

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0245

Wolf management-repeal of 2007 legislation-2.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Brown

## 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) and by  
 12 creating a new subsection (q) and 23-3-115(c) are amended  
 13 to read:

14

15       **11-6-302. Definitions.**

16

17       (a) As used in this article:

1

2 (ix) "Predatory animal" means:

3

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

11

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

15

16 (x) "Trophy game animal" means:

17

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

22

23 (I) "Trophy game animal" shall include  
24 any gray wolf within those tracts of land within the

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

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

7  
8 (II) "Trophy game animal" shall  
9 include any gray wolf within any area of the state where  
10 gray wolves are classified as trophy game animals by the  
11 game and fish commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~  
12 23-1-304(q)(i)(A).

13

14 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

15

16 (a) As used in this act:

17

18 (viii) "Predatory animal" means:

19

20 (B) Until the date gray wolves are removed  
21 from the list of experimental nonessential population,  
22 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as  
23 provided by W.S. 23-1-108, "predatory animal" includes  
24 wolves. After that date, "predatory animal" shall include

1 any gray wolf not within an area of the state in which the  
2 gray wolf is:

3

4 (II) Classified as a trophy game  
5 animal by the commission pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~  
6 23-1-304(q)(i)(A).

7

8 (xii) "Trophy game animal" means:

9

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

14

15 (I) "Trophy game animal" shall include  
16 any gray wolf within those tracts of land within the  
17 ~~following described area, subject to modification as~~  
18 ~~authorized in this subdivision: northwest Wyoming beginning~~  
19 ~~at the east boundary of the Shoshone National Forest and~~  
20 ~~the Wyoming Montana state line; southerly along said forest~~  
21 ~~boundary to the common boundary between the Shoshone~~  
22 ~~National Forest and the Wind River Indian Reservation;~~  
23 ~~westerly and then southeasterly along the Shoshone National~~  
24 ~~Forest boundary to the Union Pass Road (USFS Road 263);~~

1 ~~southerly along said road until it intersects the north~~  
2 ~~boundary of the Upper Green River Cattle Association's~~  
3 ~~grazing allotment on forest service lands; following the~~  
4 ~~eastern boundary of said allotment southerly and westerly~~  
5 ~~to the point it intersects the Bridger-Teton National~~  
6 ~~Forest boundary; westerly along said forest boundary to~~  
7 ~~U.S. Highway 189-191; northwesterly along said highway to~~  
8 ~~U.S. Highway 26 89 191 at Hoback Junction; northerly along~~  
9 ~~said highway to Wyoming Highway 22; westerly along said~~  
10 ~~highway to the Wyoming Idaho state line; north along said~~  
11 ~~state line to the Wyoming Montana state line; north and~~  
12 ~~then east along said state line to the east boundary of the~~  
13 ~~Shoshone National Forest. This described area may be~~  
14 ~~diminished by rule of the commission if the commission~~  
15 ~~determines the diminution does not impede the delisting of~~  
16 ~~gray wolves and will facilitate Wyoming's management of~~  
17 ~~wolves~~ boundaries of Wyoming designated as Yellowstone  
18 National Park, Grand Teton National Park, John D.  
19 Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and those federally  
20 designated wilderness areas contiguous to these national  
21 parks and this parkway as defined by the United States  
22 congress as of January 1, 2003; and

23

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

5

6 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

7

8 (a) The commission is directed and empowered:

9

10 (xxix) After the date gray wolves are removed  
11 from the list of experimental nonessential population,  
12 endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming as  
13 provided by W.S. 23-1-108, to classify gray wolves as  
14 predatory or trophy game animals in accordance with W.S.  
15 23-1-304, and to regulate the number of gray wolves which  
16 may be taken under a license issued under this act. ~~or as~~  
17 ~~necessary to carry out the commission's duties under this~~  
18 ~~act.~~

19

20 **23-1-304. Classification of gray wolves.**

21

22 (a) The commission shall ~~by rule and regulation~~  
23 ~~establish areas within the state where gray wolves are~~  
24 ~~classified as trophy game animals and set seasons and bag~~

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

16  
17 (c) For purposes of this section ~~"breeding pair"~~  
18 "pack" means ~~an adult male and an adult female gray wolf~~  
19 ~~raising at least two (2) pups of the year until December~~  
20 ~~31. The number of breeding pairs shall be certified by the~~  
21 ~~department prior to January 31 of each year~~ five (5) or  
22 more gray wolves traveling together. If a group of gray  
23 wolves consists of more than ten (10) animals known to be  
24 traveling together, the commission may, at its discretion,



1 recognize the number of packs within such a group to be  
2 equal to the number of reproductively mature females  
3 bearing young found within that group of wolves.

