



WYOMING  
CONSERVATION  
VOTERS

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Legislative Scorecard

## ABOUT WYOMING CONSERVATION VOTERS

Wyoming Conservation Voters is the state's only sportsman and conservation organization devoted entirely to full-time lobbying and political action. We work to ensure Wyoming's wildlife and natural resource heritage in three ways:

- We help concerned sportsmen and conservationists communicate to the Legislature that it has a duty to protect Wyoming's environment, promote sound wildlife management and provide public access to public lands.
- We lobby the Legislature year-round to give lawmakers information and analysis of bills affecting Wyoming's hunters and anglers, conservationists and natural resources.
- We assess and publicize legislators' performance on these issues every year so that voters can find out if they agree with the decisions their public servants are making on their behalf in Cheyenne.

WCV is an independent nonpartisan tax-exempt nonprofit organization under Chapter 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Headquartered in Casper, WCV is headed by a statewide volunteer Board of Directors (*see Page 2*) and managed by full-time staff. We are funded entirely by private donations, which are not tax-deductible. Our tax status exempts WCV from limits on what share of our resources we can use to lobby legislators and to characterize and publicize their voting records.

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*Wyoming Conservation Voters*  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE  
SCORECARD**

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# Introduction

## DEAR SCORECARD READER

In the five years since Wyoming Conservation Voters was founded, our state's voters have chosen a new governor and dozens of new legislators to provide leadership on conservation, wildlife and sportsman issues.

These changes in Cheyenne have changed conservation policy in every corner of our state. Wyoming has securely and profitably reinvested millions of dollars for habitat restoration and protection. State land managers have begun to shift their focus to long-term sustainability and recreation. State regulators (and vigilant citizens) have increased their scrutiny of air-, land- and water-quality impacts of booming energy development.

Wyoming people are demanding responsible development on Wyoming's terms. Wyoming policy-makers are beginning to show they are listening. But that new era will never fully get under way unless voters remain watchful – and outspoken – on behalf of healthy wildlife, clean air, land stewardship and water conservation.

To help voters do just that, Wyoming Conservation Voters is proud to provide our fifth annual Legislative Scorecard, rating state lawmakers' votes on conservation, wildlife and sportsman issues during the 58th Legislature's Budget Session.

WCV is the conservation community's full-time, year-round state legislative lobby for environmental protection and resource conservation. When lawmakers debate legislation, we track, evaluate, testify about and report back to you about the effects for habitat, hunting, land management, water consumption, energy production, pollution and many other issues.

We believe these and related issues will define Wyoming's quality of life for generations to come. Five years' experience and interaction with our supporters and our state's decision-makers have strengthened this belief.

Our ultimate goal is to help conservation-minded voters to work directly with legislators to conserve our environment and natural resources. We send this scorecard every year to help you decide if your



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*Conservation efforts help preserve Wyoming's many stunning vistas.*

current lawmakers are getting the job done.

This scorecard is an important tool for quickly evaluating your lawmakers' attention or inattention to conservation issues. It is not the only tool, and it is not perfect. Lawmakers still cast many unrecorded votes. Some bills don't get a vote at all. And some votes are more important than others.

But year after year, the scores turn out to be strong indicators of which legislators make conservation issues a priority. And with many lawmakers now receiving their fourth or fifth annual score, their consistency from session to session is easier to determine.

We suggest you start with these scores and then talk directly with your lawmakers about their actions. Talk to other lawmakers who may have different perspectives. Talk to WCV and other advocacy groups. And keep in touch with your local newspaper editors. Your active communication and oversight will strengthen the resolve of elected officials to support conservation priorities.

We thank Wyoming's 90 lawmakers for their attention to our concerns. And we thank you, the voters of Wyoming, for knowing the score and for choosing pro-conservation legislators to serve our state.

CHRIS MADSON  
*Chairman, Board of Directors*

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### Wyoming Conservation Voters Board of Directors

Chris Madson, *Chairman*    Kirk Koepsel, *Secretary*    Laurie Goodman, *Treasurer*  
*Directors:* Susan Danford, Robert "Chico" Pistono, Marcia Shanor, Craig Thompson



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*Anglers help support all of Wyoming's wildlife when they purchase their conservation stamps.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wyoming Conservation Voters wishes to thank its donors for their enduring support these past five years. As a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, WCV is allowed to lobby elected officials to a greater extent than most charitable groups, but its donors may not deduct their gifts for income tax purposes. For that reason, we particularly appreciate each of your contributions.

WCV focuses heavily on state legislative lobbying, but we are not alone in Cheyenne in support of wildlife and natural resource conservation. Our community was well-represented again this year, especially as additional funding for the Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust Account was considered and passed.

WCV wishes to acknowledge significant legislative policy and lobbying collaboration this year on various issues by the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and its affiliates, the Wyoming Outdoor Council, Trout Unlimited, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Equality State Policy Center and the

Wyoming AFL-CIO Federation and its member organizations. We also wish to expressly thank the Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club for its legislative partnership as well as its contribution toward the cost of this report.

Other conservation groups worked in Cheyenne this year independently of WCV in ways we believe also deserve recognition. A representative of the Clark Resource Council worked hard in support of the governor's request for several dozen new Department of Environmental Quality staff positions. The Nature Conservancy joined sportsman and agriculture groups in an unprecedented combined push for sensitive-species research and management planning. The Wyoming Game Wardens Association continued to educate lawmakers about closing loopholes in our poaching laws. The National Outdoor Leadership School and Friends of the Red Desert also took time to talk to lawmakers at the session. We apologize to anyone else we missed in the crowd!

# Honors

*In alphabetical order by category*

## CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

**Sen. Bruce Burns** (*R-Sheridan/SD 21*) earns this honor for a fourth consecutive session for continued leadership to increase state investments in habitat preservation and wildlife management. As chairman of the Senate Travel Committee, Sen. Burns consistently supported the Wildlife Trust Fund and backed more funding for the politically independent Game and Fish Commission.

**Sen. Cale Case** (*R-Lander/SD 25*) continued pushing his signature conservation issue: a long-overdue reform of water laws that would better enable in-channel conservation of our water for fisheries protection or improvement. He also provided support on the Senate Appropriations Committee for conservation priorities in the state budget.

**Rep. Keith Gingery** (*R-Jackson/HD 23*) has emerged as one of the most articulate conservation voices in the House since taking office in 2005, showing a strong interest in wildlife funding and management issues as a member of the House Travel Committee. He is one of three GOP representatives scoring 100 percent this year.

**Sen. Rae Lynn Job** (*D-Rock Springs/SD 12*) set an example regarding leadership on predator-control funding issues, bringing much-needed common sense and fiscal restraint to an outrageously expensive predator-control funding bill sold to legislators with rhetorically overblown claims. Only a tie vote in the Senate thwarted Sen. Job's effort to create a more public-spirited, cost-effective program.

**Rep. Pete Jorgensen** (*D-Jackson/HD 16*) led efforts in the House to preserve funding for 34 new Department of Environmental Quality environmental permitting and inspection positions to respond to booming oil and gas development. He also provided strong support on the Appropriations Committee for wildlife habitat funding and to trim unnecessarily expensive predator-control proposals.

**Rep. Jack Landon** (*R-Sheridan/HD 30*) improved on an already outstanding conservation record by spearheading House opposition to scientifically misguided, overly expensive new local predator control subsidies. Rep. Landon's biology training provides keen insight into the shortcomings of many legislative efforts to directly manage wildlife.

**Sen. Mike Massie** (*D-Laramie/SD 9*) receives his fourth consecutive "Champion" designation for his continual success at articulating conservation principles on the Senate floor and in the Travel, Recreation & Wildlife Committee. His work to defend budget requests for the Wildlife Trust Fund was both graceful and positive – and successful.

**Sen. John Schiffer** (*R-Kaycee/SD 22*) smoothed the way in the Senate for legislation affecting wildlife, water, state lands and many other topics as the Majority Leader. His leadership in debate and on procedural matters made an enormous difference in achieving positive conservation outcomes.

**Rep. Jane Warren** (*D-Laramie/HD 13*) attained a perfect voting record this year for the second time in five years and stepped up her activism for wildlife habitat and against unnecessary predator-control expenses as a member of the Joint Appropriations Committee. She showed leadership late in the session in attempting to salvage legislation allowing local governments to temporarily use excess stored water to improve local fisheries.

**Rep. Dan Zwonitzer** (*R-Cheyenne/HD 43*) has quickly emerged as one of the strongest conservationists in the House in his two years in the Legislature. He is an active participant in wildlife-related debates in the House Travel Committee and on the House floor. He is one of three House GOP members with a perfect WCV voting score.

### By the numbers...

**88%** Average Score of 2006 "Honors" Recipients

**83%** Average Score of 2005 "Honors" Recipients



## CONSERVATION ADVOCATES

**Rep. Rosie Berger** (*R-Big Horn/HD 51*) has demonstrated a growing interest in wildlife management issues in recent sessions, and this year she took a notable interest in encouraging more fiscally conservative predator control efforts and in helping local communities improve fisheries through temporary use of surplus stored water.

**Rep. Gerald Gay** (*R-Casper/HD 36*) remains a strong leader in the House in support of resident sportsmen, conservation and public land access for recreation.

**Rep. Mary Gilmore** (*D-Casper/HD 59*) continued her advocacy for sportsmen and conservationists and achieved her first 100-percent rating this year, her fourth year in the House.

**Sen. Jayne Mockler** (*D-Cheyenne/SD 8*) turned in yet another thoughtful and philosophical performance at the Legislature in 2006, showing mastery of topics ranging from state energy pipeline bonding practices to wildlife habitat funding. Her speeches on the Senate floor are of the highest caliber and often extremely persuasive.

**Rep. Wayne Reese** (*D-Cheyenne/HD 11*) tirelessly advocated investment in wildlife habitat as a member of the House Travel Committee and the House Minority Leader. His retirement at the end of this year will deprive the House of a strong leader for conservation.

**Sen. Tony Ross** (*R-Cheyenne/SD 4*) turned in another solid session in support of wildlife. His cut-to-the-chase style as a Senate Travel Committee member is refreshing and serves sportsmen and wildlife advocates well.

**Sen. Kathryn Sessions** (*D-Cheyenne/SD 7*) achieved her third 100-percent rating this year, showing particular effort in floor debates on predator control and wildlife habitat funding.

**Sen. Bill Vasey** (*D-Rawlins/SD 11*) picked up the banner of local governments that seek state permission to use some of their excess stored water temporarily to improve their local fisheries, continuing legislative momentum on the issue despite House committee leaders' refusal late in the session to complete work on the bill.

**Sen. Michael Von Flatern** (*R-Gillette/SD 24*) was a strong leader for more public participation and accountability for local predator-control districts that seek state funding for their programs. He strongly supports sportsmen and wildlife as a Senate Travel Committee member.

