



2024

CONSERVATION VOTE REPORT

FOR THE 67TH WYOMING STATE LEGISLATURE

A NOTE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

Your voice matters! We live in a state with one of the most accessible state governments. Our elected officials are only a phone call or text away. They, not staff, respond to our messages and emails. They want to hear from you.

Your vote matters! We also live in a state where local and state-level elections can be decided by only a handful of votes. Up and down the ballot, we hope that you will engage in the electoral process in 2024.

At the Wyoming Outdoor Council, we work every day to protect Wyoming's environment and quality of life, now and for future generations. We're guided by a vision of a state with clean air and water, open space, thriving wildlife, wild lands, healthy communities, an informed and engaged public, and a sustainable economy and quality of life. To realize this vision, we must make our voices heard at the Wyoming Legislature.

During the 2024 session, I had the pleasure of working with legislators and Outdoor Council members of all political backgrounds. Effectiveness depends not only on our traditional allies but also on forging unexpected friendships. This, to me, is what defines the Outdoor Council's work at the Capitol more than anything else: We are always innovating ways to dismantle barriers, foster connections, and sculpt solutions that appeal to all of Wyoming.

Thank you for working with us.

— Era Aranow, Government Affairs Manager



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Wyoming Outdoor Council's 2024 Conservation Vote Report. This report describes select conservation bills from the 2024 Budget Session, as well as identifies how state legislators voted on key conservation bills. We also share the broader themes that emerged, aiming to provide insight into the general tone of the session from a conservation perspective. We conclude with how you can continue to be involved in the interim — the time in between legislative sessions. Your voice and your vote matter. We hope that you will exercise both of them this year.

The Outdoor Council supports accountable and transparent governance as an important part of protecting Wyoming's environment and quality of life. We believe that informed and engaged citizens matter and that conservation is not a partisan issue — it is a unifying Wyoming value. That's why we're committed to providing [educational materials](#) to help YOU, the citizens of this ecologically and culturally diverse state, engage in the legislative process throughout the year.

Building proactive relationships and having ongoing conversations with those who have been elected to represent you is the best way to realize our shared mission and goals. To that end, we encourage you to reach out to your legislators, learn more about the specifics of their votes, and share what is important to you. If you're not sure who your legislators are or how to contact them, [you can find that information here](#).

OVERVIEW OF BILLS WE TRACKED AND WHY

During the 2024 session, the Outdoor Council tracked 74 bills related to issues such as wildlife, energy, clean air and water, state revenue, carbon capture and sequestration, state lands, public land access, recreation, and economic diversification. We testified before committees, sent notes to the floor, and worked with diverse partners to support, oppose, or modify these bills.

We've selected six bills and one budget amendment that were of high importance to the Outdoor Council and our longstanding mission. Four of these bills were considered in both chambers, two passed through the Senate and died in House committees, and one died when it failed to gain a two-thirds majority for introduction in the House. If you are interested in the background of bills not covered in this report, you can [read our weekly Legislative Lowdowns](#) and [see a full list of bills we tracked on our website](#).

BILL DESCRIPTIONS

HOUSE BILL 1 / SENATE FILE 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

AMENDMENTS HB0001H3067 / SF0001S3045: Remove direct sale of Kelly Parcel to the federal government from the budget

Sponsor: Representative Bear, Senator Laursen, D.

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Failed

★ For more background on the budget and the budget process, see the [Major Themes Section of this report](#).

These mirror amendments (the same in both the [House](#) and [Senate](#)) would have removed the authorization for direct sale of the Kelly Parcel to the federal government. Without this authorization, the parcel would be auctioned to the highest bidder. Prized for its wildlife, recreation, and hunting opportunities, this parcel of state land is vital for iconic migrating wildlife, including pronghorn, elk, and mule deer. In 2023, when the state considered selling the parcel via public auction, more than 9,000 Wyoming citizens spoke in favor of permanently protecting the parcel as part of Grand Teton National Park. We supported the direct sale and were glad that this amendment to remove the sale failed in both chambers.

