

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 4

FURBEARING ANIMAL HUNTING OR TRAPPING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(i) directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, open, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds.

W.S. § 23-2-303 provides for the trapping of furbearing animals, license requirements to trap, tagging requirements for traps, types of traps and time periods for checking traps.

Section 2. The term “Power Activated Snare” is being defined to differentiate certain types of snares and associated devices from other snares.

Section 4. The Rawhide Wildlife Management Area, Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area and the Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area are being removed from the list of areas closed to the taking of all furbearing animals. These same areas are being included in a new subsection (b)(v) limiting the use of any snare or quick-kill body grip trap with a jaw spread exceeding five (5) inches on these areas from October 1 through February 15.

In new subsections (b)(iv) and (v) the Commission is proposing to limit the use of any snare or quick-kill body grip trap with a jaw spread exceeding five (5) inches on certain Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA) during specified times of the year to decrease potential for unintended catches.

In new subsection (b)(vi) the Commission is proposing to designate two areas administered by the Department as closed to the use of any snare, quick-kill body grip trap, leg-hold trap or live trap due to agreements entered into by the Department to manage these areas.

Section 8. A new subsection (e) is being created to regulate the use of certain power activated snares on public lands. A power-activated snare with a spring greater than three (3) inches in length when fully extended may only be set on private land. Power-activated snares with springs greater than three (3) inches in length are rarely used on public land.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of these rules.