

# The Wyoming Range Legacy Act: Protecting Wyoming's Heritage for the Next Generation



The Wyoming Range Legacy Act of 2007, S. 2229, builds upon legislative efforts initiated by Senator Craig Thomas prior to his death and has strong support across Wyoming. Introduced by Senator Barrasso, the legislation will protect large areas of the Wyoming Range in the western part of the state by withdrawing national forest lands from future oil and gas leasing while still allowing existing development and respecting private property rights. **We urge you to support this bill when it comes to the Senate floor.**

## Specifics of the Legislation:

- Wyoming is doing its part to develop energy resources. The Pinedale and Jonah fields are among the largest producing fields in the country. S. 2229 represents a balanced approach to the management of our public lands by putting aside pristine land for future generations to enjoy.
- The Wyoming Range provides crucial wildlife and fisheries habitat, as well as popular recreation areas for hunters and anglers.
- The legislation does not affect any currently producing areas and respects private property rights, including existing undeveloped leases, while facilitating a process whereby valid leases may be voluntarily purchased (presumably by funds raised by Wyoming Range supporters) or donated and then retired.
- The legislation accomplishes these goals without any federal appropriations.
- The legislation is modeled after popular, bi-partisan legislation enacted in 2007 that protected national forest lands in New Mexico's Valle Vidal and Montana's Rocky Mountain Front from new oil and gas leasing.



An angler in the Wyoming Range

## Widespread Support

S. 2229 is fully and strongly supported by two broad-based Wyoming groups that are working to protect the Wyoming Range:

- **Sportsmen for the Wyoming Range** – A coalition of nearly 30 hunting and angling groups and more than 60 trade unions. This network includes both Wyoming and national groups of sportsmen who hunt, fish, snowmobile, horseback ride, camp, sight-see and otherwise enjoy the Wyoming Range.
- **Citizens Protecting the Wyoming Range** – A network comprised of local landowners, anglers, outfitters, hunters, business owners, ranchers and others. These citizens are found throughout the state of Wyoming, particularly in the local counties of Teton, Sublette, and Lincoln.

## Bi-Partisan Political Support

The legislation has broad and bi-partisan support in Wyoming including the bill's co-sponsor, Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Wyoming's Democratic Governor Dave Freudenthal, Republican and Democratic Wyoming State Legislators, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, the Wyoming Tourism Board, major newspapers across the state, and others.

