

Week of 2.26.10

Hunting Wolves, Saving Wolves

Is the Obama Administration breaking its promise to protect endangered species?



Last year the Obama Administration removed federal protection from some of the wolves that had been restored to the northern Rockies under the Endangered Species Act. The move paved the way for controversial state-regulated wolf hunts.

Wolf advocates strongly oppose the administrations decision saying the three states in the region, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming need a cohesive management plan that allows for a much larger wolf population. "It was very disappointing when Secretary Salazar in the Obama Administration, signed off on this rushed-through Bush administration delisting package for wolves," said Doug Honnold,

The Weekly Q

Do you believe wolves in the Northern Rockies require federal protection?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

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a lawyer with Earthjustice, who is representing conservation groups challenging the government's decision.

The return of the gray wolf to the northern Rockies is considered to be the most successful wildlife reintroduction project in the history of the 27 year old Endangered Species Act. In 1995 and 1996, 66 gray wolves were relocated from Canada to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho. Today there are more than 1,600 wolves in the region.

For its part the federal government says that just 300 wolves are needed for legitimate recovery in the region. "Wolves are back and there's plenty of them in plenty of places. They're never really going anywhere," said Ed Bangs, the Northern Rockies Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More than a dozen conservation groups have sued the Interior Department to return federal protection to the northern Rockies wolves. Some believe the result of this legal debate is a litmus test for the Obama Administration's overall approach to wildlife issues and the Endangered Species Act.

Correction: Our report incorrectly stated Wyoming will manage for a maximum of 150 wolves. The current Wyoming wolf management plan states they will manage for a least 150 wolves.

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Commenter: Dale - Washington

As a resident in a state where wolves are being brought back I am truly concerned. While I could agree with trying to allow a few wolves on the landscape, it seems the government wants to have too many all at once.

I think we would all be better off to take recovery in small steps and see how wolves fit into our modern ecosystems a few at a time in the southern 48 states. Human safety, Livestock Predation, and potential for Disease Transmission need to carefully considered.

For info about all these important considerations, please check out www.graywolfnews.com and you will learn a lot about what's in the news regarding wolves.

Commenter: Guest

Retarded people are over-populated, and are we now being 'managed', as 'big game', like wolves are? No. Seriously people. I am waiting for the day that people are put on that game list, and the human population slowly starts to get closer to what the earth would allow. Or, better yet, all humans kill each other and then we are no longer in control of what happens to the animals.

For some strange reason, people in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho think they have a "God given" right to encroach on land that was occupied by wolves way before man stepped foot on this continent. Got a problem with co-existing with wolves? Move someplace else. It's their territory, not yours! Yes. True. Perfect.

"Commenter: Joseph

Wolves have surpassed expectations and now it's time to manage them like we manage all other big game and predators."

PEOPLE have surpassed expectations, but it seems no one else thinks it's time to to manage us like all other big game and predators.

"Commenter: Rob Robinsen

Sad they were ever reintroduced.
Even sader they are not shot on sight."

Sad you were ever born.
Even sadder you are not shot on sight.

"Wolves need to be managed like any other game or the populatuion is going to grow and there will be nothing for them to eat and are going more live stock.I live in the city but it is only logical to manage wolves like any other preditor and do we really need that many wolves, I would think we should have more elk and hunt them for meat."

People need to be managed like any other game or the population is going to grow and there will be nothing for them to eat and are going more live stock.

Seriously though. They should have a human hunting derby. I would sign up!pet

Commenter: Charlene Belnap

I wholeheartedly believe that the wolves DO NOT need protection. They are depleting big game. The elk and deer herds are disappearing around my home west of Rockford, ID. We have one large black wolf living around our area and believe this wolf is the direct cause of the extremely low elk and deer population. As far as the animal count in other areas, I can speak for the Island Park, ID big game population. That population is down considerably based on our hunting experience this year and talking to other hunter in the area!! Please continue to offer tags and increase the number of tags available before these wolves take any more animals, domestic and wild, and before they decide humans are on the menu! Thank you.

Commenter: JA

Comments below about wolves being "unchecked" because they are top predators are humorous at best, and certainly indicate the level of poor logic being introduced to this argument. Populations of predators such as gray wolves are, in fact, regulated by the dynamics of their prey populations, by habitat loss and fragmentation, and by myriad other direct and indirect anthropogenic effects.

