7. Oppose closure of any “Elk Feeding Grounds”. (renewed 06/21)
8. Encourage the Wyoming Game & Fish Department to educate hunters to obtain landowner permission to hunt on private property prior to applying for a license. (renewed 08/20)
9. Encourage the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission to take the following actions in areas having black bear problems:
  - a. Hunt areas should be reduced in size.
  - b. Kill numbers should be increased.
  - c. Seasons should be lengthened. (renewed 08/20)

10. Support liberalizing the seasons and availability of antlerless elk licenses in areas where high elk populations are causing problems. (renewed 08/20)
11. Support a mandatory sentence for trespass that would revoke hunting privileges for a minimum period of one year and suspend outfitters' license for a minimum of one year for aiding and abetting trespass. (renewed 08/20)
12. Urge that the Fish & Wildlife Service assume responsibility for compensation of all personal and/or private property losses due to the impacts of the Endangered Species Act. (renewed 06/18)
13. Oppose the listing of the Black Tailed Prairie Dog as a threatened or endangered species. (renewed 08/20)
14. Support the current level of funding for the western Animal Damage Management Program of USDA Wildlife Services as a minimum and seek increases in future funding as necessary for effective predator control. (renewed 08/20)
15. Strongly support maintaining the predator status of the wolf in Wyoming except within that area currently designated by the Wyoming legislature for trophy game status and any additional seasonal area accepted by the Governor of Wyoming and the Wyoming legislature as necessary for wolf connectivity and to maintain a minimally viable wolf population as defined in a Wyoming Wolf Management Plan. (renewed 06/21)
16. Support the concept of forage compensation for forage harvested by wildlife on private lands provided that such compensation is made available on an equitable basis to all landowners and is payable from monies collected by or appropriated to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and provided further that the current trophy and big game damage compensation program remains intact as a means of compensation of damage other than the harvesting of forage. (renewed 06/22)
17. Support legislation authorizing pilot projects to test various methods of providing property owner compensation for excess forage consumed by wildlife. (renewed 06/18)
18. Encourage the Governor and the Wyoming Legislature to fully support and fund the ADMB. (renewed 06/18)



19. Support legislation raising the penalty for trespass on private land for the purpose of hunting or fishing to be equivalent with poaching wildlife (renewed 06/18)
20. Support unlimited year-long mountain lion seasons in problem areas with licenses available locally. (renewed 08/20)
21. Encourage the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to initiate control of wild- life predation by predacious birds. (renewed 08/20)
22. Oppose the Wyoming Game & Fish obtaining any general fund monies to purchase real estate. (renewed 06/21)
23. Support modification of the critical habitat designations of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C., et. seq. to account for and minimize impact to custom, culture and economic stability of rural areas and agriculture enterprises. (renewed 08/20)
24. Request that problem bears and wolves, once they have killed live- stock, be depopulated rather than moved to another area. (renewed 06/22)
25. Oppose any limitation or reduction of the tools available to livestock producers necessary to effectively deal with predators and predation. (renewed 06/22)
26. Request that any further discussions by federal or state agencies regarding the designation of wildlife corridors include affected livestock producers and that any such designations should provide protection and/or mitigation of existing livestock operations and stock driveways as to maintain their integrity and functionality. (renewed 06/18)
27. Urge wildlife managers and land managers to acknowledge that the current grazing practices have minimal effects on and are compatible with sage-grouse. (renewed 08/20)
28. Request that the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team keep Test and Removal as a tool in the toolbox with the goal of maintaining a low seroprevalence level of brucellosis in the elk at the Muddy Creek Elk Feed ground. (renewed 08/20)
29. Support research and education to increase the use of livestock protection dogs that protect sheep and cattle from wolf and bear depredation. (renewed 08/20)
30. Support the appropriation of General Fund monies for the purposes of Wolf and Grizzly Bear Management. (adopted 12/18)

31. Oppose the introduction of Big Horn Sheep into the Ferris Mountain, Green Mountain, Crooks Mountain, Granite Mountain Rocks, Beaver Rim and Sweetwater Rocks areas west of the North Platte River. (renewed 06/19)
32. Support efforts to ensure that all actions under the Endangered Species Act, including listing, designation of Critical Habitat and development of Recovery Plans, be based on sound scientific research; including research on the social and economic effects these designations will have on the citizens of the state and strongly support continuing efforts to obtain state funding to do the studies necessary to quantify the economic and other effects of any species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act in the State of Wyoming and surrounding states. (renewed 06/19)
33. Due to the efficiency of private land management and the role of private lands in fostering recovery of Endangered Species, oppose any net gain of public lands or net loss of federal AUMs in Wyoming. (renewed 06/19)
34. Support the Wyoming State led plan for Sage Grouse Management and support legislation to delay a listing decision. (adopted 08/20)
35. Request USDA-APHIS and USDA – Agricultural Research Services (ARS) to continue brucellosis field studies and research in wildlife and livestock to help develop solutions to the issues of transmission of the disease between wildlife and livestock. (adopted 6/22)
36. Support congressional action to reaffirm that all species of wildlife are property of the states, unless designated differently by a specific Act of Congress. (adopted 6/22)
37. Strongly support the hunting of Grizzly Bears as authorized by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. (adopted 06/18)
38. Work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Department to identify a more equitable system for landowner license distribution. (adopted 6/19)

