



Possessing Live Cold-Blooded Wildlife

Quick Reference Guide – Chapter 69

This reference guide lists some of the species that Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) personnel are commonly asked about possessing and/or importing. The table within this quick reference guide indicates if **possession and/or importation of live wildlife is allowed and if a permit is required**. If a species is allowed for possession under a permit, wildlife housing restrictions and other conditions may be required prior to the issuance of a permit and/or during the time frame of the permit. Each application to possess live wildlife is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For more detailed information, see the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation **Chapter 69**, Importation and Possession of Live Cold-Blooded Wildlife under the “[Possession of Live Wildlife](#)” section located on the Department’s website (<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>) via the “Regulations” link. Application forms may be downloaded from this site.

How do I get a Chapter 69 Permit ???

Applications are also available from your local [game warden and Department regional offices](#). Applications should be submitted to your local game warden for initial approval. Game wardens can assist you with the application process. Please allow a few weeks for the processing of all permit applications. If a permit is required, it must be **in possession PRIOR to importation or possession of live wildlife**. Permit renewals for wildlife that will be in your possession after the existing permit expires shall be applied for at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the existing permit. If you have questions regarding the possession and/or importation of any species, please contact the nearest Department regional office for additional information.

While the Department may allow the possession or importation of various wildlife species, **local laws, ordinances, and covenants may be more restrictive**. It is your responsibility to comply with all local laws, ordinances and covenants before importing or possessing live wildlife.

Additionally, the Wyoming Livestock Board, Wyoming Department of Health, United State Fish and Wildlife Service, counties, municipalities and subdivisions have enacted further rules and regulations pertaining to the possession of wildlife. Contact these agencies directly for further information.

This brochure will not answer all questions, but provides basic guidelines and information regarding the complex issue of importing and possessing wildlife.

Additional permits may be required if live wildlife are used for other purposes, for example possession of warm-blooded wildlife (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 10*), falconry (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 25*), scientific research / educational programs / special purpose (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 33*), or rehabilitation (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 45*)

Animal	#	Possession Allowed	Chapter 69 permit required	Notes
All Injurious Cold-Blooded Wildlife Listed in 50 CFR § 16	1	No	NA	
Endangered and threatened wildlife	2	No	NA	Importation/possession prohibited.
Amphibians				
Salamanders and newts, non-native	3	No	NA	Prohibited from importation as per list of injurious species under federal regulation 50 CFR § 16.
Salamanders, native	4	Yes	No	Salamanders native to Wyoming may be captured in Wyoming or imported. No live or dead salamander (including metamorphs) may be used as fishing bait or possessed while fishing.
Poisonous	5	Yes	Yes	Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation.
Genus Xenopus (including African Clawed Frog), American Bullfrog, Canadian Toad, and Green Frog	6	No	NA	Importation/possession prohibited. Any American Bullfrog taken in the state shall be killed immediately.
Columbia Spotted Frog, Wood Frog, and Western Toad	7	Yes	Yes	In-state take prohibited; Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation; commercial use prohibited.
Indigenous to Wyoming, not listed in 7 and imported for commercial use	8	Yes	Yes	Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation.
Amphibians not listed in 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, or 8	9	Yes	No	Certificate of veterinary inspection is NOT required prior to importation.
Snakes				
Venomous	10	Yes	Yes	Certificate of veterinary inspection required prior to importation. North American rear-fanged snakes (Family Colubridae) do NOT require a permit or certificate of veterinary inspection.
Great Basin Gopher Snake, Midget Faded Rattlesnake, Red-Bellied Snake, Northern Rubber Boa, Western (Pale) Milksnake, Smooth Greensnake, Plains Black-headed Snake, Desert Striped Whipsnake	11	Yes	Yes	In-state take prohibited; Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation; commercial use prohibited.
Snakes not listed in 1, 2, 10, or 11	12	Yes	No	Certificate of veterinary inspection is NOT required prior to importation.
Alligators, Crocodiles and Lizards				
Venomous lizards	13	Yes	Yes	Certificate of veterinary inspection required prior to importation.
Northern Tree Lizard, Prairie Lizard, Great Basin Skink	14	Yes	Yes	In-state take prohibited; Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation; commercial use prohibited.
Lizards, Alligators and Crocodiles not listed in 1, 2, 13, or 14.	15	Yes	No	Certificate of veterinary inspection is NOT required prior to importation.
Turtles				
Plains Box Turtle, Eastern Spiny Softshell	16	Yes	Yes	In-state take prohibited; Certificate of veterinary inspection is required prior to importation; commercial use prohibited.
Aquatic turtles in ornamental ponds	17	Yes	Yes	Only allowed/permitted if the pond is designed to prevent escape and the Department determines that escape is unlikely.
Turtles not listed in 1, 2, 16, or 17.	18	Yes	No	Certificate of veterinary inspection is NOT required prior to importation.

