

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 35

HUNTING PERMIT REGULATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

W.S. § 23-1-302 (a) (i),(xxii) provides the Commission the authority to provide for season extensions for hunters with disabilities and to promulgate such orders as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the intent of this act.

W.S. § 23-1-302 (m) provides the Commission the authority to, by rule and regulation, provide for the issuance of a disabled hunter companion permit. Subsection (m)(iv) states the permit shall be issued in accordance with Commission rules and regulations specifying the physical limitations that must be met by the disabled hunter and the requirements for the permit holder.

W.S. § 23-3-306 (a) states that no person shall harass, pursue, hunt, shoot or kill any Wyoming wildlife except predatory animals with, from or by the use of any aircraft, automotive vehicle, trailer, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle, or vehicle designed for travel over snow. However, it also provides the Commission the authority to exempt handicapped hunters from any provisions of this subsection.

W.S. § 23-3-306 (f) provides for the Commission to establish by rule and regulation specifications for the taking of game animals with the use of artificial light or lighting devices by persons with central visual acuity disabilities.

Section 2. The effective date of this regulation is proposed as January 1, 2023, to allow for a smooth transition of any changes to these provisions and allow the public to plan accordingly for the 2023 hunting season.

Section 3. The terms “Disabled Hunter” and “Handicapped Hunter” are being incorporated into the same definition for clarity and simplicity. The regulatory requirements for each term are proposed to be synonymous. “Qualifying Physical Disability” is being deleted and is no longer used within this regulation. The definition of “Walker” has been modified for additional clarification.

Section 4. Edits to this Section outline changes to section numbers due to restructuring and the deletion of the old Section 8, and the incorporation of Shoot from a Vehicle Permits into Disabled Hunter Permits.

Section 5. Edits have been made for clarity and to specifically identify a person who is unable to walk, at all times, without the use of a cane, crutches, prosthetic or some other mechanical device may apply for a disabled hunter permit.

Section 6. Edits to this Section clarify that a person who qualifies for a Disabled Hunter Permit is also authorized to shoot from a stationary vehicle to take wildlife. Previously, Disabled Hunter Permits and Shoot from a Vehicle Permits had separate, yet similar qualifying requirements. Clarification has also been added to ensure a person who has a temporary physical disability, as outlined in Section 5, may apply for a temporary disabled hunter permit valid in the calendar year in which issued as long as the applicant continues to qualify under Section 5 specifications.

Old Section 8 has been deleted completely since the qualifying provisions for shooting from a vehicle permits have been incorporated into disabled hunter permit provisions.

In new Section 10, one revocation provision has been deleted since it otherwise could be addressed through W.S. § 23-6-205, Accessory Before or After the Fact.

Edits in new Section 12 provide clarity and consistency with similar language in other Commission Regulations.

Grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated but do not change the intent of this regulation.