### **WSGA Additional Policies**

1. When funding is required by policies of the Association or committee recommendations, the officers have the discretion to set the level of funding. (renewed 08/20)
2. Encourage all members to recruit new membership. (renewed 08/20)

*All previously stated policies which are not hereby confirmed are rescinded.*

### **WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION LONG RANGE PLAN REVISED JULY 2013**

Note: The officers of the WSGA have adopted this amended long-range plan in furtherance of the mission of the association as stated in the bylaws.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

Using key words in the mission statement, general objectives identified were then to be economic, legislative, regulatory, judicial, environmental, custom and cultural and membership. These general objectives are:

1. Economic: Create/identify opportunities to improve profitability for WSGA members and stability for the livestock industry.
2. Legislative & Regulatory: Lead the development of and influence legislation that affects members and improve the regulatory environment in which our members operate.
3. Judicial: Support or initiate litigation, when necessary, to protect membership interest, including private property rights.
4. Environmental: Support continued responsible environmental stewardship of resources and wildlife and engage in efforts that increase public awareness of the positive impacts of resource management through livestock grazing and the multiple use of public lands.
5. Custom & Cultural: Perpetuate/maintain the values of community, local economy, open space, and family provided by the ranching industry.
6. Membership: Increase membership and encourage diverse financial support of association activities by members and associates.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

1. Increase Wyoming Stock Growers Association membership to meet annual goals as established by the Executive Committee.
2. Utilize the existing committee structure more effectively.
3. Identify more effective methods of membership recruitment.
4. Conduct periodical Leadership Training Workshops.

### **ECONOMIC**

1. Host local meeting when appropriate to keep members updated on
2. important topics affecting profitability.
3. Offer seminars to investigate additional sources of income through:
  - a. Adding value to livestock through management, genetics, and resource management.
  - b. Identifying sources of non-livestock revenue
4. Support and maintain the beef check-off.

### **LEGISLATIVE-REGULATORY**

1. Preserve Ag productivity tax status on Ag land.
2. Encourage supporters of Wyoming agriculture to run for political office.
3. Seek representation on governor-appointed boards that affect members' interests.
4. Secure commitment from the Game and Fish Department to honor wildlife population objectives.
5. Be proactive on Endangered Species Act modification and in avoiding proposed listings.
6. Urge control of brucellosis in bison and elk in the Greater Yellow stone Area.
7. Address issues that threaten the stability of public land grazing.
8. Aggressively protect private property rights.
9. Maintain an active, fully funded AGPAC to support political candidates who will support the interests of the WSGA membership.

### **JUDICIAL**

1. Become pro-active in seeking judicial appointments who understand production ag and property rights.

2. Fully support any litigation that serves to protect and enhance property rights, water rights and state and federal land grazing.
3. Continue to build the WSGA legal fund and participate as appropriate in litigation affecting our members' interests.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

1. Promote responsible environmental stewardship and education through aggressive Environmental Stewardship and public relations programs.
2. Formalize the structure for and environmental issues response and public relations program.
3. In cooperation with the University of Wyoming, Department of Agriculture, and federal land agencies, assure that policies, standards and guidelines applied to grazing are science-based, site-specific, and lead to reasonable and realistic management requirements.
4. Remain an involved leader in the development of rules, policies and practices designed to assure compliance with the congressional intent of the Clean Water Act.

#### CUSTOM AND CULTURAL

1. Offer estate planning ag law, or property law seminars when appropriate.
2. Develop partnerships with other groups that will support ag interests.
3. Promote "Ag in the Classroom" and encourage members to assist with implementation of "Ag in the Classroom" in local communities.
4. Seek opportunities to promote the contributions of agriculture to the custom and culture of the state through speaking opportunities, media releases and local activities.
5. Investigate ranch internships for Wyoming college students.

*The mission of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association is to serve the livestock business and families of Wyoming by protecting their economic, legislative, regulatory, judicial, environmental, custom, and cultural interests.*

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