## Departures

**Rep. Frank Latta** (*R-Gillette/HD 53*) resigned from the Legislature before the 2006 Budget Session when he bought a home outside his district boundaries. Rep. Latta attained a 56 percent average score during three sessions in the House of Representatives. His seat was filled by Rep. Erin Mercer.

**Rep. Bryan Pedersen** (*R-Cheyenne/HD 9*) resigned just after the 2006 Budget Session when he took a job out of state. He posted a 76 percent average score in two sessions in the House. He was replaced after the session by Rep. Dave Zwonitzer, whose son Dan already represents HD 43.

## Contact Your Legislator

### DURING THE SESSION

*To leave a message for your legislator*

Senate: (307) 777-7711  
House: (307) 777-7852

*To recommend a vote on a bill*

Toll free (866) 996-VOTE

*To write your legislator via U.S. Mail*

The Honorable (Your Legislator's Name)  
State Capitol  
Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002

### DURING THE YEAR

*Legislators' addresses and phone numbers available at:*

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>

*Legislator e-mail addresses available at:*

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/email/email.htm>



Bill Lockett

*Representatives of the 58th Wyoming Legislature take their oaths of office at the beginning of the 2005 general session.*

## Room to Grow

A recent trend of increasing moderation in the Legislature on conservation issues came to an end at the 2006 Budget Session, with lawmakers becoming polarized on a handful of controversial issues including wildlife habitat funding, predator control and water management.

**These three senators scored between 50 and 59 percent this year,** demonstrating support for some of the conservation community's goals and opposition to others. We believe these three lawmakers are especially worthy of attention from citizens seeking to promote positive action on our agenda.

On the plus side, of the 12 legislators listed under "Room to Grow" in 2005, seven increased their scores above 60 percent this year, while four fell below 46 percent. One additional listed legislator retired before the 2006 session.

On the down side, of this year's three moderate legislators, all three had scored above 66 percent last year, showing that the progress gained in the General Session can be lost in the more restrictive format of the short Budget Session.

We applaud every legislator who has sought to balance the needs of the environment with the growing development pressures we face.

**Sen. Pat Aullman (R-Thayne/SD 16)**  
**Sen. John Barrasso (R-Casper/SD 27)**  
**Sen. Stan Cooper (R-Kemmerer/SD 14)**



## DISTINGUISHED DEEDS

**Rep. Deborah Alden** (*R-Wheatland/HD 3*) took a stand for maintaining Wyoming state standards in the face of unprecedented energy development impacts. She stood up to vote for the governor's revised budget request of 34 out of 37 new permitting and regulatory positions at the Department of Environmental Quality. We noted the one-vote margin during a round of overly enthusiastic DEQ budget-cutting in the House.

**Sen. Ken Decaria** (*D-Evanston/SD 15*) has been a long-time friend to sportsmen, wildlife managers and state-lands advocates throughout his tenure in the Senate. He proved his genuine interest in these issues during his former Travel Committee membership, and we appreciate his continued support.

**Sen. Wayne Johnson** (*R-Cheyenne/SD 6*) strongly objected as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee to convoluted attacks from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation on legislation aimed at allowing willing local governments to enhance urban fisheries temporarily with excess municipal stored water. The committee's tolerance of several hours for this debate did not ultimately derail the bill – two House committee chairmen did – but Sen. Johnson stood up for local control and fairness.

**Sen. Grant Larson** (*R-Jackson/SD 17*) continued for a second year to show great leadership and good conservation judgment during the last session of his Senate presidency. He initially opposed, but ultimately supported, this year's significant Wildlife Trust Fund investment. His 91 percent score almost doubles his prior four-year average.

**Rep. Monte Olsen** (*R-Daniel/HD 22*) provided strong support for a second year for Wildlife Trust Fund efforts to preserve habitats around the state, ultimately offering the amendment that secured House approval of a new investment. His attention to imperiled wildlife migration corridors in Sublette County is particularly commendable.

**Sen. Charles Scott** (*R-Casper/SD 30*) was a strong advocate for fiscal restraint on an overly expensive and poorly targeted predator-control funding package. His earnestly offered perspective as a rancher on the misguided nature of many predator-control efforts should have been heeded.

**Rep. Bill Thompson** (*D-Green River/HD 60*) remains a very direct and forthright voice for sportsmen and wildlife on the House Travel Committee year in and year out, bringing a characteristic sincerity, and public spirit, to his legislative work.



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*Legislators and sportsmen alike share the challenge of conservation.*

## ON THE WATCH LIST

Wyoming Conservation Voters believes these lawmakers share our basic goals and philosophies about promoting sensible resource conservation. We also believe each capable of much higher scores, for a number of reasons. We urge their constituents (and voters statewide, for those legislators with leadership positions) to communicate their conservation values more frequently, positively and openly with lawmakers to help them see our perspective more often.

*Update: Of the four lawmakers 'On The Watch List' in 2005, one increased his score modestly while three declined slightly. All four scores changed within a 7 percent or less margin.*

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**Sen. Jim Anderson** (*R-Glenrock/SD 2*) scored well below his prior average and tied six other senators for the second-lowest Senate score this year, 36 percent. Sen. Anderson is a determined supporter of environmentally and economically beneficial clean-coal development and has worked closely with his constituents over many years to achieve some modest incentive offers for plants. He also has a strong voice in legislative spending priorities as a Senate Appropriations Committee member. But he has repeatedly opposed investment in the Wildlife Trust Fund and other wildlife-related spending proposals, while vocally defending predator-control spending. Sen. Anderson is worthy of special effort to make a strong case for our conservation priorities early in the legislative process.

**Rep. Pat Childers** (*R-Cody/HD 50*) stayed at the 60 percent score level for a second year, nearly double his previous three-year average. But his three favorable votes this year out of five were all for measures that passed with overwhelming margins. His two other votes sought to establish overly strict limits on the Wildlife Trust Fund board and to approve a wide range of unnecessarily expensive and ineffective new predator-control programs. Meanwhile, on an unrecorded vote, Rep. Childers fought hard and nearly successfully to keep proposed new Wildlife Trust Fund investments out of the state budget. As chairman of the House Travel Committee, he has moved forward this summer with interim review of urgent Game and Fish budget needs, which we recognize and have greatly appreciated. But the Wildlife Trust Fund and other philosophical differences continue to divide Rep. Childers from the conservation community.

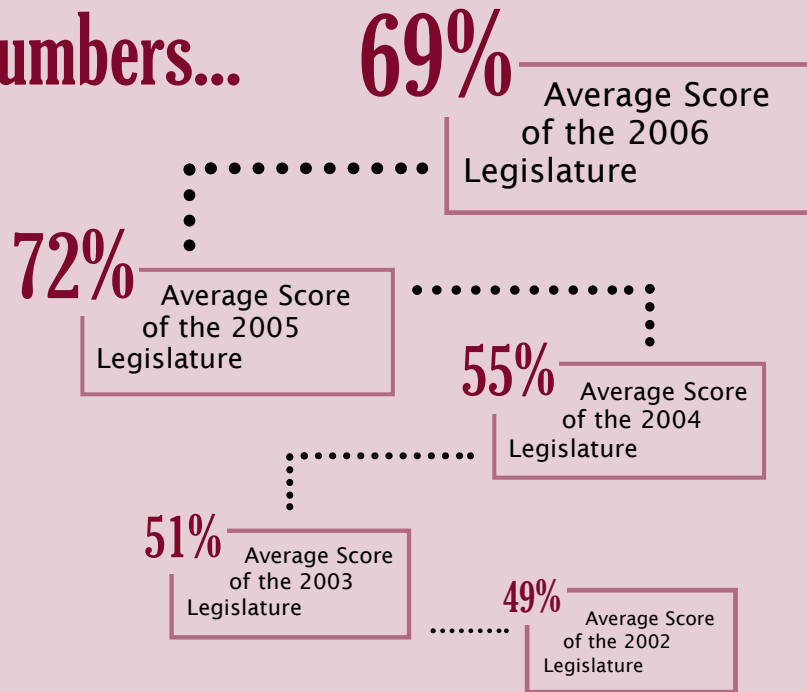
**Rep. Ross Diercks** (*D-Lusk/HD 2*) has a strong conservation ethic and previously has been named as a WCV Legislative Scorecard honors recipient. That makes his score of 20 percent this year all the more dismaying. The House scores were strongly affected by votes on predator-control spending, an issue on which we have differed with Rep. Diercks over the years, and limits on the Wildlife Trust Fund board's discretion, a difference that has recently emerged. He also opposed allowing game wardens to tick-

et violators of state lands rules and voted against a matching grant program for local governments to monitor and correct pollution from leaking landfills. We hope this year's lower score was merely the result of a small number of scored bills and chance disagreements rather than a shift in his otherwise consistent conservation record.

