

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

SENATE FILE NO. _____

Wolf management - repeal of 2007 legislation.

Sponsored by: (s) Sdraft

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for
2 classification of gray wolves; repealing provisions for
3 management of gray wolves as trophy game in specified areas
4 of the state and providing for such management under
5 amended laws; 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. 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), (d), (e), by creating
12 a new subsection (q) and 23-3-115(c) are amended to read:

13

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

1

2 (a) As used in this article:

3

4 (ix) "Predatory animal" means:

5

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

13

14 (II) Classified as a trophy game
15 animal by the game and fish commission pursuant to W.S.
16 ~~23-1-304(a)~~ 23-1-304(q)(i)(A).

17

18 (x) "Trophy game animal" means:

19

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

1

2

(I) "Trophy game animal" shall include

3

any gray wolf within those tracts of land within ~~the~~

4

~~following described area, subject to modification as~~

5

~~authorized in this subdivision: northwest Wyoming beginning~~

6

~~at the east boundary of the Shoshone National Forest and~~

7

~~the Wyoming Montana state line; southerly along said forest~~

8

~~boundary to the common boundary between the Shoshone~~

9

~~National Forest and the Wind River Indian Reservation;~~

10

~~westerly and then southeasterly along the Shoshone National~~

11

~~Forest boundary to the Union Pass Road (USFS Road 263);~~

12

~~southerly along said road until it intersects the north~~

13

~~boundary of the Upper Green River Cattle Association's~~

14

~~grazing allotment on forest service lands; following the~~

15

~~eastern boundary of said allotment southerly and westerly~~

16

~~to the point it intersects the Bridger Teton National~~

17

~~Forest boundary; westerly along said forest boundary to~~

18

~~U.S. Highway 189 191; northwesterly along said highway to~~

19

~~U.S. Highway 26 89 191 at Hoback Junction; northerly along~~

20

~~said highway to Wyoming Highway 22; westerly along said~~

21

~~highway to the Wyoming Idaho state line; north along said~~

22

~~state line to the Wyoming Montana state line; north and~~

23

~~then east along said state line to the east boundary of the~~

1 ~~Shoshone National Forest. This described area may be~~
2 ~~diminished by rule of the game and fish commission if the~~
3 ~~game and fish commission determines the diminution does not~~
4 ~~impede the delisting of gray wolves and will facilitate~~
5 ~~Wyoming's management of wolves~~ the boundaries of Wyoming
6 designated as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton Nation
7 Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and
8 those federally designated wilderness areas contiguous to
9 these national parks and this parkway as defined by the
10 United States congress as of January 1, 2003; and

11

12 (II) "Trophy game animal" shall
13 include any gray wolf within any area of the state where
14 gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the
15 game and fish commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~ 23-1-
16 304(q)(i)(A).

17

18 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

19

20 (a) As used in this act:

21

22 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

23

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

8
9 (II) Classified as a trophy game
10 animal by the commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~ 23-1-
11 304(q)(i)(A).

12

13 (xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

14

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

19

20 (I) "Trophy game animal" shall include
21 any gray wolf within those tracts of land within ~~the~~
22 ~~following described area, subject to modification as~~
23 ~~authorized in this subdivision: northwest Wyoming beginning~~

1 ~~at the east boundary of the Shoshone National Forest and~~
2 ~~the Wyoming Montana state line; southerly along said forest~~
3 ~~boundary to the common boundary between the Shoshone~~
4 ~~National Forest and the Wind River Indian Reservation;~~
5 ~~westerly and then southeasterly along the Shoshone National~~
6 ~~Forest boundary to the Union Pass Road (USFS Road 263);~~
7 ~~southerly along said road until it intersects the north~~
8 ~~boundary of the Upper Green River Cattle Association's~~
9 ~~grazing allotment on forest service lands; following the~~
10 ~~eastern boundary of said allotment southerly and westerly~~
11 ~~to the point it intersects the Bridger Teton National~~
12 ~~Forest boundary; westerly along said forest boundary to~~
13 ~~U.S. Highway 189 191; northwesterly along said highway to~~
14 ~~U.S. Highway 26 89 191 at Hoback Junction; northerly along~~
15 ~~said highway to Wyoming Highway 22; westerly along said~~
16 ~~highway to the Wyoming Idaho state line; north along said~~
17 ~~state line to the Wyoming Montana state line; north and~~
18 ~~then east along said state line to the east boundary of the~~
19 ~~Shoshone National Forest. This described area may be~~
20 ~~diminished by rule of the commission if the commission~~
21 ~~determines the diminution does not impede the delisting of~~
22 ~~gray wolves and will facilitate Wyoming's management of~~
23 ~~wolves~~ the boundaries of Wyoming designated as Yellowstone

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

6
7 (II) "Trophy game animal" shall
8 include any gray wolf within any area of the state where
9 gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the
10 commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~ 23-1-304(q)(i)(A).

