

the funding for the 2026-27 school year by \$60.3 million, and another \$66.8 million for the 2027-28 school year, Matt Wilmarth, senior school finance analyst at the Legislative Service Office, told the committee.

After the amendments Monday, total education spending included in the bill for two years would include a \$127 million increase over current law.

Before the amendments passed, the committee heard many of the same concerns lawmakers have heard throughout the recalibration process: That the bill increased class sizes while eliminating staff, without adequately addressing teacher salaries.

"This bill solves a math problem and creates a human problem," Jeff Jones, superintendent of Sheridan County School District 1, said, adding that class sizes in grades 4 and 5 would increase from 16 to 22 students, and from 21 to 22 in grades 6 through 8. High school classrooms would

Commissioners

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the accompanying liability for the property. Additionally, the transfer of the property to The Learning Center may assist that organization in securing grant funds needed to keep its programs in operation. The deed to The Learning Center will include a reverter clause, to return title to the property to the county, if and when the property is not being utilized for some educational purpose.

The commissioners formally accepted a report from auditor Jamie Newbrough, from the accounting firm of Carver, Florek, & James, who presented the commissioners with the audit of the fiscal year 2024-25 finances for the county. The auditors

increase in size from 21 to 25 students.

"The immediate result is not flexibility, but fewer funded teacher positions across Wyoming," Jones said.

Classroom numbers after Rothfuss' amendments were not immediately available Monday.

Others expressed concern over SF 81's requirement that all school districts move to the state's insurance plan, citing a lack of study on the plan.

Dirk Dijkstal, senior counsel at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, said that such a requirement would not improve the quality of health care in Wyoming, and that its impacts should be studied before being mandated.

The committee voted to push the health insurance shift out two years to allow for time to study.

SF 81 will head back to the Senate for debate in committee of the whole, where all standing committee amendments will have to be voted on by the full body.

The additional work is estimated to cost the county an additional \$19,000. Dorman is attempting to negotiate a reduction in that amount. The commissioners authorized the expenditure of up to \$19,000 for the additional work.

County planner Les Culliton, advised the commissioners that his office is working on two gravel pit requests, one of which is set for a public hearing before the commissioners at their second February meeting. The other is set for a public hearing before the Land Use Planning Commission on February 18.

The next HSC Commissioners meeting is March 3 at 9 a.m.

bers and their allies — made no secret about their motivations. Bear told his colleagues in the House last week that lawmakers had proposed the \$40 million number because they hadn't gotten the school's "attention" through their past actions. Lawmakers of the same persuasion say this money should be redirected to Wyoming's community colleges and career and technical education programs. They also want the University of Wyoming to narrow its focus on what the lawmakers describe as a "practical education."

"We're going to pull this money back, and we want you to focus on ag, we want you to focus on engineering, we want you to focus on education, these other things that benefit Wyoming specifically, rather than training people in majors, minors, ideas and concepts where they're not going to be, frankly, at home in Wyoming," Rep. Ken Pendergraft, R-Sheridan, said.

But restricting what is taught at the university, some argued, could drive the state's young people away — a problem that Wyoming has already long grappled with. "This is a bad message to every single kid in our state," Rep. Lee Filer, R-Cheyenne, said. "And if we want to just open the border, and let them go to that state south of us, because they actually offer these programs, because we refuse to compete, we're going to lose our kids."

Other lawmakers worry that these cuts will impact the school's ability to provide a low-cost education. "There are some topics that you guys think that the university shouldn't teach. So we're punishing every sin-

gle student in the university for it? Because that's the result, right? They're going to increase tuition. They're gonna have to make up the money somehow," Rep. Mike Yin, D-Jackson, pointed out to his colleagues in the House last week.

The \$40 million cut wouldn't be distributed evenly across the university's schools and programs. Lawmakers have included carveouts for the College of Education, the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources, the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Institute, the Center of Innovation for Flow Through Porous Media and the High Bay Research Facility. Lawmakers decided to exclude the outdoor program, the innovation center and the research facility after making carveouts for education and ag.

