

Travel Committee

2021 Interim Planning – Proposed Interim Topics

Senator Ellis, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Wyo G&F – Aquatic Invasive Species

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

a. Examine potential revenue streams that could be made immediately available to G&F to eradicate invasive species once they are detected (potential ideas could include an insurance program); look to see if other states have a model. b. Examine strict liability for persons who put their watercraft in Wyo waters without prior clearance; if invasive species present, person could be held strictly liable.

Expected goal or result:

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: State Parks

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Identify barriers that prevent Wyoming residents from having a preference when booking camping sites at State Parks.

Expected goal or result:

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: Integrated state programs

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Receive update from WYDOT/G&F/Tourism on website.

Expected goal or result:

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: Cost of search and rescue

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Currently those costs are covered by counties; explore options for recreationists who engage in high risk activities to cover cost of search and rescue (perhaps an insurance model).

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: Update from Gov's office/AG on Endangered Species litigation

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

How many cases are pending, what species, where each case has been filed, etc.

Expected goal or result:

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Landen

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Proposed Interim Topic: Fish Hatcheries

Contact Person:

Senator Landen

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Fish Hatcheries and fish production

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Ellis, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Establish the Bozeman Trail as a National Historic Trail

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Presentation from Dave McKee who is working to establish the Bozeman Trail as a National Historic Trail.

Expected goal or result:

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Landen

Proposed Interim Topic: City Parks and State Parks

Contact Person:

Senator Landen

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

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Transferring “city parks” owned and operated by State Parks back to cities and towns; feasibility.

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Ellis, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Gaming revisions

Contact Person:

Senator Ellis

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Review definitions/revenue/regulations of Historic Horse Racing machines.

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Representative Flitner, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Thermal Hunting

Contact Person:

Jacob G Smith

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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Due to new and upgraded technology, hunters are now able to see predators at night as good or even better than during the day using thermal scopes.

Expected goal or result:

The goal should be to get rid of outdated laws prohibiting thermal scopes as other states have.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

A few minutes.

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

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Representative Banks

Proposed Interim Topic: Special Cultural Districts

Contact Person:

Trey Sherwood
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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Wyoming should establish special cultural districts. Why? Wyoming's cultural organizations are taking leadership roles in cultivate place based economic development and grassroots community revitalization through the humanities. The ability to create special districts in Wyoming communities with significant cultural resources would offer funding, oversight, and evaluation tools to arts and cultural organizations, including, but not limited to libraries, theatrical troupes, historical and preservation societies, libraries, museums and public art coalitions in order to grow Wyoming's creative economy. Cultural districts would serve to cultivate collaborative partnerships between arts and businesses, entrepreneurs, and the community at large to encourage economic development, foster a high quality of life for residents, attract tourism and enhance civic pride. As Wyoming grapples with declining revenues and the need to diversify its economy, the creation of special cultural districts would allow communities to leverage their authentic local assets to create vibrant ecosystems to retain and attract an educated workforce.

Expected goal or result:

- Determine the impact to the tourism sector, workforce retention and creative economy of allowing communities to establish "Cultural Districts".
- Recommend governance structure of the special district.
- Recommend structure for taxing authority.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

4 hours

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

- National Assembly of State Art Agencies, policy brief, "State Cultural Districts".
- Strategic goals of the Wyoming Arts Council
- Review Special Museum District statute

Senator Gierau

Proposed Interim Topic: • Trap-free areas for heavily used public recreation areas statewide

Contact Person:

Susan Meier
susaninjacksonhole@gmail.com

Related to 2021 legislation:

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No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Wyoming public trail use is increasing. Trails become physically crowded, wildlife encounters are more frequent, and each type of land user no longer has the space they need to safely enjoy their sports. Not all areas have the same emphasis; quality trails for every use cannot all be accommodated in the same area.

Expected goal or result:

Six recreational areas have a newly-documented high level of use. The activity in these areas is overwhelmingly skewed toward hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Trapping is eclipsed by these uses. Closing these areas still leaves thousands of acres of public lands open to trapping.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

2 hours

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Trail Count Data NFS WGFC Meeting Minutes WGFD Recommendations

Proposed Interim Topic: Mandatory Trapper Education

Contact Person:

Susan Meier
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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Trapper Education was a recommendation from the WGFD 2020 public sessions. Implementing mandatory trapper education aligns Wyoming with other states.

Expected goal or result:

Implement mandatory trapper education in Wyoming

Estimated Committee time for topic:

1 hour

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

WGFC meeting minutes WGFD 2020 recommendations

Representative Newsome

Proposed Interim Topic: Trophy animal predation reimbursement

Contact Person:

Representative Newsome

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

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Expected goal or result:

-

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Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: Live and historic horse regulations

Contact Person:

Representative Newsome

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

-

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Proposed Interim Topic: Zebra mussels response

Contact Person:

Representative Newsome

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

-

Expected goal or result:

-

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Representative Flitner, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Zebra Mussel Detection and Mitigation

Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

An invasive zebra mussel that poses a serious threat to Wyoming’s natural resources and water systems has been found in moss balls, a product sold at many aquarium and pet supply stores. Once zebra mussels become established in reservoirs, lakes or even city water systems, they wreak havoc. They remove nutrients from water, clog pipes and waterways, damage boats and out-compete native mussels. Further, in many cases, zebra mussels are impossible to remove and could have costly impacts for Wyoming.

