

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 2023 hunting season. At the time of this filing, the 2022 gray wolf harvest information is not yet available to Department managers. Individual hunt area season dates, mortality limits and specific hunt area limitations may be modified as a result of harvest data currently being evaluated. Any additional proposed changes to season dates, specific hunt area limitations, mortality limits, hunt area boundaries or other gray wolf hunting provisions shall be made available during the public comment period. An updated draft of this regulation will be available on the Department website, including all updated mortality limits, once harvest data has been evaluated.

Section 4. Mortality limits and hunting season dates may be modified to reflect the current population of gray wolves in Wyoming and future management through hunter harvest. Gray wolf hunting seasons are designed to maintain a recovered gray wolf population.

Minor formatting edits have been incorporated but do not change the intent of the regulation.