

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0006

Game and fish-trapping.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for the  
2 regulation of methods, procedures and specifications for  
3 trapping and snaring through rule and regulation; providing  
4 time periods for the checking of snares and traps;  
5 providing for exceptions; and providing for effective  
6 dates.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-2-303(d), by creating a new  
11 subsection (e) and by amending and renumbering (e) as (f)  
12 and by renumbering (f) as (g) and 23-3-103(a) are amended  
13 to read:

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1           **23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and**  
2 **snares; penalty; confiscation; inspection; interference**  
3 **with trapping.**

4  
5           (d) The commission, following consultation with other  
6 affected governmental entities, may promulgate rules and  
7 regulations governing the methods, procedures and  
8 specifications for trapping and snaring of furbearing and  
9 predatory animals. All traps and snares used for

10 furbearing or predatory animals shall be permanently marked  
11 or tagged with the name and address of the owner or the  
12 identification number assigned to the owner by the  
13 department. Any identification number attached to a trap  
14 or snare pursuant to this subsection is solely for the use  
15 of the department or appropriate law enforcement officers  
16 and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201  
17 through 16-4-205. ~~No trap or snare shall be set for~~

18 ~~furbearing or predatory animals within thirty (30) feet of~~  
19 ~~any exposed bait or carcass over five (5) pounds in weight.~~

20 ~~As used in this subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means~~  
21 ~~the meat or viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish,~~  
22 ~~excluding dried bones. In addition, All snares used for~~

23 taking furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped  
24 with a break-away locking device. ~~that is designed to~~

1 ~~release at two hundred ninety five (295) pounds of pressure~~  
2 ~~or less and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches~~  
3 ~~in diameter measured side to side.~~ Unless otherwise  
4 specified in this ~~section~~ subsection, all steel-jawed  
5 leghold traps, ~~excluding snares set for furbearing animals~~  
6 ~~and predatory animals and quick kill body grip traps as~~  
7 ~~defined by commission rule and regulation,~~ shall be checked  
8 by the owner at least once during each seventy-two (72)  
9 hour period from the time the traps were set. All snares  
10 and quick kill body grip traps shall be checked by the  
11 owner not less than once each ~~seven (7) day period~~ week  
12 from the time the snares or traps were set. The commission  
13 may through rule and regulation allow specific variations  
14 to trap and snare check periods. All wildlife caught in  
15 any trap or snare shall upon discovery, be removed  
16 immediately by the owner. Violation of this subsection  
17 constitutes a low misdemeanor punishable as provided in  
18 W.S. 23-6-202(a)(v).

19

20 (e) After the date gray wolves are removed from the  
21 list of experimental nonessential population, endangered  
22 species or threatened species in Wyoming as provided by  
23 W.S. 23-1-108 the commission may enact rules and  
24 regulations setting forth the methods, procedures and

1 specifications for traps and snares used for the taking of  
2 gray wolves and the time period for checking such traps and  
3 snares. Except as otherwise provided by commission rule,  
4 the provisions in this section regulating the trapping of  
5 furbearing and predatory animals shall apply to the  
6 trapping of gray wolves.

7  
8 ~~(e)~~(f) Any trap or snare found in the field not  
9 bearing the name and address of the owner of the trap or  
10 snare or the identification number assigned by the  
11 department to the owner of the trap or snare may be  
12 confiscated by any employee of the department. Any  
13 landowner or his agent may inspect any trap or snare set on  
14 his property, ~~and~~ may remove the trap or snare and may  
15 release or remove from the trap or snare any wildlife which  
16 has not been taken lawfully. The landowner or his agent  
17 shall ~~immediately~~ notify the department of any such  
18 wildlife, excluding predatory animals, ~~prior to~~ as soon as  
19 practicably possible after removing the wildlife from a  
20 trap or snare.

21  
22 ~~(f)~~(g) A violation of this subsection constitutes a  
23 low misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S.

1 23-6-202(a)(v). Except as otherwise provided in this  
2 section, no person shall intentionally:

3

4 (i) Tamper with or remove a trap or snare set  
5 and maintained in compliance with this act; or

6

7 (ii) Release or remove a furbearer or predator  
8 from a trap or snare set and maintained in compliance with  
9 this act.

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11 **23-3-103. Taking predatory animals, predacious birds**  
12 **and trophy animals; taking furbearing animals and game**  
13 **birds without license prohibited.**

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15 (a) Predatory animals and predacious birds may be  
16 taken without a license in any manner and at any time  
17 except as provided by W.S. 23-2-303(d) and (e), 23-3-112,  
18 23-3-304(b), 23-3-305 and 23-3-307. The department shall  
19 report annually to the Wyoming department of agriculture  
20 the number of predatory animals and predacious birds taken  
21 by the department's animal damage control agents, and  
22 include in the report the area where taken and the control  
23 method used.

24

1           **Section 2.** The commission shall adopt final rules to  
2 implement this act not later than July 1, 2009.

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4           **Section 3.**

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6           (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of  
7 this section, this act is effective July 1, 2009.

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9           (b) Section 2 of this act is effective immediately  
10 upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become  
11 law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
12 Constitution.

13

14

(END)