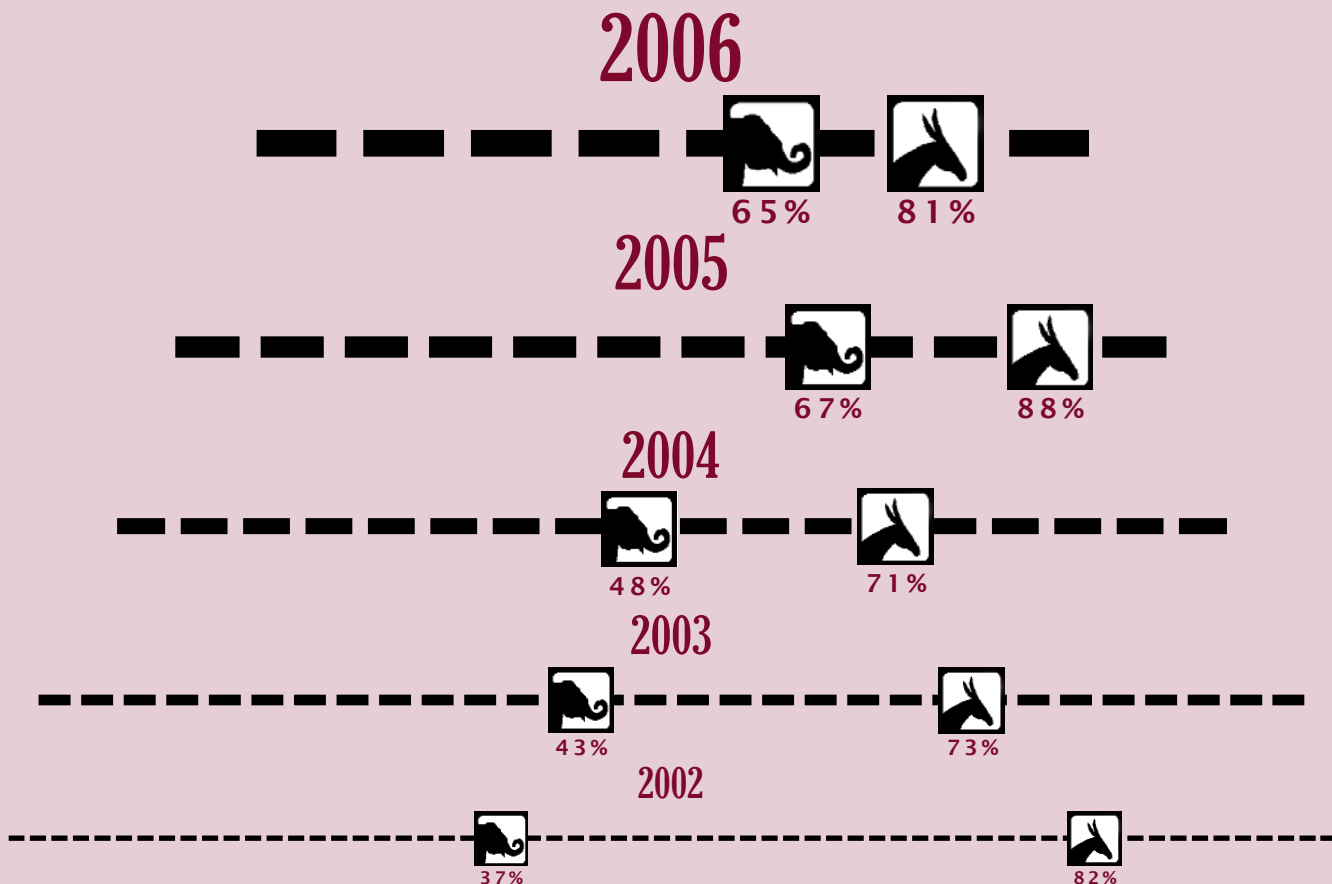
**Sen. John Hines** (*R-Gillette/SD 23*) chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and, if tradition and partisan balances hold, will be majority leader of the Senate in 2007 and 2008, with the power to direct flow of legislation to the floor. His score remains among the lowest in most years, and he showed repeated opposition to Wildlife Trust Fund investments from before the 2006 session right through to its end. While the senator supports robust predator-control spending, he also opposed comparably cheap proposals to better document the habitat, abundance and distribution of sensitive species eligible for federal protective listings. This last vote in particular puts Sen. Hines at odds with the very rural constituents he represents, who could face federal species protection and accompanying restrictions on property use if the state fails to fight off new listing petitions due to lack of data. We ask that his Gillette-area constituents speak out for conservation as energy development and community sprawl change the character of northeastern Wyoming.

**Sen. Kit Jennings** (*R-Casper/SD 28*) is an outspoken supporter of the energy industry and a deep skeptic of many of the state's conservation organizations. He has taken an interest in proposed clean-coal development as a Minerals Committee member and an advocate of the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources through his Education Committee work. We appreciate his constructive participation in meetings with us and other groups. But Sen. Jennings remains one of the strongest Senate opponents of the Wildlife Trust Fund and other conservation priorities. His constituents were previously represented by a strong conservation supporter. We believe they are much more enthusiastic about on issues than he is. We suggest a greater dialogue on legislative priorities for wildlife and the environment in Senate District 28.

## By the numbers...



## Average Republican and Democratic Scores



# House of Representatives 2006

House District	2006 Score	2005 Score	2004 Score	2003 Score	2002 Score	HB 24—Subsidies for Local Predator Control	HB 32—Game and Fish Electronic Licensing	HB 100—Limit Wildlife Trust Board (Intro.)	SF 18—State Land Rules Enforcement	SF 38—Clean up Leaking Landfills
3 Alden — R, Wheatland	80	77	56	42		-	+	+	+	+
10 Anderson — R, Pine Bluffs	60	62	56	17	14	-	+	-	+	+
15 Bagby — D, Rawlins	60	100	75	67		-	+	+	-	+
49 Barnard — R, Evanston	50	75				-	ex	-	+	+
51 Berger — R, Big Horn	80	77	78	50		-	+	+	+	+
38 Brechtel — R, Casper	60	46	33	42		+	+	-	-	+
14 Brown — R, Laramie	60	67				-	+	-	+	+
4 Buchanan — R, Torrington	60	62	56	42		-	+	-	+	+
47 Bucholz — R, Saratoga	67	62	67	17		ex	+	-	ex	+
50 Childers — R, Cody	60	64	38	25	14	-	+	-	+	+
35 Cohee — R, Casper	60	67	50	58	14	-	+	-	+	+
20 Davison — R, Kemmerer	60	53				-	+	-	+	+
2 Diercks — D, Lusk	20	85	78	42	57	-	+	-	-	-
6 Edwards — R, Douglas	60	71	44	50	29	-	+	-	+	+
44 Esquibel — D, Cheyenne	80	86	78	83	71	-	+	+	+	+
36 Gay — R, Casper	80	86			14	+	+	+	-	+
59 Gilmore — D, Casper	100	86	56	67		+	+	+	+	+
23 Gingery — R, Jackson	100	86				+	+	+	+	+
33 Goggles — D, Ethete	60	77				-	+	+	-	+
5 Hageman — R, Fort Laramie	60	57	44	25	14	-	+	-	+	+
27 Hammons — D, Worland	80	77				-	+	+	+	+
37 Harshman — R, Casper	60	54	56	55		-	+	-	+	+
26 Harvey — R, Lovell	60	69	56	58		-	+	-	+	+
39 Hastert — D, Green River	80	92	78			-	+	+	+	+
41 Hinckley — R, Cheyenne	80	69	56	42		-	+	+	+	+
29 Iekel — R, Sheridan	80	71	56	45	43	-	+	+	+	+
42 Illoway — R, Cheyenne	60	77	44	50	29	-	+	-	+	+
52 Jackson — R, Rozet	0	45				-	ex	ex	ex	ex
25 Jones — R, Powell	60	67	33	33	0	-	+	-	+	+
16 Jorgensen — D, Jackson	100	100	78	75		+	+	+	+	+

+ Pro-Conservation Vote  
 - Anti-Conservation Vote  
 ex Excused  
 c Conflict of Interest Declared

House District	2006 Score	2005 Score	2004 Score	2003 Score	2002 Score	HB 24—Subsidies for Local Predator Control	HB 32—Game and Fish Electronic Licensing	HB 100—Limit Wildlife Trust Board (Intro.)	SF 18—State Land Rules Enforcement	SF 38—Clean up Leaking Landfills
30 Landon — R, Sheridan	100	77	78	67	71	+	+	+	+	+
57 Lockhart — R, Casper	60	67	38	58	71	-	+	-	+	+
31 Lubnau — R, Gillette	75	54				ex	+	-	+	+
21 Luthi — R, Freedom	60	77	56	17	0	-	+	-	+	+
48 Martin — D, Rock Springs	80	92	56	67		-	+	+	+	+
54 McOmie — R, Lander	80	69	56	58	29	-	+	+	+	+
53 Mercer — R, Gillette	80					-	+	+	+	+
8 Meuli — R, Cheyenne	80	62	67	58	43	-	+	+	+	+
55 Miller — R, Riverton	60	38	33	25	14	-	+	-	+	+
12 Morgan — D, Cheyenne	75	86	56	55	71	-	+	+	+	ex
22 Olsen — R, Daniel	60	62	67	25		-	+	-	+	+
40 Osborn — R, Buffalo	80	77	78	58	14	-	+	+	+	+
9 Pedersen — R, Cheyenne	80	71				-	+	+	+	+
19 Petersen — R, Mountain View	60	69	44	42	14	-	+	-	+	+
34 Philp — R, Shoshoni	60	55	44	11	0	-	+	-	+	+
18 Powers — R, Lyman	60	67	44	42		-	+	-	+	+
28 Quarberg — R, Thermopolis	60	77				-	+	-	+	+
11 Reese — D, Cheyenne	80	86	63	75	86	-	+	+	+	+
58 Robinson — D, Casper	80	85	67	83	86	-	+	+	+	+
39 Samuelson — R, Cheyenne	60	71			14	-	+	-	+	+
1 Semlek — R, Moorcroft	60	57	11	17		-	+	-	+	+
24 Simpson — R, Cody	80	69	44	42	29	-	+	+	+	+
46 Slater — R, Laramie	80	67	56	42	29	-	+	+	+	+
60 Thompson — D, Green River	60	93	56	67	100	-	+	+	-	+
56 Walsh — R, Casper	60	64	33	55		-	+	-	+	+
13 Warren — D, Laramie	100	77	88	100	86	+	+	+	+	+
32 Wasserburger — R, Gillette	60	58	50	40	29	-	+	-	+	+
17 Watt — R, Rock Springs	75	85	43			+	ex	+	-	+
45 White — R, Laramie	60	69				-	+	-	+	+
43 Zwonitzer — R, Cheyenne	100	87				c	+	+	+	+



# Senate 2006

Senate District	2006 Score	2005 Score	2004 Score	2003 Score	2002 Score	HB 24—Subsidies for Local Predator Control	HB 24 Amdt—Revise Control Subsidies	HB 32—Game and Fish Electronic Licensing
2 <b>Anderson</b> — R, Glenrock	36	50	50	25	80	-	-	+
16 <b>Aullman</b> — R, Thayne	55	67				-	-	+
27 <b>Barrasso</b> — R, Casper	55	71	38	46		-	-	+
13 <b>Boggs</b> — D, Rock Springs	100	93	75	69	100	+	+	+
21 <b>Burns</b> — R, Sheridan	100	81	75	69	57*	+	+	+
25 <b>Case</b> — R, Lander	91	88	50	77	80	+	+	+
18 <b>Coe</b> — R, Cody	36	53	43	31	25	-	-	+
14 <b>Cooper</b> — R, Kemmerer	55	69	44*	50*		-	-	+
15 <b>Decaria</b> — D, Evanston	91	93	75	100	80	-	+	+
20 <b>Geis</b> — R, Worland	27	50	25	24	25	-	-	+
5 <b>Hanes</b> — R, Cheyenne	91	93	63	77	80	+	+	+
29 <b>Hawks</b> — R, Casper	45	60	25	69	60	-	+	+
23 <b>Hines</b> — R, Gillette	36	44	38	24	0*	-	-	+
28 <b>Jennings</b> — R, Casper	36	36				-	-	+
12 <b>Job</b> — D, Rock Springs	100	100	75	83	100	+	+	+
6 <b>Johnson</b> — R, Cheyenne	73	88	56*	58*	71*	-	-	+
17 <b>Larson</b> — R, Jackson	91	67	40	31	60	+	+	+
9 <b>Massie</b> — D, Laramie	100	94	88	92	100	+	+	+
3 <b>Meier</b> — R, LaGrange	45	56	50	33	0	-	-	+
8 <b>Mockler</b> — D, Cheyenne	91	79	88	77	80	+	+	+
10 <b>Nicholas</b> — R, Laramie	64	81	67*	64*	57*	-	+	+
26 <b>Peck</b> — R, Riverton	36	47	38	62	60	-	-	+
19 <b>Peterson</b> — R, Cowley	36					-	-	+
4 <b>Ross</b> — R, Cheyenne	91	94	67	50	43	+	+	+
22 <b>Schiffer</b> — R, Kaycee	82	73	50	54	60	-	-	+
30 <b>Scott</b> — R, Casper	91	86	57	75	50	+	+	+
7 <b>Sessions</b> — D, Cheyenne	100	87	100	77	100	+	+	+
1 <b>Townsend</b> — R, Osage	36	43	25			-	-	+
11 <b>Vasey</b> — D, Rawlins	73	88	63	46	60	-	-	+
24 <b>Von Flatern</b> — R, Gillette	64	88				+	+	+