Second, I'm tired of hearing about how sad it is that massive herds of elk and other ungulates can no longer be seen in areas such as Yellowstone. Sure, I get it - hunters and armchair national park tourists (the ones who never walk more than 50 feet from their RV) want to see lots of big wildlife in an open park-like environment...a nice friendly park that reminds them of their own familiar back yard, but with some big fuzzy animals in it. The reality is that one of the negative legacies of the extirpation of wolves from the West is that overall biodiversity decreased from the landscape. The elk, moose, deer have been eating up the place (much to the joy of the folks who want to shoot them without much effort) and are, more or less, sanitizing the West and are having significant negative effects on overall species richness. In fact, one of the great successes of wolf reintroductions is that (and the science clearly shows this) overall biodiversity has increased as ungulate (elk) populations have

decreased from their absurdly high levels...levels that were allowed to get out of hand after wolves were extirpated decades ago. Oh, and yes, I am also a hunter, and I laugh at most of the Jim Bobs and Darryl' who call themselves 'sportsmen', even though they're too fat to walk up a short hill to glass up the surrounding area.

Last, to the people below who consider wolves as non-native introduced species...are you joking, or just ignorant and arrogant? Clearly (and unfortunately) you know how to turn on a computer. Why not use your computer to do some basic research and educate yourselves?

Commenter: Todd

So if everybody wants to return everything to the way it was originally before man came along in the United States, then maybe we will need to demolish every city and town, let the native americans move back to their origins and everyone else should go back to Britain,Ireland,China,Japan,Mexico ect ect...The Wolves,Grizzlies,Elk were all plains animals and we took their grounds and built our world in their space and survived by using them for our food source and if our great grandparents didnt do it we would not be here today. So I guess maybe anyone who does not want game management should relocate to their ancestors origins and we wont be having this conflict anymore. Get a clue people!I believe everything is on this planet for a reason, but I also believe everything needs to be managed.I am a hunter and enjoy seeing all the creatures the world has to offer and do not think that either side side should have full control,that is why management is a good idea, those who want the wolves will have them and those who want managment will also.

Commenter: Steve

I have watched the wolves desimate the elk and moose population in Idaho and Montana to the west of West Yellowstone, Montana. I hicke the country all summer and fall and the elk population has dropped by 66 % from the numbers we use to see consistantly. The wolf tags for the area in Idaho were 5. I have personally seen 4 different packs in the area, numbering between 3 and 8 wolves in the packs. 5 tags did not even make a difference to the area. By the time the fish and wildlife service and the judges from the federal district wake up to

the target number, that was reached 6 years ago now. The wolves will never be in danger, and the elk which we spent years and millions of dollars restoring, will never recover to significant numbers. Maybe the forest service and wildlife people should start hiking instead of driving the roads that they closed for all of us, but not them!

Commenter: Victor Turchan

I own a restaurant in eastern Idaho. I put a sign in front of my restaurant last September when we found out for sure that Idaho was finally going to have a wolf hunting season. The sign reads "TAG A WOLF GET A FREE PIZZA AND PITCHER OF BEER". We had an overwhelmingly positive response to our sign from all our local patrons. In fact there was positive reactions from all customers that are from Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. When somebody took a picture of our sign and put it on the internet, we recieved tons of phone calls. As you may have guessed the only negative calls were from people that did not live in a state that has "introduced" wolves into their back yards and recreational areas. I believe that the federal government should not have any say in the management of wolves, because they are not an endangered species. The states that were forced to "introduce" wolves should now be in control of how to get rid of them for good. If you tag a wolf or have tagged a wolf since the season opened, please stop in for your Free Pizza and Pitcher of Beer this summer. Happy Wolf Hunting!!!

Commenter: Jim

Please research the effects of Hydatid

<http://balanceduse.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/TheOutdoorsmanNo-36-Wolf-Tapeworm.pdf>

Commenter: Denny

When they reintroduced the wolf back into the lower 48 states the goal was 600 wolves, they are way beyond that now and need to delist them and control their populations through hunting, we are the sturd's of this planet and need to act as such, to act as if we don't belong here is ludicris.

Commenter: Rose Bush

I think the most important aspect to consider is the outrageous cost of the wolf program to ALL tax payers. In this economy, we need to be cutting back on unnecessary spending. I happen to live in the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico and see the direct impact the wolf has on our cattle ranchers. Wolves are like cigarette smoke...how does it know to stay in the "no smoking" area...it doesn't. I doubt the average person living in an average city has any idea how much this program costs. This needs to be exposed and the people need to know.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings. My hat is off to the Obama Administration for finally causing this to be brought out.

Commenter: Rob R

I think it is funny to see people crying about God's creatures being slaughtered, probably while they are eating a steak, or a salad with grilled chicken. There is nothing in the bible that says thou shalt not kill wildlife. The belief that hunters are out there just to slaughter is asinine. There are a few select who might but the vast majority of hunters hunt to provide for their families. AND wolves do kill for sport I don't care how many biased studies you have read that are done by the defenders of wildlife. The wolves will wipe out our ecosystems. Oh yeah and these wolves are not "endangered" there are Canadian wolves everywhere, and the fact of the matter is that these Canadian gray wolves WILL wipe out the indigenous timber wolves that are left, and they will become extinct. Get a clue and some education before you start believing all the lies

Commenter: Suzy Dooshbag

I think if wolves are killing 1000's of elk and deer and leaving them to rot. We should give them a big hug and teach them about yoga and crystals.

