



Protecting Montana's wildlife, land, waters, and
hunting & fishing heritage for future generations.

Board Resolution on Wolf Management in Montana

Whereas wolves in Montana were delisted by Congressional action in 2011;

Whereas Montana has had fair chase based wolf hunting and trapping seasons since 2012;

Whereas the statewide wolf population peaked in 2013 and stabilized at approximately 850-950 wolves;

Whereas wolves in conflict with livestock are managed by removal;

Whereas documented livestock losses to wolves are reimbursed;

Whereas there is no scientific evidence that wolf predation threatens big game populations;

Whereas the Montana 2021 legislature departed from science, facts, and sustainable and ethical wolf management practices and passed several laws to kill more wolves including:

- HB 224 allows the use of neck snares to kill wolves that will result in the deaths of many other non-target species.
- SB 314 allows the use of bait around wolf traps and neck snares that will result in the deaths of many other non-target species.
- HB 225 extends the wolf trapping and snaring season into the time grizzly and black bears are active, which will result in bears being maimed or killed in traps and snares.
- SB 314 allows hunting wolves over bait, with spotlights and night vision scopes.
- SB 267 that essentially pays people to try to trap and kill wolves; and

Whereas the legislature and the FWP Commission eliminated wolf quotas along the boundary of Yellowstone National Park resulting in excessive killing from wolf packs in Yellowstone which are a multi-million-dollar annual tourist draw; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF):

1. Urges the Legislature to repeal the above-listed laws.
2. Urges the Legislature and FWP Commission to restore science-based, fair chase wolf management.
3. Reaffirms its opposition to unethical and non-fair chase hunting practices including night hunting over bait, use of spotlights, use of night vision scopes, use of neck snares and traps with bait, and paying hunters to kill wolves, which is essentially a wolf bounty.
4. Supports FWP biological professionals using science and facts including a fair and open public process to set wolf hunting areas, limits, seasons, and techniques.
5. Supports maintaining healthy carnivore populations in Montana.

Moved: Skip Kowalski

Second: Dale Becker

Passed 14 for and 0 against

April 15, 2023, at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation