

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 47

GRAY WOLF HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302 directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, open, shorten or close seasons for gray wolves designated as trophy game animals.

The Commission proposes to amend the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons regulation to establish annual hunting seasons, licensing limitations, gray wolf harvest registration procedures and bag limits for the 2019 hunting season. Individual hunt area season dates, mortality limits and specific hunt area limitations may be modified as a result of harvest data currently being evaluated.

Section 3. An edit has been made indicating there shall be an open season during 2019 for the hunting of gray wolves as set forth in this regulation.

Section 4. Mortality limits and season dates have been modified to reflect the current population of gray wolves in Wyoming and future management through hunter harvest. Proposed hunt area mortality limits have been developed in conjunction with 2018 harvest data and to maintain a recovered gray wolf population.

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