I would like to see wolves reintroduced into NYC and San Fran again too because that is their historical range. We could just bulldoze a bunch of homes in the bay area and close roads to re-create the habitat before the evil "white devil" came to Amerika to destroy them and the Indians

Support PBS!!!!

Commenter: John

One thing N.O.W. did and will always do is come at a story from a leftest point of view..

Example, the Federal Government knows more about the wolves then the people that have to live with them, Aka centralized government...

All you have to do is look at the time the Big Government advocates get and look at the time the hunters get.. I'll bet they could have found a few articulate hunters but that doesn't fit the agenda they have...

Commenter: Doug

No animal that has been regulated through hunting has ever been made extinct. Have a over population and disease and starvation eliminate the over population sounds worse then hunting to me. Hunt them keep numbers in check. Help other animal populations survive

Commenter: Charles

Most of the people that hunt told the F&G what would happen when the wolves were reintroduced. And they were right for without proper control they double in size in short periods of time. These are wild animals not like the domestic dog. They kill all of the time that is how they live. They are an animal of beauty and death. Our elk and deer livestock are their main food source. We'll see what happens when more people get killed or cornered by wolves. There only needs to a limeted amount of wolves anywhere. As the last game offical I talked with said when asked about how many there are in a certain area. He said "That the pack were all killed". Right!!! then where did the other pack come from that killed 4 more of my cattle yesterday, asked the local rancher. People that live behind desks and say this is great. I believe that most of them don't live and work out here in the west. And when a few more dogs and cats are killed they will cry the most because they do not relize that these wolves are not pets and are just killing machines. Get rid of 95 % of them now.

Commenter: Rick-Idaho

The introduction of wolves have destroyed our Moose and Elk populations. There was a reason the wolves were all removed long ago.

Commenter: VARMINT

TO ALL WHO LOVE WOLVES WATCH THEM TAKE DOWN A ELK IN YOUR SPARE TIME IT IS A GRUESOME AND SLOW DEATH OUR ANCESTORS GOT RID OF THEM FOR A REASON IF YOU CLAIM TO LOVE WILDLIFE WHY WOULD YOU WANT ONE TO SUFFER IF YOU HAVE NEVER WATCHED IT FOR YOURSELF YOU NEED TO

Commenter: wolf man

I don't want my tax dollars to support wolves.

Commenter: elkslaya

what do wolves do to their competition such as the coyote? that right they kill them. man has replaced the wolf as thee apex predator and i say we should treat the wolf as the wolf treats the coyote.

Commenter: Mulehunter From Washington.

Our Taxes MONEY WASTED on Wolves. Not Nesscary to have USFWS! Let Each STATE Manage it their OWN way!
Govt Wasted 4.2 billion Settlement lawsuits over Wolves. ALL B.S.!

So what do you all EARTHJUSTICE group do with all 4.2 billion dollar worth of MONEY! GREEDY OF COURSE!!

Why cant you people from EarthJustice Help pay funds to Most of Ranchers who lost all Cattles that cant run faster than Wolves!

Maybe they should pay all Rancher for better Fences to protect their livestock!

Mulehunter

Commenter: Ms Vasumathi Krishnasami

The wolf is a highly intelligent, evolved and beautiful mammal which actually does not reproduce when food or territory is scarce. Can the same be said of greedy, cruel, selfish and concupiscent human beings who, in my opinion, are vastly inferior to wolves and several other species? It is monstrous that wolves should be hunted and hounded so, without adequate federal protection. It is high time that a developed nation such as the U.S.A. extended its full legal protection to wolves and all other species. It is the least that any country can do for its animal population!

Commenter: A.. Edwards

Wolves don't need federal protection. It's the ranchers and out door enthusiasts that need to be able to protect themselves. And this B.S. about there not being a documented wolf attack on humans is just that, B.S. Try watching one of the many animal shows such as "when animals attack", or animal planet or the the science channel, or reading "out door life".

Commenter: Theodore, Eagle, CO

The 25 minute segment was well worth the watch. Thanks PBS. However, it was obvious that the hunting element was distasteful to the narrator and therefore breeds a lack of integrity into this report because a bias of this nature makes one wonder how much effort was taken to show both sides.

I was disappointed when he talked about the 1000 wolves that died because of a few livestock deaths- this was misleading - 1600 wolves in three states are killing thousands of quadrupeds, both wild and a few domesticated, monthly so 1000 dead wolves as a consequence seems low, not high, Furthermore, your report did not mention the number of animals wounded by the wolves and died by other means in their weekend state or the vet bills paid to keep stock alive. Take a trip to Yellowstone and look and the number of wounded and stressed elk since the wolves came back.