HOUSE BILL 67: OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM TRUST FUND ADMINISTRATION-2

Sponsors: Representatives Newsome, Byron, Larson, JT, Storer, Western and Senators Ellis, Gierau, Jones, Schuler

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Passed

Passage of [HB67](#) is an affirmation that Wyoming's outdoors, environment and quality of life are non-partisan. This bill sets up the structures to administer the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund account, which was established during the 2023 legislative session and supports outdoor recreation infrastructure projects such as shooting ranges, trails, and boat ramps. We believe and will continue to ensure that Wyoming can both protect its wildlife resources and facilitate the growth of responsible outdoor recreation. The bill successfully adds wildlife considerations in project evaluations to ensure that new outdoor recreation projects won't have significant negative impacts on wildlife and cultural resources. HB67 had an interesting journey through the legislative process: The original committee bill was killed on introduction in the Senate — but fortunately, there was a mirror bill ready to go in the House. Thank you all for reaching out to your legislators to help bring this bill across the finish line.

HOUSE BILL 94: NET METERING

Sponsors: Representatives Heiner, Davis, Haroldson, Hornok, Jennings, Slagle, Winter, Senator Boner

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Failed

[This bill](#) reminded us of the types of bills we were used to seeing prior to 2020 — bills that recognized both the interest in and value of net metering. HB94 supported net metering and proposed to increase the current maximum size of net-metered systems from 25 to 750 kilowatts. An increase in system size would make behind-the-meter wind and solar systems much more attractive to municipalities, ranchers, and businesses who seek to produce their own energy and have more control over their energy expenses. Currently, Wyoming’s net-metering statute makes it affordable for Wyomingites to install rooftop solar and backyard wind energy on their property and supports both energy independence and the environment. Though a majority of House members (35) supported its introduction, that was not enough to get past the two-thirds introductory hurdle required for non-budget bills. In next year’s general session, we hope to see more bills like this one that support and expand net metering and energy freedom in Wyoming.

SENATE FILE 13: FEDERAL LAND USE PLANS-LEGAL ACTIONS AUTHORIZED

Sponsor: Agriculture, State & Public Lands, & Water Resources Committee

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Vetoed

[This bill](#) came from interim discussions in the Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee that were focused on opposing the Bureau of Land Management’s recently released Rock Springs Resource Management Plan. Initially, the committee had interest in declaring themselves a [cooperating agency](#) for the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, process. This is not something that the legislature has the ability to do. With the goal of pushing back on this RMP and others, the committee put forward a bill that would have provided the state legislature \$50 million (increased to \$75 million by a third reading amendment) to sue the federal government in order to “protect the rights, powers and interests of the legislature.” Despite repeated questions about constitutionality, it easily passed through both chambers. Gov. Gordon vetoed this bill because, as he stated, it “represents a clear attempt to cross, blur, and trample the line of separation between our equal, but separate, branches of government” and because “it is not fiscally conservative.” [You can read the full veto letter here.](#)

SENATE FILE 60: 2024 LARGE PROJECT FUNDING

Sponsors: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee

WOC Position: Supported

Status: Passed

SF60 sought approval to use funds from the [Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust](#) to fund three large conservation projects. In 2005, the legislature created the WWNRT to use the trust's income to enhance and conserve wildlife habitat and natural resource values in Wyoming. Since then, the WWNRT has generated over \$110 million that has helped pay for conservation projects around the state and has brought in many times that amount in matching funds. Projects costing over \$400,000 (the threshold was increased from \$200,000 last year) need legislative approval before funding can be released — and that was the purpose of this bill. SF60 contained three such large project requests, including fish passages on the Upper Greybull River, and habitat restoration in the Baggs Valley headwaters and Seminoe Shirley Habitat. This bill passed easily through the legislature this year.

