What Wyo's delegation says

By the Star-Tribune staff
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Here's how Wyoming's all-Republican congressional delegation reacted to President Barack Obama's federal budget announcement Thursday:

"I applaud the president's push to decrease deficit spending by half, but our goal should be to eliminate the deficit, not halve the deficit. Americans should realize exactly what that means. We're not talking about reducing debt, we're talking about reducing the deficit. The deficit is what Congress overspends each fiscal year. If we decrease this deficit by half we will only be going into debt half as much...

"I look forward to more details from the administration about where spending can be cut, especially the $2 trillion in savings President Obama mentioned this week in his presidential address."

-- U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi

"The era of big government is back. Just last week the administration passed a trillion-dollar spending bill; this week it has proposed a budget that raises taxes and doubles the public debt over five years...

"We do need to get the American people back to work. Massive spending bills and increased taxes on small businesses is the wrong way to go... We must cut wasteful spending and focus on creating jobs now, not in two, five or 10 years. We should not keep borrowing money that our grandchildren will have to pay back."

-- U.S. Sen. John Barrasso

"On Tuesday, President Obama called on Congress to rein in government spending and exercise fiscal discipline. Only two days later, the president has failed to live up to his own standards by proposing a $3.6 trillion federal budget -- the largest budget in U.S. history...

"The president expects to pay for this massive spending by raising taxes on small businesses, family farms, middle class families, retirees and energy consumers...

"The answer to our nation's economic troubles does not lie with more government spending, let alone higher taxes -- the answer lies with allowing Americans to keep more of what they earn and limiting the size of government."

-- U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis