



WYOMING
Outdoor Recreation
Business Alliance

HB 67 – Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration

Building outdoor recreation benefits on Wyoming's terms –

Outdoor Recreation in Wyoming is a Growing Economic Sector –



a \$2 billion industry



fueling 16,000 jobs



and \$718 million in wages

Representing over 4% of our state's gross domestic product – more than health care or the construction sectors.

Wyoming communities need resources to invest in this sector so they can reap more of its economic benefits and also right-size its growth. Federal funding comes with strings attached, thus failing to meet the diversity of needs and cultural styles of recreation in our state. HB 67 ensures we develop outdoor recreation on Wyoming's terms.

What the bill does

HB 67 will provide grants to local communities for outdoor recreation projects that boost our quality of life and aid in diversifying our economy. Grants are available to governments or nonprofit organizations.

The legislature created the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust fund account in 2023 and authorized a \$6 million biennial contribution from our state's Tourism account. HB 67 finishes the job by outlining how the fund will be administered – similar to the existing Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust – by providing grants to local communities for outdoor recreation projects. Specifically, HB 67 –



- Creates a board that awards grants up to \$200K; larger grants referred to legislature
- Funding available for outdoor rec infrastructure and public access easements
- Board follows the WY Administrative Procedures Act requiring public notice & comment, develops grant guidelines, considers impacts to socioeconomic, cultural, natural, and wildlife resources and ensures appropriate consultation with agencies, Tribes and the public.

Why is the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Trust Needed?

Communities need resources to attract, build and manage for outdoor recreation economic opportunities.

Investment in Outdoor Recreation:

- Builds amenities that attract new residents, businesses and visitors
- Improves the quality of life for residents; supports Main St. businesses already here
- Brings much-needed economic diversification...leveraging our state's wonderful natural assets
- Helps manage outdoor recreation impacts, so communities are in the driver's seat guiding development
- Will address an IMMENSE UNMET NEED. When the state announced its federal ARPA grant program for outdoor recreation, over \$70 million in requests came in from all around the state, representing diverse Wyoming projects such as boat access, shooting ranges, campgrounds, trails, bike parks, horse corrals, ski facilities, parking areas and more. The majority of these projects have not been funded.

