

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND
5 PARKS TO NOTIFY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SHERIFF'S OFFICES, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
6 BEFORE THE RELEASE OF A LARGE PREDATOR; AND AMENDING SECTION 87-1-217, MCA."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9
10 **Section 1.** Section 87-1-217, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"87-1-217. Policy for management of large predators -- legislative intent.** (1) In managing large
12 predators, the primary goals of the department, in the order of listed priority, are to:

13 (a) protect humans, livestock, and pets;

14 (b) preserve and enhance the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood
15 activities; and

16 (c) preserve citizens' opportunities to hunt large game species.

17 (2) With regard to large predators, it is the intent of the legislature that the specific provisions of
18 this section concerning the management of large predators will control the general supervisory authority of the
19 department regarding the management of all wildlife.

20 (3) For the management of wolves in accordance with the priorities established in subsection (1),
21 the department may use lethal action to take problem wolves that attack livestock if the state objective for
22 breeding pairs has been met. For the purposes of this subsection, "problem wolves" means any individual wolf
23 or pack of wolves with a history of livestock predation.

24 (4) The department shall work with the livestock loss board and the United States department of
25 agriculture wildlife services to establish the conditions under which carcasses or parts of carcasses from wolves
26 or mountain lions are retrieved during management activities and when those carcasses or parts of carcasses
27 are made available to the livestock loss board for sale or auction pursuant to 2-15-3113.

28 (5) (a) The department shall ensure that county commissioners and tribal governments in areas

1 that have identifiable populations of large predators have the opportunity for consultation and coordination with
2 state and federal agencies prior to state and federal policy decisions involving large predators and large game
3 species.

4 (b) At least 30 days before the release or relocation of a large predator within the boundaries of a
5 county or tribal government, the department shall provide verbal and written notice to the county
6 commissioners, sheriff's office, and tribal government located within the county or tribal government boundaries
7 where the large predator is to be released or relocated.

8 (6) As used in this section:

9 (a) "consultation" means to actively provide information to a county or tribal government regarding
10 proposed policy decisions on matters that may have a harmful effect on agricultural production or livestock
11 operations or that may pose a risk to human health or safety in that county or on those tribal lands and to seek
12 information and advice from counties or tribal governments on these matters;

13 (b) "large game species" means deer, elk, mountain sheep, moose, antelope, and mountain goats;
14 and

15 (c) "large predators" means bears, mountain lions, and wolves."
16

17 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a
18 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

19 - END -