

---

The Geological Survey of Wyoming  
Gary B. Glass, State Geologist

# Organization, Mission, Goals, and Authorities of the Geological Survey of Wyoming



Information Pamphlet No. 4

Laramie, Wyoming  
April, 1992

---

# THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WYOMING

Gary B. Glass, *State Geologist*

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BOARD

### Ex Officio

Mike Sullivan, *Governor*  
Terry P. Roark, *President, University of Wyoming*  
Donald B. Basko, *Oil and Gas Supervisor*  
Gary B. Glass, *State Geologist*

### Appointed

D.L. Blackstone, Jr., *Laramie*  
Nancy M. Doelger, *Casper*  
Michael Flynn, *Sheridan*  
Jimmy E. Goolsby, *Casper*  
Bayard D. Rea, *Casper*

## STAFF

### Administrative Section

Susanne G. Bruhnke - *Executive Secretary*  
Rebecca S. Hasselman - *Secretary*  
Robin B. Coughlin - *Bookkeeper*

### Senior Economic Geologist

W. Dan Hausel - *Metals and Precious  
Stones*

### Laboratory Section

Robert W. Gregory - *Laboratory Technician*

### Staff Geologists

James C. Case - *Geologic Hazards*  
Rodney H. De Bruin - *Oil and Gas*  
Ray E. Harris - *Industrial Minerals and  
Uranium*  
Alan J. Ver Ploeg - *Geologic Mapping*  
Vacant - *Coal*

### Publications Section

Richard W. Jones - *Editor*  
Teresa L. Beck - *Publications Assistant*  
Frances M. Smith - *Sales Manager*  
Fred H. Porter, III - *Cartographer*  
Phyllis A. Ranz - *Cartographer*

First printing of 300 copies (revised version) by the Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Central Duplicating Division, Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Printed on 50% recycled fiber paper.

---

The Geological Survey of Wyoming  
P.O. Box 3008, University Station  
Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3008  
(307) 766-2286  
FAX (307) 766-2605

*Write or call for a free list of publications.*

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Foreward.....	1
Introduction .....	2
Organization .....	2
Meeting State Needs .....	4
Mineral and energy resources .....	4
Land.....	4
Health and safety .....	4
Mission.....	4
Goals .....	5
Information dissemination.....	5
Geologic framework.....	5
Mineral and energy resource assessment .....	5
Mineral and energy resource processes .....	6
Hazards identification and prediction.....	6
Timely reporting of events and conditions .....	6
Coordination .....	6
Mission support .....	6
Statutory Authorities .....	7
W.S. 9-2-801 through 9-2-810.....	7
Additional Related Statutes .....	12
W.S. 30-5-103 .....	12
W.S. 33-41-101 .....	14
W.S. 33-41-102 .....	14
W.S. 33-41-107 .....	15
W.S. 36-6-102 .....	15
W.S. 36-6-105 .....	16
Other Indirectly Related Statutes.....	16
W.S. 36-1-114 through 36-1-116.....	16
Constitutional Amendment .....	17

## Figure

Figure 1. Organization Chart for the Geological Survey of Wyoming .....	3
---	---

## Foreward

Because we live in a society that depends on natural resources, the State of Wyoming must ensure the wise use of its land, water, mineral, and energy resources. The way in which we use these resources can affect our environment and the availability of mineral and energy resources as well as alter our options for the future.

Since its inception, the Geological Survey of Wyoming has provided information about the geologic, mineral, and energy resources of Wyoming. Information and knowledge of this type provides a basis for reaching informed decisions concerning Wyoming's natural resources. Continued research in applied geology is needed to place this knowledge in a coherent scientific and regional context and apply it to meet future needs of the State and the Nation.

The Geological Survey of Wyoming has evolved into an integral part of the larger National earth-science community. It cooperates with other State agencies and many Federal agencies, as well as with academic and industrial groups, both in the State and elsewhere, to ensure a continuous and mutually beneficial collection and exchange of information on the geologic, mineral, and energy resources about us.

