

ENROLLED ACT NO. 78, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIFTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2003 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to wildlife; providing for the reclassification, harvesting and other regulation of gray wolves as trophy game animals as specified; monitoring gray wolves; providing for the regulation of wolf hybrids; providing a definition of livestock for purposes of the game and fish provisions; providing for meetings and for rulemaking; prohibiting the private ownership of wolves and wolf hybrids; providing a statement of legislative intent; providing for implementation and reports; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1. W.S. 23-1-108 and 23-1-304 are created to read:

23-1-108. Delisting of gray wolves as experimental, nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species.

Gray wolves shall be deemed removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming upon final publication in the Federal Register by appropriate federal agencies removing the gray wolf from all listings as an experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming.

23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.

(a) The commission shall determine the classification of gray wolves as provided in this section. In making this classification the commission shall rely upon information provided by department personnel and shall consult with the Wyoming animal damage management board created by W.S.

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11-6-303 and the director of the Wyoming department of agriculture, and consider any additional information provided by that board and by that director.

(b) The department shall provide to the commission at least a quarterly monitoring report on the number of gray wolf packs within this state and their general location. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a department report the commission shall at a public meeting:

(i) Determine if there are less than seven (7) packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and less than fifteen (15) packs within this state, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. If such a determination is made:

(A) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations to classify the gray wolf as a trophy game animal and prohibit the taking of gray wolves except as provided by W.S. 23-3-115(c), within that area of the state the commission determines is necessary to reasonably ensure seven (7) packs of gray wolves are located in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway at the end of the current calendar year;

(B) At any time that gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals outside of any area specified in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I), the commission shall:

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(I) Meet in public not less than once every ninety (90) days to review the classification and determine the need for its continuance;

(II) In consultation with the director of the Wyoming department of agriculture, upon receipt of information from the department of agriculture, consider the reclassification of wolves in all or a portion of such area at the commission's next scheduled meeting, or at an earlier meeting of the commission as the commission deems desirable or necessary.

(ii) Maintain the classification of gray wolves as a predatory animal and trophy game animal as specified in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) and (xii)(B)(I), if it determines there were at least seven (7) packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway or at least fifteen (15) packs within this state, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway as of the end of the preceding calendar quarter.

(c) For purposes of this section "pack" means five (5) or more gray wolves traveling together. If a group of gray wolves consists of more than ten (10) animals known to be traveling together, the commission may, at its discretion, recognize the number of packs within such a group to be equal to the number of reproductively mature females bearing young found within that group of wolves.

(d) The department shall institute and maintain an active program of population monitoring statewide. In all areas of the state, except where otherwise provided, any person who harvests a wolf shall notify the department where the harvest occurred within ten (10) days. Any

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information regarding the number or nature of wolves legally harvested within the state of Wyoming shall only be released in its aggregate form and no information of a private or confidential nature shall be released without the written consent of the person to whom the information may refer. Information identifying any person legally harvesting a wolf within this state is solely for the use of the department or appropriate law enforcement offices and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201 through 16-4-205.

(e) The department shall actively monitor big game animal herd populations statewide to determine whether and to what extent the gray wolf is negatively impacting big game animal herds, and thereby hunting opportunities. To the extent permitted by this title, the department shall manage the gray wolf population as necessary to ensure the long-term health and viability of any big game animal herd that is being threatened in this state.

(f) This section shall apply from and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108.

Section 2. W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix) and (x), 23-1-101(a)(viii) and (xii), 23-1-102(a) by creating a new paragraph (xvi), 23-1-103, 23-1-302(a) by creating a new paragraph (xxix), 23-2-101(j) by creating a new paragraph (xlii), 23-2-104(e), 23-2-303(d), 23-3-102(b), 23-3-115 by creating a new subsection (c), 23-3-301 and 23-3-304(a) are amended to read:

11-6-302. Definitions.