*	Score earned during House term
+	Pro-Conservation Vote
-	Anti-Conservation Vote
ex	Excused
c	Conflict of Interest Declared

SF 1 Amdt—Wildlife Trust Fund Investment Increase	SF 1 Amdt—Sensitive Species Conservation	SF 1 Amdt—Wildlife Trust Fund Investment Decrease	SF 18—State Land Rules Enforcement	SF 38—Clean up Leaking Landfills	SF 53—Regulation of Coalbed Methane H2O (Intro.)	SF 65—Temporary In-stream Flow Rights (Intro.)	SF 74—Local-level Fisheries Protection			
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Anderson — R, Glenrock
+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+			Aullman — R, Thayne
+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+			Barrasso — R, Casper
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Boggs — D, Rock Springs
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Burns — R, Sheridan
+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+			Case — R, Lander
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Coe — R, Cody
+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+			Cooper — R, Kemmerer
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Decaria — D, Evanston
-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+			Geis — R, Worland
+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+			Hanes — R, Cheyenne
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Hawks — R, Casper
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Hines — R, Gillette
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Jennings — R, Casper
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Job — D, Rock Springs
+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+			Johnson — R, Cheyenne
-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Larson — R, Jackson
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Massie — D, Laramie
-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+			Meier — R, LaGrange
+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+			Mockler — D, Cheyenne
-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+			Nicholas — R, Laramie
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Peck — R, Riverton
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Peterson — R, Cowley
+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+			Ross — R, Cheyenne
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Schiffer — R, Kaycee
+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+			Scott — R, Casper
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			Sessions — D, Cheyenne
-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+			Townsend — R, Osage
+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+			Vasey — D, Rawlins
-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+			Von Flatern — R, Gillette

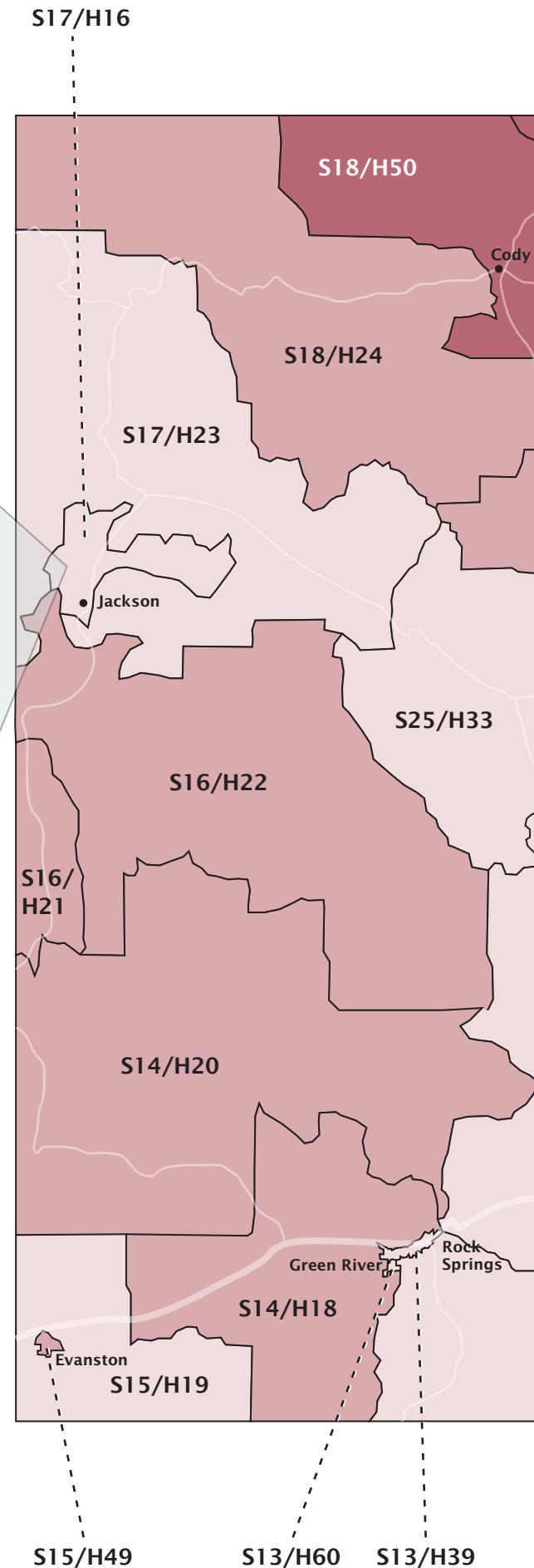
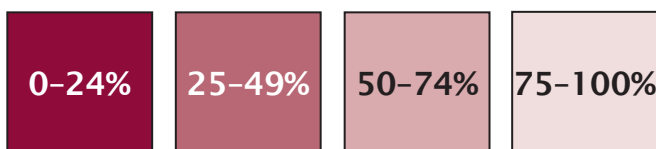
# Wyoming Average District Scores 2006

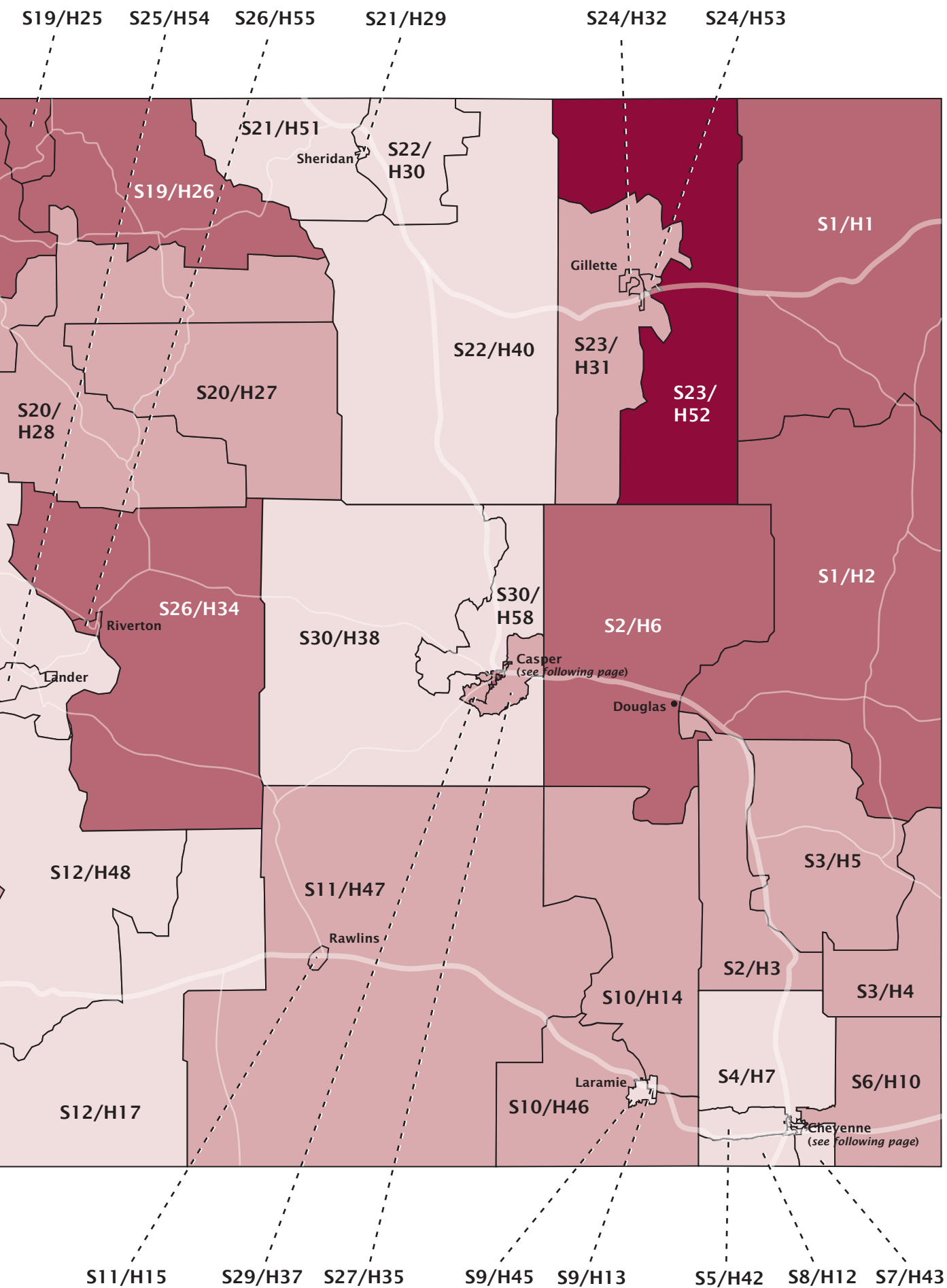
## Sample District

Legislator	District	Score
Rep. Pete Jorgensen	H16	100%
Sen. Grant Larson	S17	91%
<b>District Average: 96%</b>		