This document describes the mission and goals of the Geological Survey and relates them to State needs. Because the needs of Wyoming and the state of our scientific knowledge change, this document will be revised when necessary. Comments are always welcome. Please address them to Gary G. Glass, State Geologist, Geological Survey of Wyoming, Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

The Geological Survey of Wyoming wishes to note that portions of this document were paraphrased or taken directly from the *Mission, goals, and authorities of the U.S. Geological Survey*, a provisional document published by that agency in 1985. Because of the similarities in their mission and goals with those of the Geological Survey of Wyoming, the incorporation of portions of that document were appropriate. We also wish to compliment the U.S. Geological Survey in providing a fine document upon which we could pattern ours.

## Introduction

The Geological Survey of Wyoming was formally established in 1933, by the Wyoming Legislature. The Survey's history, however, dates back to the time when Wyoming was a territory and to the Office of the Territorial Assayer in 1878. This short-lived office was followed by the Office of the Territorial Geologist and Mining Engineer (1881-1890). At Statehood, the Constitution defined a State Geologist, and later an Office of the State Geologist (1897-1932) was created. These beginnings eventually evolved into the Geological Survey as it is today.

The Territorial Governors and later the State Legislatures recognized the need for an agency that would examine the geology and vast mineral and energy resources of the State. Throughout these many years and despite its many name changes, the Geological Survey's primary mission to expand and improve the knowledge of the State's geologic, mineral, and energy resources always prevailed.

This document is organized into five sections: (1) **Organization** — programs and personnel; (2) **Meeting State Needs** — problems where earth-science information is needed for sound decision making; (3) **Mission** — functions that the Survey is authorized and funded to perform; (4) **Goals** — a desired state, process, or product that the Survey plans to achieve; and (5) **Authorities** — enabling legislation.

## Organization

The Geological Survey of Wyoming is a service-oriented, Separate Operating Agency working under the Executive Branch of State Government. To accomplish its mission, the Survey conducts applied research and field and laboratory investigations; prepares, publishes, and sells reports and maps; and creates and maintains public files and data bases.

The Survey has a Geological Survey Board which assists in formulating and directing policies and programs of the Agency. The Board consists of the Governor, the President of the University of Wyoming, the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, the State Geologist, and five appointed members.

In addition, the State Geologist serves as a Commissioner on the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (W.S. 30-5-103) and as a Board member on the Wyoming Board of Registration for Professional Geologists (W.S. 33-41-107).

The Geological Survey consists of seven sections (Coal, Geologic Hazards, Geologic Mapping, Industrial Minerals and Uranium, Metals and Precious Stones, Oil and Gas, and Publications), which are organized under two programs: Administration and Publications. Figure 1 is an organization chart for the Agency.