Some lawmakers questioned the logic behind these exceptions. By including carveouts, the body would essentially be "penalizing some of those other colleges," Sen. Gary Crum, R-Laramie, pointed out to his colleagues in the Senate last week.

"I'm wondering why we're picking winners and losers," he said.

The carveouts, others said, are a way to highlight the Legislature's priorities and preferences for the school. "We're not dismissing or diminishing the importance of any of those other programs," Sen. Larry Hicks, R-Baggs, said. "We're just saying, from a legislative perspective and the industries that the university supports through the land grant mission, this is our priority."

Some lawmakers don't

think that such a sweeping cut is the best approach for reshaping UW. "To simply cut the money on day 1 means that there's no incentive to change really, because you don't acquire anything by changing," Rep. Art Washut, R-Casper, said on the House floor last week. "I think a little carrot mixed in with a stick would make a lot more sense."

The budget that emerged from JAC includes other restrictions and reductions. The JAC denied the governor's \$12.5 million request for one-time matching funds intended to boost fundraising, his \$6 million request to support the school's athletics, his \$1.69 million request to fund Wyoming Public Media and another request to fund an assistant professor for UW's family medicine residency program in Casper.

The current budget would bar the school from using any state money to fund Wyoming Public Media, elective abortions for students or group health insurance that provides coverage of such abortions. It also directs the school to use \$6 million of its state money "for equipment and construction expenditures related to career and technical education" and \$400,000 for the school's rodeo team.

Some proposed amendments to the JAC's budget have already been posted. Yin, for example, sponsored an amendment that aims to restore the \$12.5 million in matching funds and do away with most spending restrictions, including the carveouts. Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, sponsored an amendment on the Senate side with the same language for UW.