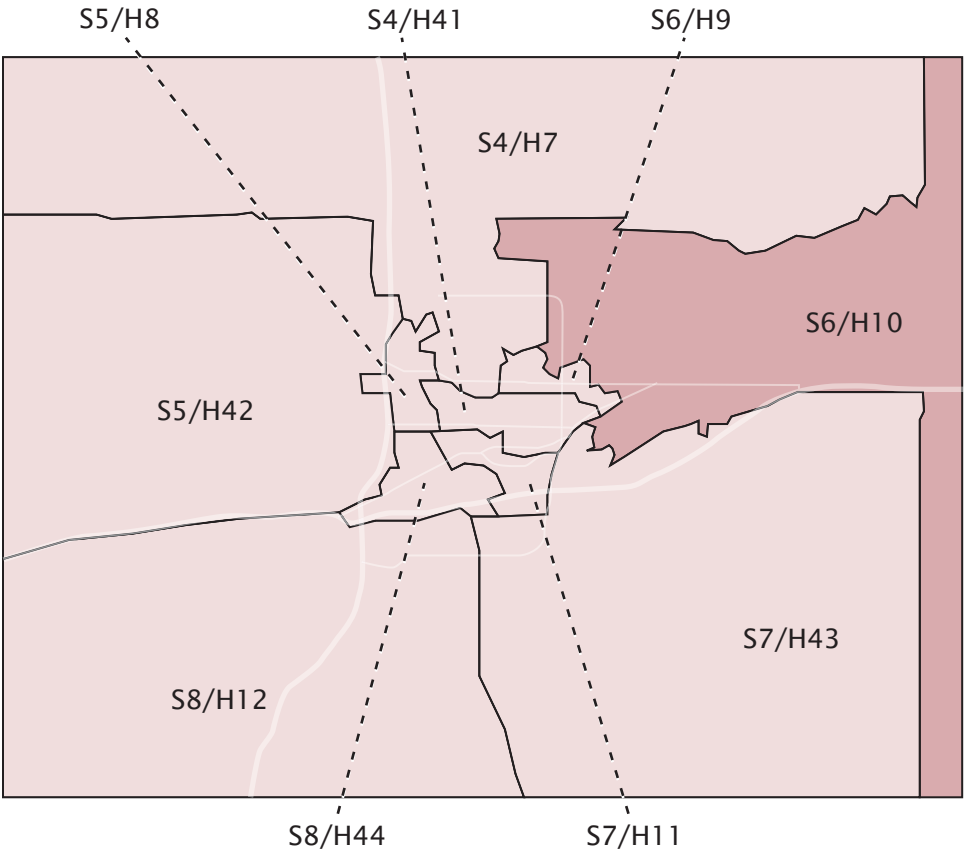
Not sure what district you live in?  
Go to [www.wyovoters.org](http://www.wyovoters.org) to find out.

## Average Scores



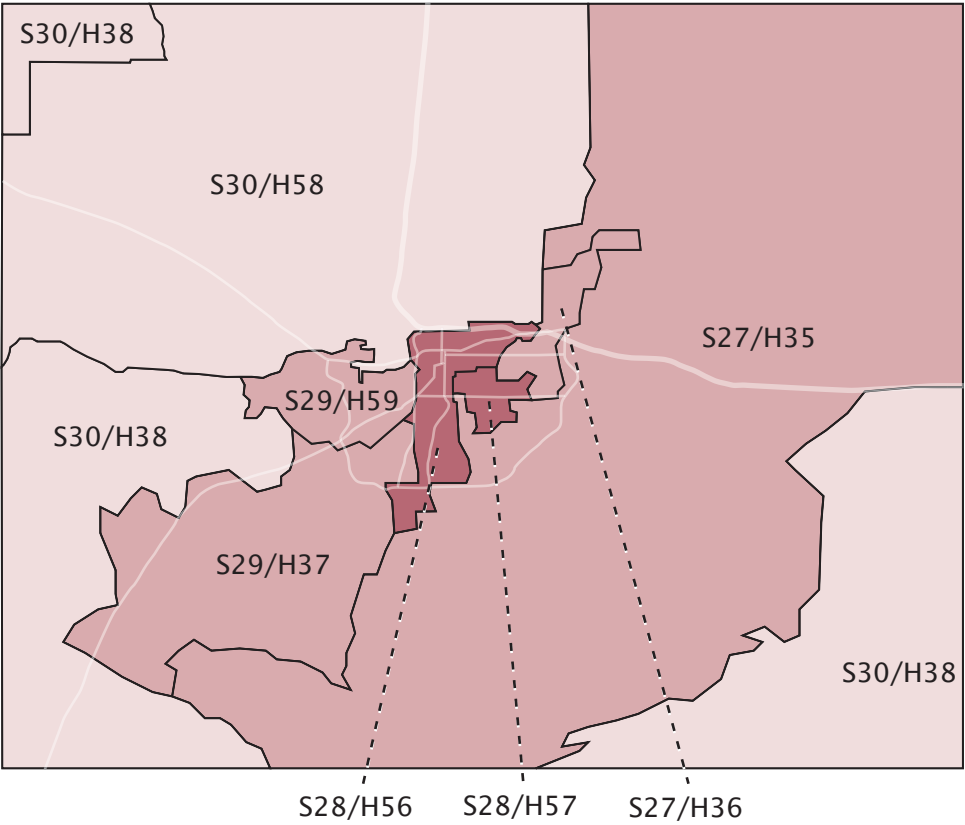


# **Cheyenne Area Average District Scores 2006**



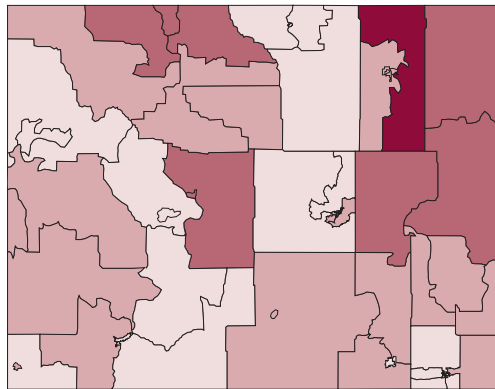
**Average Scores**

# **Casper Area Average District Scores 2006**

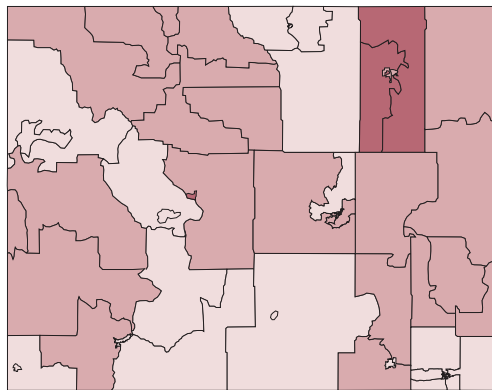




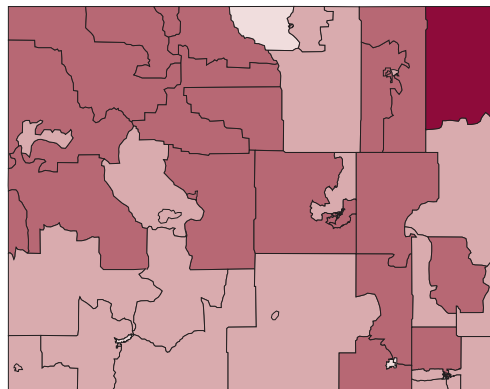
# Changes in Average District Scores, 2003 – 2006



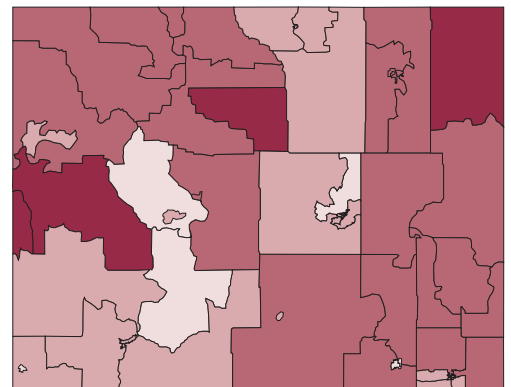
2006



2005



2004



2003

**Key to Maps:**  
Lighter colors are  
pro-conservation



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When setting laws regarding development, legislators must consider the open spaces that make Wyoming so special.

## 2006 Legislative Session in Summary

BILL	WHAT IT WOULD DO	WHAT HAPPENED
HB 24	Allocate \$6 million for local predator control	Passed & signed into law
HB 24 Amdt*	Reduce predator-control boost to \$3 million	Failed Senate, 15 to 15
HB 32	Allow Game and Fish electronic licensing	Passed & signed into law
HB 100	Limit Wildlife Trust Fund board discretion	Failed House introduction, 30-29
SF 1 Amdt**	Invest \$33.5 million in Wildlife Trust Fund	Passed & signed into law
SF 1 Amdt†	Invest \$2 million in species conservation plans	Failed Senate, 12 to 18
SF 1 Amdt‡	Reduce Wildlife Trust Fund grant by \$10 million	Failed Senate, 12 to 18
SF 18	Allow game wardens to cite state land offenders	Passed & signed into law
SF 38	Monitor and clean up leaking landfills	Passed & signed into law
SF 53	Allow DEQ to set effluent discharge rules	Failed Senate introduction, 13-17
SF 65	Let state hold temporary in-stream flow right	Failed Senate introduction, 17-13
SF 74	Study municipal temporary in-stream flow	Blocked by House Appropriations

*\*On adoption of Senate third reading amendment No. 2*

*\*\*On adoption of Senate second reading amendment No. 6*

*†On adoption of Senate second reading amendment No. 24*

*‡On adoption of Senate third reading amendment No. 1, Division 4*

# Votes that Counted for Conservation

## HB 24—STATE SUBSIDIES FOR LOCAL PREDATOR CONTROL

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

HB 24 provided \$6 million from the state's General Fund over the next two years for grants to local predator-control districts, based on criteria established by the existing Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB). The ADMB must make funds available for trappers and for fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft for predator-control activities such as aerial gunning of coyotes. Local districts receiving these dollars must seat three board members appointed by their county commissioners to represent sportsmen and hunters. These members must have held a valid hunting or fishing license or a \$10 wildlife damage management stamp within the past year. Regardless of the board's decision to pursue or not pursue state funds, county commissioners must also appoint one member of the general public who has no connection to the livestock industry to sit on each board. The bill also allowed a sizeable percentage increase in the per-head livestock tax; the addition of goats to the classes of livestock owners who pay the tax and are eligible for local board membership; and a change throughout state law renaming "predatory animal boards" as "predator management boards."

### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Predator control is an expensive program with questionable cost-effectiveness and many historical instances of cruelty. Aerial gunning of coyotes can cost hundreds of dollars per animal killed and often triggers breeding responses that inflate populations, necessitating continual increases in control activity just to maintain the same numbers over time. Predator-control advocates also attempt to justify increased activity by convincing sportsmen that control actions primarily benefit big-game species, rather than domestic livestock interests. But the fact that HB 24 does not require predator districts or the ADMB to coordinate with the Game and Fish Department on efforts to increase wildlife herds under G & F management shows that the health of these populations is not the primary motive behind this predator-control endeavor. Furthermore, the predator-control system has already approached the Legislature seeking "one-time funding" in several recent sessions despite initial promises that the ADMB would be largely self-funded by

agricultural industry dollars, which have failed to materialize. HB 24 represented a new level of cost-shifting, from the agriculture community to the general taxpaying public, for coyote and other predatory species controls.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

HB 24 was drafted in the 2005-2006 legislative interim by the Joint Agriculture Committee. In the 2006 session, the House voted 47-10 to introduce the bill into the budget session. The House Agriculture Committee approved the bill unanimously, but the House Appropriations Committee cut its \$10 million funding package to \$6 million. The full House defeated amendments to confine the funding to predation affecting livestock and passed the measure. The Senate Agriculture Committee approved the bill unanimously, but the Senate Appropriations Committee cut the program's continuing funding for future budget cycles in half to \$3 million unless an exception is approved in the 2008 session. The full Senate amended the bill to require local districts to tax livestock producers at the legal maximum before qualifying for state funds. A further amendment to cut half the state funding and replace it with private donations failed on a 15-15 tie. The amended bill passed the Senate, and the House accepted the changes.