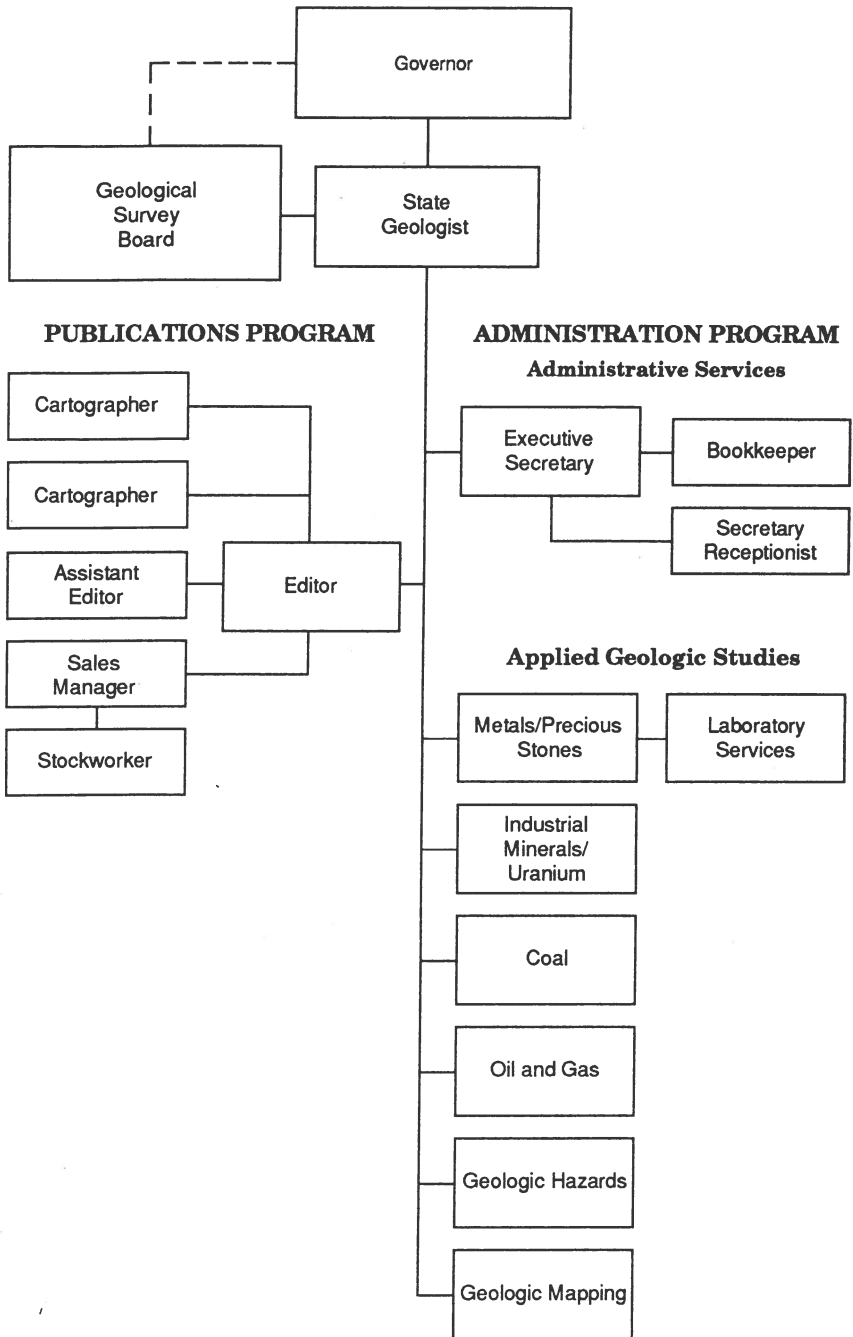


Figure 1. Organization chart for the Geological Survey of Wyoming.

The Administration Program includes the salaries and supporting funds for the State Geologist and the six geological sections. The Publications Program includes an Editorial section, a Cartographic section, and a Publication Sales section. The Publications Program includes salaries as well as funds for supportive services, purchases for resale, and contractual services needed to prepare, publish, distribute, and sell publications.

## **Meeting State Needs**

Geologic information can help guide the development, conservation, and management of the State's land, mineral, energy, and water resources. For example:

### **Mineral and energy resources**

- Use of these nonrenewable resources requires ongoing efforts by geologists not only to locate, but also to understand the genesis of these resources.
- Extraction of mineral and energy resources carries with it the risk of environmental damage. Solutions to these problems are tied to an understanding of physical processes occurring on the land surface and beneath the ground.

### **Land**

- Urban, industrial, and mining developments change the physical and cultural features of the land and create an ongoing need for timely geologic, cartographic, and geographic information.

### **Health and safety**

- The suitability of any site for human occupation or use depends in part on the engineering properties of rocks and soils, the topography, and the potential for geologic hazards such as landslides, toxic materials, or flooding. Geologic information is used to evaluate sites, delineate potential geologic hazards, and evaluate risks.

## **Mission**

The mission of the Geological Survey of Wyoming is to study and interpret the geologic, mineral, and energy resources of the State.

To accomplish its mission, the Survey:

- Provides data, advice, and assistance, responding to inquiries on geologic, mineral, and energy resources as well as on the effective use of earth-science techniques, products, and information.

- Publishes and disseminates reports and maps that communicate information on the State's geologic, mineral, and energy resources.
- Maintains public files, data bases, and a library on the State's geologic, mineral, and energy resources.
- Assesses mineral and energy resources, documents their occurrences, and determines their origins and manners of occurrence.
- Facilitates the judicious use of Wyoming's mineral and energy resources.
- Identifies and evaluates geologic hazards associated with earthquakes, floods, landslides, subsidence, shrinking-swelling clays, active faults, windblown sands, and naturally occurring toxic elements.

## Goals

The Geological Survey of Wyoming's goals, which are listed below, link the Survey's activities and projects to the State's needs:

**INFORMATION DISSEMINATION — PROVIDE TIMELY, ACCURATE, AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE'S GEOLOGIC, MINERAL, AND ENERGY RESOURCES THAT HAS A PRACTICAL BEARING ON WYOMING'S CITIZENRY AND ECONOMY.**

This goal is achieved by publishing geologic maps and general interest, scientific, and technical reports on geologic, mineral, and energy resources; by making technical files available to the public; and by operating a public information service that provides answers to inquiries or enables inquirers to readily identify and obtain existing information.

**GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK — INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE AND GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE THE SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS AND TO MEET ANTICIPATED FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES.**

This goal is achieved through geologic mapping; through structural, stratigraphic, and paleontologic field studies; through the testing of conceptual models; and through laboratory investigations of the petrologic, physical, and chemical properties of rocks and minerals.

**MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT — INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISTRIBUTION, RESERVES, AND QUALITY (PETROGRAPHIC, CHEMICAL, AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS) OF THE STATE'S MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE FACTUAL INFORMATION**



FOR POLICY DECISIONS AFFECTING THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF THE STATE'S LAND, MINERAL, AND ENERGY RESOURCES.

This goal is achieved by using the techniques of resource evaluation including geologic mapping, reconnaissance exploration, and field and laboratory studies of rocks and minerals.

**MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCE PROCESSES** — ENHANCE THE ABILITY TO DISCOVER HIDDEN OR AS YET UNRECOGNIZED MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES BY DEVELOPING INFORMATION ON THE NATURAL PROCESSES BY WHICH MATERIALS IN THE EARTH ARE FORMED, TRANSPORTED, AND CONCENTRATED.

This goal is achieved through field investigations, laboratory analysis, and the formulation and testing of conceptual models.

**HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION AND PREDICTION** — IDENTIFY POTENTIAL GEOLOGIC HAZARDS AND IMPROVE THE ABILITY TO PREDICT THE LOCATION, TIMING, AND SEVERITY OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE HAZARDS SO THAT LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IS MINIMIZED IF NOT ELIMINATED.

This goal is achieved through geologic mapping, field investigations, aerial photographic interpretation, and the application of geologic principles related to dynamic Earth processes.

**TIMELY REPORTING OF EVENTS AND CONDITIONS** — PROVIDE FORECASTS OF MINERAL PRODUCTION AND VALUES AS WELL AS TIMELY REPORTS ON IMPORTANT HYDROLOGIC AND GEOLOGIC EVENTS AND CONDITIONS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE PUBLIC AND TO GOVERNMENTAL BODIES.

This goal is accomplished by ongoing analysis of mineral- and energy-related activities, including man-related projects and the geologic conditions surrounding those projects, and the timely dissemination of relevant information to include warnings. Similarly, natural events are also monitored, particularly in regard to how they might affect the State's citizenry.

**COORDINATION** — IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF EARTH-SCIENCE DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH, AND MAPPING TO MINIMIZE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, INCREASE DATA ACCESSIBILITY, AND REDUCE COSTS.

Coordination is carried out by sharing and(or) exchanging plans, technologies, and data bases with appropriate entities and by striving to standardize information formats.

**MISSION SUPPORT** — IMPROVE THE SURVEY'S ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT ITS MISSION.

This is accomplished by providing new training or continuing education opportunities for employees; by replacing and upgrading obsolete field, laboratory, and publication-related equipment; by acquiring computer software and(or) hardware to enhance the operations and management of the Agency; and by implementing innovative ideas that increase output from available resources.

## Statutory Authorities

The Constitutional position of State Geologist, which was established in 1890 (Art. 9, Sec. 6), was repealed by an amendment to the Wyoming State Constitution in 1990 (page 17).

The Geological Survey of Wyoming was created by the Legislature in 1933. It has since been modified by legislative enactment in 1957, 1969, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1987, and most recently, 1991 (Chapters 122 and 204 of the Session Laws). The current statutes for the State Geologist and Geological Survey are W.S. 9-2-801 through 9-2-810.

