

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0101

Forest health grant program-3.

Sponsored by: Select Water Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state forestry; creating the forest  
 2 health grant program; providing duties to the state  
 3 forester; creating an account; requiring the attorney  
 4 general to approve grants; requiring reports; providing a  
 5 sunset date; providing an appropriation; and providing for  
 6 an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 36-1-601 is created to read:

11

ARTICLE 6

12

FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

13

14

15 **36-1-601. Forest health grant program; duties of**  
 16 **state forester; account created; attorney general approval.**

1

2 (a) There is created the forest health grant program.  
3 The grant program shall be administered by the state  
4 forester, who shall establish the application process and  
5 any other requirements of the grant program not otherwise  
6 provided by this section.

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8 (b) Grants under the forest health grant program  
9 shall pay for not more than seventy-five percent (75%) of  
10 the cost of a forest health project. Any other source of  
11 funds, cash or in-kind contributions may be used as  
12 matching funds to cover the remainder of a project's costs  
13 and the state forester may require that matching funds be  
14 obligated to pay for a portion of any project. Forest  
15 health projects eligible for grant funding under this  
16 section shall be conducted on state, local government or  
17 private land and shall be designed to accomplish one (1) or  
18 more of the following:

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20 (i) Enhancement of water yield or quality;

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22 (ii) Reduction of the risk of catastrophic  
23 wildfire damage;

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2 (iii) Increase production of forest products;

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4 (iv) Improvement of habitat conditions for  
5 wildlife and livestock;

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7 (v) Any other project that is beneficial to  
8 forest health, that is substantially beneficial to the  
9 interest of the state and that has a public purpose as  
10 determined by the state forester.

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12 (c) No forest health grant shall be made without the  
13 written opinion of the attorney general certifying the  
14 legality of the grant and all documents connected with the  
15 grant and project.

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17 (d) There is created the forest health grant program  
18 account. The account shall consist of those funds  
19 designated to the account by law. Funds in the account  
20 shall be used for grants authorized to be made under this  
21 article. Individuals and other entities may also grant,  
22 give, transfer, bequest or donate funds to the account. Any  
23 funds remaining in this account at the end of any fiscal

1 year shall not lapse or revert as provided by W.S. 9-4-207  
2 but shall remain in the account and be used to implement  
3 the purposes of this article. Accrued interest and other  
4 earnings on unexpended funds within the forest health grant  
5 program account shall be credited to the account.

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7 (e) The state forester shall annually report to the  
8 joint agriculture, state and public lands and water  
9 resources interim committee not later than September 1 on  
10 all grants awarded under this section including the amounts  
11 of the grants and the projects the grants were authorized  
12 to fund.

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14 (f) No forest grants under this section shall be  
15 approved after July 1, 2029 and any unobligated funds  
16 remaining in the forest health grant program account on  
17 July 1, 2029 shall:

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19 (i) If the source of the funds were not state  
20 funds, be returned to the individual or other entity that  
21 granted, gave, transferred, bequeathed or donated the funds  
22 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section; or

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1           (ii) If the source of the funds were state  
2 funds, revert to the general fund or other state fund from  
3 which the funds were initially appropriated.

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5           **Section 2.** There is appropriated three million  
6 dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the general fund to the forest  
7 health grant program account for purposes of implementing  
8 this act and making grants authorized by this act. This  
9 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
10 other purpose without further legislative authorization.  
11 Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207,  
12 this appropriation shall remain in effect and not lapse or  
13 revert at the end of any fiscal period except upon further  
14 legislative action. It is the intent of the legislature  
15 that additional funding for this purpose be included in the  
16 state forester's next budget request submitted under W.S.  
17 9-2-1013.

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19           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)