

JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

Trespassing to Unlawfully Collect Resource Data Law

Guidelines for Nature Mappers

July 7, 2015

The Wyoming State Legislature passed W.S. 6-3-414, Trespassing to Unlawfully Collect Resource Data, a new law that went into effect March 5, 2015. This law makes it a criminal offense for any person to collect resource data on private lands without written or verbal permission of the landowner, agent of the landowner, or lessee. "Resource data" includes data related to animal species, vegetation, habitat, etc. This is a liability law, meaning that there is no requirement that the person knowingly or intentionally trespasses. Violations are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Nature Mapping Jackson Hole and the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation always expect Nature Mappers to seek and obtain permission from landowners before entering private property. It has always been and always will be the responsibility of the Nature Mapper to know where he/she is at all times while he/she is collecting data. This new law will not drastically change how Nature Mappers already collect data, but we do need to have extra awareness of private lands boundaries.

General Guidelines:

- You should never physically enter private lands without landowner permission, including crossing private lands to access public lands.
- This law **does not** pertain to public lands (National Parks, National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, and National Refuges) and properties incorporated within cities, towns, and subdivisions. This law **does** pertain to private lands outside of incorporated cities, towns, and subdivisions, including State Lands.
- You can record observations of wildlife on private lands as long as you are physically on a public road, public land, or on property within an incorporated city, town, or subdivision.