



February 25, 2020

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006

Dear Commissioners,

In the Ocean Lake Area of Lander on January 5, 2020, a beloved dog, Mac, was killed by a Senneker spring snare. His owner, Karen, a responsible dog owner and citizen of Wyoming was keeping a close eye on her dog. Despite being right with him, her dog died in her arms that day. When her husband came to help, they were unable to release his body from the snare.

On behalf of Mac, Karen, and the citizens of Wyoming, please consider restricting the use of all power snares, such as the Senneker spring snare or quick-kill snares, as soon as possible.

Wyoming Game and Fish staff were notified and asked if this type of snare was legal in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish staff reviewed the equipment and found it consistent with permitted Wyoming trap specifications. Although this equipment is legal, the Department of Agriculture, WGFD, and the WSTA report that they were unaware that power snares are in use in Wyoming. As the entity responsible for the regulation of trapping, please carefully review whether or not power snares are right for Wyoming.



Senneker stinger kill spring setup



Karen Zoller walks with her dog, Macy, on a public trail in the Shoshone National Forest.



Mac, killed 1/5/2020

The following link shows more: <https://www.snareshop.com/prodinfo.asp?number=SNARE400>

After Mac's death, the Lander community sought trapping information and ways to keep themselves and their animals safe. In response, the Lander WGFD held a trap release workshop. In attendance were an estimated 100 community members, and representation from the Wyoming State Trappers Association (WSTA) and Wyoming Untrapped (WU). Another community meeting followed a week later with thirty participants.

**Even with this diverse group of stakeholders, there was common ground on this issue.
Power snares should be permanently banned in Wyoming.**

On behalf of Wyoming citizens who want to recreate safely on our public lands and their pets, we object to the use of trigger-activated mechanical killing snares:

1. Power snares have not been tested in the United States.
2. Considering the WY precedent set by restricting the use of the Conibear 330. The 330 is restricted in Wyoming due to its frequent non-target captures and dangers to people and pets. Power snares share the same characteristics. Consistent regulatory control would restrict power snares as well.
3. ALL types of power snares should be totally restricted in our state on all public and private land for any reason.

You are our wildlife management leaders. Your failure to respond to the increase of land-use conflicts across Wyoming, specifically in Teton and Fremont Counties, perpetuates land use conflict. At the Lander WGFD workshop participants were reminded to be responsible land users and that their pets' welfare is the sole responsibility of their owners. Blaming grieving residents for failure to see and avoid hidden lethal traps on public lands is ridiculous. We know Wyoming can do better and ask you to please step up and lead.

Given the danger present today by power snares hidden and loaded on public land, we request that the topic of power snares restriction be considered immediately. Given WGFC procedures and protocol, please add this topic to our request for trapping regulation amendment this year, instead of waiting until 2022. We will seek the same restrictions from the Department of Agriculture and Wildlife Services.

Thank you for your consideration. Citizens of Wyoming are waiting for your reply. Please don't let them down.

Sincerely,



Lisa Robertson
President

Governor Mark Gordon governor@wyo.gov
Derek Ibarguen Derek.ibarguen@usda.gov
Tricia O'Connor poconnor@fs.fed.us
Brad Hovinga brad.hovinga@wyo.gov

Brian Nesvik brian.nesvik@wyo.gov
Scott Edberg scott.edberg@wyo.gov
Buck McVeigh buck.mcveigh@wyo.gov
Darlena Potter darlena.potter@wyo.gov
Phil Pfisterer servicesprinkler@gmail.com
Andy Schwartz andy.schwartz@wyoleg.gov
Mike Yin mike.yin@wyoleg.gov
Mike Gierau mike.gierau@wyoleg.gov
Tim Salazar tim.salazar@wyoleg.gov
Doug Miyamoto doug.miyamoto@wyo.gov

wyominguntrapped.org
P. O. Box 9004
Jackson, Wyoming 83002