

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

SENATE FILE NO. _____

Gray wolf management.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Burns

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for management
2 for fifteen breeding pairs of gray wolves in the state;
3 providing for regulation of lethal take permits; providing
4 for the killing of gray wolves doing damage to livestock or
5 domestic animals; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-304(a), (m), (n) and by
10 creating a new subsection (q) and 23-3-115(c) are amended
11 to read:

12

13 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

14

1 (a) The commission shall by rule and regulation
2 establish areas within the state where gray wolves are
3 classified as trophy game animals and set seasons and bag
4 limits within those areas. The areas designated, seasons
5 and bag limits shall be set annually in a manner the
6 commission determines, through rule and regulation, only as
7 necessary to reasonably ensure there are at least fifteen
8 (15) breeding pairs of gray wolves in the state with at
9 least seven (7) of those breeding pairs of gray wolves are
10 located in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone
11 National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D.
12 Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway at the end of the current
13 calendar year.

14

15 (m) The commission shall promulgate rules and
16 regulations ~~requiring~~ permitting and regulating lethal
17 control of wolves harassing, injuring, maiming or killing
18 livestock or other domesticated animals and for wolves
19 occupying geographic areas where chronic wolf predation
20 occurs. The rules and regulations shall provide that
21 nonlethal control actions will be used if lethal control
22 could cause relisting of wolves under the endangered
23 species act or if requested by the livestock or

1 domesticated animal owner or agent. For purposes of this
2 section and subsection (n) of this section, "areas where
3 chronic wolf predation occurs" means a geographic area
4 limited to a specific parcel of private land or a specific
5 grazing allotment described on the permit within the area
6 described in subsection (a) of this section where gray
7 wolves have twice or more within a two (2) month period
8 harassed, injured, maimed or killed livestock or
9 domesticated animals.

10

11 (n) The commission shall promulgate rules and
12 regulations providing for issuance of annual permits to
13 landowners or livestock owners for removing wolves which
14 are harassing, injuring, maiming or killing livestock or
15 other domesticated animals and for wolves occupying
16 geographic areas where chronic wolf predation occurs. The
17 permits ~~shall~~may be issued as long as there are fifteen
18 (15) breeding pairs within the state with seven (7) of
19 those breeding pairs being within the state and outside of
20 Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and
21 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. The rules shall
22 provide for nonissuance, suspending or cancelling permits

1 if further lethal control could cause relisting of wolves
2 under the endangered species act.

3

4 (q) The commission may, to the extent practical,
5 manage gray wolves under this section to ensure that
6 genetic diversity and connectivity issues never threaten
7 the gray wolf population.

8

9 **23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray**
10 **wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for**
11 **damaging property.**

12

13 (c) ~~The provisions of subsection (a) of this section~~
14 ~~relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private~~
15 ~~property shall apply to gray wolves~~ From and after the date
16 gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental
17 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
18 species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108 any gray
19 wolf actually biting, wounding, grasping or killing
20 livestock or domesticated animals or chasing, molesting or
21 harassing livestock or domesticated animals in such a way
22 that would indicate to a reasonable person that biting,
23 wounding, grasping or killing of the livestock or

1 domesticated animals is likely to occur at any minute, may
2 be immediately taken and killed by the owner of the
3 property, employee of the owner or lessee of the property.

4 The owner, employee or lessee acting under authority of
5 this section shall notify the department of the killing of
6 a gray wolf within an area of the state in which the gray
7 wolf is classified as a trophy game animal. The
8 notification shall be made within ten (10) days of the kill
9 unless the gray wolf was taken in an area where wolves have
10 been classified as trophy game animals pursuant to W.S.
11 23-1-304(a) in which case the notification shall be made
12 within seventy-two (72) hours.

13
14 **Section 2.** 2003 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 115,
15 Section 4(c) is amended to read:

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

1 ~~Jr. Memorial Parkway~~ within the state, including
2 Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and
3 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, for at least
4 ~~eight (8) packs~~ fifteen (15) breeding pairs of wolves. ~~The~~
5 ~~game and fish commission shall endeavor to manage big game~~
6 ~~populations providing a prey base for seven (7) packs of~~
7 ~~gray wolves in all other areas of the state in such a~~
8 ~~manner as to mitigate to the greatest extent possible,~~
9 ~~adverse effects on opportunities for licensed hunters to~~
10 ~~take big game.~~

11

12 **Section 4.** 2007 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 168,
13 Section 4 is repealed.

14

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

19

20

(END)