

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0032

Gray wolf management.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for management
2 of gray wolves in the state; providing for regulation of
3 lethal take permits; providing for the killing of gray
4 wolves doing damage to livestock or domestic animals; and
5 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 creating
10 new subsections (q) and (r) and 23-3-115(c) are amended to
11 read:

12

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

14

15 (a) The commission shall by rule and regulation
16 establish areas within the state where gray wolves are

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

13
14 (m) The commission shall promulgate rules and
15 regulations ~~requiring~~ permitting and regulating lethal
16 control of wolves harassing, injuring, maiming or killing
17 livestock or other domesticated animals and for wolves
18 occupying geographic areas where chronic wolf predation
19 occurs. The rules and regulations shall provide that
20 nonlethal control actions will be used if lethal control
21 could cause relisting of wolves under the endangered
22 species act or if requested by the livestock or
23 domesticated animal owner or agent.

24

1 (n) The commission shall promulgate rules and
2 regulations providing for issuance of annual permits to
3 landowners or livestock owners for removing wolves which
4 are harassing, injuring, maiming or killing livestock or
5 other domesticated animals and for wolves occupying
6 geographic areas where chronic wolf predation occurs. The
7 permits ~~shall~~ may be issued as long as there are ~~seven (7)~~
8 fifteen (15) breeding pairs within the state. ~~and outside~~
9 ~~of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and~~
10 ~~John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.~~ The rules shall
11 provide for nonissuance, suspending or cancelling permits
12 if further lethal control could cause relisting of wolves
13 under the endangered species act.

14

15 (q) The commission may, to the extent practical,
16 manage gray wolves under this section to ensure that
17 genetic diversity and connectivity issues do not threaten
18 the gray wolf population.

19

20 (r) For purposes of this section, "areas where
21 chronic wolf predation occurs" means a geographic area
22 limited to a specific area within the area described in
23 subsection (a) of this section where gray wolves have twice
24 or more within the immediately preceding two (2) month

1 period harassed, injured, maimed or killed livestock or
2 domesticated animals.

3

4 **23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray**
5 **wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for**
6 **damaging property.**

7

8 (c) ~~The provisions of subsection (a) of this section~~
9 ~~relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private~~
10 ~~property shall apply to gray wolves~~ From and after the date
11 gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental
12 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
13 species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108 any gray
14 wolf actually biting, wounding, grasping or killing
15 livestock or domesticated animals or chasing, molesting or
16 harassing livestock or domesticated animals in such a way
17 that would indicate to a reasonable person that biting,
18 wounding, grasping or killing of the livestock or
19 domesticated animals is likely to occur at any minute, may
20 be immediately taken and killed by any person authorized by
21 the owner of the property, employee of the owner or lessee
22 of the property. The ~~owner, employee or lessee~~ person
23 acting under authority of this section shall notify the
24 department of the killing of a gray wolf within an area of

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

7

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

10

11 **Section 4.**

12

13 (c) In order to accomplish the purposes of
14 this act, the game and fish commission ~~shall~~may
15 enter into a memorandum of understanding with
16 appropriate federal agencies under which the
17 commission and federal agencies shall endeavor to
18 manage the prey base for gray wolves in a manner
19 to maintain a sufficient prey base ~~in Yellowstone~~
20 ~~National Park, Grand Teton National Park and John~~
21 ~~D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway~~ within the
22 state, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand
23 Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
24 Memorial Parkway, for at least ~~eight (8) packs~~

1 fifteen (15) breeding pairs of wolves. ~~The game~~
2 ~~and fish commission shall endeavor to manage big~~
3 ~~game populations providing a prey base for seven~~
4 ~~(7) packs of gray wolves in all other areas of~~
5 ~~the state in such a manner as to mitigate to the~~
6 ~~greatest extent possible, adverse effects on~~
7 ~~opportunities for licensed hunters to take big~~
8 ~~game.~~

9
10 **Section 3.** 2007 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 168,
11 Section 4 is repealed.

12
13 **Section 4.** 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)