### SESSION LAWS OF WYOMING, 1982 CHAPTER 62 ARTICLE 8

#### GEOLOGIST, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING

##### § 9-2-801. Definitions.

(a) As used in W.S. 9-2-801 through 9-2-810:

- (i) "Geology" means the science which treats of the earth in general, the earth's processes and its history, investigation of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials which compose it, and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth's history, processes, constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the use of mankind;
- (ii) "Geologist" means a person who is a graduate of an institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency, with a minimum of thirty (30) semester or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology; and
- (iii) "Professional geologist" means as defined by W.S. 33-41-102(a)(viii)<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Changed by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1991, Chapter 204, p. 508. See page 14 of this report for the wording of W.S. 33-41-102(a)(viii).

**§ 9-2-802. Preparation or approval of reports containing geological information; exceptions.**

- (a) A geologist or professional geologist shall prepare or approve any report which:
  - (i) Is required by law or by rule and regulation and is prepared as a result of or based on geological data or geological interpretation; or
  - (ii) Contains information relating to geology and is to be presented to or prepared for the state, or an agency or political subdivision of the state.
- (b) The requirements of this section shall not apply to state agency forms or exploratory mineral drill hole data defined by W.S. 36-6-102 or to any report required by law or rule or regulation to be filed with the oil and gas conservation commission.

**§ 9-2-803. State geologist; appointment; term; removal; pecuniary interest in mineral property in state prohibited; duties; powers.**

- (a) The state geologist shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate. He shall hold his office for six (6) years or until his successor is appointed and qualified. No person shall be appointed to this position unless he is a professional geologist as defined by W.S. 9-2-801(a)(iii) with the theoretical knowledge and the practical experience and skill for the position. The governor may remove the state geologist as provided in W.S. 9-1-202.<sup>2</sup>
- (b) Neither the state geologist nor the geological program manager shall hold a pecuniary interest in a producing or prospective mineral property of any kind, including oil and gas, in this state.
- (c) The state geologist shall:
  - (i) Examine and report on any state or school lands when requested by the board of land commissioners and make written reports concerning the geology of any lands in which Wyoming is interested and on other matters about which the respective state boards desire information;
  - (ii) Perform all other acts provided by the laws of Wyoming relating to mineral deposits;
  - (iii) Make valuation surveys, investigations, appraisements and reports on the mineral resources of the state;

---

<sup>2</sup> W.S. 9-2-803(a) was amended by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1991, Chapter 122, p. 231.

- (iv) Keep in his office full and complete records of all work done by him or under his supervision, all of which shall be the property of the state; and
  - (v) Publish all reports, maps and data he considers advisable and of public interest, and distribute the reports, maps and data to the public upon request either free or at a reasonable price.
- (d) The state geologist may:
- (i) Designate and supervise mining operations on state and school lands in the interest of economic development;
  - (ii) Cooperate with the United States government, departments of the state of Wyoming, University of Wyoming or private corporations in geological, topographic, soil and mineral surveys, and industrial investigations and examinations that may bring about further economic development of the mineral resources of the state. The cooperative activities of his office may be accomplished on whatever basis he determines but in no case shall the cost to the state exceed fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the activity.

**§ 9-2-804. Created; office and headquarters.**

A geological survey of Wyoming is created. The office and headquarters of the geological survey shall be in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming, and may be located at the University of Wyoming.

**§ 9-2-805. Purposes of survey; disposition of materials and specimens collected.**

- (a) The geological survey shall:
- (i) Study the geological formations and rocks of the state with special reference to its metallic and nonmetallic resources;
  - (ii) Examine the topography and physical features of the state focusing on the way people use the land;
  - (iii) Seek a comprehensive understanding of the geology of and fossils in the state;
  - (iv) Prepare and publish:
    - (A) Reports and maps of the geology and mineral resources of the state;

- (B) Reports and maps of the topography and physical features of the state;
  - (C) Special reports, with necessary illustrations and maps, of the geology of and fossils in the state;
  - (D) Comprehensive summaries or digests, together with bibliographies and maps, of all literature and reports heretofore published on the geology and mineral resources of Wyoming;
  - (v) Distribute to the public on request publications and maps either free or at prices determined by the geological survey;
  - (vi) Furnish advice and consulting services to state departments, agencies and officers;
  - (vii) Contract with Wyoming state agencies, industry, federal and state geological surveys for services involving any of the foregoing purposes or areas.
- (b) The geological survey shall deposit in the geological museum of the University of Wyoming all materials and specimens after the purposes of the geological survey have been served. Duplicates may be distributed to scientific and industrial institutions under regulations adopted by the state geologist and the geological survey board.