11
12 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

13
14 (a) The commission is directed and empowered:

15
16 (xxix) After the date gray wolves are removed
17 from the list of experimental nonessential population,
18 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as
19 provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify gray wolves as
20 predatory or trophy game animals in accordance with W.S.
21 23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which
22 may be taken under a license issued under this act. ~~or as~~

1 ~~necessary to carry out the commission's duties under this~~
2 ~~act.~~

3
4 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

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

1

2 (c) For purposes of this section ~~"breeding pair"~~
3 "pack" means ~~an adult male and an adult female gray wolf~~
4 ~~raising at least two (2) pups of the year until December~~
5 ~~31. The number of breeding pairs shall be certified by the~~
6 ~~department prior to January 31 of each year~~ five (5) or
7 more gray wolves traveling together. If a group of gray
8 wolves consists of more than ten (10) animals known to be
9 traveling together, the commission may, at its discretion,
10 recognize the number of packs within such a group to be
11 equal to the number of reproductively mature females
12 bearing young found within that group of wolves.

13

14 (d) The department shall institute and maintain an
15 active program of population monitoring statewide.
16 ~~Population monitoring shall include the use of global~~
17 ~~positioning systems and radio collaring of gray wolves,~~
18 ~~including use of aerial tracking, necessary to accurately~~
19 ~~determine the population and movement of gray wolves in the~~
20 ~~state. The commission is authorized to enter into memoranda~~
21 ~~of understanding with the United States fish and wildlife~~
22 ~~service or other federal agencies to fund the purchase of~~
23 ~~the necessary technology and to ensure accurate and~~

1 ~~adequate monitoring of wolf population levels and movements~~
2 ~~through global positioning systems and radio collar~~
3 ~~tracking.~~ In all areas of the state, except where
4 otherwise provided, any person who harvests a wolf shall
5 notify the department where the harvest occurred within ten
6 (10) days. Any information regarding the number or nature
7 of wolves legally harvested within the state of Wyoming
8 shall only be released in its aggregate form and no
9 information of a private or confidential nature shall be
10 released without the written consent of the person to whom
11 the information may refer. Information identifying any
12 person legally harvesting a wolf within this state is
13 solely for the use of the department or appropriate law
14 enforcement offices and is not a public record for purposes
15 of W.S. 16-4-201 through 16-4-205.

16

17 (e) The department shall actively monitor big game
18 animal herd populations statewide to determine whether and
19 to what extent the gray wolf is negatively impacting big
20 game animal herds, and thereby hunting opportunities. To
21 the extent permitted by this title, ~~and notwithstanding~~
22 ~~other provisions of this title by those means authorized by~~
23 ~~the commission,~~ the department shall manage the gray wolf

1 population as necessary to ensure the long-term health and
2 viability of any big game animal herd that is being
3 threatened in this state.

4

5 (g) The department shall provide to the commission at
6 least a quarterly monitoring report on the number of gray
7 wolf packs within this state and their general location.
8 Within thirty (30) days of receiving a department report
9 the commission shall at a public meeting:

10

11 (i) Determine if there are less than seven (7)
12 packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily
13 outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National
14 Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and less
15 than fifteen (15) packs within this state, including
16 Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and
17 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. If such a
18 determination is made:

19

20 (A) The commission shall adopt rules and
21 regulations to classify the gray wolf as a trophy game
22 animal and prohibit the taking of gray wolves except as
23 provided by W.S. 23-3-115(c), within that area of the state

1 the commission determines is necessary to reasonably ensure
2 seven (7) packs of gray wolves are located in this state
3 and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand
4 Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial
5 Parkway at the end of the current calendar year;

6
7 (B) At any time that gray wolves are
8 classified as trophy game animals outside of any area
9 specified in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I), the commission
10 shall:

11
12 (I) Meet in public not less than once
13 every ninety (90) days to review the classification and
14 determine the need for its continuance;

15
16 (II) In consultation with the director
17 of the Wyoming department of agriculture, upon receipt of
18 information from the department of agriculture, consider
19 the reclassification of wolves in all or a portion of such
20 area at the commission's next scheduled meeting, or at an
21 earlier meeting of the commission as the commission deems
22 desirable or necessary.

23

1 (ii) Maintain the classification of gray wolves
2 as a predatory animal and trophy game animal as specified
3 in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) and (xii)(B)(I), if it determines
4 there were at least seven (7) packs of gray wolves located
5 in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National
6 Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller,
7 Jr. Memorial Parkway or at least fifteen (15) packs within
8 this state, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand
9 Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial
10 Parkway as of the end of the preceding calendar quarter.

11
12 **23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray**
13 **wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for**
14 **damaging property.**

15
16 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section
17 relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private
18 property shall apply to gray wolves from and after the date
19 gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental
20 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
21 species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108. The owner,
22 employee or lessee acting under authority of this section
23 shall notify the department of the killing of a gray wolf

1 within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is
2 classified as a trophy game animal. The notification shall
3 be made within ten (10) days of the kill unless the gray
4 wolf was taken in an area where wolves have been classified
5 as trophy game animals pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~ 23-1-
6 304(q)(i)(A) in which case the notification shall be made
7 within seventy-two (72) hours.

8

9 **Section 2.** W.S. 11-6-302(b), 23-1-101(b), 23-1-109
10 and 23-1-304(g) through (p) and 2007 Wyoming Session Laws,
11 Chapter 168, Section 4 are repealed.

12

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

17

18

(END)