

Wyoming State Trust Lands Story

Interview with Jillian Balow, Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction

1: What makes State Trust Lands unique?

Only 23 states have State Trust Lands. Wyoming was granted 4.2 million acres when we became a state in 1890. The lands are scattered throughout the state in large and small parcels that can be sold, traded, or leased. Wyoming, and all states with State Trust Lands, use the income to help fund education. While the income is not enough to entirely fund our schools, it definitely helps.

2: What are the challenges/issues you feel face our State Trust Lands?

1. Some State Trust Land parcels are more valuable than others, so trades, purchases, and leases must be considered case-by-case. This sometimes takes years, and many hours of research and negotiating.
2. Some land parcels have been abused by citizens, and the land managers have to make difficult decisions to not let people use the land any longer. This is especially difficult because the land belongs to all of us, and we want everyone to be good stewards.
3. Many parcels of State Trust Land can be used for more than one reason. For example, a parcel that is leased by a rancher for grazing may also be used by citizens for hiking or camping. Balancing multiple use of the land takes a lot of work and cooperation.

3: What would you want 5th graders to know about State Trust Lands?

You own Wyoming's State Trust Lands. When you are 18 years old, you will have a say in who manages the lands by voting in your local and statewide elections. Every four years, Wyoming voters elect five statewide officials: the governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, and state superintendent. We are the managers for our State Trust Lands. When a citizen or company wants to lease, purchase, or trade State Trust Land, they make their case to the managers. The five elected officials love working with Wyoming citizens on land challenges that allow more animals, people, and businesses to enjoy the land.

4: How can our schools be good stewards of the State Trust Lands?

All public lands, parks, forests, etc., are special, but State Trust Lands are truly ours; we can use them, and make extra money to help pay for education. We all must be responsible landowners, and we can do that by understanding more about trust lands, using the lands with friends and family, and taking care of them as we would our own land.



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5: What is the most challenging decision you have had to make as our current superintendent of schools with our State Trust Lands?

The land managers have a responsibility to maximize revenue on State Trust Lands. In other words, we must make money for schools. Sometimes, however, we must weigh Wyoming's beauty, our sense of stewardship, and multiple use opportunities with making money. All land sales, trades, and leases are challenging for this reason. In Wyoming though, we work together to reach solutions.

6: What does it mean to you to be a good steward of Wyoming's lands?

Stewardship of Wyoming's State Trust Lands goes beyond using the land. Many of us use the land for hunting, fishing, camping, grazing, drilling for oil, and more. We are good stewards of the land through our responsible use, but you don't have to step foot on State Trust Land to be a good steward. Do you have a better understanding of State Trust Lands now? If yes, you are a good steward. Will you pay your taxes as an adult? If yes, you are a good steward. Will you vote as an adult for the person you think is best for the job they are seeking? If yes, you are a good steward.



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Jillian Balow

Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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State Park Location Clues

<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #1</p> <p>This state park is home to small herds of bison and elk, and offers several miles of paved trails along the beautiful Bear River on the east side of the city of Evanston, Wyoming.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #2</p> <p>This state park and its reservoir are named after Asmus Boysen, who built the first dam between Riverton & Shoshone in 1908.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #3</p> <p>This park found near Cody, Wyoming, is named after the famous showman, Buffalo Bill Cody. It has a 350 ft. dam providing irrigation and recreation water to its citizens.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #4</p> <p>This state park is found in both Laramie and Albany Counties. It has three reservoirs that offer excellent fishing and boating, and is named after the famous sportscaster, Curt Gowdy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #5</p> <p>This state park, located east of Casper on the North Platte River, boasts the perfect picnic place and is designated as a bird watcher's paradise. It is named after Edness Kimball Wilkins, a state legislator for 25 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #6</p> <p>This park is best known for its excellent boat opportunities and camping areas around the Glendo Dam.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #7</p> <p>Visitors use this state park as a base camp to visit the famous Oregon Trail ruts. This park is near the town of Guernsey with 13 miles of historic trails.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #8</p> <p>Boating, fishing, and swimming opportunities are the primary activities that bring visitors to this state park. Perhaps you can spot a hawk nesting in a the giant cottonwoods near La Grange, WY.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #9</p> <p>This park has a free bath house where the water is maintained at 104 degrees for therapeutic bathing in Thermopolis, WY. More than 8,000 gallons of water flow over the mineral terrace every 24 hours.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #10</p> <p>Some of the largest fish in our state have been caught at this state park. The key to finding this state park is knowing where the Black Hills are located.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #11</p> <p>The Seminoe Mountains surrounding this state park were once the site for gold prospecting during the late 1800s.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Park #12</p> <p>This state park is named after a distinct geological phenomena in which the Popo Agie River sinks into a limestone cavern and reappears in a pool filled with 8-12 lb. rainbow trout.</p>



Glendo State Park

Story

Until 2005, camping at Glendo State Park was allowed in various campgrounds. However there were not specific campsites.

People were allowed to camp wherever they could find a spot to pitch a tent or park their camping unit, including right on Sandy Beach.

On especially busy weekends or on some of the more popular summer holidays at Glendo, this congested camping plan made things difficult for law enforcement to find problem areas when called, especially at night.

Additionally, high congestion in a small areas of land began to adversely affect the park's natural resources, especially on Sandy Beach where parked vehicles sometimes leaked engine oil or got stuck in the sand.

During 2005, the first phase of improvements were completed at Sandy Beach involving designated single and circle campsites, and the addition of shade trees and a picnic shelter area located south of the main entrance road. Additionally, a post-and-cable fence restricting vehicle access along the beach was erected on the entire Sandy Beach area.

In 2007, a second phase of improvements began with the addition of designated campgrounds, ADA campgrounds, parking areas, and new restrooms north of the main entrance road. Also, improvements to the south side of the entrance road – the Dunes Campground -- included the addition of a day use only beach area (open only from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.), and a tent only camping area further to the south. In the shelter area, plans call for additional parking areas, additional trees, a turf area, and new sand volleyball and horseshoe pits.



Biking at Glendo Lake. Photo credit: Wyoming State Parks

An entrance station is also scheduled along the main road allowing Division of State Parks and Historic Sites personnel to restrict access to the area when a predetermined visitor capacity has been reached.

Other plans during the 2007 season at Sandy Beach included an increased law enforcement emphasis throughout the summer and increased law enforcement personnel on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends.