**§ 9-2-806. State geologist as chief administrative officer; duties; appointment of employees.**

- (a) The state geologist is the chief administrative officer of the geological survey. With the advice of the geological survey board, the state geologist shall:
  - (i) Supervise the functions of the geological survey;
  - (ii) Establish policy for the geological survey.
- (b) With the consent of the board and within the appropriation allowed by law, the state geologist may appoint employees necessary to assist him and the board.

**§ 9-2-807. Geological survey board; created; membership; term; qualifications; removal; vacancies; state geologist as ex officio member; election of officers; meetings; quorum; compensation; expenses; duties.**

- (a) The geological survey board is created. The board consists of eight (8) members, including the governor, the president of the University of

Wyoming, the state oil and gas supervisor and five (5) members appointed for four (4) year terms by the governor with the consent of the senate, but not more than three (3) of whom shall be from the same political party. The five (5) members shall be qualified electors of the state who possess the knowledge, experience and skill to qualify them for the position. The Governor may remove any appointed member as provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor for the unexpired term. The state geologist is an ex officio member of the board.<sup>3</sup>

- (b) At each March meeting, the board shall elect from its members a president, a vice-president and a secretary.
- (c) The board shall hold meetings in March, June, September and December. Special meetings may be called by the president or by a majority of the members of the board. A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum.
- (d) The five (5) public members of the board shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed under W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103 for per diem and travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- (e) The board shall:
  - (i) Assist the state geologist in formulating and directing policies and programs of the geological survey;
  - (ii) Adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the administration of W.S. 9-2-804 through 9-2-809.

**§ 9-2-808. Cooperation with other surveys, departments, etc.**

The geological survey may cooperate and exchange information with and contract with the United States geological survey, state geological surveys, departments of the state of Wyoming, the University of Wyoming, private industry, scientific institutions and foundations for projects or undertakings which will further the purposes of the geological survey. The cost to the state of Wyoming shall in no case exceed the amount approved therefor by the board.

**§ 9-2-809. Use of University of Wyoming students for field expeditions.**

The geological survey may organize field expeditions to perform work for the geological survey using University of Wyoming students who are sufficiently advanced in their study of geology to be able to perform the work. Field expedition expenses shall be paid from a general fund appropriation upon authorization by the board.

---

<sup>3</sup> Changed by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1987, Chapter 175, page 449.

**§ 9-2-810. Future policy outlined; cooperation with United States geological survey.**

It is the policy of the state of Wyoming to cooperate in the topographic mapping of the state of Wyoming with the topographic division of the United States geological survey in a program to secure accurate topographic maps of the state and to speed up this mapping.

## **Additional Related Statutes**

### **WYOMING STATUTES 1977**

#### **CHAPTER 5**

#### **Oil and Gas**

**§ 30-5-103. Oil and gas conservation commission; composition; terms of office; removal; travel expenses; chairman; quorum; meetings and hearing generally; powers and duties of state oil and gas supervisor as ex officio director of oil and gas conservation; duties of attorney general and county attorneys as legal advisors.**

- (a) The governor, commissioner of public lands, the state geologist and two (2) additional members from the public at large who shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the state senate and shall be citizens and residents of the state of Wyoming and shall be qualified to serve the oil and gas industry of this state, shall comprise the commission. The terms of the two (2) members appointed by the governor shall be for two (2) years except that, of the initially appointed members, one (1) designated by the governor, shall serve for one (1) year. The governor may remove any member he appoints as provided by W.S. 9-1-202.<sup>4</sup>
- (b) Each member of the commission not otherwise in full time employment of the state, shall receive the same allowances as other state officials and employees as set forth in section 9-13, Wyoming Statutes 1957 [§ 9-3-102], as amended while attending and traveling to and from meetings of the commission, said fees and expenses to be paid from the funds of the Wyoming conservation commission.
- (c) The governor shall serve as chairman of the Wyoming oil and gas conservation commission. The commission shall meet or hold hearings at such times and places as may be found by the commission to be necessary to carry out its duties. Three (3) members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

---

<sup>4</sup> Changed by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1987, Chapter 175, page 461.

