

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0148

Gray wolves-legislative declaration-2.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jaggi, Brechtel, Childers, Craft, Davison, Hallinan, McKim, McOmie, Philp, Quarberg, Shepperson, Teeters, Thompson and Wallis and Senator(s) Townsend and Vasey

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.

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

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

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

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13 (a) ~~Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this~~  
14 ~~section, this section~~ The provisions of W.S. 11-6-302,  
15 23-1-101, 23-1-302, 23-1-304 and 23-3-115 insofar as they

1 relate to gray wolves shall become effective: ~~after the~~  
2 ~~date~~

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4 (i) April 1, 2009, provided that gray wolves are  
5 have been removed from the list of experimental  
6 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened  
7 species in Wyoming; ~~and Wyoming has legal right to~~  
8 ~~exercise full and continuous management authority over gray~~  
9 ~~wolves in the entire state of Wyoming subject only to~~  
10 ~~federal preemption.~~ or

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

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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.

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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.

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24 **Section 2.** W.S. 23-1-109(b) through (f) is repealed.

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**Section 3.**

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(a) The legislature finds:

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(i) That gray wolves were introduced in Yellowstone National Park in 1994 as a nonessential experimental population;

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(iv) That the final rule provided that it would remain in effect until wolf recovery occurs or a scientific

1 review indicates that modifications in the experimental  
2 status are necessary to achieve wolf recovery;

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

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

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

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(END)