Senator Allen M. Christensen proposes the following substitute bill:

WOLF MANAGEMENT
2010 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Allen M. Christensen
House Sponsor: Curtis Oda

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This bill addresses the management of the wolf in the state.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
- defines terms;
- makes legislative findings and declarations concerning the wolf;
- provides for the Division of Wildlife Resources to request federal removal of wolves found within areas of the state where the wolf is listed as endangered or threatened;
- requires the division to manage the wolf to avoid the establishment of a viable pack of wolves within the areas of the state where the wolf is not listed as endangered or threatened;
- allows the division to make administrative rules concerning the management of wolves; and
- makes technical changes.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:
None

Other Special Clauses:
Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

23-29-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953
23-29-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953
23-29-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953
23-29-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953
23-29-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section 23-29-101 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 29. WOLF MANAGEMENT ACT


23-29-101. Title.
This chapter is known as the "Wolf Management Act."

Section 2. Section 23-29-102 is enacted to read:

As used in this Chapter:
(1) "Service" means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
(2) "Wolf" means the species Canis lupus.

Section 3. Section 23-29-103 is enacted to read:

23-29-103. Legislative findings and declarations.
(1) Section 23-14-1 appoints the division as trustee and custodian of protected wildlife in the state of Utah.
(2) The wolf is listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act throughout the greater portion of the state.
(3) The service is the federal agency charged with responsibility to administer the Endangered Species Act.
(4) The service acknowledges that Utah is not critical to the recovery of wolves and that it does not intend to actively recover wolves in the state.
(5) The division prepared a wolf management plan outlining its management objectives
for the wolf in Utah when the wolf was delisted and removed from federal control.

(6) The wolf management plan prepared by the division was formally submitted to the
service in 2007 for approval.

(7) The service has neither approved, denied, nor otherwise commented on the plan
since receiving it in 2007.

(8) The state formally requested, in writing on multiple occasions, that the service in
delist the wolf throughout Utah, and the service has failed to acknowledge or otherwise
respond to any of the requests.

(9) The state cannot adequately or effectively manage wolves on a pack level in the
small area of the state where the species is currently delisted without significantly harming
other vital state interests, including livestock and big game populations.

(10) It is the policy of the state to legally advocate and facilitate the delisting of wolves
in Utah under the Endangered Species Act and to return wolf management authority to the
state.

Section 4. Section 23-29-201 is enacted to read:

Part 2. Wolf Management

23-29-201. Wolf Management.

(1) The division shall contact the service upon discovering a wolf in any area of the
state where wolves are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act
and request immediate removal of the animal from the state.

(2) The division shall manage wolves to prevent the establishment of a viable pack in
all areas of the state where the wolf is not listed as threatened or endangered under the
Endangered Species Act until the wolf is completely delisted under the Act and removed from
federal control in the entire state.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to wolves lawfully held in captivity and
restrained.

Section 5. Section 23-29-202 is enacted to read:


The division may make administrative rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to manage the wolf in accordance with this chapter.
Fiscal Note

State Impact
Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact
Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.