## WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

## CHAPTER 47

## GRAY WOLF HUNTING SEASONS

**Section 1. Authority.** This regulation is promulgated by the authority of W.S. §23-1-101, §23-1-102, §23-1-108, §23-1-302, §23-1-304, §23-2-104, §23-2-303, §23-3-111, §23-3-115 and §23-3-304.

**Section 2. Definitions.** For the purpose of this regulation, definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) "Mortality" means any legal or illegal human-caused gray wolf death, excluding gray wolves taken by the Department, gray wolves taken under the authority of W.S. §23-3-115(c), gray wolves taken under Lethal Take Permits and known natural and accidental gray wolf deaths.

**Section 3. Hunting Seasons Established.** There shall be open seasons during 2012 for the hunting of gray wolves as set forth in this regulation. This regulation shall go into effect from and after the date gray wolves are removed from the federal list of experimental nonessential populations, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming. This regulation shall remain in effect until modified or repealed by the Commission.

**Section 4. Hunting Regulations for Gray Wolves Designated as Trophy Game Animals.**

(a) All gray wolves within the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area and Seasonal Wolf Trophy Game Management Area as described in W.S. §23-1-101(a)(xii)(B)(I) and (II) are designated as trophy game animals. These regulations, and any allowance for hunting, do not apply to lands administered by the National Park Service within Grand Teton National Park or the National Elk Refuge. Gray wolves in Wyoming are designated as predatory animals as defined in W.S. §23-1-101(a)(viii) except for:

(i) Those areas where gray wolves are designated as trophy game animals; and,

(ii) Yellowstone National Park; and,

(iii) The Wind River Reservation, except on non-Indian owned fee titled lands.

(b) Gray wolves shall only be taken during open seasons with legal firearms and archery equipment, except as otherwise provided by Wyoming statutes and Commission regulations.

(c) Open hours for the taking of gray wolves. Gray wolves may only be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(d) No person, except as authorized by the Department, shall take a gray wolf with the use of or by the aid of radio tracking equipment.

(e) Bag and possession limit. The bag and possession limits for any person with a proper license shall be one (1) gray wolf during any one (1) calendar year (January 1 – December 31). Licensed hunters may take any gray wolf.

(f) Reporting and registering kills. Hunters taking a gray wolf in the hunt areas described in Section 6 shall retain the pelt and skull from each gray wolf for registration purposes. Even if the skull is damaged, it shall accompany the pelt for registration purposes. Visible external evidence of sex shall

remain naturally attached to the pelt. The pelt and skull shall be presented in an unfrozen condition to allow collection of biological samples and to determine the age and sex of the gray wolf.

(i) Within twenty-four (24) hours after taking a gray wolf, the licensee shall report the taking of a gray wolf by calling toll free **1-800-264-1280**. The report shall include the name of the person making the report, hunter's name and license number, date of the kill and location of the site of kill to include hunt area.

(ii) Within five (5) days after taking a gray wolf, the licensee taking the gray wolf shall present the pelt and skull to a district game warden, district wildlife biologist or Department personnel at a Game and Fish Department Regional Office during business hours for registration. The licensee shall provide his license number, date of kill and location of the site of kill to include hunt area, section, township and range or UTM coordinates.

(iii) Any person who makes a false statement on the registration form regarding the date the gray wolf was taken or the hunt area in which it was taken shall be in violation of this regulation and, such violation shall be punishable as provided by Title 23, Wyoming Statutes for violation of Commission regulations.

(g) Surrender of electronic radio tracking devices. Any person taking a gray wolf wearing an electronic radio tracking device within the hunt areas described in Section 6 shall surrender the device to the Department in accordance with registration dates in Section 4(f)(ii).

(h) Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Mortality Quota and Limitations.

| **Hunt Area** | **Season Dates** | | **Mortality Quota** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Opens** | **Closes** | |
| 1 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 4 |
| 2 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 8 |
| 3 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 8 |
| 4 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 3 |
| 5 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 5 |
| 6 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 3; SEE SECTION 4(i) |
| 7 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 1 |
| 8 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 7 |
| 9 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 2 |
| 10 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 2 |
| 11 | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | 7 |
| 12 | Oct. 15 | Dec. 31 | 2; SEE SECTION 4(j) |

(i) Gray wolf hunting shall be closed in that portion of Hunt Area 6 in the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway.

(j) Gray wolves located in Hunt Area 12 are designated as trophy game animals from October 15 through the last day of February in the subsequent year, but the hunting season shall end on December 31 or when the mortality quota is filled, whichever occurs first, as set forth in Section 4(h). Gray wolves located in Hunt Area 12 are designated as predatory animals from March 1 through October 14 and during this time period may be taken without a license.

