

# Wyoming earns a D- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Somewhat higher bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must provide clear and convincing evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: Up to 100% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement.

## Recent Reforms

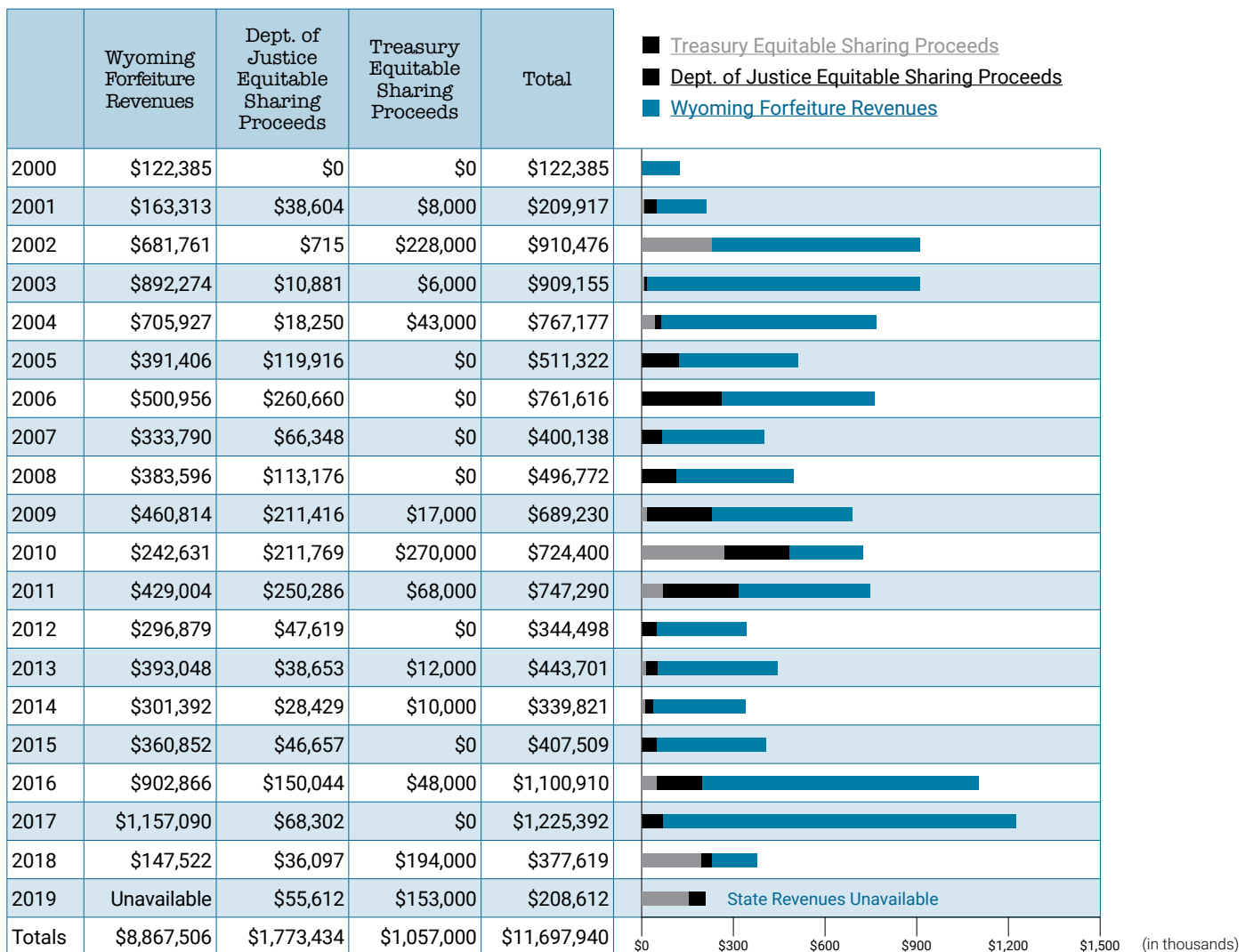
- (2018) HB 61: Banned use of roadside waivers to pressure motorists into abandoning seized property.
- (2016) SF 46: Raised standard of proof; imposed new notice requirements; established probable cause hearing following seizure.

## State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2000 and 2018, Wyoming law enforcement agencies forfeited nearly \$9 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$2 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$11 million in forfeiture revenue. Wyoming ranks 3rd for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$11 million  
in state and federal  
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

# Wyoming's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

|   |          |   |          |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| Tracking Seized Property                | <b>C</b> | Accessibility of Forfeiture Records     | <b>D</b> |
| Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending | <b>A</b> | Penalties for Failure to File a Report  | <b>F</b> |
| Statewide Forfeiture Reports            | <b>B</b> | Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts | <b>F</b> |

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit [www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards](http://www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards).

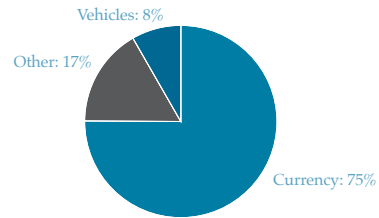
## Forfeitures Under Wyoming Law: Key Facts

### Median Value



From 2015 to 2018, half of Wyoming's currency forfeitures were worth less than \$2,527.

### Property Types



From 2014 to 2018, three-quarters of Wyoming's forfeitures were of currency.

### Civil vs. Criminal

**UNKNOWN**

Wyoming does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

### Expenditures

**UNKNOWN**

Wyoming expenditure data were not used for this report.

### Data Notes

Property-level seizure data were obtained via public records requests to the Wyoming Attorney General. Figures represent forfeited cash and proceeds from sales of forfeited property and are based on the calendar year in which the forfeiture case was initiated. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.