

Chapter 44 Proposed Landowner Licenses Qualification Changes

May 2025

Why are we here?

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in conjunction with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department are proposing changing the minimum qualifications to the current Landowner License Program (Chapter 44 Regulations). Changes will include increasing the minimum qualifications from 160 acres up to 640 acres, increasing the animal use days from 2,000 up to 3,000 and require a minimum of 20% ownership to qualify. These proposed changes will disqualify hundreds of landowners like you that currently qualify for landowner licenses. These proposed changes will disincentivize landowners from promoting wildlife habitat, allowing access and does not protect the legacy succession of Wyoming ranches.

What is this group?

This is a working group of concerned landowners whom recently became aware of the proposed changes to the landowner licenses system. There is no hidden agenda here, we are simply trying to get the word out to other landowners who may be negatively impacted by these changes so they can get involved in this process before it's too late.

What can we do?

Get involved! We need every landowner that will be impacted to speak up and voice opposition to the proposed changes. Here's how you can help:

- **Attend Public Meetings**: The Wyoming Game & Fish Department will be hosting a series of **public meetings** to gather feedback (we are being told that the district commissioners will try to attend these meetings). Rest assured the general public will be there so we have to be there too.
 - o May 19th Sheridan Sheridan Regional Office 5-7pm

- o May 22nd Jackson Jackson Regional Office
5-7pm
 - o May 27th Laramie Laramie Regional Office
6-8pm
 - o May 28th Pinedale Pinedale Regional Office 6-8pm
 - o June 2nd Cody Cody Regional Office 6-8pm
 - o June 3rd Casper Casper Regional Office
5-7pm
 - o June 3rd Lander Lander Regional Office 6-8pm
 - o June 4th Green River Green River Regional Office
6-8pm
- **Attend Landowner Meetings:** The Wyoming Game & Fish Department will be hosting a series of **landowner meetings** to gather feedback (we are being told that the district commissioners will try to attend these meetings).
- o May 28th Sundance Crook County Courthouse 4-6pm
 - o May 29th Newcastle Pinnacle Bank 4-6pm
 - o June 4th Casper Casper Regional Office
4-6pm
 - o June 5th Douglas Converse County Library 4-6pm
 - o June 6th Glenrock Library meeting room 3-6pm
- **Attend the July 15th & 16th Commissioners Meeting** in Evanston. This is where the commissioners will discuss, take comment and vote on the proposed changes.
- **Submit Online Comments:** the Wyoming Game and Fish has established an online portal to submit comments:
https://wgfapps.wyo.gov/WGFD_WebSurvey/CommentOnly.aspx
 Please note that this link redirects to the Game & Fish Home Page so you will need to navigate accordingly:
- o Wyoming Game and Fish Home Page
 - o Click the “Regulations Tab” at the top of the page
 - o Middle of Screen click on the red link that says “Review Draft Regulations and make comments”
 - o Bottom of page click on “Submit Public Comments”

- We have also created a video here on how to find the link -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWVCERTIdR4>
- Please note that all online comments need to be submitted by June 10th to be reviewed by the Commissioners
- **Email the Commissioner's directly:**
 - o Mark Jolovich – Goshen Cty mark.jolovich@wyo.gov
 - o Bill Mai – Albany Cty wmai@uwyo.edu
 - o Fonzy Haskell Fonzy702@hotmail.com
 - o Kenneth Roberts – Lincoln Cty kenneth.roberts@wyo.gov
 - o Rusty Bell – Campbell Cty rusty.bell@wyoboardsgov
 - o Ashlee Lundvall – Park Cty ashlee.lundvall@wyo.gov
 - o John Masterson – Natrona Cty
john.masterson@wyoboardsgov

- Here are some key talking points to help guide your comments:
 (Keep comments very businesslike, do not attack or threaten, appeal to the heartstrings, don't make your arguments selfish)

- No recommendation to change minimum qualifications from the Task Force
- At the April 2024 commissioners meeting an increase to 320 acres was proposed, why is it now being increased 640 acres?
- Landowner Licenses account for about 2% of the total Elk and Antelope Licenses and about 1% of the total Deer, eliminating smaller landowners will not add a significant amount of licenses to the public draw
- Smaller landowners provide critical habitat just as larger properties do, detail efforts and costs you incur from doing so
- Smaller landowners have the ability to subdivide their property and sell it off just like larger properties do but are less apt to do so if landowner licenses remain
- Discuss your working relationship with the G&F: access, habitat improvements, youth hunting etc. how changes to the system will damage these relationships
- Support efforts for cleaning up abuse within the system and offer to be on a working group

- Detail how ownership limitations would hamper succession of your family ranch

Stay connected

- Please go online and join our Facebook page to stay up to date on any changes and to connect with other concerned landowners:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1474071470225084>