

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

Senate Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses activities overseen by the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides a policy statement;
- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ directs the director to take immediate action under certain circumstances when a big game population is under the established herd size objective for a management unit;
- ▶ describes what is immediate action; and
- ▶ requires reporting.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

23-16-10, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **23-16-10** is enacted to read:

29 **23-16-10. Big game protection -- Director authority.**

30 (1) It is the policy of the state that big game animals are of great importance to the
31 citizens of the state, the citizen's quality of life, and the long term sustainability of the herds for
32 future generations.

33 (2) As used in this section:

34 (a) "Big game" includes mule deer, elk, big horn sheep, moose, mountain goats,
35 pronghorn, and bison.

36 (b) "Director" means the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources.

37 (c) "Management unit" means a generally contiguous area of land on which big game is
38 located and that is determined by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

39 (d) "Predator" means a cougar, bear, coyote, and bobcat.

40 (3) (a) Unless the condition described in Subsection (3)(b) is proven, the director shall
41 take immediate action to reduce the number of predators within each management unit where
42 the big game population is under the established herd size objective for that management unit.

43 (b) Subsection (3)(a) does not apply if the Division of Wildlife Resources proves that
44 predators are not contributing to the big game population being under the herd size objective in
45 the management unit.

46 (4) The director shall manage wolves pursuant to federal law.

47 (5) Except as provided in Subsection (4), immediate action under Subsection (3)
48 includes the following management tools:

49 (a) increasing permits or tags for cougar, bear, and bobcat until the herd size objective
50 is met;

51 (b) allowing big game hunters to harvest predators with the appropriate permit during a
52 big game hunting season, including issuing over-the-counter predator permits;

53 (c) professional trapping and predator control by the United States Department of
54 Agriculture Wildlife Services, private contracts, and the general public, including aerial control
55 measures; and

56 (d) other management tools as determined by the director.

57 (6) The director shall annually give a status report to the Natural Resources,
58 Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee and Natural Resources,

59 Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.

60 Section 2. **Effective date.**

61 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect
62 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
63 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,
64 the date of veto override.