

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Wolf management.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to wolf management; amending provisions for
2 the reclassification of gray wolves; and providing for an
3 effective date.

4

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

6

***** STAFF COMMENTS *****

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

At the last meeting the Committee asked for alternative bill drafts on this issue. The first providing for a target of 15 wolf packs within the entire state. The second changing the provision from "or" to "and"; i.e., for 15 packs within the state in total and 7 outside the Yellowstone areas specified in current law. This draft contains both alternatives. No other substantive statutory changes are made.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

ALTERNATIVE A - Wolves would always be trophy game animals in the designated areas, Yellowstone, etc., (including the contiguous wilderness areas); but would be predators in the remaining areas of the state unless the G&F Commission found there were less than 15 packs in the entire state. If the Commission found there were less than 15 packs within the state, it

1 **would designate areas in which taking of wolves**
2 **would be prohibited in order to ensure that 15**
3 **packs would exist somewhere in the state.**
4

5 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii)(B)(I), 23-1-
6 304(b)(i)(A) and (ii) are amended to read:

7

8 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

9

10 (a) As used in this act:

11

12 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

13

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

21

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

24

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

3
4 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

5
6 (b) The department shall provide to the commission at
7 least a quarterly monitoring report on the number of gray
8 wolf packs within this state and their general location.
9 Within thirty (30) days of receiving a department report
10 the commission shall at a public meeting:

11
12 (i) Determine if there are less than ~~seven (7)~~
13 ~~packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily~~
14 ~~outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National~~
15 ~~Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and less~~
16 ~~than~~ fifteen (15) packs of gray wolves located within this
17 state, ~~including Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton~~
18 ~~National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial~~
19 ~~Parkway.~~ If such a determination is made:

20
21 (A) The commission shall adopt rules and
22 regulations to classify the gray wolf as a trophy game
23 animal and prohibit the taking of gray wolves except as
24 provided by W.S. 23-3-115(c), within that area of the state

1 the commission determines is necessary to reasonably ensure
2 ~~seven (7)~~ fifteen (15) packs of gray wolves are located in
3 this state ~~and primarily outside of Yellowstone National~~
4 ~~Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller,~~
5 ~~Jr. Memorial Parkway~~ at the end of the current calendar
6 year;

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

19

20 *** STAFF COMMENTS ***
21 **ALTERNATIVE B - Wolves would always be trophy**
22 **game animals in the designated areas,**
23 **Yellowstone, etc. (including the contiguous**
24 **wilderness areas); but would be predators in the**
25 **remaining areas of the state unless the G&F**
26 **Commission found there were less than 15 packs in**
27 **the state or less than 7 packs located primarily**
28 **outside of the specified areas of Yellowstone,**

1 etc., (not including the wilderness areas). If
2 either situation existed the Commission would
3 designate areas in the state in which taking of
4 wolves would be prohibited in order to ensure
5 that 7 packs would exist in the state and
6 primarily outside of the specified areas,
7 Yellowstone, etc., (excluding wilderness areas).
8

9 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

10
11 (b) The department shall provide to the commission at
12 least a quarterly monitoring report on the number of gray
13 wolf packs within this state and their general location.
14 Within thirty (30) days of receiving a department report
15 the commission shall at a public meeting:

16
17 (i) Determine if there are less than seven (7)
18 packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily
19 outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National
20 Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway ~~and-or~~
21 less than fifteen (15) packs within this state, including
22 Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and
23 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. If either such
24 ~~a~~-determination is made:

25
26 (ii) Maintain the classification of gray wolves
27 as a predatory animal and trophy game animal as specified

1 in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) and (xii)(B)(I), if it determines
2 there were at least seven (7) packs of gray wolves located
3 in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National
4 Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller,
5 Jr. Memorial Parkway ~~or~~ and at least fifteen (15) packs
6 within this state, including Yellowstone National Park,
7 Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
8 Memorial Parkway as of the end of the preceding calendar
9 quarter.

10

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

15

16

(END)