We must manage populations of all species and some wolves will die either by government tax dollar sniper or Hunter, I prefer the fiscally responsible Hunting method of population management.

Also, the woman from Defenders of the Wild either mis-spoke, or is blatantly advertising her ignorance when she said her organization was not an anti-hunting organization. Spend 2 minutes on their web-site and you will find Defenders of the Wild is an anti-hunting, anti-trapping, fan and a fierce advocate of all non-lethal forms of coexistence of man with the natural world - Again a non-hunter reporter allowing a blatant factual error.

One more thought about the Endangered Species Act, when I read it years ago there were two major provisions, one for species in place in the natural world and another provision HABITAT for species that man and/or darwin had eliminated. The Wolf was listed under the ladder provision because they were essentially gone from USA, but there were over 60,000 non-threatened wolves world wide when they were introduced in Yellowstone! Think about this, under the habitat provision of the Endangered Species Act, in theory we could deconstruct every city in America for all the displaced animals. The Endangered Species Act is a mechanism for attorneys to rich.

Overall, the segment was pretty good for media coverage on this topic and I thank PBS for the piece. I am also a financial contributor to PBS and encourage other to do the same.

Commenter: Jeremiah Pope

I am not a hater of the wolf, but wolf numbers do need to be managed just like deer elk and antelope. TO those people who dont know anything about wildlife, do some research and see why we need management for the population. The wolves in Idaho have decimated local elk herds and started moving into towns taking dogs, what if a child is next? Will that be enough blood to prove that they need to be managed?

Commenter: Karen

For those of you that seem to think that letting the wolve should continue to multiply and kill everything they come into contact need to realize that when there are no Elk,deer and moose left. They will come after children,cats,dogs and soon adults. Common sense should tell you that everything needs some control. Your idea for continued protection in our area when you DON'T live here or Pay for our wild life is going to cause OUR Elk,Deer,Moose and our personal pets to go on the endangered

list!!! IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN OUR STATE, PAY TO HELP AND MAINTAIN OUR WILDLIFE YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HELP MAKE DECISIONS ON OUR FUTURE!!!!!!!

Commenter: Larry Cross

You idiots that don't live out west where the wolves are starting to decimate the elk and deer herds to around 50% of what they were just four years ago need to take a second look at what you do gooders are actually doing. You have managed to wipe out our elk herds to the point we are going to have to start taking your first born and let the wolves start knawing on them just so you can protect these creatures of destruction.

Commenter: Scott

States should be allowed to manage wolves just as any other game species, and their management decisions should be based on good biology and science not on stupid public opinion polls like this, or with political pressure from well intending but uneducated groups such as Earthjustice.

Commenter: jim taylor

In addition to the financial threat to ranching families brought on by the pro-wolfer groups, what about the great expense to the American taxpayers who have had to shell out big bucks to support this worthless, insane program. Seems to me that a bunch of money grabbing elitists disguised as bleeding heart animal-save-the-planet activists are stuffing their pockets at our expense.

Commenter: Norm Plank

As a non-contributor of the food chain to humans, how can the wolve be more important than deer, elk, and other contributors to our food chain? The wolves have wiped out the elk populations in Northern Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming. The wolves cannot co-mingle with other species and should be eleminated or placed in National Parks where people can see them and protect them from hunters and other. They have feasted on ranchers cattle and the ranchers are not getting reimbursed for the loss of

their income. Stop this nonsense!

Commenter: Gerald Martin

As a wildlife lover, hunter, conservationist and resident of Montana, I believe management of wolves belongs at the state level like other game animals. Wolves are no longer endangered, all the population goals have been met to satisfy the standards set when they were on the endangered species list. In many locations wolf numbers are actually too high and are part of the reasons that elk, deer, and other prey animals are experiencing grave declines in their numbers. Wolves should always experience some protection, but not at the expense of other species.

Commenter: Richard

I live in Idaho and have seen the impact the wolf has made on the wildlife in my state. Our forefathers eradicated them for a reason and the lower 48 don't need them.....

They lied to us when they brought them here 12 years ago and they are still lying to us now..

Commenter: Ethel S

This has been the most expensive venture for the people, especially for ranchers. Wolves kill for pleasure too, not just to eat. They are growing in population very rapidly. They are now in the Big Horn mountains. They have been for about 8 years. I saw and heard them!!!. I do not feel safe anymore going fishing in my favorite lakes or streams. I will need to carry a gun to feel safe. This is absolutely terrible. My ancestors were here when the wolves were and they use to tell stories about the God-awful.... things the wolves did. Why do you think they were shot!

Commenter: Bob

And to think I was worried that PBS wasn't going to get funding to be able to continue airing the programs it does. Try something that shows both sides of a story in a fair and accurate manner, then maybe your station will be worth saving.