Expected goal or result:

Governor Gordon has created a State Response Team to address this issue. This statewide threat is currently being evaluated to understand the full risk to Wyoming’s resources and infrastructure. Mitigation may require statutory changes or funding needs the Committee may want to consider.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Initial Presentation 1 hour Additional Committee time 3 hours

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Department Webpage <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/AIS-moss-balls>

Proposed Interim Topic: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Emergency Fund

Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are organisms that are not native and cause significant harm to an ecosystem when introduced. Harmful impacts can occur to municipal water supplies, recreation, agriculture, aquaculture, and other commercial activities. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has completed 23 Rapid Response Plans to outline the duties and resources needed if AIS is detected in of Wyoming’s major water bodies. Implementation of a Response Plan will take a large amount of resources in both personnel and funding.

Expected goal or result:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department asks the Committee to consider resources that are needed to implement an emergency response if AIS was found in Wyoming’s waters.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Initial Presentation 1 hour Additional Committee time 3 hours

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Example of Rapid Response Plan <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Prevention/AIS-Rapid-Response-Feedback>

Proposed Interim Topic: Future Management of Greyrocks, Miracle Mile and Glendo

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Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
angela.bruce@wyo.gov
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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

Greyrocks, Miracle Mile and Glendo provide for a high volume of recreational use. There is ongoing discussion on the best agency to own and or manage these properties for the state. This is a joint effort that State Parks and the Game and Fish are working on to increase efficiencies and recreational opportunities to overall benefit the state.

Expected goal or result:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will provide a joint informational presentation with State Parks.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Informational Presentation 1 hour, additional time may be needed

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Ellis, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Updates

Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
angela.bruce@wyo.gov
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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

It is a priority for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to work with other Wyoming agencies and stakeholders along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to delist species and work to keep species from being listed in Wyoming.

Expected goal or result:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will provide an informational presentation on the status and issues surrounding current and possible future species listings.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Informational Presentation 1 hour

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

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Representative Flitner, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Elk Feedgrounds

Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
angela.bruce@wyo.gov
3077774689

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department manages several elk feedgrounds in northwest Wyoming. Over the years, the supplemental winter feeding of elk has grown in complexity. Among the complexities are wildlife diseases, specifically increasing concerns about the spread of chronic wasting disease across the State. While there are benefits to feeding elk on feedgrounds there are also challenges, which is why the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is preparing to develop a plan that will guide the long-term (ten years and beyond) management of feedgrounds.

Expected goal or result:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will provide an informational presentation on the history of feedgrounds, the current challenges, and an update on the multi-phased effort to gather public input on a long-term management plan.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Informational Presentation 1 hour

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Department website <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/elk-feedgrounds>

Proposed Interim Topic: Wildlife Task Force

Contact Person:

Deputy Director Angi Bruce
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
angela.bruce@wyo.gov
3077774689

Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

The Wildlife Task Force is a group that will study wildlife policy issues facing the state related to the allocation of hunting opportunity, sportsperson access and other issues identified by the Taskforce. Members were appointed jointly by, the Governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the president of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. During this 18 month process, meetings will be open to the public and will allow significant public input and comment opportunity. The end goal of the Taskforce is to present conclusions and recommendations to the legislature, The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Governor to support decision making in regards to Wyoming's wildlife resources.

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Expected goal or result:

The Director will provide the Committee with updates on the work of this Task Force at each Joint TRW Interim Meeting.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

15 mins

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Senator Ellis, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Gambling

Contact Person:

Charles E Moore

Wyoming Gaming Commission

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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

General Gambling discussion, the future of Gambling. The Legislature needs to contemplate and consider what will Wyoming look like in the future.

Expected goal or result:

1. The vision of Wyoming and Gambling. 2. Regulatory foundation. 3. Culture of Gambling and Gaming.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration:

Representative Flitner, Chairman

Proposed Interim Topic: Agency update and potential legislation

Contact Person:

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Related to 2021 legislation:

No

Recommended priorities Committee should consider:

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* General Update on Agency * Growing Wyo Parks & Outdoor Recreation economic impact and potential legislation and Funding Mechanisms * Any site criteria legislation for property management/ownership expansion: Miracle Mile, Grey Rocks, North of Glendo, Sunrise, BOR Properties (Glendo, Guernsey, Seminoe, Buffalo Bill, Boysen, Keyhole) * State Trails Program discussion and possible legislation to own building * State Museum Expansion / New Building

Expected goal or result:

Potential funding discussion for Wyo Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office. We may have certain properties that would like to become a State Park and/or expansion of existing management. Authorization of the ownership of a shop/office building for the Trails Program. Discussion regarding a new building for the State Museum.

Estimated Committee time for topic:

* Program education and update - 1 hour * Funding discussion - 1 hour / couple of meetings * Site Criteria and property expansion - 1 hour / couple of meetings * Trails Program Building - 1 hour * State Museum - 1 hour

Resources for Committee review prior to topic consideration: