

Office of State Lands and Investments

Funding Wyoming Public Education

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Office of State Lands and Investments **State Land Access Website Application**

The Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) has designed a State Land Access Website Application to assist users to determine if certain State lands are legally accessible.

Sportsmen, grazing permittees, other state land lessees, and government agencies can utilize this website-based application by going to the agency's website homepage at <http://lands.state.wy.us> under Search State Lands. You can also link directly to the application at <http://onanypc.com/statelandaccess/>. No additional software or specialized computer knowledge is required to operate the system.

"Access to state lands is very important to the people of the state. These maps will hopefully provide a useful tool to guide the thoughtful and appropriate use of State trust lands," said Governor Matt Mead. "Too often the Board of Land Commissioners is in the position of mediating disputes between sportsmen, landowners and other state lessees after the fact. These maps help provide information on the front end and hopefully this will limit these sorts of conflicts going forward."

Gathering information from digital databases, OSLI Information Technology staff designed the maps so users can locate areas that have public road access, adjacent road access, possible water access and those areas with no known public access to State lands. While the maps and other key information will be updated periodically, the information may not always reflect the most current information. Users are advised to verify all information before making any decisions about the land they are accessing.

State land is distinguishable from federal public lands because it is held in trust and managed for the exclusive financial benefit of Wyoming public schools and other beneficiaries. However, the Board of Land Commissioners (Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor and Superintendent of Public Instruction) has extended the privilege of hunting, fishing and casual recreational day use (horseback riding, hiking and photography) on State lands to the public.

The rules established by the Board of Land Commissioners dictate that use of State lands is only appropriate where the land is legally accessible. Anyone crossing private land to reach State land must have the permission of the private landowner before accessing that land. No off-road vehicle use, overnight camping or open fires are permitted on State Lands and motor vehicles

must remain on established roads. Any activities that would damage State lands, roads, improvements, or the property of the State's lessees are also prohibited.

Importantly, at the direction of the Board of Land Commissioners, OSLI has included a feedback form that can be used to provide information to OSLI about the access application. The form will allow OSLI to correct any errors that are discovered on the maps and inform the office of any other problems or issues that are discovered on State lands.

The information contained on the maps does not make reference to Wyoming State Parks, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Habitat Management or Walk-in Areas, or other state or federal management areas. Please contact the appropriate state or federal agency for information concerning access to these types of lands.

For information, please call 307-777-8510

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