

**Representative Carl R. Albrecht** proposes the following substitute bill:

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

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**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



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

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

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

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

(2) As used in this section:

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

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

(c) "Management unit" means a prescribed area of contiguous land designated by the Division of Wildlife Resources for the purpose of managing a species of big game animal.

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

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

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

(4) Immediate action under Subsection (3) includes any of the following management tools:

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

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

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

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

(5) The director shall annually give a status report on predator control measures

57 implemented pursuant to this chapter to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental  
58 Quality Appropriations Subcommittee and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment  
59 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.