Animal	#	Possession Allowed	Chapter 69 permit required	Notes
Mollusks/Crustaceans				
Zebra mussel, Quagga mussel, Rusty Crayfish, New Zealand Mudsnail, Asian Clam	19	No	NA	AIS, designated in Chapter 62. Possession prohibited.
Mollusks and crustaceans imported for commercial or personal use that are designated as prohibited, invasive or nuisance by any state (unless imported solely for human consumption)	20	Yes	Yes	Shall not be placed in ornamental ponds.
Mollusks and crustaceans collected in Wyoming for commercial use	21	Yes	Yes	Shall not be placed in ornamental ponds. Shall only be used as live fishing bait in the water body from which they were captured. Once transported away from the water of capture, crayfish shall not be used as live fishing bait.
Mollusks and crustaceans not listed in 1, 2, 19, or 20 that are imported solely for human consumption.	22	Yes	No	Shall not be placed in ornamental ponds. Shall be confined to aquaria at final destination and not released, abandoned or allowed to escape.
Mollusks and crustaceans not listed in 1, 2, 19, 20, 21 or 22.	22	Yes	No	Shall not be placed in ornamental ponds. Shall be confined to aquaria at final destination and not released, abandoned or allowed to escape. Shall only be used as live fishing bait in the water body from which they were captured. Once transported away from the water of capture, crayfish shall not be used as live fishing bait.
Mollusks and crustaceans for use in aquaponics or aquaculture	23	Yes	No	Use of mollusks or crustaceans listed in 1, 2 or 19 is prohibited. Requires written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries.
Fish				
Bighead, Silver and Black carps, Snakehead, Brook Stickleback	24	No	NA	Importation/possession prohibited. Designated as AIS. See complete lists in Chapter 62.
Diploid Grass Carp and Western Mosquitofish	25	No	NA	Importation/possession prohibited.
Transplanting or stocking Plains Topminnow, Northern Plains Killifish or Plains Killifish for mosquito control.	26	Yes	Yes	May be permitted only if they are known to the Department to be established in the drainage, stocking in the locations requested is considered by the Department to be compatible with aquatic species in that drainage and the source population(s) for transplant are not located in drainages known to contain an AIS or pathogen of concern (as defined in Commission Regulation Chapter 51).
Goldfish and Koi	27	Yes	No	Must be confined in aquaria or ornamental ponds; No permit required for commercial use by pet stores or other operations not connected to waters of the state.
Marine fish	28	Yes	No	Can only live in salt water. Must be confined in aquaria or reared in aquaponics not connected to waters of the state. No permit required for commercial use by pet stores or other operations not connected to waters of the state.
Tropical fish	29	Yes	No	Defined as not being able to live in water temps below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Must be confined in aquaria, ornamental ponds or reared in aquaponics not connected to waters of the state. No permit required for commercial use by pet stores or other operations not connected to waters of the state.

Animal	#	Possession Allowed	Chapter 69 permit required	Notes
Fish				
Commercially produced Fathead Minnow	30	Yes	No	Must have been legally obtained in accordance with Chapters 46 and 51. If transported out of Wyoming, the baitfish shall not be brought back into the state unless dead. Stocking as fish forage or for mosquito control requires written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries in accordance with Chapter 49.
Live baitfish, other than Commercially produced Fathead Minnow	31	Yes	No	Shall not be imported into the state. Must be obtained within the state, used and possessed in accordance with Chapters 46 and 51. If transported out of Wyoming, the baitfish shall not be brought back into the state unless dead.
Nongame fish not listed in 1, 2, 24 or 25 for use in private fish hatcheries dealing primarily in marine or ornamental fish	32	Yes	No	Requires written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries. Importation, possession, stocking and transportation shall be conducted in accordance with Chapters 49 and 51.
Nongame fish (excluding Marine Fish, Tropical Fish, Goldfish, Koi and those listed in 1, 2, 24, 25 and 31) for personal or commercial use, including display in aquaria or ornamental ponds	33	Yes	Yes	Nongame fish listed in 1, 2, 24, and 25 shall not be possessed. Nongame fish listed in 30 and 31 shall not be placed in ornamental ponds.
*Coldwater, Coolwater and Warmwater fish for display in aquaria or ornamental ponds	34	Yes	Yes	Fish shall be obtained from approved fish hatchery or commercial operation.
*Coldwater, Coolwater, and Warmwater fish for private fish stocking or use in private fish hatcheries	35	Yes	No	Requires written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries. Importation, possession, stocking and transportation shall be conducted in accordance with Chapters 49 and 51.
Live gamefish not listed as Coldwater, Coolwater or Warmwater fish for personal use	36	No	NA	

*Coldwater Fish Species; Artic Grayling, Brook Trout and Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Cutbow, Mountain Whitefish, Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, golden trout, kokanee salmon, splake, Tiger Trout.
Coolwater Fish Species; Sauger, Shovelnose Sturgeon, Tiger Muskie.
Warmwater Fish Species; Black and White Crappie, Black Bullhead, Bluegill/Green Sunfish Hybrid, Channel Catfish, Fathead Minnow, Triploid Grass Carp, Green Sunfish, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Largemouth Bass.