Commenter: Hal

Save the money being spent trying to perpetuate predators and feed some needy people! jhh

Commenter: lunatic mama

Noone knows what the wolves are like unless they live with them...eating your animals, hanging around your house, walking down your street without fear. There's a reason that the wolves are endangered. I don't want to drive them to extinction but I don't want to push having them thriving in my back yard. It seems that the people pushing for them don't have to live with them and risk their children to them.

Commenter: James Porter

The environmental groups are way out of line. Unmanaged wolves are like allowing terrorist free run of our cities. How about reintroducing poisonous snakes into cities flower beds? After all weren't they once native there?

Commenter: Jeff Robertson

The people that want the wolves protected really don't have a clue as to what they have done to the Elk herds of MT. The Grey Wolf is not a native of MT. the timber wolf is. The idiots that want these here should come hike and camp in the woods here without protection and hopefully they will have a close encounter with these animals that do nothing but kill, and not always to eat, just to kill.

The wolf supporters don't have to live among them with the wolves very very close to town and within one mile from a middle school.

I think that they should pass a law that states that the parties responsible for the wolf invasion are responsible for any damages caused by these worthless animals. At least the game animals bring money to the states by means of liscenseing fees. The wolves do nothing but cost the taxpayers money for something very few want. There was a reason we wiped them out years ago. Myself and many I know will shoot on sight. My Motto: SMOKE A

PACK A DAY.

Commenter: Patricia

Using the Endangered Species Act to protect a species, including wolves, must be solely a decision made by qualified scientists. The decision to list or delist a species must be made by the recovery team and should never be influenced by political policy and or public pressure.

The questions that have always been so perplexing to me are why do some people want to protect life and living systems while others do not? Why would any intelligent creature want to threaten the life support system that protects them? These questions have crossed my mind many times.

The answers to these questions give great insight into who we are as individuals and as a species. We offer hope, opportunity and potential to do better through education and outreach by raising levels of awareness.

As a species we have the discretionary capability to choose our path in life. Our choice can be supportive of nature or not.

Many view life from an anthropocentric perspective. It is all about us as individuals and as a species. We tend not to incorporate other living things, the land and oceans as part of the equation. We look at the "other" in a utilitarian sense. The question that always arises directly or implied is how will the "other" benefit mankind?

This removes respect, identity, compassion and empathy from the mix. We look at life as a resource to be utilized. This equates to tonnage at the dock, board feet at the saw mill and pork bellies on the commodities market. Greed, corruption, ignorance and apathy lead to overharvesting, brutal treatment, bullets, traps, poisons, chain saws, long lines, harpoons and gill nets. In the extreme, results bring endangerment and ecological collapse. We manage the resource base in our own best interest. We are part of a society where this is the norm. Yet as we evolve, we move beyond the negative by incorporating an expanded sense of being into daily life.

What do other species mean for the human soul and why does our management of them matter to the human race? The Wolf is

certainly emblematic of this statement.

We need to move forward to the next frontier, the frontier of how we think and relate to one another, to other species and the planet. If we are to do more than survive it is critical we understand our own patterns of behavior.

We have become a force of nature. We are capable of protecting, restoring and enhancing life and living systems.

Perception changes as awareness and consciousness change. Our relationship with other people, other species, the land and the planet are a product of integrative neurophysiology.

You cannot do harm to another human. Not if you are connected. You cannot do harm to another species. Not if you are connected. You cannot do harm to the land or the planet. Not if you are connected.

The way we treat other species, and the earth is an indicator of the way we treat ourselves.

We can raise our level of awareness, our level of consciousness, the messages we send across our world. We can integrate with humanity, other species, the land and the planet. We can become a positive intentional force in the process of evolutionary biology.

Commenter: Tyler Woods

I guess im kind of missing it here, I dont know why some of you folks are so worried about there not being enough wolves for you to look at. There are so many in some areas that you cant go anywhere without seeing, hearing, tracks, wasted kills, etc.... Hell, i would say that they are a huge success way to go guys. But for you to see that you need to get off the computers and put the National Geographics down and lace the boots up and get out and see the "Success Story" in progress. We who have to live with them are affected by them to the point where people are having to change their livelihoods based around the wolves, is that right?

Commenter: Pat Sullivan

I find it somewhat interesting that while nearly 70% of the vote is

'no need for federal protection', the VAST majority of the comments are from the 30% side. Are we now picking and choosing only those comments to post that support pro-wolf interests? Why not just fudge the numbers as well to support your side. Your show as well as your tactics in posting comments are extremist and liberal in nature.

I have a very difficult time listening to anyone who would mention god in the same sentence while discussing sound wildlife management. The professed belief in god from so many posters here while turning their head blindly to the multitudes of dinosaur fossils carbon dating back millions of years old, yet still insistent that the earth is but a few thousand years old (creation) is enough to tell me that you are only speaking with emotions. Repeatedly bringing god into a discussion of game management only restates your ignorance and reinforces my belief that you should not be taken as credible.