**House** Yes 49; No 8.

**Senate** Yes 18; No 12.

The bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Freudenthal.

*We recommended a 'no' vote to keep the predator-control system out of wildlife management and funded by program beneficiaries, not the general public.*

## By the Numbers...

**77** Legislators Scored Above 50 Percent in 2006 (Out of 90 Total)

**80** Legislators Scored Above 50 Percent in 2005 (Out of 90 Total)



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Wyoming boasts some of the world's most pristine backcountry.

## HB 24 SENATE 3RD READING AMENDMENT #2—OFFSET CONTROL SUBSIDIES *(Senate only)*

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

This amendment, officially titled HB0024S3002/F, sought to remove roughly half of the \$6 million in state funding being pumped into the local predator-control districts by HB 24 and replace it with a matching fund for private donations from livestock-industry beneficiaries of predator-control programs. It also would have moved up the effective date of the program by more than three months. The sponsor noted that the bill provided generous funding for a program unproven in its ability to benefit wildlife as asserted by its proponents and was out of step with the Legislature's typical method of funding new programs.

### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

HB 24 was excessively generous to local predator-control districts and based on exaggerated assertions of predatory species' impact on wildlife. Though the program was sold to legislators as a way to boost wildlife numbers, the projects to be funded do not require the approval or even the involvement of the state's actual wildlife managers. Those advocating the bill overwhelmingly represent livestock interests that have long sought new state funding for predator control as their own tax system for funding such work has withered in recent years. In fact, creation of the Animal Damage Management Board in 1999 was sold to lawmakers by the same interest who promised substantial private funding, only to end up drawing a robust state subsidy from the general public. Simply put, sportsmen and wildlife interests were again being used by the agricultural lobby to sell a cost-shift for predator control onto the general public. This amendment sought to require the livestock industry to match state dollars and share in the cost of this unprecedented increase in funding and diversion of financial responsibility away from the program's true beneficiaries.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

HB 24 Senate Third Reading Amendment #2 was submitted by Sen. Rae Lynn Job (*D-Rock Springs*) on March 9, 2006. It fell one vote short of a majority.

**Senate** Yes 15; No 15.

The amendment failed.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote to reduce the cost-shifting for this primarily agricultural program onto the general taxpaying public.*

## HB 32—ELECTRONIC LICENSING FOR HUNTERS & ANGLERS

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

HB 32 allows the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to electronically license sportsmen who buy their permits through a license-selling agent such as a local convenience or hardware store. New state-owned point-of-sale terminals provided for vendors and electronic funds transfers to complete payments will greatly ease the enormous paperwork processing burden associated with traditional hand-written license sales.

### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Sportsmen in all of Wyoming's neighboring states currently benefit from faster, more convenient license sales opportunities due to adoption in those states of electronic licensing programs. Benefits also include the ability to replace a license or stamp purchased at any electronic terminal in the state at any other, helping ease the inconvenience of lost sporting documents. Furthermore, game wardens will be much better able to ascertain the true licensing status of investigation subjects, helping benefit law-abiding sportsmen by better enforcing license requirements. After initial equipment and software charges are paid, the system also will save the cash-strapped agency a little over \$30,000 a year in administrative costs.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

HB 32 was developed by the Joint Travel Committee during the 2005-2006 legislative interim. In the 2006 session, the bill was unanimously approved for introduction in the House and also unanimously passed by the Travel Committee and the full body in each house of the Legislature.

**House** Yes 57; No 0; Excused 3.

**Senate** Yes 30.

The bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Freudenthal.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote to provide sportsmen better customer service, save future wildlife management costs and improve law enforcement.*

## By the Numbers...

**96%** Highest Average District Score (tie):  
SD 17 & HD 23 (Sen. Larson/Rep. Gingery)  
SD 17 & HD 16 (Sen. Larson/Rep. Jorgensen)

## HB 100—LIMITING THE WILDLIFE TRUST FUND BOARD *(House only)*

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

HB 100 sought to greatly reduce the discretion of the citizen board that administers the Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust Account set up by the Legislature in 2005 to protect and improve habitat around the state. The board is allowed to spend the interest on a multimillion-dollar savings account for wildlife grant projects proposed by government and nonprofit agencies. Under current law, grants of more than \$200,000 must be approved by a special legislative committee and the full Legislature. HB 100 also would have required such legislative approval for all projects costing more than \$200,000 even if the state were only providing a fraction of that funding and private sources were paying for the rest. The bill also would have chipped in \$1 million to the trust fund's interest-generating account, or about 3 percent of what the Legislature ultimately put into the account in this year's budget bill.

### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

HB 100 would have greatly hampered the trust board's ability to begin funding projects to address habitat loss and degradation due to the energy boom. It would have substituted the Legislature's judgment for that of the nine-member statewide citizen board that was the basis for the Wildlife Trust Fund bill passed in 2005. Large, multi-year projects with the promise of creating lasting landscape improvements would have been sacrificed for expediency in favor of scattered small projects of limited value. And worst of all, HB 100 would have deterred the undertaking of viable, useful endeavors, as a project could languish for nine months or more awaiting legislative approval, even if the state were only putting \$10,000 into a quarter-million-dollar private-public partnership. This bill showed a disturbing break from legislative support for the Wildlife Trust Fund and a potential reversal of the progress sportsmen and conservationists achieved one year earlier.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

HB 100 was introduced by Rep. Kermit Brown (R-Laramie) and Sen. Stan Cooper (R-Kemmerer) and six other lawmakers. In the 2006 session, the House fell 10 votes short of the two-thirds majority required for introduction of non-budget bills in the Budget Session.

**House** Yes 30; No 29; Excused 1.

The bill failed to gain the two-thirds majority required for introduction and was indefinitely postponed.

*We recommended a 'no' vote to preserve the effectiveness of the new Wildlife Trust Fund and the discretion of its citizen board.*



## SF 1 SENATE 2ND READING AMENDMENT #6—WILDLIFE TRUST FUND INVESTMENT HIKE *(Senate only)*

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

This amendment, officially titled SF0001S2006/A, restored \$33.5 million in new interest-generating savings for the Wildlife Trust Fund, which would accrue earnings to be spent by the trust's board on grant projects from government and nonprofit agencies to protect or improve habitat around the state. Gov. Freudenthal had requested the funds, but the Joint Appropriations Committee removed them before the session. The Wildlife Trust Fund was created in 2005 with \$15 million, which produces about \$700,000 a year in earnings to be invested in on-the-ground projects. The funds in this amendment tripled the amount of money the board will be able to put into wildlife habitat over the next two years. The amendment also provided up to \$3 million in matching funds to bolster private giving to the trust account. The budget already included \$1.5 million for projects during the next two years and \$600,000 for board administration so that trust dollars need not be tapped for salaries, rent and the like.

### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

The Wildlife Trust Fund is one of the most exciting legislative actions in recent years to address escalating loss and degradation of wildlife habitat, and a much-needed one, coming at the same time as an ever-expanding energy development boom. Sportsmen and conservationists worked hard in 2005 to secure passage and initial funding of the system, but its relatively modest budget threatened its ability to generate the exciting results of which it is capable. This funding secured the relevance of the new trust fund and its likelihood of making significant progress in mitigating habitat impairment, which imperils our wildlife heritage.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 1 Senate Second Reading Amendment #6 was submitted by Sen. Mike Massie (*D-Laramie*) and three other senators on March 2, 2006. It passed with one vote to spare. However, the House approved only \$20 million with another \$3 million in challenge grants, sending the issue to a conference committee, which ultimately approved \$25 million in direct state deposits and \$3 million in challenge grants.

**NOTE:** Regrettably, the House did not record its vote on the Wildlife Trust Fund budget amendment, the single most important issue of the session to conservationists and sportsmen. WCV is therefore unable to give



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*A variety of sportsmen enjoy Wyoming's recreational opportunities.*

the issue as much weight in House members' scores as it carries for senators. Senate rules require a recorded vote on amendments changing an appropriation; House rules do not, though members may request a recorded vote if they wish. This is the second straight year that the House has ducked a recorded vote on this issue.

**Senate** Yes 17; No 13.

The amendment passed the Senate but was modified later by a conference committee.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of Wildlife Trust Fund Board action to preserve habitat around the state.*

## SF 1 SENATE 2ND READING AMENDMENT #24—CONSERVING SENSITIVE SPECIES *(Senate only)*

### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

This amendment, officially titled SF0001S2024/F, sought to provide \$2 million to the Game and Fish Department from the state Budget Reserve Account to identify wildlife species for which crucial conservation data is lacking, and develop a plan to gather that data and propose conservation solutions. This work to bolster the state's federally mandated Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy would help the state respond to potential listings of its wildlife as threatened or endangered and establish management to prevent the need for such listings down the road. The amendment also required reports to the Joint Travel Committee each year on the results of the work.

## WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Wyoming has a long and cherished history of politically independent wildlife management funded primarily with sportsman dollars and directed by citizen commissioners from around the state. Hunted or not, Wyoming's wildlife species are under the Game and Fish Department's management oversight, and decisions about them are made in open public processes by the Game and Fish Commission with citizen input. But when a species declines to the point that the federal government must list it as threatened or endangered, the state loses management control, citizens lose their avenues for input, and landowners, industries, local governments and conservationists all must deal with new management from the federal level and the complicated bureaucracy that administers it. For species to be listed due to actual decline is a tragic enough outcome; for species to be listed simply because state wildlife managers lack the resources to document their habitat, abundance and distribution, is deeply disturbing. This amendment would have provided state help to prevent that outcome, to better target species that need help now and to preserve our wildlife heritage, all for about the cost of one mile of highway. The failure of this amendment's passage demonstrates a disappointing lack of legislative attention to the potential economic impact of future species listings, to say the least.

## WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 1 Senate Second Reading Amendment #24 was submitted by Sen. John Schiffer (*R-Kaycee*) on March 2, 2006. It fell four votes short of a majority.

**Senate** Yes 12; No 18

The amendment failed.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote to decisively address potential species listings before they happen.*

## SF 1 SENATE THIRD READING AMENDMENT #1, DIVISION #4—WILDLIFE FUND CUT *(Senate only)*

## WHAT WAS IT FOR?

This amendment, officially titled SF0001S3001.04/FC, sought to reduce state spending in a variety of programs. The portion relevant to the scorecard tried to reduce the state's direct investment in the Wildlife Trust Fund for this budget cycle by \$10 million to \$23.5 million. The Senate had approved \$33.5 million plus a \$3 million challenge matching-grant provision, as well as \$1.5 million for immediate project use and \$600,000 for board administration, staff and other

overhead. The \$10 million reduction would have come out of the direct investment in the trust fund, which generates interest that the trust-fund board spends on wildlife habitat projects. If this amendment had passed, it would have eliminated about \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year in potential wildlife habitat grants.

## WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

The Wildlife Trust Fund is a sorely needed instrument to address the loss or degradation of habitat across the state as energy development, rural subdivision and urban sprawl move forward at faster rates each year. The Wildlife Trust Fund was first proposed in 1982 and ultimately took multiple efforts over a generation to pass, finally succeeding in 2005 only after an unprecedented citizen campaign by rank-and-file sportsmen and conservationists. The program also was initially envisioned as a \$200 million fund generating as much as \$10 million per year in project grants. Even with this year's contribution, the total program sits at less than a quarter of its envisioned size and will take up to 10 more years to reach that goal. Removing \$10 million in a good budget year when the political will is present to endow the wildlife program would bode very poorly for the likelihood of the program ever reaching its intended capacity, and would represent a departure from the plans citizens and legislators worked out together just a year ago.

## WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 1 Senate Third Reading Amendment #1 was submitted by Sen. John Hines (*R-Gillette*) on March 3, 2006. The amendment was divided into six portions for consideration, the fourth of which dealt with this issue. Division #4 fell four votes short of a majority.

**Senate** Yes 12; No 18

This portion of the amendment failed.

*We recommended a 'no' vote to preserve the maximum amount of potential funding for this crucial wildlife habitat improvement program.*

## SF 18—ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LAND RULES

## WHAT WAS IT FOR?

SF 18 granted Wyoming Game and Fish Department wardens the authority to ticket violators of state land rules whom they catch in the course of their ordinary duties, with financial arrangements between the state lands agency and the Game and Fish to

prevent use of already-limited wildlife management dollars for this purpose. Relevant state land rules forbid camping and campfires, dumping of trash, and unauthorized vehicle use, such as the troublingly common “mud-bogging,” which destroys the land’s productive capacity. Sheriffs and prosecutors also received clearer authority to pursue such cases as well, with changes clarifying who has the power to swear out a complaint. The bill also strengthened and simplified penalties for unauthorized removal of forest products, a growing problem on forested portions of the state’s school trust land holdings.

#### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Wyoming has more than 3 million acres of state lands managed in trust to benefit the public school system. The State Board of Land Commissioners, through its Office of State Lands and Investments, has recently increased its focus on managing these assets for their long-term productive capacity and sustainability, and not just to maximize earnings for education. But as resource industries and the recreating public continue to increase their use of these lands, enforcing management rules has become a greater challenge. The Office of State Lands has no staff specifically dedicated to violations of recreational-use rules, and local sheriff’s deputies often are unavailable to investigate or apprehend violators. Game wardens are often the closest law enforcement officers on hand and frequently catch these crimes in progress in the course of their other duties. Allowing wardens to enforce the state land rules will deter abuses that affect these valuable lands and hopefully prevent future land closures and habitat losses that would harm wildlife and sportsmen interests.

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 18 was developed by the Joint Agriculture Committee during the 2005-2006 legislative interim. In the 2006 session, the Senate approved introduction 29-1. The Senate Agriculture Committee and the full Senate approved it unanimously, and the House Agriculture Committee agreed 7-2. It passed the full House and was signed by the governor.

**Senate** Yes 30.

**House** Yes 51; No 7; Excused 2.

The bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Freudenthal.

*We recommended a ‘yes’ vote to address abuses of state lands and prevent potential closures resulting from those abuses.*

## SF 38—REMEDiate LANDFILLS

#### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

SF 38 creates a \$7.97 million state matching grant program to help cities and counties monitor and analyze pollution from operating or closed landfills. It also requires cities and counties to prepare management plans, with another \$1.3 million available in matching grants to carry those out, and larger grants reserved for plans where at least two cities and/or counties work together. The DEQ would have four years to evaluate resulting groundwater monitor data and report to the Legislature on which landfills cause groundwater pollution and how to fund cleanup costs. Cities and counties also would have three years to submit integrated solid waste management plans. Two new full-time government positions would be created to implement the law, at a cost of about \$320,000.

#### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Many of Wyoming’s 52 operating landfills are leaking, threatening nearby drinking-water wells and human health. The DEQ predicts at least 65 of the 145 current and closed landfills statewide eventually will leak and contaminate groundwater. About 80 percent of current and closed landfills have inadequate (or no) groundwater monitoring systems to identify emerging risks. The DEQ is required to ensure municipal solid waste is handled and disposed of safely. DEQ’s assumptions that Wyoming is too arid for landfills to leach into groundwater have been proven wrong; the costs of monitoring pollution alone now top an estimated \$13.7 million, burdening government and taxpayers and taking already limited funds from conservation improvements. Groundwater contamination threatens rural well-water users and impairs other potential uses for Wyoming’s valuable groundwater resources.

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 38 was developed by the Joint Minerals Committee during the 2005-2006 legislative interim. In the 2006 session, it won introduction in the Senate unanimously and also passed the Senate Minerals Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. It passed the Senate overwhelmingly and cleared the House Minerals and House Appropriations committees late in the session. After passing the House in the final week of the session, SF 38 was signed by the governor.

**Senate** Yes 29; No 1

**House** Yes 57; No 1; Excused 2

The bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Freudenthal.

*We recommended a ‘yes’ vote to address groundwater contamination risks from leaking landfills.*



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*Water conservation is a major issue in Wyoming.*

## **SF 53—COALBED METHANE WATER MANAGEMENT** *(Senate only)*

### **WHAT WAS IT FOR?**

Coalbed methane development in northeastern Wyoming has brought public attention to the increased amounts of groundwater being released on lands and in rivers, as coal seams are “dewatered” to release coalbed gases for production. Wyoming law does not currently allow the state DEQ Water Quality Division administrator to require “best management practices” to eliminate or minimize adverse impacts to public health and the environment when approving permits to discharge such production waters. The agency also is not empowered to regulate the actual amounts of water within the permitting process. SF 53 would have granted the DEQ this authority. Passage of the bill also would have required the agency to put forward rules to define best management practices.

### **WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?**

In many cases, large amounts of saline water are being discharged, damaging the productive capacity of lands and reducing water quality in streams, affecting fisheries and river health. SF 53 would have helped to ensure natural resources and landowners are adequately protected from any impacts caused by water discharges, especially as interest in coalbed methane production spreads to new fields in other parts of Wyoming.

### **WHAT HAPPENED?**

SF 53 was sponsored by Sen. John Schiffer (*R-Kaycee*) and Rep. Pete Illoway (*R-Cheyenne*). In the 2006 session, it was debated for introduction in the Senate but fell seven votes short of the two-thirds majority required for consideration in the Budget Session.

**Senate** Yes 13; No 17.

The bill failed to gain the two-thirds majority required for introduction and was indefinitely postponed.

*We recommended a ‘yes’ vote to allow state regulators to limit excessive water discharges that are damaging to natural resources or landowner interests.*

## **SF 65—ALLOWING TEMPORARY RIVER FLOW RESTORATION**

*(Senate only)*

### **WHAT WAS IT FOR?**

In the 1980s, spurred by a powerful citizen campaign, the Legislature allowed the state to hold water rights for “in-stream flow,” in which designated minimum amounts of water are left in the river channel in order to promote fishery and river health. The law has severe restrictions, including the requirement that any water right transformed into in-stream flow must be surrendered permanently by its holder to the state of Wyoming. Since water rights are valuable property interests, many landowners and municipalities who would like to deploy some or all of their water right, temporarily or permanently, for in-stream use, will not participate due to the permanent loss of control of the right. Existing water law allows water rights to be reassigned for new uses temporarily, for up to two years, through a comprehensive state review process. SF 65 would have allowed the state to acquire a temporary in-stream flow right, somewhat increasing the likelihood that a private right-holder may wish to cooperate with the state to preserve or improve a fishery for a finite period of time.

### **WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?**

Wyoming anglers, pro-fisheries landowners and the general public deserve a re-evaluation of the excessive barriers against using a share of the state’s water to care for its valuable fisheries and riparian habitats. Political control of water law by a handful of agricultural lobbying organizations for the use of a portion of their memberships is not a viable foundation for management of a resource on which every Wyoming community and species depends. SF 65 deserved a robust debate as one more method for easing the needless complications built into our 20-year-old in-stream flow statute. This bill

also was far more considerate of, and generous to, traditional agricultural water users than a new citizen initiative campaign would likely be.

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 65 was sponsored by Sen. Cale Case (*R-Lander*) and Rep. Pete Illoway (*R-Cheyenne*). In the 2006 session, after brief debate the Senate fell three votes short of the two-thirds majority required for introduction.

**Senate** Yes 17; No 13.

The bill failed to gain the two-thirds majority required for introduction and was indefinitely postponed.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote in order to make it easier for willing landowners to work with the state to protect minimum stream flows for up to two years at a time.*

#### SF 74—STUDY ON CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES LOCALLY (*Senate only*)

##### WHAT WAS IT FOR?

Creeks and rivers flowing through Wyoming's cities and towns are enormous boosts to quality of life, local environments and community pocketbooks, drawing tourists and serving as reasons for residents to stay. Yet every year, when irrigation diversion reduces flows or natural weather conditions make water scarce, these fisheries and the communities' environments suffer badly. Some towns, like Pinedale, hold rights to enough extra water in upstream storage to keep their creeks and fisheries intact during the dry months. But the state offers no legal protection to move the water where it's needed, and when Pinedale tries, irrigators bleed it off before it reaches the town line. It's all perfectly legal but less than neighborly. SF 74 would have called on the University of Wyoming and the State Engineer to prepare a written report to three legislative committees later this year. Water regulators and agricultural economists would have documented the economic and legal barriers that prevent temporary or seasonal protections for in-stream flows. The study also would have outlined the economic impacts to local communities and recommended some legislative fixes.

##### WHY SHOULD SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS CARE?

Sportsmen across Wyoming drove establishment of our river-flow conservation laws a generation ago. Those protections were hard won, depending on thousands of signatures gathered by volunteers and action from a deeply reluctant but panicked Legislature. But the system's inherent over-conservatism, dependence on multiple agencies and redundant processes have prevented

protection of all but a fraction of our impaired rivers. Current laws and rules are particularly hard on good-faith efforts by private individuals or local governments to temporarily protect stream flows for up to two years at a time. Towns with storage rights and permitted recreational uses can't exercise their rights; regulators lack the authority in these cases that they possess to protect other water rights; and bills to correct the problem die in session after session of the Legislature. If Wyoming water law can't protect conservation uses of existing water rights by willing right-holders, it certainly will never tackle the larger problem of securing and enforcing meaningful, publicly held minimum flows. Sportsmen and conservationists must confront dual challenges. We must establish genuine, mutually helpful partnerships with willing, conservation-minded private and public water-right holders. But we also must convince the Legislature to finish the stream-flow protection law it started so haltingly in the 1980s. This bill would have been a careful and purely educational start in that direction. The disproportionate degree of opposition it drew from the agriculture lobby and certain legislators – and the overwrought tone of some of that opposition – was among the most blatantly anti-conservation policymaking that took place this session.

