

## Summary of the 2020 Legislative Session

Every other year, the Wyoming State Legislature alternates between a longer general session and a shorter budget session. This year was a budget session, meaning that there were just 24 days to consider the nearly 400 bills that were drafted between the House of Representatives and Senate. This year, the Legislative Affairs Committee carefully watched how bills progressed through the session, communicated with other wildlife-minded organizations in the state, and provided input where appropriate. Below is a brief summary of the wildlife-focused bills that came up this session.

### *Wildlife-related bills that died early in the session*

Multiple wildlife-related bills died on introduction or otherwise were not assigned to a committee, meaning that they were not considered past the first week of the legislative session. These bills included two bills concerning wildlife corridors, [HB29 Designation of migration corridors](#) and [SF135 Migration corridors](#), as well as the [SF94 Hunting licenses-resident and nonresident](#), which sought to reserve 90% of big game, bison, and grizzly bear licenses for residents. Other bills that died early in the session included [HB35 Wolf depredation compensation](#), [HB149 Naomi hunting exception act](#), [HB202 Wildlife damage claims](#), and [HB203 Sage grouse game-bird farm certification extension](#).

### *Wildlife-related bills that passed*

All three bills that concerned funding and wildlife road crossings--[HB69 Wildlife conservation efforts-1](#), [SF4 Wildlife conservation account](#), and [SF18 Wildlife conservation efforts-2](#)--have been signed into law. Collectively, these bills allow for additional voluntary donations when purchasing wildlife conservation license plates, registering snowmobiles, or special conservation stamps; all of these funds will go towards wildlife work related to transportation.

Multiple bills were signed into law that affect wildlife operations in the state. Under [SF41 Animal damage management funding](#), the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will allocate \$200,000 in funding for predator control annually. Under [SF65 Wild bison licenses](#), if a person possessing a license for wild bison does not use their license in a given year, they can defer it to the next year if they meet certain criteria. [SF106 Lifetime game and fish licenses](#) allows the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to issue lifetime game bird, small game, and fishing licenses to any individual who has been a Wyoming resident for at least 30 years or is an honorably discharged veteran with a disability. Finally, [HB13 Sage grouse mitigation credits](#) establishes a compensatory mitigation system that allows developers to contribute to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse by purchasing mitigation credits.

Most of these bills become effective July 1, 2020, with the remaining bills becoming effective in October 2020 or January 2021.

If you are interested in joining the Legislative Affairs Committee, please reach out to Rhiannon Jakopak at [rjakopak@gmail.com](mailto:rjakopak@gmail.com).