

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0021

Gray wolf-trophy game status.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Gingery

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; providing for management
 2 of wolves as trophy game animals throughout the state;
 3 modifying penalty provisions for improper taking of a gray
 4 wolf; providing for taking of gray wolves in additional
 5 situations as specified; repealing inconsistent provisions;
 6 and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix)(A) and (x)(A),
 11 23-1-101(a)(viii)(A) and (xii)(A), 23-1-103,
 12 23-1-302(a)(xxix), 23-2-101(j)(xliii)(intro), 23-2-104(e),
 13 23-2-303(d), 23-3-102(a) and (d), 23-3-115 by creating a
 14 new subsection (d) and 23-3-304(a) are amended to read:

15

16 **11-6-302. Definitions.**

17

1 (a) As used in this article:

2

3 (ix) "Predatory animal" means:

4

5 (A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon,
6 red fox, skunk or stray cat. ~~and~~

7

8 (x) "Trophy game animal" means:

9

10 (A) Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf or
11 mountain lion. ~~and~~

12

13 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

14

15 (a) As used in this act:

16

17 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

18

19 (A) Coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon,
20 red fox, skunk or stray cat. ~~and~~

21

22 (xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

23

1 (A) Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf or
 2 mountain lion. ~~and~~

3

4 **23-1-103. Ownership of wildlife; purpose of**
 5 **provisions.**

6

7 For the purpose of this act, all wildlife in Wyoming is the
 8 property of the state. It is the purpose of this act and
 9 the policy of the state to provide an adequate and flexible
 10 system for control, propagation, management, protection and
 11 regulation of all Wyoming wildlife. There shall be no
 12 private ownership of live animals classified in this act as
 13 big or trophy game animals or of any ~~wolf or~~ wolf hybrid.

14

15 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

16

17 (a) The commission is directed and empowered:

18

19 (xxix) ~~After the date gray wolves are removed~~
 20 ~~from the list of experimental nonessential population,~~
 21 ~~endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as~~
 22 ~~provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify~~ To manage gray
 23 wolves and to regulate the taking of gray wolves as
 24 ~~predatory or~~ trophy game animals ~~in accordance with W.S.~~

1 ~~23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which~~
 2 ~~may be taken under a license issued under this act or as~~
 3 ~~necessary~~ appropriate to carry out the commission's duties
 4 under this act. The commission shall manage and regulate
 5 the taking of gray wolves in a manner consistent with that
 6 of other trophy game and in a manner which facilitates the
 7 removal of the gray wolf from the list of experimental
 8 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened
 9 species in Wyoming and prevents any such future listing of
 10 the gray wolf.

11

12 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**
 13 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**
 14 **required.**

15

16 (j) Subject to W.S. 23-2-101(f), 23-1-705(e) and the
 17 applicable fee under W.S. 23-1-701, the following hunting
 18 licenses and tags may be purchased for the fee indicated
 19 and subject to the limitations provided:

20

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

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

23-2-104. Archery licenses; special seasons; prohibition against firearms; equipment.

(e) When hunting antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, gray wolf, mountain goat or mountain lion the longbow hunter must be equipped with a longbow of not less than forty (40) pounds draw weight or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of four hundred (400) grain weight at least one hundred sixty (160) yards. When hunting elk, grizzly bear or moose, the longbow hunter must be equipped with a longbow of not less than fifty (50) pounds draw weight or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of five hundred (500) grain weight at least one hundred sixty (160) yards. The crossbow hunter must be equipped with a crossbow of not less than ninety (90) pounds draw weight which has a minimum draw length of fourteen (14) inches (from front of bow to back of string in the cocked position) and a positive safety mechanism. Crossbow bolts must be at least sixteen (16) inches long. The broadhead of arrows or bolts shall be of sharp steel with a minimum cutting width of one (1) inch. ~~The provisions of this subsection relating to the hunting of antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat and mountain lion~~

1 ~~shall also apply to the hunting of the gray wolf as a~~
2 ~~trophy game animal from and after the date gray wolves are~~
3 ~~removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
4 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
5 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108.~~

6
7 **23-2-303. Trapping licenses; tagging; traps and**
8 **snares; penalty; confiscation; inspection; interference**
9 **with trapping.**