Public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE		
Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP or the Company) for a Deferred Accounting Order to establish a balancing account to record and track excess wildfire liability insurance costs, as more fully described below:		
1. RMP is a division of PacifiCorp, an Oregon corporation, engaged in the business of supplying electric utility service to customers throughout its six-state service territory, including Wyoming. RMP is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112.	5. The total amount of the potential deferral is unknown. RMP anticipates deferring \$1.96 million in revenues per month. Deferred accounting permits the Company to track the expenses accrued from February 15, 2026, through the effective date of the future reserve fund or through February 15, 2027, whichever occurs first.	2. RMP is a division of PacifiCorp, an Oregon Corporation, engaged in the business of supplying electric utility service to customers throughout its service territory in six states, including parts of Wyoming for which the Commission has issued the Company certificates of public convenience and necessity. RMP is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112.
2. On January 15, 2026, RMP filed an Application requesting a Deferred Accounting Order to establish a balancing account to track \$23.5 million of annual authorized excess liability insurance premium expenses, associated with wildfires; and 80% of any Wyoming wildfire liability claims and associated defense counsel expenses, effective February 15, 2026.	6. This is not a complete description of RMP's Application. Interested persons may inspect the entire Application at RMP's Wyoming offices and at the Commission's office or online at: <a href="https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx">https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx</a> . (enter Record No. 18045). The Application may also be reviewed on line at: <a href="https://www.rockymountainpower.net/about/rates-regulation/wyoming-regulatory-filings.html">https://www.rockymountainpower.net/about/rates-regulation/wyoming-regulatory-filings.html</a> .	3. On June 30, 2025, RMP filed the Application to revise the methodology used in tariff Schedule 37 and Schedule 38 to align with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) 2020 Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) revisions, which address the risks of forecasted avoided energy and capacity costs. RMP seeks to require locational marginal pricing (LMP) using Wyoming WEIM nodal information for non-firm energy purchases, to modify the current Partial Displacement Differential Revenue Requirement (PD-DRR) methodology for firm energy purchases to incorporate the 2025 IRP, to reflect third-party ownership of proxy resources.
3. RMP states the temporary deferral will facilitate the Company's transition to a reserve fund to recover costs associated with third-party claims and outside defense costs for wildfire events in Wyoming while mitigating over or under recovery of costs. The Commission authorized the Company to develop a Wyoming reserve fund in the last general rate case and requires Commission approval when filed. The Company's current excess wildfire liability insurance policies expire February 14, 2026, and will not be renewed as the Wyoming reserve fund is expected to be less costly for customers than a commercial insurance policy. The Company requests authority to establish the requested balancing account for costs associated with Wyoming wildfire liabilities and litigation costs on or after February 15, 2026, until the reserve fund is approved and implemented, or new commercial excess liability insurance is acquired in 2027.	7. Anyone desiring to file a public comment, statement, protest, intervention petition, or request for a public hearing in this matter must file with the Commission in writing on or before March 3, 2026. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 20000-701-EA-26 in your communications.	4. Renewable Energy Coalition (REC) petitioned to intervene in this matter, which the Commission granted by <i>Order</i> issued on September 16, 2025.
4. RMP is not currently seeking recovery of these costs from customers. The requested Deferred Accounting Order, if approved, will enable the Company to seek recovery in the future. If approved, deferred costs will be recorded in Account 254, and net revenues not otherwise used to pay for wildfire claims in the balancing account would be deposited to a reserve fund customer trust to support the future Wyoming reserve fund. The account will accrue interest at the Commission authorized rate for deferred accounts.	8. If you wish to intervene or request a public hearing that you will attend, or wish to file a public comment, statement, or protest, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.	5. This is not a complete description of RMP's Application. You may review the Application and its supporting testimony and exhibits at the Commission's office during business hours or online at: <a href="https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx">https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx</a> (enter Record No. 17882).
	Dated: February 3, 2026.	6. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing which will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, Wyoming Public Service Commission Rules. All interested persons may appear and be heard, in person, by video or telephone conference, or through counsel appearing in person or by video or telephone conference.
	Pub. Feb 12 & 19, 2026	No. 2029
NOTICE SETTING PUBLIC HEARING		
1. Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled regarding Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP or the Company) request for authority to update Schedules 37 and 38 for Avoided Cost Purchases of Power for Qualifying Facilities. <b>The public hearing is set to commence on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room located at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.</b>		
Attend Zoom Meeting and actively participate at: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933449233">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933449233</a>		
Or by dialing: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 993 344 9233		
7. If you wish to attend the hearing and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 (Voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements.		
Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TTY) by dialing 711. Please mention Docket No. 20000-687-ET-25 in all correspondence with the Commission.		
Dated: February 6, 2026.		
Pub. Feb. 12 & 19, 2026		
No. 2032		
PUBLIC NOTICE		
The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby gives notice of High Plains Power Inc.'s (High Plains or Cooperative) Application to revise language in its Net Metering tariff sheets RT22 and RT23, as more fully described below.		
1. High Plains is a cooperative utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112. The Cooperative provides electric service to members in Natrona, Fremont, Hot Springs, Washakie, Big Horn, Johnson, Park, Teton, and Carbon counties.		
2. On February 2, 2026, the Cooperative filed an Application requesting to revise language on sheet RT22 to remove references to "monthly" in regards to billing period and charges, and adjusted a description in RT23 to mirror Wyoming Statute §37-2-122(d)(i).		
3. This is not a complete description of High Plain's Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, during regular business hours or online at: <a href="https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx">https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx</a> (enter Record No. 18063).		
4. Anyone desiring to file a public comment, statement, intervention petition, protest or to request for a public hearing in this matter must do so, on or before March 10, 2025. An intervention request must set forth its grounds, as well as the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 10020-77-CT-26 in your communication.		
5. If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.		
Dated: February 10, 2026		
Pub. Feb. 19 & 26, 2026		
No. 2033		