



This is what is happening to **AMERICA'S WOLVES**

TIMELINE:

2009 - Wolves were removed from the Federal Endangered Species Act in Idaho and Montana. Wolves remained on the Endangered Species Act in Wyoming at the time. Wolves were not considered endangered in the Great Lakes Region, but were considered Threatened per individual states.

2009 - Idaho and Montana hold their first wolf hunts.

2010 - Wolves are placed back on the Federal endangered species act by Federal Judge Molloy.

2011 - A rider is placed on an important budget bill in the hopes of saving a seat on the senate for Idaho representative John Tester. The bill removed protections for wolves in Idaho, and Montana, as well as Eastern Washington and Oregon, and a portion of Utah (which has no wolves).

2011 - Idaho and Montana hold wolf hunting and trapping seasons. Idaho allows wolves to be killed year round on private lands in portions of the state.

2012 - Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Minnesota join in hunting wolves. Wyoming wolves are classified as “predators”, meaning they can be shot on site in more than 80% of the state. 12 wolves from Yellowstone National Park are shot and killed, including all the radio collared wolves. Yellowstone’s most famous wolf, Lamar '06 was killed while searching for an already shot and killed pack member. Two other Lamar wolves were killed, the entire pack later broke apart and others died as a result of being vulnerable to attacks from neighboring packs. There is no more Lamar Valley pack.

2013 - By Federal Law, Idaho must keep at least 15 breeding pairs of wolves, or 150 wolves within the state. Idaho Fish and Game changes the definition of a breeding pair to any four wolves in a group, no matter the age or sex, to get around this law. Michigan joins in the wolf hunt, despite over 80% of Michiganders disagreeing with the decision, and undermining a vote on the issue in 2012. Wisconsin becomes the first state to allow wolves to be hunted with packs of dogs.

2014 - Michigan does not hold a wolf hunt because of “lack of planning” and plan on a 2015 hunt. Federal Judge Amy Berman Jackson places Wyoming wolves back on the Federal Endangered Species act because of Wyoming’s reckless management. Wisconsin allows hunters to harass wolves with dogs year round, but only kill them during the winter hunts. Wolf hunting and trapping seasons continue in Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

There is nothing humane about wolf hunting



IDAHO “LAWS”

- Electronic calls OK
- Traps only need to be checked once every 72 hours
- Hunters can kill 5 wolves each year
- Trappers can kill up to 5 wolves a year
- It is OK to combine trapping and hunting tags for a total of 10 wolves
- All traps, including foot hold traps, conibear, and snare are OK
- Wolves can be baited with the skinned carcasses of their pack members

THE ONLY “BIG GAME” ANIMAL THAT CAN BE KILLED WITH YOUNG IN TOW AND/OR A LACTATING FEMALE. LEAVING BABIES TO DIE SLOW, HORRIBLE DEATHS.

In the areas hunting is not year round, it is at least 9 months long, but averages 10 months. How is this fair??

Idaho previously had the highest wolf population in the west, with an estimated 900 animals in 2009. After the hunting season started, Idaho’s wolf population began to dwindle. Currently, estimates boast a population of about 680, though the population is likely much lower. Idaho’s goal is to get the population down to the Federal minimum of 150 wolves, or 15 breeding pairs. To get around this law, Idaho changed the definition of a breeding pair to any four wolves in a group, regardless of age or sex- meaning they can kill all but 60 wolves in the state, legally.

MONTANA “LAWS”

- Archery - One week in September
- Rifle - September- March
- Trapping Dec-February

- “Legal Wolf” is any wolf regardless of age or gender.
- No other “Big Game” animals are allowed to be killed as babies.
- One person is allowed to kill up to five wolves each, through a combination of hunting and trapping.
- Electronic calls are OK
- Traps must be checked once every 48 hours.
- Wolf meat is not required to be kept, making killing of wolves inherently wanton waste.
- Montana reports their wolf population as stable at 625 animals. Population was estimated 627 in 2013, versus 625 in 2012.

Up to 100 additional wolves are allowed to be killed every year by ranchers in addition to the “quota”. It is important to note that even if the population estimates remain roughly the same, the packs are disrupted, breeding potentials are destroyed for the next year or two, and packs that suffer losses through hunting often break up, with the remaining wolves being killed by other wildlife or starving because they are not able to hunt on their own, forcing them to turn to livestock. Livestock losses have skyrocketed since wolf hunting became legal.

WYOMING: CURRENTLY SAFE

Previously: Wolves were classified as “predators” in more than 80% of the state, allowing them to be shot and trapped year round. Pups were also allowed to be killed in by denning, a process that destroys a wolf (or fox, coyote, etc) den with live puppies inside. Some hunters even bragged about pouring gasoline into dens and lighting them on fire. Another had taken puppies and staked them into the ground in open fields to watch birds of prey kill them.

