

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Gray wolves-legislative declaration.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jaggi

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for management
2 of gray wolves; repealing contingency provisions for
3 management of gray wolves; providing legislative findings;
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-109(a) and by creating new
9 subsections (g) and (h) is amended to read:

10

11 **23-1-109. State management of gray wolves.**

12

13 (a) ~~Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this~~
14 ~~section, this section~~ The provisions of W.S. 11-6-302, 23-

1 1-101, 23-1-302, 23-1-304 and 23-3-115 insofar as they
2 relate to gray wolves shall become effective:

3
4 (i) ~~after the date~~ Upon the effective date of
5 this act provided that gray wolves ~~are~~ have been removed
6 from the list of experimental nonessential population,
7 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming; ~~or,~~
8 ~~and Wyoming has legal right to exercise full and continuous~~
9 ~~management authority over gray wolves in the entire state~~
10 ~~of Wyoming subject only to federal preemption.~~

11
12 (ii) Not later than May 1, 2009.

13
14 (g) Upon the occurrence of either of the events in
15 subsection (a) of this section, the commission shall assume
16 full management authority over gray wolves in those areas
17 of the state where gray wolves have been designated a
18 trophy game animal pursuant to W.S. 23-1-304.

19
20 (h) The attorney general shall take all actions
21 necessary to defend the authority of the state to manage
22 wolves under this section.

23

1 **Section 2.** W.S. 23-1-109(b) through (e) and (f) are
2 repealed.

3

4 **Section 3.**

5

6 (a) The legislature finds:

7

8 (i) That gray wolves were introduced in
9 Yellowstone National Park in 1994 as a non-essential
10 experimental population;

11

12 (ii) That under the terms of the final rule
13 implementing the reintroduction, wolves located outside of
14 a national park or national wildlife refuge were to be
15 treated under the Endangered Species Act as if they were
16 only proposed for listing and not listed;

17

18 (iii) That the goal of the final rule
19 implementing the reintroduction was to reestablish a viable
20 wolf population in the Yellowstone area, one (1) of three
21 (3) wolf recovery areas identified in the Northern Rocky
22 Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan;

23

1 (iv) That the final rule provided that it would
2 remain in effect until wolf recovery occurs or a scientific
3 review indicates that modifications in the experimental
4 rule are necessary to achieve wolf recovery;

5

6 (v) That a viable wolf population has been
7 established in the Yellowstone area and therefore the final
8 rule is no longer in effect;

9

10 (vi) That because gray wolf populations outside
11 the national parks and wildlife refuge are not deemed to be
12 listed under the Endangered Species Act, delisting is not
13 an essential precondition to the state assuming management
14 authority of wolves in this state.

15

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

20

21

(END)