4  
5 (d) The department shall institute and maintain an  
6 active program of population monitoring statewide.  
7 ~~Population monitoring shall include the use of global~~  
8 ~~positioning systems and radio collaring of gray wolves,~~  
9 ~~including use of aerial tracking, necessary to accurately~~  
10 ~~determine the population and movement of gray wolves in the~~  
11 ~~state. The commission is authorized to enter into memoranda~~  
12 ~~of understanding with the United States fish and wildlife~~  
13 ~~service or other federal agencies to fund the purchase of~~  
14 ~~the necessary technology and to ensure accurate and~~  
15 ~~adequate monitoring of wolf population levels and movements~~  
16 ~~through global positioning systems and radio collar~~  
17 ~~tracking.~~ In all areas of the state, except where otherwise  
18 provided, any person who harvests a wolf shall notify the  
19 department where the harvest occurred within ten (10) days.  
20 Any information regarding the number or nature of wolves  
21 legally harvested within the state of Wyoming shall only be  
22 released in its aggregate form and no information of a  
23 private or confidential nature shall be released without  
24 the written consent of the person to whom the information

1 may refer. Information identifying any person legally  
2 harvesting a wolf within this state is solely for the use  
3 of the department or appropriate law enforcement offices  
4 and is not a public record for purposes of W.S. 16-4-201  
5 through 16-4-205.

6

7 (e) The department shall actively monitor big game  
8 animal herd populations statewide to determine whether and  
9 to what extent the gray wolf is negatively impacting big  
10 game animal herds, and thereby hunting opportunities. To  
11 the extent permitted by this title, ~~and notwithstanding~~  
12 ~~other provisions of this title by those means authorized by~~  
13 ~~the commission,~~ the department shall manage the gray wolf  
14 population as necessary to ensure the long-term health and  
15 viability of any big game animal herd that is being  
16 threatened in this state.

17

18 (g) The department shall provide to the commission at  
19 least a quarterly monitoring report on the number of gray  
20 wolf packs within this state and their general location.  
21 Within thirty (30) days of receiving a department report  
22 the commission shall at a public meeting:

23

1           (i) Determine if there are less than seven (7)  
2 packs of gray wolves located in this state and primarily  
3 outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National  
4 Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and less  
5 than fifteen (15) packs within this state, including  
6 Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and  
7 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. If such a  
8 determination is made:

9  
10           (A) The commission shall adopt rules and  
11 regulations to classify the gray wolf as a trophy game  
12 animal and prohibit the taking of gray wolves except as  
13 provided by W.S. 23-3-115(c), within that area of the state  
14 the commission determines is necessary to reasonably ensure  
15 seven (7) packs of gray wolves are located in this state  
16 and primarily outside of Yellowstone National Park, Grand  
17 Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial  
18 Parkway at the end of the current calendar year;

19  
20           (B) At any time that gray wolves are  
21 classified as trophy game animals outside of any area  
22 specified in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I), the commission  
23 shall:

24

1                   (I) Meet in public not less than once  
2 every ninety (90) days to review the classification and  
3 determine the need for its continuance;

4  
5                   (II) In consultation with the director  
6 of the Wyoming department of agriculture, upon receipt of  
7 information from the department of agriculture, consider  
8 the reclassification of wolves in all or a portion of such  
9 area at the commission's next scheduled meeting, or at an  
10 earlier meeting of the commission as the commission deems  
11 desirable or necessary.

12  
13                   (ii) Maintain the classification of gray wolves  
14 as a predatory animal and trophy game animal as specified  
15 in W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) and (xii)(B)(I), if it determines  
16 there were at least seven (7) packs of gray wolves located  
17 in this state and primarily outside of Yellowstone National  
18 Park, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller,  
19 Jr. Memorial Parkway or at least fifteen (15) packs within  
20 this state, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand  
21 Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial  
22 Parkway as of the end of the preceding calendar quarter.

23

1           23-3-115. Taking black bear, mountain lion, gray  
2 wolf, bobcat, weasel, badger, squirrels or muskrat for  
3 damaging property.

4  
5           (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section  
6 relating to the taking of animals doing damage to private  
7 property shall apply to gray wolves from and after the date  
8 gray wolves are removed from the list of experimental  
9 nonessential population, endangered species or threatened  
10 species in Wyoming as provided by W.S. 23-1-108. The owner,  
11 employee or lessee acting under authority of this section  
12 shall notify the department of the killing of a gray wolf  
13 within an area of the state in which the gray wolf is  
14 classified as a trophy game animal. The notification shall  
15 be made within ten (10) days of the kill unless the gray  
16 wolf was taken in an area where wolves have been classified  
17 as trophy game animals pursuant to W.S. ~~23-1-304(a)~~  
18 23-1-304(q)(i)(A) in which case the notification shall be  
19 made within seventy-two (72) hours.

20

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

24

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

5

6

(END)