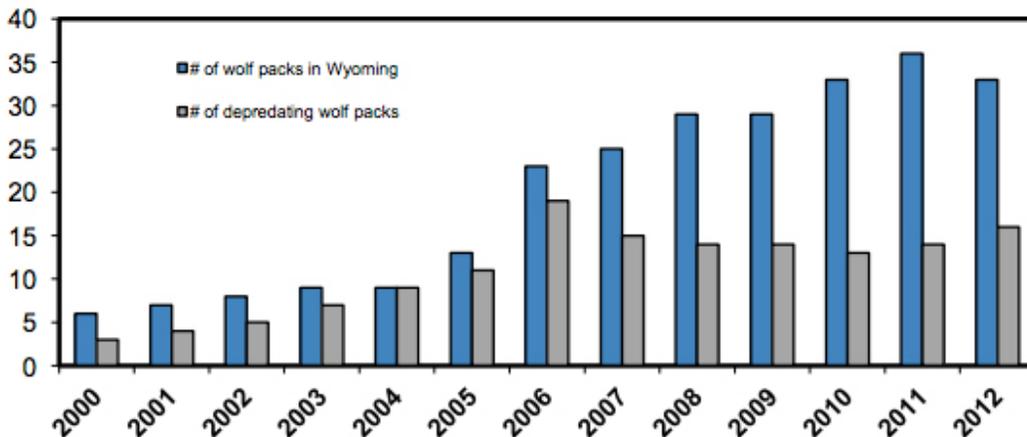
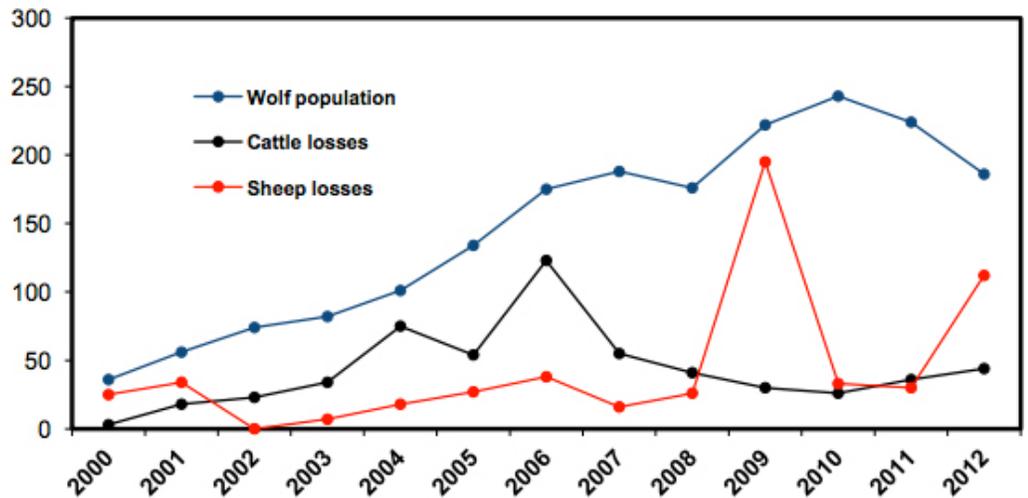
The areas directly outside of Yellowstone National Park allowed wolves to be baited from the park from October through February, this was considered their “trophy” zone. In 2012 alone, 12 wolves that were based in Yellowstone National Park were killed, many of those, including the famous Lamar O6 female, were killed in Wyoming. Another 5 wolves that frequented the park were also killed in the surrounding areas. After the loss of the alpha female of the Lamar pack, and the loss of several other wolves in the pack to hunting, the pack broke apart. When the old alpha male found a new mate and returned to the pack, she was killed by the remaining members. Other wolves from the pack resorted to preying on livestock outside of the park, and were shot and killed because of it. There is no longer a “Lamar Canyon” pack.

Wyoming’s reckless “management” plan was over ruled in late September 2014 when Federal Judge Amy Berman Jackson placed wolves back under Federal Protections. Wyoming quickly argued back, but the ban stayed in place.

At the end of 2012, Wyoming estimated there were 169 wolves in the state.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS

Annual wolf population size and number of confirmed cattle and sheep depredations/ year in WYO from 2000-12



OF WOLF PACKS

Annual number of wolf packs and number of wolf packs that were involved in confirmed cattle and sheep depredations/ year in WYO from 2000-12

Unfortunately, the wolf hunts are purely a political game, not only are they not backed by any science at all, but top scientists believe that hunting wolves is detrimental to their populations. Sadly, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, along with local governments, typically side with the anti wolf attitudes. Even local police departments in Idaho support the “Shoot, Shovel, and Shut-Up” mentality, promoting poaching. Anti wolf websites also claim that hunters are killing many more wolves than the governments allow, even boasting “.22 in the guts and watch ‘em run”. There is nothing humane about wolf hunting, and all too often, those that do hunt wolves can break the laws and get away with it, all because wolves are demonized.

Here are only two examples where local game departments sided with wolf killers, even though they had broken the law- or at least claimed to.

Just a few months ago a man who “allegedly” ran down the two wolf puppies in Montana originally claimed that he sped up to hit the wolves, killing one and leaving another badly injured, bagging about how it screamed in pain and ran away from the roadside with it’s hind leg dangling. Montana Fish and Game have stated that there is no evidence that he actually ran down the wolves. However, under Montana law, it is illegal to intentionally hit an animal with a vehicle. Even though the man claimed to have killed the wolves on purpose, he was not fined. He admitted to breaking the law, but since they could not prove that he actually did it, he was let go.

Then there was also the man who shot the malamute walking with its owner in Idaho. A man was cross country skiing with his three malamutes on a roadway when one of his dogs was shot several times. The malamute had a collar and a light on, and the owner began to scream at the hunter to stop shooting his dog. The hunter admitted he thought the dog was a wolf and killed him. Under Idaho law, it is illegal to “take game” on or near a roadway. The hunter was not charged because the animal turned out to be a dog, even though he thought it was a wolf. Had he killed a wolf (like he thought he was), he would have been fined for killing it on the road.

Those are just two examples, there are sadly many more, and Wisconsin is quickly catching up at being one of the worst states for wolves. Almost every zone has gone over their “quotas”, one of them almost going twice over the limit- and every time this has happened, the Department of Natural Resources remains silent. Wisconsin is also the only state that allows dogs to hunt wolves- and though the laws state that dogs cannot make contact with the wolves, the photos online and in Wisconsin hunting groups show a very different story.

Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Trends in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming: 1982-2013 (excludes Oregon and Washington)