SENATE FILE 64: MINERAL ROYALTIES-PROPORTIONAL SEVERANCE TAX REFUNDS

Sponsor: Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Failed

SF64 was the latest attempt to provide tax relief to our state's fossil fuel industries. Federal royalty rates on minerals extracted on federal lands go to the federal government. Just under half of this money is returned to the state where the extraction took place. Prior to the Inflation Reduction Act, which raised royalty rates on federal lands from 12.5 percent to 16.67 percent in 2020, rates had not increased since they were first put in place under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. This higher rate is the same as the royalty rate that Wyoming charges for extraction on its state lands. While revenue loss to the state from this bill would have started in the hundreds of thousands, it would have increased to unknown millions over time. Even though studies conducted by the state continue to confirm that geology is more important than tax rates in encouraging or discouraging exploration and production, this is the third session in a row we have seen nearly the same bill. Although Wyoming must reduce its dependence on fossil fuel taxes and diversify its economic base, we believe it is poor policy to continue to reduce taxes on these industries without filling it in elsewhere. This is especially true at a time of record profits for many companies. After passing the Senate, this bill died when it was not heard by the Appropriations Committee before the deadline. During the interim, the Minerals, Business & Economic Development Committee will look at mining-related issues, including tax issues, credits, and exemptions applicable to the mining industry.

SENATE FILE 72: UTILITY DONATIONS

Sponsor: Senator Case

WOC Position: Opposed

Status: Failed

After several years of bills attempting to repeal net metering, [SF72](#) was an attempt to instead chip away at Wyoming's net-metering statute, potentially setting the stage for a repeal in the future. The current net-metering statute makes it affordable for Wyomingites to install rooftop solar and backyard wind energy on their property. Specifically, SF72 would have prohibited utilities from making donations of solar systems and having them included in their customer rate base. The program that currently falls into this category is the [Blue Sky Program](#), a volunteer program from Rocky Mountain Power that supports local rooftop solar projects for community organizations such as food banks, schools, and many others. In a similar manner to last year's attempt to end net metering, SF92, this bill passed through the Senate and died in the House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources Committee.

We expected net metering to be discussed by the Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee during the interim, as it has done previously. However, the Management Council specifically directed the Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee not to pursue this topic because of how long it would take. (We've helped prove to them in past years that many of us in Wyoming are passionate about keeping net metering!) There is a chance that either increasing the 25 kW cap on net-metered systems, or repealing or limiting net metering, will come up in other committees and we expect to see similar legislation in the 2025 General Session. WOC will continue following this issue and alert you of future opportunities where your voice can make an impact as it has in the past.

HOW TO READ THIS VOTE REPORT

The Conservation Vote Report is a snapshot of how Wyoming legislators voted on key conservation bills. The type of vote is captured below the bill's title. If you would like to see the votes for bills not included in this report, [you can visit the Wyoming Legislature's 2024 bills page](#). (Click on the bill of interest, then navigate to the "Votes" tab and/or the "Digest" tab to see a list of all recorded votes.)

The vote record is a compilation of how legislators voted on key issues during the 2024 Budget Session. It is meant to provide information for the public on how legislators voted on key conservation issues from this year's session. Data was compiled by WOC staff from official Wyoming legislative records. The report is produced for nonpartisan informational purposes so that WOC members can begin to understand how lawmakers voted on issues of concern. Support for or opposition to any given bill or resolution is not intended to provide an endorsement or rejection of any legislator. Reach out to individual legislators for a full understanding of their individual vote choices.