##### WHAT HAPPENED?

SF 74 was sponsored by Sen. Bill Vasey (*D-Rawlins*), Rep. Rosie Berger (*R-Big Horn*) and five other lawmakers. In the 2006 session, it passed the Senate Agriculture Committee only after a grueling, three-hour session. Committee deliberation was prolonged needlessly by the Farm Bureau, whose lobbyist sought to amend SF 74 into a far more radical (and disjointed) form that surely would have failed, intentionally. Committee members showed great resolve in working through the issue and passing the bill – eventually. SF 74 then sailed out of the Senate unanimously. But House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Hageman (*R-Fort Laramie*) refused to bring the bill up for consideration, so House leaders agreed to a bypass and sent it to the Appropriations Committee instead. Sadly, that committee's chairman, Rep. Frank Philp (*R-Shoshoni*) was no more accommodating. He held up the bill past the committee deadline, and it died.

**Senate** Yes 30; No 0.

**House** Killed by Appropriations Committee chairman without vote.

The bill passed the Senate but died without consideration in committee and was indefinitely postponed.

*We recommended a 'yes' vote to study and document ways water-right holders can temporarily protect minimum stream flows.*



# Committees We Count On

Aside from senior members of the leadership, each legislator serves on one or two standing committees. Each committee's chairman decides which bills to consider from among legislation sent to each committee from the floor. Not every bill gets read into the record and referred by the speaker or the president to a committee. Not every referred bill gets a hearing. Others that do are discussed and even debated only to fail to secure enough votes to be sent back to the floor. And among those returned to the floor, not every bill is scheduled for debate by the majority floor leader. So, committees and leadership play crucial roles in determining the scope of the conservation agenda and its potential for success.

The following committees are those that most often develop or consider legislation that forms the agenda for your advocates at the Legislature. For each, we briefly evaluate the committee's and chairman's performance in 2006, along with contact information for the members. The scores given are the percentage of scorecard bills that each committee acted on in accordance with the conservation community's goals. Special circumstances are explained for some committees' scores. For more about each bill referenced, consult its heading in the "Votes that Counted for Conservation" chapter of the Scorecard.

## HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

2006 SCORE: 33%

2005 SCORE: 83%

**Members** Reps. Jim Hageman (*R-Fort Laramie*); Kermit Brown (*R-Laramie*); Kathy Davison (*R-Kemmerer*); Ross Diercks (*D-Lusk*); Burke Jackson (*R-Rozet*); Layton Morgan (*D-Cheyenne*); Mick Powers (*R-Lyman*); Doug Samuelson (*R-Cheyenne*); and Mark Semlek (*R-Moorcroft*).

Rep. Jim Hageman, in his 24th and final year as a Republican representative from Fort Laramie in Goshen County, led the nine-member House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee for the sixth year in a row. The committee's seven Republicans and two Democrats are overwhelmingly from rural communities, and many have ranching backgrounds. The members' individual scores for 2006 averaged 51 percent, a full 18 points below the overall Legislature's average.

WCV gives the 2006 House Agriculture Committee a 33 percent score, based on its votes on two scorecard bills that were referred from the floor, as well as one bill within the committee's jurisdiction that the chairman refused to schedule for consideration.

The committee passed SF 18, increasing enforcement of state land rules, which WCV also supported. The committee also passed HB 24, a massive increase in predator control funding, which WCV opposed. And Chairman Hageman made it clear he would not consider SF 74 if it were sent to his committee, prompting the House leadership to send it elsewhere. WCV supported SF

74 and counts this bill against the committee's score as well, though the eight rank-and-file members bear no individual responsibility for that part of the committee's score.

Committee contact information is online at: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2006/Members/J05MEM.htm>

## SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

2006 SCORE: 67%

2005 SCORE: 57%

**Members** Sens. Gerald Geis (*R-Worland*); Wayne Johnson (*R-Cheyenne*); Curt Meier (*R-LaGrange*); Ray Peterson (*R-Cowley*); and Bill Vasey (*D-Rawlins*).

Sen. Gerald Geis, a Worland Republican, chaired the Senate Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee in 2006 for the 12th consecutive year of his 25 total years during two stints in the Legislature. The committee's four Republicans and one Democrat all represent rural and agricultural constituencies, although they are not all rural residents themselves. The committee members' individual scores this year averaged 51 percent, 18 points below the full Legislature's average.

WCV gives the 2006 Senate Agriculture Committee a 67 percent score, based on its passage of two scorecard bills referred from the floor, which WCV supported (SF 18 and SF 74), and its passage of one scorecard bill, which WCV opposed (HB 24).

Committee contact information is online at: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2006/Members/J05MEM.htm>

## HOUSE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

2006 SCORE: 100%

2005 SCORE: 75%

**Members** Reps. Pat Childers (*R-Cody*); Kermit Brown (*R-Laramie*); Kathy Davison (*R-Kemmerer*); Keith Gingery (*R-Jackson*); Jerry Ikel (*R-Sheridan*); Wayne Reese (*D-Cheyenne*); Jim Slater (*R-Laramie*); Bill Thompson (*D-Green River*); and Dan Zwonitzer (*R-Cheyenne*).

Rep. Pat Childers chaired the House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee in 2006, the 10th year the Republican has represented Cody in the Legislature. The committee's seven GOP and two Democratic members are all from border counties and cover a broad ideological range on conservation issues. The committee members' average score this year as individuals was 76 percent, seven points higher than the Legislature's average.

WCV gives the 2006 House Travel Committee a 100 percent score, based on its passage of the one scorecard bill referred from the floor, HB 32, which WCV supported. The lack of scored bills represented a rare quiet year in the often controversial environmental issues the committee oversees; the panel spent much of the session focused on gambling and lottery issues, though it also was involved in other Game and Fish bills not scored by WCV, amending residency licensure requirements to protect religious missionaries' resident status and granting free hunting and fishing licenses to combat military personnel. The latter bill helped prompt the committee to develop a bill for next year to repay the Game and Fish for the cost of the many varieties of free and reduced licenses granted by the Legislature over the years.

Committee contact information is online at:  
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2006/Members/J06MEM.htm>

## SENATE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

2006 SCORE: 100%

2005 SCORE: 100%

**Members** Sens. Bruce Burns (*R-Sheridan*); Stan Cooper (*R-Kemmerer*); Mike Massie (*D-Laramie*); Tony Ross (*R-Cheyenne*); and Michael Von Flatern (*R-Gillette*).

Sen. Bruce Burns, a Sheridan Republican in his 12th year of legislative service, heads the Senate Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee for his second year. The committee's four Republicans and one Democrat include residents of four of the five largest cities in eastern Wyoming and a former county commissioner from Kemmerer. The committee members' average individual score this year was 82 percent, 13 points higher than the average legislator.

WCV gives the 2006 Senate Travel Committee a 100 percent score for the second year in a row, based on its passage of the one scorecard bill referred from the floor, HB 32, which WCV supported. Like its counterpart House committee, the Senate panel focused on less controversial wildlife legislation and an array of gambling issues. Also like the House committee, it is already developing a heavy agenda of Game and Fish funding issues for the 2007 session that will strongly interest conservationists and sportsmen.

Committee contact information is online at:  
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2006/Members/J06MEM.htm>

### By the Numbers...

#### Five Highest Counties by Average Score, 2006

87% Sheridan County

81% Teton County

81% Johnson County

80% Laramie County

76% Fremont County

#### Six Lowest Counties by Average Score, 2006

Weston & Crook Counties (tie) 48%

Converse County 46%

Goshen County 46%

Hot Springs County 44%

Niobrara County 28%

## RESOURCES FROM WYOMING CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

*WCV's tax-deductible 501(c)(3) affiliate, the Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund, offers several resources to voters concerned about our wildlife and natural resources.*

### ***Citizen's Guide to the Animal Damage Management Board***

Established in 1999 by the Wyoming Legislature, the ADMB oversees and funds often-controversial traditional predator control programs around the state while supporting expanded scientific research into predator population dynamics and new management techniques that sometimes challenge the conventional wisdom regarding predatory wildlife species.

The ADMB enjoys strong support from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, but there is still room, and a growing need, for the public to encourage discussion and debate about the ADMB within the Game and Fish hierarchy. The Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund hopes that the ADMB continues with new and groundbreaking projects that will transform the program and the state into leaders in progressive management of our important and valuable predatory wildlife species.

Through this guide, the Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund offers a thorough, thoughtful and balanced look at the ADMB's history, programs and plans for the future; a number of policy suggestions that could benefit both people and wildlife; and the names, contact information and Web sites that you can use to share your views with the decision-makers.

### ***Citizen's Guide to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission***

The politically independent Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's overall philosophy on wildlife management policy is to provide an adequate and flexible system for control, propagation, management, protection and regulation of all Wyoming wildlife. Commission success, which has occurred often and spectacularly over the years, has depended on a partnership with citizens and organizations focused on producing positive results for wildlife.

The Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund provides this guide to concerned sportsmen and conservationists who wish to preserve the commission's historic independence and who are willing to interact with commissioners to positively shape wildlife management.

### ***Your State Land Board***

Wyoming's five statewide elected officials – the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor and superintendent of public instruction – make up the Land Board, which oversees roughly 3.6 million acres of state land surface and 4.2 million acres of state mineral tracts.

Sportsmen, recreational users and conservationists all have common interests. We need a Land Board that values public access to public lands. We need a board that won't overpay state lessees for "surface damages" and turn state leases into private profit centers. And above all we need a board that manages our resources not only for school funding but also for long-term land quality.

The Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund offers this guide to explain this board's duties, so conservation-minded voters may be fully informed of the issues their leaders will confront.

*Contact WCVEF at (307) 265-0870 or at [wyovoters@wyovoters.org](mailto:wyovoters@wyovoters.org) to obtain these guides.*

### ***Wyoming Conservation Voters Education Fund Web site***

Need to know who to contact for an absentee ballot? Want to contact your legislators? Curious about who serves on the boards that affect your public land? The WCVEF Web site has all this information and more.

From Wyoming's Constitution to useful links for voters, you'll find the resources you need to be an informed citizen and an effective voter. In addition, our Web site gives you access to WCVEF publications in a printable format. Stop by and take advantage of the information we've collected for you.

*Visit [www.wcvfund.org](http://www.wcvfund.org) or contact Deputy Director Darci Jones at 307-335-8796.*



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