10
11 (d) All traps and snares used for furbearing or
12 predatory animals shall be permanently marked or tagged
13 with the name and address of the owner or the
14 identification number assigned to the owner by the
15 department. Any identification number attached to a trap
16 or snare pursuant to this subsection is solely for the use
17 of the department or appropriate law enforcement officers
18 and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201
19 through 16-4-205. No trap or snare shall be set for
20 furbearing or predatory animals within thirty (30) feet of
21 any exposed bait or carcass over five (5) pounds in weight.
22 As used in this subsection, "exposed bait or carcass" means
23 the meat or viscera of any part of a mammal, bird or fish,
24 excluding dried bones. In addition, all snares used for

1 taking furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped
2 with a break-away locking device that is designed to
3 release at two hundred ninety-five (295) pounds of pressure
4 or less and a snare loop not to exceed twelve (12) inches
5 in diameter measured side to side. Unless otherwise
6 specified in this section, all traps, excluding snares set
7 for furbearing animals and predatory animals and quick kill
8 body grip traps as defined by commission rule and
9 regulation, shall be checked by the owner at least once
10 during each seventy-two (72) hour period from the time the
11 traps were set. Quick kill body grip traps shall be
12 checked by the owner not less than once each seven (7) day
13 period from the time the traps were set. All wildlife
14 caught in any trap or snare shall upon discovery, be
15 removed immediately by the owner. Violation of this
16 subsection constitutes a low misdemeanor punishable as
17 provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(v). ~~After the date gray wolves~~
18 ~~are removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
19 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
20 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108 the commission may~~
21 ~~enact rules and regulations setting forth the~~
22 ~~specifications for traps and snares used for the taking of~~
23 ~~gray wolves and the time period for checking such traps and~~
24 ~~snares. Except as otherwise provided by commission rule,~~

1 ~~the provisions in this section regulating the trapping of~~
2 ~~furbearing and predatory animals shall apply to the~~
3 ~~trapping of gray wolves.~~

4
5 **23-3-102. Taking certain game animals without license**
6 **or during a closed season prohibited.**

7
8 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
9 section, any person who takes any big or trophy game animal
10 ~~or gray wolf where classified as a trophy game animal~~
11 without the proper license or authority is guilty of a high
12 misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii).
13 The taking of each animal is a separate offense.

14
15 (d) Any person who knowingly takes any antlered elk,
16 antlered deer, antlered moose, horned antelope, bighorn
17 sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, gray wolf, grizzly
18 bear or black bear without the proper license or during a
19 closed season except as otherwise permitted by this act is
20 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less
21 than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) nor more than ten
22 thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), imprisonment for not more
23 than one (1) year, or both.

24

1 **23-3-115. Taking certain animals for damaging**
2 **property.**

3
4 (d) Any gray wolf in the act of attacking any
5 livestock or dog may be immediately taken and killed by the
6 owner of the livestock or dog or an employee of the owner
7 or lessee of the livestock or dog. The owner, employee or
8 lessee shall immediately notify the nearest game warden of
9 the killing of a gray wolf pursuant to this subsection.
10 For purposes of this subsection the "act of attacking" is
11 defined as actual biting, wounding, grasping or killing of
12 livestock or a dog, or chasing, molesting or harassing by a
13 wolf that would indicate to a reasonable person that
14 actual, biting, wounding, grasping or killing of livestock
15 or a dog is likely to occur at any moment.

16
17 **23-3-304. Certain trapping devices unlawful; game for**
18 **bait prohibited; baiting big game animals prohibited;**
19 **penalties.**

20
21 (a) No person shall take or wound any game animal,
22 game bird, or game fish by use of any pit, pitfall, net,
23 trap, deadfall, poison, or other similar device except as
24 otherwise provided. ~~From and after the date gray wolves are~~

1 ~~removed from the list of experimental nonessential~~
2 ~~population, endangered species or threatened species in~~
3 ~~Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108, gray wolves may be~~
4 ~~taken with a trap or snare only as allowed by and in~~
5 ~~accordance with rules and regulations of the commission.~~

6

7 **Section 2.** W.S. 11-6-302(a)(ix)(B) and (x)(B) and
8 (b), 23-1-101(a)(viii)(B), (xii)(B) and (b), 23-1-108,
9 23-1-109, 23-1-304, 23-3-115(c), 2003 Wyoming Session
10 Laws, Chapter 115, Section 4 and 2007 Wyoming Session Laws,
11 Chapter 168, Sections 1 and 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)