

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Gray wolf-trophy game status.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Gingery

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for management
2 of wolves as trophy game animals throughout the state;
3 modifying penalty provisions for improper taking of a gray
4 wolf; providing for taking of gray wolves in additional
5 situations as specified; repealing inconsistent provisions;
6 and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix)(A) and (x)(A),
11 23-1-101(a)(viii)(A) and (xii)(A), 23-1-103,
12 23-1-302(a)(xxix), 23-2-101(j)(xliii)(intro), 23-2-104(e),
13 23-2-303(d), 23-3-102(a) and (d), 23-3-115 by creating a
14 new subsection (d) and 23-3-304(a) are amended to read:

1

2 **11-6-302. Definitions.**

3

4 (a) As used in this article:

5

6 (ix) "Predatory animal" means:

7

8 (A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon,
9 red fox, skunk or stray cat. ~~and~~

10

11 (x) "Trophy game animal" means:

12

13 (A) Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf or
14 mountain lion. ~~and~~

15

16 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

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18 (a) As used in this act:

19

20 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

21

22 (A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon,
23 red fox, skunk or stray cat. ~~and~~

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2

(xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

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(A) Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf or mountain lion. ~~and~~

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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.

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23-1-302. Powers and duties.

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(a) The commission is directed and empowered:

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(xxix) ~~After the date gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population,~~

23

1 ~~endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as~~
2 ~~provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify~~ To manage gray
3 wolves and to regulate the taking of gray wolves as
4 ~~predatory or trophy game animals in accordance with W.S.~~
5 ~~23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which~~
6 ~~may be taken under a license issued under this act or as~~
7 ~~necessary~~ appropriate to carry out the commission's duties
8 under this act. The commission shall manage and regulate
9 the taking of gray wolves in a manner consistent with that
10 of other trophy game and in a manner which facilitates the
11 removal of the gray wolf from the list of experimental
12 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
13 species in Wyoming and prevents any such future listing of
14 the gray wolf.

15

16 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**
17 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**
18 **required.**

19

20 (j) Subject to W.S. 23-2-101(f), 23-1-705(e) and the
21 applicable fee under W.S. 23-1-701, the following hunting
22 licenses and tags may be purchased for the fee indicated
23 and subject to the limitations provided:

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(xliv) ~~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:~~

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

(e) When hunting antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, gray wolf, 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

1 position) and a positive safety mechanism. Crossbow bolts
2 must be at least sixteen (16) inches long. The broadhead
3 of arrows or bolts shall be of sharp steel with a minimum
4 cutting width of one (1) inch. ~~The provisions of this~~
5 ~~subsection relating to the hunting of antelope, bighorn~~
6 ~~sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat and mountain lion~~
7 ~~shall also apply to the hunting of the gray wolf as a~~
8 ~~trophy game animal from and after the date gray wolves are~~
9 ~~removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
10 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
11 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108.~~

12

13 **23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and**
14 **snares; penalty; confiscation; inspection; interference**
15 **with trapping.**

16

17 (d) All traps and snares used for furbearing or
18 predatory animals shall be permanently marked or tagged
19 with the name and address of the owner or the
20 identification number assigned to the owner by the
21 department. Any identification number attached to a trap
22 or snare pursuant to this subsection is solely for the use
23 of the department or appropriate law enforcement officers

1 and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201
2 through 16-4-205. No trap or snare shall be set for
3 furbearing or predatory animals within thirty (30) feet of
4 any exposed bait or carcass over five (5) pounds in weight.
5 As used in this subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means
6 the meat or viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish,
7 excluding dried bones. In addition, all snares used for
8 taking furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped
9 with a break-away locking device that is designed to
10 release at two hundred ninety-five (295) pounds of pressure
11 or less and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches
12 in diameter measured side to side. Unless otherwise
13 specified in this section, all traps, excluding snares set
14 for furbearing animals and predatory animals and quick kill
15 body grip traps as defined by commission rule and
16 regulation, shall be checked by the owner at least once
17 during each seventy-two (72) hour period from the time the
18 traps were set. Quick kill body grip traps shall be
19 checked by the owner not less than once each seven (7) day
20 period from the time the traps were set. All wildlife
21 caught in any trap or snare shall upon discovery, be
22 removed immediately by the owner. Violation of this
23 subsection constitutes a low misdemeanor punishable as

1 provided in W.S. 23-6-202 (a) (v). ~~After the date gray wolves~~
2 ~~are removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
3 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
4 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23 1 108 the commission may~~
5 ~~enact rules and regulations setting forth the~~
6 ~~specifications for traps and snares used for the taking of~~
7 ~~gray wolves and the time period for checking such traps and~~
8 ~~snares. Except as otherwise provided by commission rule,~~
9 ~~the provisions in this section regulating the trapping of~~
10 ~~furbearing and predatory animals shall apply to the~~
11 ~~trapping of gray wolves.~~

12
13 **23-3-102. Taking certain game animals without license**
14 **or during a closed season prohibited.**

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16 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
17 section, any person who takes any big or trophy game animal
18 ~~or gray wolf where classified as a trophy game animal~~
19 without the proper license or authority is guilty of a high
20 misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202 (a) (ii).
21 The taking of each animal is a separate offense.

22

1 (d) Any person who knowingly takes any antlered elk,
2 antlered deer, antlered moose, horned antelope, bighorn
3 sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, gray wolf, grizzly
4 bear or black bear without the proper license or during a
5 closed season except as otherwise permitted by this act is
6 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less
7 than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) nor more than ten
8 thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), imprisonment for not more
9 than one (1) year, or both.

10
11 **23-3-115. Taking certain animals for damaging**
12 **property.**

13
14 (d) Any gray wolf in the act of attacking any
15 livestock or dog may be immediately taken and killed by the
16 owner of the livestock or dog or an employee of the owner
17 or lessee of the livestock or dog. The owner, employee or
18 lessee shall immediately notify the nearest game warden of
19 the killing of a gray wolf pursuant to this subsection.
20 For purposes of this subsection the "act of attacking" is
21 defined as actual biting, wounding, grasping or killing of
22 livestock or a dog, or chasing, molesting or harassing by a
23 wolf that would indicate to a reasonable person that

1 actual, biting, wounding, grasping or killing of livestock
2 or a dog is likely to occur at any moment.

3
4 **23-3-304. Certain trapping devices unlawful; game for**
5 **bait prohibited; baiting big game animals prohibited;**
6 **penalties.**

7
8 (a) No person shall take or wound any game animal,
9 game bird, or game fish by use of any pit, pitfall, net,
10 trap, deadfall, poison, or other similar device except as
11 otherwise provided. ~~From and after the date gray wolves are~~
12 ~~removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
13 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
14 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, gray wolves may be~~
15 ~~taken with a trap or snare only as allowed by and in~~
16 ~~accordance with rules and regulations of the commission.~~

17
18 **Section 2.** W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix)(B) and (x)(B) and
19 (b), 23-1-101(a)(viii)(B), (xii)(B) and (b), 23-1-108,
20 23-1-109, 23-1-304, 23-3-115(c), 2003 Wyoming Session
21 Laws, Chapter 115, Section 4 and 2008 Wyoming Session Laws,
22 Chapter 168, Sections 1 and 4 are repealed.

23

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

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6

(END)