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

- Y** Voted yes
- N** Voted no
- E** Excused
- C** Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2

HB 94: Net metering

SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized

SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Allemand, Bill	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Allred, Lane	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Andrew, Ocean	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Angelos , Abby	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	—	—
Banks , Dalton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Bear, John	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Berger, Ryan	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Brown, Landon	Y	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Burkhart Jr. , Donald	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Byron, Andrew	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Chadwick, Forest	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Chestek, Ken	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Clouston, Ken	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Conrad, Jon	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Crago, Barry	N	Y	N	Y	E	—	—
Davis, Bob	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—

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SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Eklund, John	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Haroldson, Jeremy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Harshman, Steve	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Heiner, Scott	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Henderson, Bill	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Hornok, Ben	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Jennings, Mark	Y	N	Y	Y	E	—	—
Knapp, Christopher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Larsen, Lloyd	Y	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Larson, J.T.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Lawley, Martha	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Locke, Tony	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Neiman, Chip	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Newsome, Sandy	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Nicholas, Bob	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Niemiec, Tony	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—

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- Y** Voted yes
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SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Northrup, David	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
O'Hearn, Kevin	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Oakley, Ember	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Obermueller, Jerry	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Olsen, Jared	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Ottman, Pepper	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Pendergraft, Ken	Y	N	Y	Y	E	—	—
Penn, Sarah	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Provenza, Karlee	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Rodriguez-Williams, Rachel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Sherwood, Trey	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Singh, Daniel	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Slagle, Allan	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Smith, Scott	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Sommers, Albert	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—

HOUSE VOTES

KEY

- Y** Voted yes
- N** Voted no
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- C** Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

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HB 94: Net metering

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SF 72: Utility donations

REPRESENTATIVE	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Stith, Clark	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Storer, Liz	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Strock, Tomi	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Styvar, Clarence	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Tarver, Reuben	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Trujillo, Tamara	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—
Walters, Tom	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Ward, Jeanette	Y	N	Y	Y	N	—	—
Washut, Art	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Western, Cyrus	N	Y	N	Y	E	—	—
Winter, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	—	—
Wylie, Cody	N	Y	N	Y	Y	—	—
Yin, Mike	N	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—
Zwonitzer, David	N	Y	N	N	Y	—	—
Zwonitzer, Dan	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	—	—

SENATE VOTES

KEY

- Y** Voted yes
- N** Voted no
- E** Excused
- C** Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

HB 67: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund Administration-2

HB 94: Net metering

SF 13: Federal land use plans-legal actions authorized

SF 60: 2024 large project funding

SF 64: Mineral royalties-proportional severance tax refunds

SF 72: Utility donations

SENATOR	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Anderson, Jim	N	Y	—	Y	E	Y	Y
Baldwin, Fred	N	Y	—	N	Y	Y	Y
Barlow, Eric	N	Y	—	N	Y	N	Y
Biteman, Bo	Y	N	—	Y	N	Y	Y
Boner, Brian	N	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bouchard, Anthony	Y	N	—	Y	N	Y	Y
Brennan, Evie	Y	N	—	Y	Y	Y	C
Case, Gale	N	N	—	N	Y	N	Y
Cooper , Ed	N	Y	—	N	Y	Y	Y
Dockstader, Dan	N	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Driskill , Ogden	N	Y	—	N	Y	N	Y
Ellis, Affie	N	Y	—	C	N	Y	Y
French, Tim	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	N	Y
Furphy, Dan	N	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gierau, Mike	N	Y	—	N	Y	N	Y

SENATE VOTES

KEY

- Y** Voted yes
- N** Voted no
- E** Excused
- C** Conflict
- Not applicable

BILLS

HB1/SF1 Amendment: Amendment to remove the sale of the Kelly Parcel from the budget bill

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SF 72: Utility donations

SENATOR	HB1/SF 1 Amendment	HB 67	HB 94	SF 13	SF 60	SF 64	SF 72
Hicks, Larry	N	Y	—	Y	Y	N	Y
Hutchings, Lynn	Y	N	—	Y	Y	N	Y
Ide, Bob	Y	N	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jones, Stacy	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kinskey, Dave	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kolb, John	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	N
Landen, Bill	N	E	—	N	Y	N	Y
Laursen, Dan	Y	N	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
McKeown, Troy	Y	N	—	Y	N	Y	Y
Nethercott, Tara	N	Y	—	C	Y	N	Y
Pappas, Stephan	N	Y	—	Y	Y	N	Y
Rothfuss, Chris	N	Y	—	N	Y	N	Y
Salazar, Tim	Y	N	—	Y	Y	Y	N
Schuler, Wendy	N	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scott, Charles	N	Y	—	N	Y	Y	Y
Steinmetz, Cheri	Y	N	—	Y	Y	N	Y

MAJOR THEMES OF THE SESSION AND OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

The 2024 Budget Session was marked by several themes of importance to Wyoming conservation voters.