(k) Hunt area mortality quota limitation. The gray wolf hunting season shall close in each wolf hunt area when the mortality quota for that area has been reached. If the mortality quota is not reached, the season shall close upon the date specified in Section 4(h). Prior to hunting, it is the hunter's responsibility to confirm the hunt area the person intends to hunt is open. The status of hunt area closures shall be available twenty-four (24) hours a day by calling toll free **1-800-264-1280**.

**Section 5. Archery.** Gray wolves may be taken with legal archery equipment in all hunt areas as set forth in Section 4 of this Chapter.

**Section 6. Hunt Area Descriptions.**

(a) Area and Number.

**Area 1. Clarks Fork.** All of the area north of the Clark's Fork River and west of Wyoming Highway 120; all of the drainage of Pat O'Hara Creek, Paint Creek, Newmeyer Creek and Dead Indian Gulch west of Wyoming Highway 120; all of the drainage of Jim Creek, Trout Creek and Rattlesnake Creek north of the North Fork of the Shoshone River; all of the drainage of Cottonwood Creek, Dry Creek and Trail Creek west of Wyoming Highway 120.

**Area 2. Sunlight.** All of the drainage of Soda Butte Creek outside of Yellowstone National Park; all of the south drainage of the Clark's Fork River down to and including the drainage of Dead Indian Creek.

**Area 3. Absaroka.** All of the north and west drainage of the North Fork of the Shoshone River down to but excluding the drainage of Jim Creek; all of the south drainage of the North Fork of the Shoshone River outside of Yellowstone National Park; all of the north and west drainage of the South Fork of the Shoshone River below and including the drainage of Ishawooa Creek; all of the drainage of the Yellowstone River upstream from Yellowstone Lake outside of Yellowstone National Park.

**Area 4. Greybull.** Beginning where Wyoming Highway 120 crosses the Shoshone River in the town of Cody; southerly along said highway to the Greybull River in the town of Meeteetse; southwesterly up said river to the Wood River; southwesterly up said river to the Shoshone National Forest boundary; southerly along said boundary to the Hot Springs County-Fremont County line; northwesterly along said county line to the Park County-Fremont County line; northwesterly then southwesterly along said county line to the Continental Divide at Crescent Mountain; northerly along said divide to the divide between the Yellowstone River drainage and the South Fork of the Shoshone River drainage; northerly along said divide to the divide between Ishawooa Creek and the South Fork of the Shoshone River; northeasterly along said divide to the South Fork of the Shoshone River; northeasterly down said river to the Shoshone River at Buffalo Bill Reservoir; easterly down said river to Wyoming Highway 120.

**Area 5. Wind River.** All of the drainage of the Wind River west of the west boundary of the Wind River Reservation.

**Area 6. Pacific Creek.** Beginning where the Continental Divide crosses the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park; southeasterly then southwesterly along said divide to U.S. Highway 26-287 at Togwotee Pass; westerly along said highway to the east boundary of Grand Teton National Park; northwesterly along said boundary to the Targhee National Forest boundary; northerly along said boundary to the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park; easterly along said boundary to the Continental Divide.

**Area 7. Targhee.** Beginning where Wyoming Highway 22 crosses the Wyoming-Idaho state line; northerly along said line to the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park; easterly along said boundary to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest boundary with the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway boundary; southerly along said boundary to the Grand Teton National Park boundary; southerly

along said boundary to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary; southerly along said boundary to Teton Pass and Wyoming Highway 22; westerly along said highway to the Wyoming-Idaho state line.

**Area 8. Fish Creek.** Beginning where U.S. Highway 26-287 crosses the east boundary of Grand Teton National Park; easterly along said highway to the Continental Divide at Togwotee Pass; southerly along said divide to the Union Pass Road (U.S.F.S. Road 600); westerly then southerly along said road to the Darwin Ranch Road (U.S.F.S. Road 620); westerly along said road to Kinky Creek; northwesterly down said creek to the Gros Ventre River; northwesterly down said river to the east boundary of Grand Teton National Park east of the town of Kelly; northerly along said boundary to U.S. Highway 26-287. In addition, a noncontiguous area shall be included in the hunt area described as beginning where the Caribou-Targhee National Forest boundary crosses Wyoming Highway 22 at Teton Pass; northerly along said boundary to the Grand Teton National Park boundary; northeasterly then southerly along said boundary to U.S. Highway 26-89-191; southerly along said highway to its junction with Wyoming Highway 22; westerly along said highway to Teton Pass.

**Area 9. Crystal Creek.** Beginning where the Gros Ventre River crosses the National Elk Refuge boundary near the town of Kelly; southeasterly up said river to Kinky Creek; southeasterly up said creek to the Darwin Ranch Road (U.S.F.S. Road 620); southerly along said road to the divide between the Green River and Gros Ventre River; southwesterly along said divide to the divide between the Gros Ventre River and Hoback River north of Hodges Peak; northwesterly along said divide to the divide between Granite Creek and Flat Creek northwest of Pyramid Peak; southwesterly along said divide to the divide between Flat Creek and Cache Creek at Cache Peak; northwesterly along said divide to the divide between Twin Creeks and Cache Creek; northwesterly along said divide to the National Elk Refuge boundary; northeasterly along said boundary to the Gros Ventre River.

**Area 10. Rim.** Beginning where U.S. Highway 26-89-191 crosses Flat Creek at the north edge of the town of Jackson; due east to the National Elk Refuge boundary; easterly along said boundary to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary and the ridge between Twin Creeks and Cache Creek; southeasterly along said ridge and the divide between Flat Creek and Cache Creek to Cache Peak; easterly along the divide between Flat Creek and Granite Creek to Pyramid Peak; southeasterly along the divide between the Gros Ventre River and the Hoback River to Steamboat Peak; southeasterly along said divide to the divide between the Green River and the Hoback River at Hodges Peak; southerly along said divide to U.S. Highway 189-191 at Hoback Rim; northwesterly along said highway to the intersection with U.S. Highway 26-89-191; northerly along said highway to where it crosses Flat Creek at the north edge of the town of Jackson.

**Area 11. Green River.** Beginning where the Union Pass Road (U.S.F.S. Road 600) intersects the Continental Divide; southerly along said divide to the Middle Fork of Boulder Creek; westerly down said creek to Boulder Creek; westerly down said creek to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary; northwesterly along said boundary to its intersection with U.S. Highway 189-191 at the divide between the Hoback River and the Green River (Hoback Rim); northerly along said divide to the divide between the Green River and the Gros Ventre River at Hodges Peak; northeasterly along said divide to the Darwin Ranch Road (U.S.F.S. Road 620); easterly along said road to the Union Pass Road (U.S.F.S. Road 600); northerly then easterly along said road to the Continental Divide.

**Area 12. Alpine.** Beginning where the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary intersects U.S. Highway 189-191 at the divide between the Hoback River and the Green River (Hoback Rim); westerly and then southerly along said forest boundary to its intersection with McDougal Gap Road (U.S.F.S. Road 10125); westerly along said road to Grey's River Road (U.S.F.S. Road 10138); southerly along said road to Sheep Creek; westerly down said creek to Grey's River; southwesterly up said river to Bear Creek; southwesterly up said creek to the hydrographic divide between Bear Creek and Willow Creek; west from said divide to Willow Creek Road (U.S.F.S. Road 10080); northwesterly along said road to Lincoln County Road 123; southerly along said road to Grover Park Road (U.S.F.S. Road 10081); southerly then westerly along said road to Lincoln County Road 172; westerly along said road to the

junction with Wyoming Highway 237; westerly along said highway to Wyoming Highway 238; southerly along said highway to Lincoln County Road 134; westerly along said road to the Wyoming-Idaho state line; north along said state line to Wyoming Highway 22; easterly along said highway to the intersection with U.S. Highway 26-89-191 in the town of Jackson; southerly along said highway to the intersection with U.S. Highway 189-191; southeasterly along said highway to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary at the divide between the Hoback River and the Green River (Hoback Rim).

**Section 7. Area Closures.** Areas administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in which human presence is prohibited to protect wintering wildlife shall be closed to gray wolf hunting during the time period for which the areas have been closed to human presence.

**Section 8. Take of Wolves Designated as Predatory Animals.**

(a) Any person who takes a wolf designated as a predatory animal as set forth in Section 4(a) shall be required to report the kill to a district game warden, district wildlife biologist or Department personnel at a Game and Fish Department Regional Office within ten (10) days after the date the wolf was killed. The person shall be required to provide his or her name and address, the date the wolf was killed, the sex of the wolf and the location of the site of kill (identified by the section, range and township, or UTM coordinates). In addition, the Department may request the person to voluntarily provide a genetics sample from the wolf for testing to assess genetic connectivity.

(b) Surrender of electronic radio tracking devices. Any person taking a gray wolf designated as a predatory animal as set forth in Section 4(a) wearing an electronic radio tracking device shall surrender the device to the Department when registering a wolf in accordance with registration dates in Section 8(a).

**Section 9. Violation of Commission Regulations.** Failure to abide by the provisions of this regulation shall be punishable as provided by Wyoming statutes for violation of Commission regulations.

**Section 10. Savings Clause.** If any provision of this regulation shall be held to be illegal or unconstitutional, such a ruling shall not affect other provisions of this regulation which can be given effect without the illegal or unconstitutional provision; and, to this end, the provisions of this regulation shall be severable.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By: _____
Aaron Clark, President

Dated: April 25, 2012