- (d) The state oil and gas supervisor shall be ex officio the director of oil and gas conservation, and as such shall be charged with the duty of enforcing this act and all rules, regulations and orders promulgated by the commission. The director of oil and gas conservation with the concurrence of the commission shall have the authority, and it shall be his duty, to employ all personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. The director of oil and gas conservation shall be ex officio secretary of the Wyoming oil and gas conservation commission and shall keep all minutes and records of the commission.
- (e) The attorney general shall be attorney for the commission; provided, that in cases of emergency, the commission may call upon the county attorney for the county of Laramie or the county attorney of the county in which the action is to be brought or defended to represent the commission until such time as the attorney general may take charge of the litigation and upon request, or with the consent of the attorney general, the commission may retain additional counsel to assist the attorney general, and for such purpose may employ any funds available under this act. Any member of the commission, or the secretary thereof, shall have power to administer oaths to any witness in any hearing, investigation, or proceeding contemplated by this act, or by any other law of this state relating to the conservation of oil and gas.
- (f) Effective July 1, 1979, appointments and terms under this section shall be in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through 28-12-103. (Laws 1951, ch. 94, § 12; W.S. 1957, § 30-218; Laws 1965, ch. 174, § 1; 1967, ch. 111, § 1; 1971, ch. 27, § 9; 1979, ch. 17, § 2.)

SESSION LAWS OF WYOMING, 1991  
CHAPTER 203  
GEOLOGISTS PRACTICE ACT

Original House Bill No. 275

AN ACT to create W.S. 33-41-101 through 33-41-121; and to amend W.S. 9-2-801(a)(iii) relating to professions and occupations; providing for the licensing and regulation of geologists as specified; creating a licensing board; providing rulemaking authority; specifying prohibited acts and providing penalties; providing for regulation of the profession of geology; providing definitions; conforming related statutes; and providing for an effective date.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> W.S. 33-40-101 through 33-40-121 renumbered in Statutes as W.S. 33-41-101 through 33-41-121 due to numbering conflict with Chapter 189.



**Section 1.** W.S. 33-41-101 through 33-41-121 are created to read:

CHAPTER 41  
GEOLOGISTS

**§ 33-41-101. Short title.**

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Wyoming Geologists Practice Act of 1991".

**§ 33-41-102. Definitions.**

(a) As used in this act:

- (i) "Board" means the Wyoming board of registration for professional geologists within the department of commerce;
- (ii) "Certificate of registration" means a license issued by the state granting its licensee the privilege of practicing geology in accordance with the provisions of this act;
- (iii) "Executive secretary" means the executive secretary of the board of registration for professional geologists;
- (iv) "Geologist" means as defined by W.S. 9-2-801(a)(ii);
- (v) "Geologist-in-training" means a geologist who is a candidate for registration who meets all other requirements for registration as stated in this act except length of experience;
- (vi) "Geology" means as defined by W.S. 9-2-801(a)(i);
- (vii) "Practice of geology" means the performance of geological services or work such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, mapping and inspection of geological work;
- (viii) "Professional geologist" means a geologist who has met the academic and experience qualifications established by the board and has been registered by action of the board;
- (ix) "Qualified geologist" means an individual who is not registered under this act, but who possesses all the qualifications for registration specified in this act;
- (x) "Responsible charge" means the independent control and direction by use of initiative, skill and independent judgment of geological work or the supervision of the work;

- (xi) "Subdiscipline of geology" means the recognized practice of geology, including but not limited to environmental geology, petroleum geology, engineering geology, geophysics, geochemistry and hydrogeology;
- (xii) "Subordinate" means any individual who practices geology or assists a registered professional geologist in the practice of geology without assuming the responsible charge for the work;
- (xiii) "This act" means W.S. 33-41-101 through 33-41-121.

**§ 33-41-107. Members of the board; appointment; terms of office.**

- (a) The board shall have six (6) members, to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. The state geologist will be the seventh and a permanent member of the board. Insofar as possible, the board shall proportionally represent the various geologic disciplines practicing in the state.
- (b) Except for the state geologist, members of the board shall hold office for staggered terms of four (4) years. For the initial board, three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Each appointed member shall be limited to serving on the board for eight (8) consecutive years, however, a member may be reappointed after a four (4) year absence. Each member shall hold office until his successor is appointed and has been qualified.

