WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 34

DEPREDATION PREVENTION HUNTING SEASONS

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by authority of W.S. §23-1-302.

Section 2. Definitions. Definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, Commission regulations, and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) “Depredation prevention hunting seasons” means hunting seasons for big game animals causing damage to land, growing cultivated crops, stored crops, seed crops, improvements or causing extraordinary damage to grass; hunting seasons for trophy game animals causing damage to livestock, and bees or honey and hives; or, hunting seasons for big game animals for the purpose of disease management.

(b) “Harvest year” means twelve (12) consecutive months beginning November 1 of each year through October 31 of the following year.

Section 3. Establishment of Areas. The Chief Game Warden through his designee shall verify and determine the extent of alleged damage or disease management needs and shall, with the written consent of the District Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner and the private landowner(s) involved, designate the area to be opened to hunting, the opening and closing dates of the hunt, the maximum number of licenses to be issued, the number, sex and species of big or trophy game animals to be taken and any applicable firearm or weapon type restrictions.

Section 4. Supervision of Hunters. Hunting shall be done under the supervision or direction of Department personnel or the cooperating landowner(s) or the landowner(s)’s agent(s). Department personnel shall accompany hunters when it is deemed necessary to accomplish the desired goals of the depredation prevention hunting season or when other factors require the presence of Department personnel with the hunter.

Section 5. Application, Selection of Hunters and Priority List(s).

(a) Applications shall be made on a form provided by the Department and submitted to the Department Regional Office(s) listed in this section where participation is desired. Applicants shall apply annually between July 15 and 5:00 p.m. October 31 to be included on priority lists. Applicants shall make separate application for each species.

Casper Regional Office  3030 Energy Lane, Suite 100, Casper, WY 82604
Cody Regional Office  2820 State Hwy 120, Cody, WY 82414
Green River Regional Office  351 Astle, Green River, WY 82935
Jackson Regional Office  P O Box 67, Jackson, WY 83001
Lander Regional Office  260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY 82520
Laramie Regional Office  528 South Adams, Laramie, WY 82070
Pinedale Regional Office  P O Box 850, Pinedale, WY 82941
Sheridan Regional Office  P O Box 6249, Sheridan, WY 82801

(i) Selection for ranking and name placement on depredation prevention priority lists shall be determined by random selection. The priority lists shall remain in effect for a twelve (12) month period beginning November 1 each year. However, if sufficient applications have not been received during the
application period from which to recruit the desired number of hunters, applications shall be accepted by
the Department on a first come, first served basis until sufficient numbers of applications exist from which
to recruit the desired number of hunters.

(ii) When the Department determines a depredation prevention hunting season may be
held, applicants on the priority list(s) shall be notified by telephone in the order of their priority ranking.
Department personnel shall speak directly to the applicant during the notification call. A minimum of one
attempt by telephone shall be made to contact and notify any individual applicant. If an individual on the
depredation prevention hunting season priority list cannot be contacted, the next individual on the list shall
be notified and those who could not be contacted shall retain their position on the list. An applicant who
decides participation in a depredation prevention hunting season may have his/her name removed from the
list. When applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis, hunters shall be allowed to
participate in a depredation prevention hunting season on a first come, first served basis. Individuals who
participate in a specific depredation prevention hunting season and who are unsuccessful may remain on the
list; but, they shall not participate in another separate depredation prevention hunting season for the same
species in the same wildlife administrative region in the same harvest year until all others on the priority list
have had an opportunity to hunt. Any hunter who participates in a depredation prevention hunting season
and who refuses to take an available animal as directed by Department personnel shall not be allowed to
continue to participate in the hunt and the hunter’s name shall be removed from the priority list.

(iii) In emergency situations, though sufficient numbers of applicants may exist on
priority lists, a first come, first served basis of hunter selection shall be used. Emergency situations shall be
determined by the Regional Wildlife Supervisor. The Regional Wildlife Supervisor shall determine if an
emergency situation exists by taking into consideration such facts as, but not limited to the following: the
amount of time needed by the potential hunter to travel to the location of the hunt, whether the hunter has
special equipment, such as a snow machine, that may be needed in order to reach the location of the hunt,
current weather conditions that may influence the distribution of wildlife to be harvested.

Section 6. Licensing. Depredation prevention hunting season licenses for big or trophy game
animals shall be available to applicants who have been notified and agree to participate in a depredation
prevention hunting season. A depredation prevention hunting season license and valid conservation stamp
shall be obtained prior to participating in any hunt under this regulation. Depredation prevention hunting
season licenses shall be issued on a calendar year basis for a specific depredation prevention hunting
season.

Section 7. Bag Limits. The bag limit for any individual participating in a depredation prevention
hunting season shall not exceed more than one big or trophy game animal of each species during any one
harvest year. Any big or trophy game animal taken under this regulation shall be in addition to the bag limit
established by other Commission regulations. Any moose, sheep, mountain goat or grizzly bear license
issued under this regulation shall be subject to statutory limitations as defined by W.S. §23-1-703(b)(c).
Participation in any depredation prevention hunting season under this regulation shall not deny an
individual the privilege of hunting in other seasons established by the Commission, except as otherwise
provided by statute or regulation.

Section 8. Mandatory Hunter Harvest Check. When a depredation prevention hunting season
is implemented in an effort to control disease, every person harvesting a big game animal may be required
to have the harvested animal inspected by Department personnel. When a person purchases a license to
participate in a depredation prevention hunting season under this section, the Department shall advise the
person of the time and location where the harvested animal is to be brought for inspection. During the
inspection, Department personnel may collect any biological samples deemed necessary by the Department.
Section 9. General Regulations. All Commission regulations and Wyoming statutes shall apply to the taking of big or trophy game animals during a depredation prevention hunting season unless specifically exempted by this regulation. The Department may restrict firearms or weapon types for public safety concerns.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By: [Signature]

Mike Healy, President

Dated: January 22, 2014