

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 41

BISON DESIGNATED AS WILDLIFE

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(xxvii) directs and empowers the Commission to designate individual bison or herds of bison as wildlife when the action is subsequently approved by the Wyoming Livestock Board.

W.S. § 11-20-101(iv) empowers the Wyoming Livestock Board to act in conjunction with the Commission to designate individual bison or herds of bison as wildlife.

Grand Teton National Park recently acquired what is commonly referred to as the “Kelly Parcel” from the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments. This parcel is located at Township 43N, Range 115W, Section 36. Through a negotiated agreement, hunting will be permitted on this parcel. In April 2025, the hunt area description of Wild Bison Hunt Area 2 was amended by the Commission in Chapter 15, Wild Bison Hunting Seasons, to include the Kelly Parcel.

Section 2. Clarifies the Commission means the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Board means the Wyoming Livestock Board. Amends the definition of the “Jackson wild bison herd area” to include the Kelly Parcel and be consistent with Wild Bison Hunt Area 2 as defined in Chapter 15. “Board approved official identification” has been deleted and replaced with “Official individual identification” to reflect updates to terminology for livestock identification tags by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Wyoming Livestock Board approved these proposed changes during their August 2025 meeting.

Section 6. Amended to replace “Board approved” with “official” individual identification.

Section 8. This section was struck because a rule cannot be legally repealed under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act upon notice as between two agencies. Rather, any repeal must go through the same notice and comment process as a new or amended rule.