

STATEMENT OF REASONS
WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
CHAPTER 3
BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(i) directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife for any type of legal weapon, except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds, in any specified locality of Wyoming, and to give notice thereof.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission promulgate Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons, to establish limitations on the take of black bears during the spring and fall hunting seasons.

Section 3. Definitions for “Chemical Attractant, Dependent Young and GPS Coordinates” have been added. The definition of “Cub” has been deleted and the definitions of “Processed Bait and Unprocessed Bait” have been modified for clarity.

Section 4. Edits have been incorporated for clarity of existing language. Clarification has also been provided requiring the presentation of a black bear for registration within three (3) days after a hunter has returned from a wilderness area. The black bear hunt area has been added to information required at the time a harvested bear is registered.

Section 5. Edits have been made to allow for first time black bear bait site registrations to be completed at any Department Regional Office for all black bear hunt areas. Proposed new language also indicates that for the purpose of receiving preference to register a bait site, any person who fails to either place a bait at a properly registered bait site or provide GPS coordinates for that bait site during the previous calendar year shall lose all preference to register that bait site and shall be considered as a first time registrant for that site the following calendar year. GPS coordinates for a registered bait site shall be provided on the bait site registration form at the time of application, or within seven (7) days after placing any bait at a registered bait site. The total number of bait sites a licensed outfitter may register or place is being capped at twenty (20) bait sites during any calendar year.

Section 6. Clarification is provided which indicates that chemical attractants shall not be considered bait and may be used in all black bear hunt areas of the State.

Section 10. The previous three year black bear harvest information is not yet available at the time this draft regulation is being made available for public comment. Any additional proposed black bear hunt area season date changes or annual female mortality limits will be made available to the public for comment during all public meetings held around the state.

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