

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Number \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Representative Audrey Ensign  
Authored by: Audrey Ensign

House Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
House: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: Miles City

Referred to Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "WOLF MANAGEMENT, amending MCA 87-5-131; AND  
2 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE"

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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE  
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6 **Section 1. Definitions. New Section.**

7 endangered species: A species present in such small numbers that it is at risk of extinction.  
8 furbearer: An animal whose skin is covered with fur, especially fur that is commercially valuable.  
9 hunting: The activity or sport of pursuing game.  
10 trapping: A contrivance for catching and holding animals, as a concealed pit or a clamp like device that  
11 springs shut suddenly.  
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13 **Section 2. New Section.** Upon the delisting of the gray wolf/timber wolf from the endangered  
14 species list, wolf management will be immediately reverted to the State of Montana. The Montana State  
15 Fish, Wildlife, and Parks department will regulate the wolves based on population and sustainability.  
16 Wolf hunting and trapping seasons will eventually be instituted based on population and breeding  
17 seasons. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks may declare the wolf a big game animal or a furbearer. Hunting  
18 seasons may be instituted and will be concurrent with established hunting and trapping seasons, laws, and  
19 wolf population. There will be a minimum of 15 wolf packs in the State of Montana at a give time to  
20 maintain a steady wolf population throughout the state.  
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22 **Section 3. Existing Law.** ~~87-5-131. Process for delisting of gray wolf—management following~~  
23 ~~delisting. (1) If the United States fish and wildlife service removes the Northern Rocky Mountain or gray~~  
24 ~~wolf from the United States' list of endangered or threatened wildlife, the department is authorized to~~  
25 ~~remove the wolf from the state list of endangered species upon a determination by the department~~  
26 ~~pursuant to this part that the wolf is no longer endangered.~~  
27 ~~—(2) Following state delisting of the wolf, the department shall manage the wolf as a species in need of~~  
28 ~~management until the department and the commission determine that the wolf no longer needs protection~~  
29 ~~as a species in need of management and can be managed and protected as a game animal. Upon making~~  
30 ~~that determination, the commission may declare the wolf a big game animal or a furbearer and may~~  
31 ~~regulate the taking of a wolf as a big game animal or furbearer.~~  
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34 **Section 3. Effective date.** This bill will be effective upon passage.

35 -end-