Questioning committee work

Committee bills are bills that various legislative committees work throughout the interim (i.e., when the legislature is not in general or budget session). [This session saw more interim committee bills die on introduction than usual.](#) Committee bills represent a significant investment of tax dollars, work hours, and public comment. As such, they usually receive a favorable introductory vote (well over 90 percent of these bills are typically introduced). This year, only 69 percent of these bills met the two-thirds hurdle required for introduction.

Property tax and social issues

With well over a dozen bills devoted to the topic, property tax was a dominant issue this session. While tax rates themselves have not gone up, tax bills have, because property values have increased. While these bills will provide some financial relief to many in need, they do not represent a change in [our tax structure](#), which continues to heavily rely on revenue from the variety of taxes (including property) on mineral extraction. Other topics with numerous bills included education and elements related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



The budget

Though it was the explicit focus and the only bill that the legislature was required to pass, HB 1/SF 1 - General government appropriations — AKA “the budget” — had one of the most convoluted paths through the session. (For information on how the initial budget bill is created, [see this Legislative Lowdown.](#)) To allow extra time for what was anticipated to be a contentious session, first reading of the budget was held on the fourth day. With over 300 budget amendments, there were some very late nights, with continued discussions in the morning. Later in the session (and for the first time in over 20 years), the conference committee charged with working out the differences between the two chambers’ versions of the bill could not reach agreement. A second committee was appointed to work through the differences. It was not until the afternoon of March 20, the final day of session, that an identical budget bill passed both chambers. Even then, it came down to the wire with a 17–14 vote in the Senate.

The final bill included several conservation wins including funding for new positions in the Department of Environmental Quality, the Office of State Lands and Investments, the Wyoming Energy Authority, and the Grants Management Office. We’re pleased to report that the budget also included \$9 million to fight invasive grasses, with no financial match requirement. Finally, we’re delighted that the sale of the Kelly Parcel to the federal government remains, though we remain quite concerned about stipulations tying it to management actions in the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan — this jeopardizes the sale and protection of the Kelly Parcel.

Concerns about utility rates and reliability

Concerns about utility rates and reliability dominated discussion for the Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee during the interim. The committee sponsored six bills in this area. Of these, all but one are now law. There were also several individually sponsored bills on this topic. We anticipate that several of these conversations about rates, interstate compacts, energy reliability, and the growth of renewable energy will continue through the interim and appear as bills in 2025.

Taxing and restricting renewables

There were several bills to change or increase taxes on energy generation. Most would have led to increased taxes on [wind](#) and [solar](#). In fact, there were more taxes proposed for renewable energy than anything else. Fortunately, the anti-tax sentiment was universally applied and these taxes failed, as did a proposition to [tax hydrogen production](#). Restrictions on renewables appeared in the eminent domain discussions, particularly in the creation of those bills during the interim, and in considerations

of energy companies' [integrated resource plans](#) and [reliability](#). The legislature's focus on protecting Wyoming's fossil fuel industries while taxing renewable energy is not a new theme, and we're sure to see it continue.



Helping industry (primarily fossil fuels)

From more [severance tax reduction](#), to [banning carbon taxes](#), to millions in the budget for the governor to spend on energy projects that would be uneconomic without this help, our state continues to support the fossil fuel industry on which our tax base is so dependent. Even the majority of the discussions around increasing the number of positions in the Department of Environmental Quality were focused on supporting industry.

