

SENATE FILE NO. SF0012

Homestake lands purchase.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Geis

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state lands; authorizing the purchase of
2 lands to be known as the homestake lands; providing
3 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

4

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

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 36-8-1401 is created to read:

8

9 ARTICLE 14

10

HOMESTAKE LANDS

11

12 **36-8-1401. Purchase of lands; description of lands.**

13

14 The board of land commissioners is hereby authorized and
15 empowered to purchase in the name of the state of Wyoming
16 and to pay an amount not to exceed thirty million dollars
17 (\$30,000,000.00) less costs of appraisal or one hundred ten

1 percent (110%) of the appraised value, whichever is less,
2 for the homestake lands in Crook county containing
3 approximately thirty thousand six hundred (30,600) acres
4 which are hereby declared to be state lands to be known as
5 the homestake lands. The board of land commissioners shall
6 hold title to and administer the homestake lands through
7 the 2005 legislative session. The board of land
8 commissioners shall create an advisory management team
9 consisting of not more than nine (9) members representing,
10 as equally as possible, the various multiple uses
11 contemplated for the homestake lands, including hunting and
12 game management, livestock grazing, snowmobiling and other
13 recreation, forestry, historic preservation and land
14 conservation. The board of land commissioners in
15 cooperation with the management team, shall submit to the
16 legislature, prior to December 31, 2004, a recommendation
17 for management and administration of the homestake lands
18 after the 2005 legislative session.

19

20 **Section 2.**

21

22 (a) Notwithstanding W.S. 9-4-310(b), thirty million
23 dollars (\$30,000,000.00), or as much thereof as is

1 necessary, is appropriated to the state land board from the
2 general fund for the purposes of this act.

3

4 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,
5 two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00), or as much
6 thereof as is necessary, is appropriated from the general
7 fund to the state land board for necessary expenses
8 required to review the land as provided in section 3 of
9 this act and to administer the land through the 2005
10 legislative session.

11

12 **Section 3.**

13

14 (a) After consultation with members of the state land
15 board, the Wyoming legislature finds that purchase of the
16 homestake lands by the state of Wyoming is feasible and
17 desirable to maintain open spaces, a historical recreation
18 area, traditional agricultural and timbering uses and
19 turkey, elk and other species of wildlife for the citizens
20 of Wyoming on all or a portion of the homestake lands and
21 prevent possible subdivision of the lands which would
22 impair those uses.

23

1 (b) In preparing and submitting a report and
2 recommendations to the Wyoming legislature, the land board
3 shall specifically address at least the following areas:
4

5 (i) The report and recommendations shall contain
6 information relating to reasonable revenue estimates from
7 ownership of the lands attributable to agricultural
8 leasing, timber production, recreational income, possible
9 income from leases with the Wyoming game and fish
10 commission, Wyoming parks and cultural resources
11 commission, or any private organizations and any other
12 possible uses;
13

14 (ii) A complete and comprehensive appraisal of
15 the lands including the amount of property taxes currently
16 being paid to local governments on the lands. The property
17 shall be retained on the tax rolls and the land board shall
18 recommend sources for state or private payment of future
19 taxes;
20

21 (iii) The result of meetings or hearings with
22 interested persons and governmental entities in the area,
23 state agencies and other members of the Wyoming public.

1 The report shall make recommendations regarding how the
2 lands should be managed and administered in the future;

3

4 (iv) Possibilities for future exchanges of some
5 portions of the lands with the federal government to
6 increase access to existing federal lands, increase timber
7 available to sustain private timber production in the area,
8 recreational, agricultural and other values of importance
9 to the Wyoming public and portions of the lands, if any,
10 that might be suitable for privatization and public sale in
11 the future;

12

13 (v) Any other matters of significance as
14 determined by the members of the state land board.

15

16 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
17 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
18 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
19 Constitution.

20

21

(END)