

CHAPTER 19

Original House Bill No. 4

STATE PARK SYSTEM

AN ACT relating to state parks and reserves; authorizing acquisition by the recreation commission of specified lands under specified conditions for establishment of the Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park; authorizing acquisition by lease under specified conditions; requiring the commission to develop a plan for the establishment of the Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.**

(a) The state park system shall be expanded for the establishment of the Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park in the county of Natrona. The recreation commission may accept assignment of the present grazing lease and all rights thereunder and may purchase or lease the lands owned by the state located north of highway U.S. 20-26 and south of the North Platte River in Sections 2, 10 and 11, Township 33 North, Range 78 West, 6th P.M. which are part of the Kimball-Wilkins lease from the state board of land commissioners, number 1-7663.

(b) If the recreation commission determines the purchase of lands from the state in accordance with subsection (a) of this section is not prudent or if available funds are insufficient, the commission may lease these lands for park purposes at a fee established by the board of land commissioners. In either case, all existing leases on these lands shall be observed for the balance of their effective terms.

(c) The recreation commission shall prepare a plan for the development and operation of the Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. This plan shall be presented to the legislature not later than the second Tuesday in January, 1982. In developing the plan, the commission shall:

(i) Consult to the extent practical with the family of Edness Kimball Wilkins, the county commissioners of Natrona County and the Natrona County planning commission;

(ii) Consider the need for developing picnicking, camping and boat launching facilities at the sites provided by subsection (a) of this section;

(iii) Consult with the city of Casper and the county of Natrona as to the amount and types of necessary facilities;

(iv) Evaluate the possibility of park administration by the city of Casper or the county of Natrona under contract with the commission.

(d) In establishing the Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park, it is the intent of the legislature that the facilities in that park be developed to the minimum necessary for public use of the park and that the park lands be preserved in a natural state to the greatest extent possible. In recognition of the efforts of Edness Kimball Wilkins to preserve the heritage of Wyoming, the legislature believes a park in which citizens may enjoy nature and the quality of outdoor recreation provided by a natural setting provides a proper memorial to her.

STATE OF WYOMING SPECIAL SESSION 1981

(e) In preparing the plan at least two (2) public hearings shall be held in Casper, one (1) before the plan is drafted and one (1) in December of 1981 before the plan is presented to the legislature.

**Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

Approved March 6, 1981.