(a) As used in this article:

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(ix) "Predatory animal" means:

(A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, skunk,~~wolf~~ or stray cat; and

(B) Until the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, "predatory animal" includes wolves. After that date, "predatory animal" shall include any gray wolf not within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is:

(I) Designated as a trophy game animal under subdivision (x) (B) (I) of this subsection; or

(II) Classified as a trophy game animal by the game and fish commission pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304(b) (i) (A).

(x) "Trophy game animal" means:

(A) Black bear, grizzly bear or mountain lion; and

(B) From and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108:

(I) "Trophy game animal" shall include any gray wolf within those tracts of land within the boundaries of Wyoming designated as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and those federally designated

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wilderness areas contiguous to these national parks and this parkway as defined by the United States congress as of January 1, 2003; and

(II) "Trophy game animal" shall include any gray wolf within any area of the state where gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the game and fish commission pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304(b) (i) (A) .

23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.

(a) As used in this act:

(viii) "Predatory animal" means:

(A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, ~~wolf,~~ skunk or stray cat; and

(B) Until the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, "predatory animal" includes wolves. After that date, "predatory animal" shall include any gray wolf not within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is:

(I) Designated as a trophy game animal under subdivision (xii) (B) (I) of this subsection;

(II) Classified as a trophy game animal by the commission pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304(b) (i) (A) .

(xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

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(A) Black bear, grizzly bear or mountain lion; and

(B) From and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108:

(I) "Trophy game animal" shall include any gray wolf within those tracts of land within the boundaries of Wyoming designated as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and those federally designated wilderness areas contiguous to these national parks and this parkway as defined by the United States congress as of January 1, 2003; and

(II) "Trophy game animal" shall include any gray wolf within any area of the state where gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the commission pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304(b) (i) (A).

23-1-102. General definitions.

(a) As used in this act:

(xvi) "Livestock" means horses, mules and asses, rabbits, llamas, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, or other animal generally used for food or in the production of food or fiber, and guard animals actively engaged in the protection of livestock. Bison are considered livestock unless otherwise designated by the Wyoming livestock board and the commission.

23-1-103. Ownership of wildlife; purpose of provisions.

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For the purpose of this act, all wildlife in Wyoming is the property of the state. It is the purpose of this act and the policy of the state to provide an adequate and flexible system for control, propagation, management, protection and regulation of all Wyoming wildlife. There shall be no private ownership of live animals classified in this act as big or trophy game animals or of any wolf or wolf hybrid.

23-1-302. Powers and duties.

(a) The commission is directed and empowered:

(xxix) After the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify gray wolves as predatory or trophy game animals in accordance with W.S. 23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which may be taken under a license issued under this act.

23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency required.

(j) Subject to W.S. 23-2-101(f), the following hunting licenses and tags may be purchased for the fee indicated and subject to the limitations provided:

(xlii) From and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108:

(A) Resident gray wolf license\$15.00

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(B) Nonresident gray wolf license ...\$150.00

23-2-104. Archery licenses; special seasons; prohibition against firearms; equipment.

(e) When hunting antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat or mountain lion the longbow hunter must be equipped with a longbow of not less than forty (40) pounds draw weight or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of four hundred (400) grain weight at least one hundred sixty (160) yards. When hunting elk, grizzly bear or moose, the longbow hunter must be equipped with a longbow of not less than fifty (50) pounds draw weight or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of five hundred (500) grain weight at least one hundred sixty (160) yards. The crossbow hunter must be equipped with a crossbow of not less than ninety (90) pounds draw weight which has a minimum draw length of fourteen (14) inches (from front of bow to back of string in the cocked position), a positive safety mechanism, and, except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, which must be cocked by hand without the aid of leverage-gaining devices. Crossbow bolts must be at least sixteen (16) inches long. The broadhead of arrows or bolts shall be of sharp steel with a minimum cutting width of one (1) inch. The provisions of this subsection relating to the hunting of antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat and mountain lion shall also apply to the hunting of the gray wolf as a trophy game animal from and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108.

23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and snares; penalty; confiscation.