WYOMING STATUTES 1977

CHAPTER 1

Mineral Leases

**§ 36-6-102. Submission, custody and confidentiality of sub-surface log reports.**

- (a) Contingent upon the leasing of any state or state school lands for coal, uranium or other mineral exploration, the board of land commissioners shall require copies of all electrical, gamma-ray neutron, resistivity or other types of subsurface log reports to be submitted to the office of the state geologist within three (3) years after completion of drilling. All copies thereof will become the property of the state to be retained within the permanent files of the Wyoming geological survey for the exclusive use of the staff, as required by law for evaluation purposes. Reports received by the oil and gas conservation commission shall qualify for this provision.

- (b) All subsurface log reports will be held confidential for a period of seven (7) years after received by the state geologist or until the expiration of the lease, whichever is the lesser period of time. If the lease is being held by production, all reports will be held confidential until the lease is terminated. (Laws 1977, ch. 151, § 1.)

**§ 36-6-105. Reports.**

The state geologist or any state coal mine inspector shall, when requested by the board of land commissioners, visit and make a report upon any lands held under coal and mineral leases. Such report shall be made without any fee to the officer making same. (Laws 1907, ch. 81 § 9; C.S. 1910, § 626; C.S. 1920, § 721; R.S. 1931, § 91-807; C.S. 1945, § 24-707; W.S. 1957, § 36-77.)

## Other Indirectly Related Statutes

### WYOMING STATUTES 1977

#### CHAPTER 1

#### General Provisions

**§ 36-1-114. Protection of prehistoric ruins, etc.; permits to excavate, regulations and violations.<sup>6</sup>**

Before any excavation on any prehistoric ruins, pictographs, hieroglyphics, or any other ancient markings, or writing or archaeological and paleontological deposits in the state of Wyoming on any public lands, either state or federal, shall be undertaken, a permit shall first be obtained from the state board of land commissioners. The state board of land commissioners is hereby authorized to promulgate and enforce such regulations as it may deem needful to protect from vandalism or injury the prehistoric ruins, relics, archaeological and paleontological deposits of the state, as well as all natural bridges and natural scenic features and formations. Any violation of such regulations shall be a misdemeanor. (Laws 1935, ch. 37, § 1; C.S. 1945, § 24-131; W.S. 1957, § 36-11.)

**§ 36-1-115. Same; consent to removal from state.**

No person shall remove from the state of Wyoming any part of any such ruins or deposit except with the consent of the state board of land commissioners. Said board may require, as a condition to such consent, that such portion of such relics, materials, or deposit as said board shall require, shall forever remain the property of the state of Wyoming (Laws 1935, ch. 37, § 2; C.S. 1945, § 24-132; W.S. 1957, § 36-12.)

---

<sup>6</sup> The State Geologist reviews fossil collecting permits, makes recommendations, and countersigns all permits that are issued.

**§ 36-1-116. Same; penalty.**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this act [§§ 36-1-114 to 36-1-116] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or imprisoned in the county jail not more than six (6) months, or by both fine and imprisonment, and shall forfeit to the state all articles and materials discovered by or through his efforts. (Laws 1935, ch. 37, § 3; C.S. 1945, § 24-133; W.S. 1957, § 36-13.)

## **Constitutional Amendment**

Ratified by the electors at the General Election held on November 6, 1990.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1**

A proposal to amend Wyoming Constitution, Article 4, Section 14 and Article 9, Section 1 and to repeal Article 9, Section 6 to amend the requirement that the state inspector of mines be appointed by the governor, and to delete the constitutional requirement for a state examiner and state geologist. Article 4, Section 14 and Article 9, Section 1 as amended and Article 9, Section 6 as repealed read as follows:

**Article 4, Section 14. Examination of accounts.** The legislature shall provide by law for examination of the accounts of state treasurer, supreme court clerks, district court clerks, and all county treasurers, and treasurers of such other public institutions as the legislature may prescribe.

**Article 9, Section 1. Inspector of mines.** There shall be established and maintained the office of inspector of mines, the duties of which shall be prescribed by law.

**Article 9, Section 6. State geologist.** Repealed.

