

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Game and fish-trapping.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for the
2 regulation of methods, procedures and specifications for
3 trapping and snaring through rule and regulation; providing
4 time periods for the checking of snares and traps;
5 providing for exceptions; and providing for an effective
6 date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-2-303(d) and (e), by creating a
11 new subsection (e) and by renumbering subsections (e) and
12 (f) as (f) and (g) are amended to read:

13

1 **23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and**
2 **snares; penalty; confiscation; inspection; interference**
3 **with trapping.**

4
5 (d) The commission, following consultation with other
6 affected governmental entities, may promulgate rules and
7 regulations governing the methods, procedures and
8 specifications for trapping and snaring of furbearing and
9 predatory animals. All traps and snares used for

10 furbearing or predatory animals shall be permanently marked
11 or tagged with the name and address of the owner or the
12 identification number assigned to the owner by the
13 department. Any identification number attached to a trap
14 or snare pursuant to this subsection is solely for the use
15 of the department or appropriate law enforcement officers
16 and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201
17 through 16-4-205. ~~No trap or snare shall be set for~~

18 ~~furbearing or predatory animals within thirty (30) feet of~~
19 ~~any exposed bait or carcass over five (5) pounds in weight.~~

20 ~~As used in this subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means~~
21 ~~the meat or viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish,~~
22 ~~excluding dried bones. In addition, All snares used for~~

23 taking furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped

1 with a break-away ~~locking~~ device ~~that is designed to~~
2 ~~release at two hundred ninety five (295) pounds of pressure~~
3 ~~or less and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches~~
4 ~~in diameter measured side to side.~~ Unless otherwise
5 specified in this ~~section~~ subsection, all steel-jawed
6 leghold traps, ~~excluding snares set for furbearing animals~~
7 ~~and predatory animals and quick kill body grip traps as~~
8 ~~defined by commission rule and regulation,~~ shall be checked
9 by the owner at least once during each seventy-two (72)
10 hour period from the time the traps were set. All snares
11 and quick kill body grip traps shall be checked by the
12 owner not less than once each ~~seven (7) day period~~ week
13 from the time the snares or traps were set. The commission
14 may through rule and regulation allow extensions to trap
15 and snare check periods. All wildlife caught in any trap
16 or snare shall upon discovery, be removed immediately by
17 the owner. Violation of this subsection constitutes a low
18 misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(v).

19

20 (e) After the date gray wolves are removed from the
21 list of experimental nonessential population, endangered
22 species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by
23 W.S. 23-1-108 the commission may enact rules and

1 regulations setting forth the methods, procedures and
2 specifications for traps and snares used for the taking of
3 gray wolves and the time period for checking such traps and
4 snares. Except as otherwise provided by commission rule,
5 the provisions in this section regulating the trapping of
6 furbearing and predatory animals shall apply to the
7 trapping of gray wolves.

8
9 ~~(e)~~(f) Any trap or snare found in the field not
10 bearing the name and address of the owner of the trap or
11 snare or the identification number assigned by the
12 department to the owner of the trap or snare may be
13 confiscated by any employee of the department. Any
14 landowner or his agent may inspect any trap or snare set on
15 his property, ~~and~~ may remove the trap or snare and may
16 release or remove from the trap or snare any wildlife which
17 has not been taken lawfully. The landowner or his agent
18 shall ~~immediately~~ notify the department of any such
19 wildlife, excluding predatory animals, ~~prior to~~ immediately
20 after removing the wildlife from a trap or snare.

21
22 ~~(f)~~(g) A violation of this subsection constitutes a
23 low misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S.

1 23-6-202(a)(v). Except as otherwise provided in this
2 section, no person shall intentionally:

3

4 (i) Tamper with or remove a trap or snare set
5 and maintained in compliance with this act; or

6

7 (ii) Release or remove a furbearer or predator
8 from a trap or snare set and maintained in compliance with
9 this act.

10

11 **23-3-103. Taking predatory animals, predacious birds**
12 **and trophy animals; taking furbearing animals and game**
13 **birds without license prohibited.**

14

15 (a) Predatory animals and predacious birds may be
16 taken without a license in any manner and at any time
17 except as provided by W.S. 23-2-303(d) and (e), 23-3-112,
18 23-3-304(b), 23-3-305 and 23-3-307. The department shall
19 report annually to the Wyoming department of agriculture
20 the number of predatory animals and predacious birds taken
21 by the department's animal damage control agents, and
22 include in the report the area where taken and the control
23 method used.

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Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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(END)