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(d) All traps and snares used for furbearing or predatory animals shall be permanently marked or tagged with the name and address of the owner or the identification number assigned to the owner by the department. Any identification number attached to a trap or snare pursuant to this subsection is solely for the use of the department or appropriate law enforcement officers and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201 through 16-4-205. No trap or snare shall be set for furbearing or predatory animals within thirty (30) feet of any exposed bait or carcass over five (5) pounds in weight. As used in this subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means the meat or viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish, excluding dried bones. In addition, all snares used for taking furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped with a break-away locking device that is designed to release at two hundred ninety-five (295) pounds of pressure or less and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches in diameter measured side to side. Unless otherwise specified in this section, all traps, excluding snares set for furbearing animals and predatory animals and quick kill body grip traps as defined by commission rule and regulation, shall be checked by the owner at least once during each seventy-two (72) hour period from the time the traps were set. Quick kill body grip traps shall be checked by the owner not less than once each seven (7) day period from the time the traps were set. All wildlife caught in any trap or snare shall upon discovery, be removed immediately by the owner. Violation of this subsection constitutes a ninth degree misdemeanor. After the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108 the commission may enact rules and regulations setting forth the specifications for traps and snares used for the taking of gray wolves and the time period for checking such traps

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and snares. Except as otherwise provided by commission rule, the provisions in this section regulating the trapping of furbearing and predatory animals shall apply to the trapping of gray wolves.

23-3-102. Taking certain game animals without license or during a closed season prohibited.

(b) Any person who takes any bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, ~~or~~ grizzly bear or, gray wolf where classified as a trophy game animal, without the proper license except as otherwise permitted by this act is guilty of a 4th degree misdemeanor.

23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for damaging property.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private property shall apply to gray wolves from and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108. The owner, employee or lessee acting under authority of this section shall notify the department of the killing of a gray wolf within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is classified as a trophy game animal. The notification shall be made within ten (10) days of the kill unless the gray wolf was taken in an area where wolves have been classified as trophy game animals pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304(b)(i)(A) in which case the notification shall be made within seventy-two (72) hours.

23-3-301. Importation and sale of wildlife prohibited; exceptions.

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(a) No person shall import into Wyoming from any source any living antelope, bear, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, wolf, wolf hybrid nor any living wildlife except as otherwise permitted by this act.

(b) No person shall sell any living antelope, bear, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, wolf, wolf hybrid or falcon except as permitted by the commission.

23-3-304. Certain trapping devices unlawful; game for bait prohibited; baiting big game animals prohibited; penalties.

(a) No person shall take or wound any game animal, game bird, or game fish by use of any pit, pitfall, net, trap, deadfall, poison, or other similar device except as otherwise provided. From and after the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, gray wolves may be taken with a trap or snare only as allowed by and in accordance with rules and regulations of the commission.

Section 3. Nothing in this act shall prohibit the ownership of a wolf hybrid if the animal was owned before the effective date of this act by a person then residing in this state.

Section 4.

(a) It is the purpose of this act, unless the introduction of the gray wolf into Wyoming is determined by lawful authorities not to have been in accordance with

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federal law, to provide appropriate state management and control of gray wolves in order to facilitate the removal of the gray wolf from its listing as an experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming and to prevent future listing of the gray wolf as an experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species.

(b) In providing appropriate state management and control of gray wolves, the state acknowledges the need to fill the current vacuum of management of this species within the state. The state retains all rights to investigate and, if determined by state officials to be appropriate, take legal actions against the federal government relating to the introduction of the gray wolf into the boundaries of this state.

(c) In order to accomplish the purposes of this act, the game and fish commission shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with appropriate federal agencies under which the commission and federal agencies shall endeavor to manage the prey base for gray wolves in a manner to maintain a sufficient prey base in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway within the state for at least eight (8) packs of wolves. The game and fish commission shall endeavor to manage big game populations providing a prey base for seven (7) packs of gray wolves in all other areas of the state in such a manner as to mitigate to the greatest extent possible, adverse effects on opportunities for licensed hunters to take big game.

(d) The game and fish commission shall report to the joint travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources interim committee not later than September 1, 2003, regarding the implementation of this act.

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Section 5. 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.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk