

SENATE FILE NO. SF0135

Wolf management.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Burns and Representative(s)
Childers

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to wolf management; providing for
2 classification of gray wolves; providing for management of
3 gray wolves within the state as specified; providing an
4 appropriation; approving additional positions; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix)(B)(II), (x)(B)(I) and
10 (II), 23-1-101(a)(viii)(B)(II), (xii)(B)(I) and (II),
11 23-1-302(a)(xxix), 23-1-304(a), (c) and (e) and 23-3-115(c)
12 are amended to read:

13

14 **11-6-302. Definitions.**

15

16 (a) As used in this article:

1

2 (ix) "Predatory animal" means:

3

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

11

12 (II) Classified as a trophy game
13 animal by the game and fish commission pursuant to W.S.
14 ~~23-1-304(b)(i)(A)~~ 23-1-304(a).

15

16 (x) "Trophy game animal" means:

17

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

22

23 (I) "Trophy game animal" shall include
24 any gray wolf within those tracts of land within the

1 boundaries of Wyoming designated as Yellowstone National
2 Park, Grand Teton National Park, ~~and~~ the John D.
3 Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway; ~~and those federally~~
4 ~~designated wilderness areas contiguous to these national~~
5 ~~parks and this parkway as defined by the United States~~
6 ~~congress as of January 1, 2003;~~ and

7
8 (II) "Trophy game animal" shall
9 include any gray wolf within any area of the state where
10 gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the
11 game and fish commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(b)(i)(A)~~
12 23-1-304(a).

13
14 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

15
16 (a) As used in this act:

17
18 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

19
20 (B) Until the date gray wolves are removed
21 from the list of experimental nonessential population,
22 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as
23 provided by W.S. 23-1-108, "predatory animal" includes
24 wolves. After that date, "predatory animal" shall include

1 any gray wolf not within an area of the state in which the
2 gray wolf is:

3

4 (II) Classified as a trophy game
5 animal by the commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(b)(i)(A)~~
6 23-1-304(a).

7

8 (xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

9

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

14

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

23

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

5
6 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

7
8 (a) The commission is directed and empowered:

9
10 (xxix) After the date gray wolves are removed
11 from the list of experimental nonessential population,
12 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as
13 provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify gray wolves as
14 predatory or trophy game animals in accordance with W.S.
15 23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which
16 may be taken under a license issued under this act or as
17 necessary to carry out the commission's duties under this
18 act.

19
20 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

21
22 (a) The commission shall ~~determine the classification~~
23 ~~of gray wolves as provided in this section. In making this~~
24 ~~classification the commission shall rely upon information~~

1 ~~provided by department personnel and shall consult with the~~
2 ~~Wyoming animal damage management board created by W.S.~~
3 ~~11-6-303 and the director of the Wyoming department of~~
4 ~~agriculture, and consider any additional information~~
5 ~~provided by that board and by that director~~ by rule and
6 regulation establish areas within the state where gray
7 wolves are classified as trophy game animals and set
8 seasons and bag limits within those areas. The areas
9 designated, seasons and bag limits shall be set annually in
10 a manner the commission determines, through rule and
11 regulation, is necessary to reasonably ensure at least
12 seven (7) breeding pairs of gray wolves are located in this
13 state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park,
14 Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
15 Memorial Parkway at the end of the current calendar year.

16
17 (c) For purposes of this section ~~"pack"~~ "breeding
18 pair" means ~~five (5) or more gray wolves traveling~~
19 ~~together. If a group of gray wolves consists of more than~~
20 ~~ten (10) animals known to be traveling together, the~~
21 ~~commission may, at its discretion, recognize the number of~~
22 ~~packs within such a group to be equal to the number of a~~
23 ~~reproductively mature females bearing~~ male and a female

1 gray wolf known to be traveling together with reared young.
2 ~~found within that group of wolves.~~

3

4 (e) The department shall actively monitor big game
5 animal herd populations statewide to determine whether and
6 to what extent the gray wolf is negatively impacting big
7 game animal herds, and thereby hunting opportunities. To
8 the extent permitted by this title, and notwithstanding
9 other provisions of this title by those means authorized by
10 the commission, the department shall manage the gray wolf
11 population, as necessary to ensure the long-term health and
12 viability of any big game animal herd that is being
13 threatened in this state.

14

15 **23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray**
16 **wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for**
17 **damaging property.**

18

19 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section
20 relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private
21 property shall apply to gray wolves from and after the date
22 gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental
23 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
24 species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108. The owner,

1 employee or lessee acting under authority of this section
2 shall notify the department of the killing of a gray wolf
3 within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is
4 classified as a trophy game animal. The notification shall
5 be made within ten (10) days of the kill unless the gray
6 wolf was taken in an area where wolves have been classified
7 as trophy game animals pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(b)(i)(A)~~
8 23-1-304(a) in which case the notification shall be made
9 within seventy-two (72) hours.

10
11 **Section 2.** 2003 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 115,
12 Section 4(c) is amended to read:

13
14 **Section 4.**

15
16 (c) In order to accomplish the purposes of
17 this act, the game and fish commission shall
18 enter into a memorandum of understanding with
19 appropriate federal agencies under which the
20 commission and federal agencies shall endeavor to
21 manage the prey base for gray wolves in a manner
22 to maintain a sufficient prey base in Yellowstone
23 National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John
24 D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway within the

1 state for at least eight (8) ~~packs~~breeding pairs
2 of wolves. The game and fish commission shall
3 endeavor to manage big game populations providing
4 a prey base for seven (7) ~~packs~~breeding pairs of
5 gray wolves in all other areas of the state in
6 such a manner as to mitigate to the greatest
7 extent possible, adverse effects on opportunities
8 for licensed hunters to take big game.

9
10 **Section 3.** W.S. 23-1-304(b) is repealed.

11
12 **Section 4.** There is appropriated from the general
13 fund to the game and fish commission for the fiscal
14 biennium ending June 30, 2008, two million four hundred
15 thousand dollars (\$2,400,000.00) for purposes of managing
16 gray wolves.

17
18 **Section 5.** There are approved eight (8) full-time
19 positions and three (3) full-time at-will-employee contract
20 (AWEC) positions for the game and fish commission as a part
21 of the appropriation from the general fund. The commission
22 shall develop, with the department of administration and
23 information, an expense organization which appropriates any
24 future funding for purposes of managing grey wolves.

1

2 **Section 6.** This act is effective immediately upon
3 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
4 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
5 Constitution.

6

7

(END)