Liberals should try moderation sometime. It's always - 'live as I live' or we will take you to court and make you! Perhaps all of the organizations protecting the wolf should be paying the depredation costs to ranchers and pet owners rather than coming from taxpayers. It is interesting that in 2009 in Wisconsin over 40 wolves (out of an estimated 600-700) were euthanized due to pet/livestock depredation and 'agressive behaviors' with humans. Depredation payouts increased 5 times during the past two years as well while the population went from 450 to 670ish.

Wolf activists' blindness will be the ultimate undoing of the wolf! It will take complete exhaustion of game herds, a few children killed etc and then it will be gloves off (back to what our grandfathers learned so many years ago). I seriously recommend that everyone and everything co-exist under managed populations. Mother nature is very cruel and populations do not simply maintain themselves in a fairytale world. One population grows at the expense of another until it exhausts its resources and then starves....and the cycle repeats. Responsible game management ensures a gentle ebb without the massive starvations and populations swings.

While I am a hunter and do not believe that a destructive animal like the wolf has any place in our ecosystem, I am willing compromise and discuss manageable populations. The hundreds of liberals posting on this thread can see only one thing - their way. When do the lives of so many hundreds of thousands of

whitetail deer, elk, and moose that are killed by the wolves count for something.? They are, after all, God's creatures too ;-)

Commenter: A

Because of the hot totally crazed wolf conservation groups I will not use my full name. Those who are so fond of the wolves are not the ranchers and wild life enthusiasts. We in Wyoming have seen the reduction of Elk, Mountain Sheep, Moose numbers due to the destruction of the wolf packs. The ranchers are dealing with wolves on daily basis with losses of their cow, calves, sheep. Those wolf howl enthusiasts can be real happy now. Personally I was quite happy listening to the coyote and fox.

Commenter: C Gillespie

They are NOT endangered. Quit breeding them in my backyard.

Commenter: Rusty

You might investigate this story more for the facts. The facts are that the groups involved in introducing (not re-introducing) these animals agreed to a much lower number than are presently roaming the three states. It is dishonest to say they are endangered, they have increased by 30 to 40% every year since release 15 years ago. The feds don't want to pay for management, the enviros want an unlimited number. They are much like the grizzly in that they have filled all suitable niches in the states and are being pushed into conflict with other wolves and people all across the area.

Commenter: Suzanne Gillispie

These wolves are getting much to brave and stalk People, soon I am afraid they will kill a child. You are worried about the wolf dying out, what about the ranchers?

Commenter: Buzz Gertsen

This is the stupidest thing our fish and wildlife people have ever done..
I think all wolves should be exterminated.

We were doing fine without them.
Remember. Lewis and Clark couldn't find any game to shoot and eat but there were wolves..
The lie that they eat what they kill is ridiculous.
You have seen them kill a hundred sheep. I have seen them kill several elk and eat the ass out of only one.
Quit lying about these scavengers you idiots.

Commenter: casey middleton

wolves should be removed from the ESA
they are a experimental species and never belonged there in the first place.

Commenter: bob cook

Wolves have clearly met and surpassed the quota established to determine the success of the program. Any further waste of money, time and other resources would be just like Washington: what about this " CHANGE " we were promised?

Commenter: Jerry Messing

Wolves are found naturally in NW Mt. They are now "as thick as flies"! I have 60 deer in My yard in Thompson Falls, afraid to go up on the Mountain North of here!!

A horseback ride verifies that the majority of wildlife on the mountain is Wolves. Now a medium size pack just arrived naturally from Canada. They combined packs are killing a dozen animals a day.

We had photos in the paper taken just east of town of 2 wolves returning to livestock kills just yards from the main hiway! And at 11 AM !!

Our "wolves" may not be pure wild wolves. Unscrupulous people from all over the US who favor wolves here, have been crossing 2 or 3 times with DOGS and then illegally releasing them in the wild.

These animals appear as wolves, except have little concern about dogs and people! Their profile is like a wolf with slightly shorter legs and a more narrow track (as a young wolf would have).

The population is out of control here and in Idaho, and our doe season has just been cancelled.

IF THIS IS HAPPENING HERE NEAR POPULATION, WHAT IS

HAPPENING FURTHER INTO THE MOUNTAINS. A kill can only last 1 day, as many have observed; mainly due to the great no's of birds of prey mostly Eagles and Ravens. Road kills are fewer, and are totally cleaned up by dusk.

Commenter: anonymous

The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) claims it is slaughtering the Yellowstone bison because they carry brucellosis. This claim rings hollow in light of a few facts: There has never been a documented transmission of brucellosis from wild bison to livestock. Even if buffalo were capable of spreading the disease, there are no cattle on these lands from mid-October to mid-June, making brucellosis transmission impossible.

All bison captured and slaughtered this winter have been bulls, which are incapable of transmitting the disease. The ten bull bison slaughtered this week tested positive for brucellosis antibodies, not infection. Because bison are known to build natural resistance to brucellosis, these animals may actually be the strongest, healthiest animals of the herd. The overwhelming majority of bison slaughtered according to these test results don't actually carry the disease.

Commenter: DDS Arizona

What we really need to put a stop to is THE GRAVEY TRAIN that the enviros have locked onto. They and their lawyers are cleaning our monies up and keep right on feeding at our expense, we the taxpayer!

What a way to destroy our economy, screw us at both ends at the same time.

Commenter: Tom--Denver Colorado

Last time I checked history, they (wolves of all species), were here a long time before the non native species (cattle/sheep). Maybe the non native species should have been kept in check as to not over populate into the native species territories? Kinda hard to blame the wolves just because they were here first, and we couldn't find how to deal with them except to kill them out of the way of "progress"??!!

Commenter: Bob

The wolf issue is just another source of tension between rural & urban citizens. I believe urban citizens meddle in land use planning of rural areas because of a sense of guilt for how poorly they have managed their own communities. That's a big problem in the west because so much of it is federal land. A recent Utah wilderness designation was proposed by New York Congressman. He persisted despite the unanimous objection of Utah's Congressional delegation. Local and state governments should have a say in the management of federal public lands. They represent the folks most affected by it's management. New Yorkers want wolves, fine. Put them in Central Park.

Commenter: jack cook

leave it totally to state conservation agency
how can you discredit the job they have done with all other species, you can not~!!! we have no choice we must bal. nature creatures. we have taken to much of there habitad,an there is no control of that,

Commenter: Sally, CA

People are more important then the wolf. The wolf needs to be controlled from over population. Why do we need them to be out there killing everything in site? How safe are your children when they start coming into populated areas looking for food? Think about it !!!

Commenter: JIM BOYLE

WE NEED TO REGULATE ALL OF IT. YOU CAN NOT JUST LET ONE PREDATOR GO UNCHECKED, THE ELK ARE BEING WIPED OUT ON SOME OF THEIR HOME RANGES, THIS IS NOT A GOOD SYSTEM, THE WOLF IS BACK, REGULATE THEM!!!!!!!!!!!!

Commenter: Sherry Blake

The government has also brought wolves into NM. Our farmers and ranchers are losing livestock because of the wolves.The

wolves are not afraid of people. We are not allowed to protect the livestock or domesticated animals. I vote no.

Commenter: Dave S.

The wolf population in all three states exceeded the recovery goals years ago and is growing at an alarming rate. It's well past the time when they should be placed under the management of the state game agencies and managed like any other large predator or game animal. The ESA only succeeds when species are recovered and removed from the list. It is not intended as an instrument to provide blanket protection in perpetuity as many so-called conservation groups seem to believe. True conservation involves responsible management for all the species, not just the ones you think are particularly cool or interesting.

Commenter: Alta J. LeDoux

The wolves are such a detriment to the elk hunting industry that has always been a Montana industry. Also to our ranching industry. How can people think they are a good thing?? We need to get rid of the wolves period. God did not make this world for certain things to last forever. He knows best.

Commenter: Steve Lange

Wolves are great, they serve a purpose in nature. However too many of any species is a bad thing. Deer, elk, antelope ,sheep, mountain lions and bears all have to be kept in a reasonable population to support a healthier group of animals. If there is not enough resources to support the population worse things than hunters taking a few animals will happen. Why do you think bears get into trash cans and break into cabins when times are tough? Wolves are no different. Ask anyone who has livestock around a wolf pack that does not have enough natural food to sustain there pack. Disease and hunting are about the only predators a wolf has. If the numbers exceed the quota set for a region then hunting these animals is the best solution. I believe in conservation, and that includes population control, which like it or not hunting provides.

Commenter: Craig

My opinion is to kill'em all! Our forefathers got rid of them once for a reason and with all they kill in the way of Elk, Deer as well as cattle and other farm animals, again, "kill'em all!

Commenter: Vito Bloodfoot

Introducing wolves into the Yellowstone area was about the one of the most stupid thing the Gov , let the environmentalist talk them into, these are not native wolves of the original species and all they have done is destroy , esp the ranchers farm animals. . Good example of how stupid these Tree huggers are.

Commenter: Rog

Wow. I would first like to start out by commenting on the numerous people citing the 'Killing of God's Creatures';

To you I reply - Your ignorance of sound game management is only surpassed by your belief in the Boogey Man, the easter bunny, god etc. You say creation, I can prove evolution. More HUMANS have died due to religion and false beliefs than all other tragedies combined. Please stop using god to justify your complete lack of understanding of a balanced ecosystem.

