

SENATE BILL NO. 372  
INTRODUCED BY J. BALYEAT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A RESIDENT WOLF LICENSE AND A NONRESIDENT WOLF LICENSE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL AUCTION OR LOTTERY OF A WOLF LICENSE AND A GRIZZLY BEAR LICENSE; ESTABLISHING RESTITUTION FOR THE ILLEGAL TAKING, KILLING, OR POSSESSION OF A WOLF; PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF A WOLF MAY NOT WASTE THE ANIMAL BY ABANDONING THE HEAD OR HIDE IN THE FIELD; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-1-111 AND 87-3-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Class E-1--resident wolf license.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who is a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, and who is 12 years of age or older or who will turn 12 years old before or during the season for which the license is issued, upon payment of a fee of \$19, may receive a Class E-1 license that entitles a holder who is 12 years of age or older to hunt a wolf and possess the carcass of the wolf as authorized by commission rules.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Class E-2--nonresident wolf license.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who is not a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, but who is 12 years of age or older or who will turn 12 years old before or during the season for which the license is issued, upon payment of a fee of \$350, may receive a Class E-2 license that entitles a holder who is 12 years of age or older to hunt a wolf and possess the carcass of the wolf as authorized by commission rules.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Auction or lottery of wolf license.** (1) The commission may issue one wolf license each year through a competitive auction or lottery. The commission shall promulgate rules for the use of the license and conduct of the auction or lottery. A wildlife conservation organization may be authorized to conduct the license auction or lottery, in which case the authorized organization may retain up to 10% of the proceeds of the sale to cover reasonable auction or lottery expenses.

(2) All proceeds remaining from the auction or lottery, whether conducted by the commission or as otherwise authorized by the commission, must be used by the department for the management of wolves.

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Auction or lottery of grizzly bear license.** (1) The commission may issue one grizzly bear license each year through a competitive auction or lottery. The commission shall promulgate rules for the use of the license and conduct of the auction or lottery. A wildlife conservation organization may be authorized to conduct the license auction or lottery, in which case the authorized organization may retain up to 10% of the proceeds of the sale to cover reasonable auction or lottery expenses.

(2) All proceeds remaining from the auction or lottery, whether conducted by the commission or as otherwise authorized by the commission, must be used by the department for the management of grizzly bears.

**Section 5.** Section 87-1-111, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-1-111. Restitution for illegal killing or possession of certain wildlife.** (1) Except as provided in 87-1-115 and in addition to other penalties provided by law, a person convicted or forfeiting bond or bail upon a charge of the illegal taking, killing, or possession of a wild bird, mammal, or fish listed in this section shall reimburse the state for each bird, mammal, or fish according to the following schedule:

- (a) bighorn sheep and endangered species, \$2,000;
- (b) elk, caribou, bald eagle, black bear, wolf, and moose, \$1,000;
- (c) mountain lion, lynx, wolverine, buffalo, golden eagle, osprey, falcon, antlered deer as defined by commission regulation, bull trout longer than 18 inches, and adult buck antelope as defined by commission regulation, \$500;
- (d) deer not included in subsection (1)(c), antelope not included in subsection (1)(c), fisher, raptor not included in subsection (1)(c), swan, bobcat, white sturgeon, river-dwelling grayling, and paddlefish, \$300;
- (e) fur-bearing animals, as defined in 87-2-101 and not listed in subsection (1)(c) or (1)(d), \$100;
- (f) game bird (except swan), \$25;
- (g) game fish, \$10.

(2) When a court enters an order declaring bond or bail to be forfeited, the court may also order that some or all of the forfeited bond or bail be paid as restitution to the state according to the schedule in subsection (1). A hearing to determine the amount of restitution, as required under 46-9-512, is not required for an order of restitution under this section."

**Section 6.** Section 87-3-102, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-3-102. Waste of fish or game.** (1) A person who is responsible for the death of a mountain lion or wolf commits the offense of waste of game if the person abandons the head or hide in the field.

(2) A person who is responsible for the death of a grizzly bear commits the offense of waste of game if the person abandons the head or hide or any parts required by department or commission regulation for scientific purposes. All parts of a grizzly bear required by department or commission regulation for scientific purposes must be delivered to an officer or employee of the department for inspection as soon as possible after removal, and the department shall return to the licensee any bone structure and skull within 1 year upon written request. The hide must be returned immediately.

(3) A person responsible for the death of any game animal, except a mountain lion or wolf, commits the offense of waste of game if the person purposely or knowingly:

(a) detaches or removes from the carcass only the head, hide, antlers, tusks, or teeth or any or all of these parts;

(b) wastes any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food by transporting, hanging, or storing the carcass in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or

(c) abandons in the field the carcass of any game animal or any portion of the carcass suitable for food.

(4) A person in possession of a game animal or game animal parts, a game bird, or a game fish suitable for food commits the offense of waste of game if the person purposely or knowingly:

(a) transports, stores, or hangs the animal, bird, or fish in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or

(b) disposes of or abandons any portion of a game animal, game bird, or game fish that is suitable for food.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the meat of a grizzly bear or a black bear that is found to be infected with trichinosis is not considered to be suitable for food.

(6) A person convicted of waste of game may be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000 or imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both. In addition, the person, upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail, may be subject to forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, or trap in this state for 24 months from the date of conviction or forfeiture, unless the court imposes a longer forfeiture period. If the court imposes forfeiture of the person's license and privilege to hunt, fish, or trap, the department shall notify the person of the forfeiture and loss of privileges. The person shall surrender all hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to the department within 10 days of notification."

NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Codification instruction.** (1) [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified

as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 5, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 5, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

(2) [Sections 3 and 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 8, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 8, apply to [sections 3 and 4].

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective dates -- contingencies.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Sections 1 through 3, 5, and 6] are effective upon notification by the U.S. fish and wildlife service to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks that the wolf has been formally removed from the federal threatened or endangered species list and upon removal of the wolf from the state endangered species list by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks.

(3) [Section 4] is effective upon notification by the U.S. fish and wildlife service to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks that the grizzly bear has been formally removed from the federal threatened or endangered species list.

- END -