In addition to direct economic support, regulatory reductions focused on supporting industry, sometimes at the expense of environmental protections. Bills in this area attempted to [expand types of mines that do not need regular permits](#) and review from the DEQ; [extend deadlines and decrease the requirements for carbon capture](#) on coal plants; create incentives for the use of [carbon dioxide to produce more oil](#); and more. We will certainly see further discussion of mine permit exemptions in the interim. We will also see more attempts at reducing regulations and otherwise supporting the fossil fuel industry in several interim committee discussions as well as bills in the next session.

Pushing back on the feds

Wyoming's ethos of rugged individualism has a longstanding tradition of calling for pushback against the federal government.

Though a significant portion of our budget and other program funding throughout the state comes through the federal government, the anti-federal government sentiment was particularly strong this year. Pushback included resolutions for [federal land transfer to the state](#); formal [statements against Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plan process](#) and recent federal rules; budget amendments tying the sale of the Kelly Parcel to outcomes of the Rock Springs Resource Management plan; and bills that push against federal processes and decisions, regardless of potential violations of the Wyoming Constitution or the United States Constitution.

Fortunately, all but two of these died before making it to the governor's desk. Gov. Mark Gordon [vetoed SF13, Federal land use plans- legal actions authorized](#) (discussed above). However, he signed into law [HB36, Natural resource protection act](#), which allows the governor to declare federal actions to be unlawful and prohibit any state funds (and therefore state employees) from enforcing them. Constitutionally, such power belongs not to the governor but to the federal courts.

Concluding thoughts

Overall, this session ended up being a relatively good one for conservation outcomes. Most of the anti-renewables bills failed, funding for wildlife and important agencies was maintained, net metering remains, [mining is safer](#), and contractors for solar installation and other projects should [now be easier to hire](#). Big issues surrounding energy and the transition to a low-carbon economy, appropriate siting of renewables and recreation, climate denial, and environmental regulations remain and will certainly continue this year and beyond.



HOW YOU CAN STAY ENGAGED

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Voting is an important conservation tool, and 2024 is an election year. Local, county, state, and national elected officials regularly debate and vote on issues that impact our wildlife, water, air, and quality of life. It is important to educate yourself about candidates and vote all the way down your ballot. Each election cycle, many races are decided by no more than a handful of votes. **Your vote really does matter!**

In Wyoming, our elected officials and political candidates are remarkably accessible. Call them. Email them. Arrange to meet them. Attend an event, and bring a friend. **Ask them about what matters to you, and vote accordingly.** Remember, the most effective time to connect with your legislators is when they are not in session. The WOC team is happy to help you in preparing to talk to your elected officials.

Are you registered to vote? Wyoming law requires County Clerks purge their voter rolls every two years. If you did not vote in the 2022 election, you have been purged from the rolls and need to re-register. [You can find information on how to register and re-register here.](#)

Many Wyoming races will be decided in the primary on August 20. [You can find key registration and election-related dates here.](#)



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Significant legislative work happens in the interim, and you can get involved! Attending a committee meeting is a great opportunity to participate in the legislative process close to home. You can find meeting topics, sign up to testify, and watch meetings live on YouTube [all from the legislative calendar](#) (click the “Details” link.) Agendas are usually posted two weeks before the meeting (also at the “Details” link). We hope to see you there!

You can also stay informed by keeping an eye on [our legislative webpage](#) and the [Wyoming Legislature's website](#).

Finally, our advocacy for Wyoming’s wide-open spaces, wildlife, clean air, and clean water is only possible with your support. If you’ve appreciated having a voice at the table wherever important conservation decisions are made — during the session and throughout the interim — [consider making a gift to the Outdoor Council](#). Your contributions help sustain this vital work. Thank you!





From the halls of the Capitol to interim meetings across the state, your gift to the Wyoming Outdoor Council ...

... Amplifies your voice and values wherever conservation decisions are made.

... Empowers citizens with news and knowledge that enable action.

... Sustains year-round advocacy for our lands, wildlife, clean air, and clean water.

Ready to support and strengthen our legislative work?

[Make a gift today.](#)