

## STATEMENT OF REASONS

### CHAPTER 22

#### WATERCRAFT REGULATION

W.S. § 41-13-218 empowers the Commission to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 13, Watercraft, § 41-13-101 through § 41-13-220 and W.S. § 31-2-101.

The Commission promulgates changes to Chapter 22, Watercraft Regulation, to establish rules and regulations governing the use of watercraft and safety equipment requirements for watercraft operating in the state.

This regulation will become effective January 1, 2022, following action by the Commission in July, 2021. The current Chapter 22 regulation will remain in effect through the 2021 watercraft season. Following action by the Commission in July, the Department will have three (3) months to print and distribute the 2022-2023 Watercraft Regulations.

Section 2. The effective date of this regulation shall be January 1, 2022.

Section 7. In subsection 7 (a)(vi)(A) language regarding diver down flags is being removed since it already exists in Section 3 under the definition of “Diver Down Flag”.

Section 9. In subsection (b) the Commission is proposing to add three (3) new waters where the use of personal watercraft would be prohibited throughout the calendar year. These waters are Frye Lake, Louis Lake and Worthen Meadows Reservoir, all located in Fremont County. All of these waters are high mountain lakes that primarily receive non-motorized watercraft use, campers and fishermen. The Department, the Fremont County Sheriff and the local U.S. Forest Service office have received increasing safety complaints regarding personal watercraft operating in a careless and an unsafe manner on these waters. Restricting the use of personal watercraft on these waters will create a much safer environment for a larger user group.

The Commission is proposing to add Ranchester City Reservoir in Sheridan County in subsection (d) to the list of watercraft permitted to only use internal combustion engines. This regulatory change will allow more flexibility to use watercraft on these reservoirs.

The Commission is also proposing a language modification in subsections (f) and (g) to add clarity to existing rules governing maximum horsepower use on motorized watercraft on several bodies of water.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated into this regulation which do not change the meaning of existing regulations.