

Regulatory Mechanisms Related to Grizzly Bear Management in Wyoming

The regulatory mechanisms listed below are codified in current Wyoming Statutes, currently or pending in Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC) Regulations, pending in the final approved WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan or pending a completed and executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (IFGC) and the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission (MFWPC)

- Wyoming Statutes define "Trophy game animal" as: Black bear, grizzly bear or mountain lion" (W.S. 23-1-101 (a)(xii)(A))
- "For the purpose of this act, all wildlife in Wyoming is the property of the state. It is the purpose of this act and the policy of the state to provide an adequate and flexible system for control, propagation, management, protection and regulation of all Wyoming wildlife. There shall be no private ownership of live animals classified in this act as big or trophy game animals or of any wolf or wolf hybrid. (W.S. 23-1-103)
- "The commission is directed and empowered: To fix season and bag limits, open, shorten or close seasons including providing for season extensions for hunters with disabilities as established by commission rules and regulation, on any species or sex of wildlife for any type of legal weapon, except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals, and protected birds, in any specified locality of Wyoming, and to give notice thereof;" (W.S. 23010392(a)(i))
- "The commission is directed and empowered: To establish zones and areas in which trophy game animals may be taken as game animals with a license or, with the exception of gray wolves, in the same manner as predatory animals without a license, giving proper regard to the livestock and game industries in those particular areas; (W.S. 23010392(a)(ii))
- The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission detailing the allocation of discretionary mortality in the GYE on an annual basis (Three State MOU)
- The WGFC shall establish standards and requirements for discretionary mortality in accordance with demographic recovery criteria mortality thresholds as outlined in the three state MOU and the Conservation Strategy (Three State MOU, Conservation Strategy)

- No person shall take any grizzly bear in Wyoming without a proper license (W.S.23-3-102(a))
- No person shall take any grizzly bear outside of WGFC established hunting seasons or hunt areas (WGFC Regulation chapter 66, Pending)
- Hunting seasons, mortality limits and grizzly bear hunting regulations will be approved by the WGFC through a public process (WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan, pending)
- No person shall take any grizzly bear with dependent young at side (WGFC Regulation chapter 16 Pending)
- Any person taking a grizzly bear will report the harvest to the Wyoming Game Fish Department (WGFD) office, game warden or biologist within 24 hours [CS1](WGFC Regulation Chapter 16, pending)
- Any person taking a grizzly bear will be required to present the hide and skull to a WGFD regional office within 5 days (WGFC Regulation chapter 16, pending)
- Hunting license allocations will be based on the predicted proportion of the harvest that will be comprised of adult females and the total estimated population size (WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan, pending)
- Hunting license allocations will be based on a limited draw/quota system (WGFC Regulation chapter 44, pending)
- Hunting seasons will close if female mortality limits are reached (WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan, WGFC Regulation chapter 16, pending) [CS2]
- If adult female, adult male or dependent young mortality limits are exceeded, the following year's discretionary mortality allocation will be adjusted accordingly [CS3](WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan, pending)
- All hunters licensed to take grizzly bears must complete an informational grizzly bear ecology and management course focused on harvest regulations, safety, proper identification, and ethics related to hunting grizzly bears (WGFC Regulation ch. 16, pending) All grizzly bear hunters must carry bear spray while engaged in the act of grizzly bear hunting (WGFC Regulation chapter 16, pending)
- In order to annually evaluate the grizzly bear population, the Department will look at multiple recovery factors (population size, distribution, annual mortality) to evaluate the overall status of the population (WGFC Grizzly Bear Management Plan)
- Grizzly bears shall only be taken from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset (WGFC Regulation, chapter 2)
- Grizzly bears must be taken with a firearm or archery equipment. WGFC regulations specify caliber and cartridge size as well as bow draw weight and arrow specifications to ensure adequate lethality (WGFC Regulation, chapter 32)