

## **Meeting Minutes: Boat Registration & Outfitters Board Advisory Meeting**

**Date:** July 15, 2026

**Location:** Zoom Virtual Meeting

### **Attendees:**

**Board Members:** Chris Hayes (Chair), Blake Jackson (Co-Chair), Ian McCreary, Gary Korell, Owen Miller, and John Schwalbe.

**Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD):** Alan Osterland Chief of Fisheries, Dave Zafft Assistant Chief of Fisheries, Mark Smith Fisheries Management Coordinator, Kevin Gelwicks Assistant Fisheries Management Coordinator, Amanda Fry Public Information Officer, and Valerie Taro Executive Secretary Fish Division.

**Public/Others:** Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides staff Amanda McKee and board member Jim Schell. Liz Wyoming Fly Fishing

The meeting was called to order by Chris Hayes. The minutes from June 18th were reviewed by the board.

A Boat Registration Update was given by Alan Osterland, Chief of Fisheries WGFD. The Department has 500 registrants with individual sportsman ID numbers and has sold 600 stickers as of July 15, 2026.

Alan then turned the time over to Dave Zafft, Assistant Chief of Fisheries WGFD to give a more in-depth report. Dave reported there have been 4,165 trips reported. Online reporting accounts for 3,100 trips. Out of the 500 registrants at least one trips has been reported by 180 registrants. Dave estimates 35% compliance with reporting. Reporting for January 1 – June 30 is due today July 15<sup>th</sup>. Reports are still incoming Dave is working with the programmer to refine reports and examine the data for duplicates. Valerie will continue to enter the mailed and emailed reports as they come in. Once the data has been entered and verified the Department will send reminder letters to the registrants missing reports.

The following is the trip count reported by water:

| <u>Standing Water</u> | <u>Trip</u> | <u>Flowing Waters</u>           | <u>Trips</u> | <u>% of All Trips</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Alcova Afterbay       | 64          | North Platte, Gray Reef         | 1368         | 41%                   |
| Glendo Reservoir      | 50          | Bighorn Below Boysen            | 782          | 24%                   |
| Buffalo Bill          | 20          | Snake River, Below Jackson Lake | 316          | 10%                   |
| Alcove Reservoir      | 20          | Green River above Fontenelle    | 167          |                       |
| Flaming Gorge         | 11          | Green River Below Fontenelle    | 157          |                       |
|                       |             | New Fork River                  | 100          |                       |
|                       |             | North Platte, Miracle Mile      | 89           |                       |
|                       |             | Salt River                      | 81           |                       |
|                       |             | North Platte, above Seminoe     | 30           |                       |

Dave commented that Gray Reef trips accounted for 41% of the trips with Bighorn below Boysen at 24% and the Snake below Jackson Lake 10% of reported trips. Dave noted there are approximately 850 paper reports that are in process and data is still being entered. He said reports were changing by the hour with additional entries.

Chris moved the discussion to the recommendation the board is preparing for TRW. He started by stating he felt all the board members agreed creating a stand-alone Fishing Outfitter and Guides board should be the recommendation. There was a brief discussion on fee structures and how the current Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides operates. Amanda McKee was able to clarify most their income is derived from fees collected from the outfitters.

The discussion moved to the need to make the distinction between guides and outfitters. Ian feels this will be important in presenting why a Fishing Outfitting and Guide Board is needed when the presentation is made to TRW.

Amanda reminded the board that they have opportunity to ask for certain stipulations with regard to Federal Partners and permitting on waters in Wyoming. The Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides does not have the ability to override federal permitting. They can make recommendations, and can ask for tag license reduction from WGFD to help control the number of Outfitters/Guides in an area for Big Game hunting.

Alan reminded the group the Department does have the ability to close fishing for commercial use if there is a threat to the resource. He used this year and the extreme heat as an example of reducing and the possibility placing restrictions on certain segments of waters to protect the resource.

Jim Schell board member for the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides stated it is the boards responsibility to regulate the industry to protect the public. He felt the board recommending reduction of watercraft on certain waters or at certain times fell under these responsibilities. He was also in favor of a Fishing Outfitters and Guides Board independent of the State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides. He commented both industries are very unique and need to have their own board to be able to meet the needs of their individual outfitters and guides.

Amanda followed with some guidance she felt the board should put in the recommendation. In statute the board needs to be allowed to promulgate rules and regulations to take care of the industry.

Chris wrapped up the meeting by stating a stand-alone Fishing Outfitter and Guide board is possible with the numbers that have been presented to date. Chris made the recommendation for the Fishing Outfitting and Guide board to have regulatory authority over the industry and have permitting, licensing, and certification authority over the industry operators.

Chris made a motion to draft a recommendation presenting the boards reasoning to the WGF Commission and legislators to form a regulatory body in the form of an Outfitters and Guides board. Blake Jackson seconded the motion.  
Motion carries.

**Call to public for questions and input:**

Liz with Wyoming Fly Fishing attended and made the comment she appreciates the efforts of the board and had no questions or concerns with the boards recommendations.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Chris Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Gary Korrel.

**Action Items:**

- Alan will contact the Commission to ask if they would like a special meeting with the Commission or a presentation of what the Board is proposing. He will also check the Commissions availability to meet between August 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Chris will continue to work on the draft proposal to create a Stand-Alone Board for Fishing Outfitters and Guides to be presented to the Commission for their review and approval and then to be presented to the TRW Committee September 8-9 in Jackson.
- Board will meet between August 1-7 to discuss the final proposal for the Commission and will possibly meet after meeting with the Commission to make any recommended adjustments from the Commission before it is presented to TRW. This meeting would take place August 24-September 4th.
- Chris Hayes and Amanda McKee will attend the TRW meeting September 8-9 to provide testimony. Chris invited the other board members to attend if their schedules would allow.