Make no mistake, the wolves are eating/killing themselves out of house and home and expanding range at an alarming rate. One can only define wolves killing success as far more successful than any hundreds of thousands of humans with rifles as 'proved' by the sharp declines in game populations. Could humans have done the same thing to the Lolo elk populations...of course we COULD have, but we chose to manage ourselves through lottery and limited quota systems which allow for sustainable harvests of the prey. Unfortunately the wolves do not read nor follow responsible game management guidelines therefore someone will eventually have to do this for them.

By the jaw of the wolf and in the name god MORE killing has ever taken place and will continue to take place. Yes, we hunters do harvest animals as well but we are respectful of the game and eat what we harvest. Are we to believe that a predator such as the wolf that may not even number 0.05% of any state's typical human hunting populace is actually eating all of the animals they are killing? Do the math - they would be consuming several

hundred pounds of flesh per day per animal to keep up with the killing rate.

IN THE END WE WILL ALL APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE WOLF LISTED. Yes, that's right - because only through complete exhaustion of our resources and far increased attacks on livestock, pets, children and adults will we remember why our forefathers exterminated this animal from greater than 95% of its range. Then we will win and the gloves will come off once again. It will be poison, traps, meat-baited hooks hanging from trees on wire leaders, and open season year-round on the wolf.

Or, you could remove the elitist, extremist grin off of your face and realize your best course of action 'FOR THE WOLF' is a managed and balanced population. Conservationists would be fine with a healthy, viable, MANAGED population of wolves everywhere. The problem with liberals is that you believe everyone else must be forced to live the way YOU choose to live (even if you don't really even live in the affected areas). I wonder how your tone would change if several wolves had to be shot for stalking your children to the corner bus stop? It's always all or nothing with you people. Try moderation on for size - you are not the only person here on earth.

Commenter: Robert L. Casados

If we don't put a stop to the wovles now what will happen to our cattle producer and the rest of wild life in the area. If they want to release them, that is fine but don't put any restriction on them and quit wasteing tax dollars on them. How many more school bus stops will ww have to put cages up to protect our kids. Like what is happening in Southwest New Mexico

Commenter: Wes

Eric S,

I think you should do your part to control the human population right now.. it all start with you pal.

Commenter: LANE

I wasn't aware that the definition of "MANAGE" had changed to KILL OFF. Obviously you PRO-WOLF people don't have a clue, or a dictionary for that matter. Ranchers!!! There not the only ones having problems with the wolves. Facts facts facts, are not something you have. Shooting from planes, helicopters! Yep all of us hunters have helicopters. Facts are in ID, its ILLEGAL to hunt from a aircraft. Your not even aloud to hunt for twenty four hours after flying over a hunting area. Now i am not saying it hasn't been done, but where do you get your facts? You believe every thing you read in the papers? YOU make it sound like we fly around all day shooting wolves. You try to make people believe something that is not true, because you have an opinion of this animal you don't know anything about. Let me brake it down for you PRO-WOLF people. Regardless: wolves on or off the endangered list, they will be killed by man. Except at a greater risk of extinction,because you don't understand the definition of MANAGE. You PRO-WOLF people don't get it, your in a lose lose situation. This matter here will just fuel the illegal wolf hunter to kill as much as they possibly can. I the hunter don't want to see them all die, but strongly believe in a management program. I recommend you get all the facts. I put just as much time and money in on helping the wildlife as i do hunting the wildlife. It's my job as a responsible conservationist. How about you? Do you invest in the wildlife other then your so called FACTS? Is this all you got? If so i would find something else to do if I were you. Leave this subject matter to people who really care about the wildlife, and KNOW that the state is better off handling the wolves than the feds.

Commenter: David

There's nothing wrong with managing a wildlife population whatever the species. If wolves are left to continue to increase numbers this will erode the notion that this was the "most successful" program into just another example for the heap of blunders performed by an overbearing government.

Conservation means "wise use" and implies management. The "non use" preference for some of these groups suing local governments to block science-based management of the many species related to this issue do not merit the noble title of conservation.

Commenter: Wilma m. Eck

I Think President Obama has lied to us all AGAIN. He is NOT protecting the endangered species as Promised.

Commenter: Frank Schmitz

The reintroduction of wolves has been more than a complete joke but instead a complete night-mare. It is unfortunite that man thinks he is the most intelligent being on earth but is completely incapable of learning anything from our history. That means the old saying of history repeats itself is always so true, except when it repeats itself it becomes more brutal and hopefully more obviouse as mother nature (and God for the few who still believe this universe is bigger than our small and semi-retarded minds) corrects our mis-management. Bringing back wolves to an area that has been devoleped outside of the timbered mountainous areas is the same as bringing grizzly bears back to every place west of the mississippi river were they had existed. Things change everyday and yesterday is gone. It can not be recreated. When wolves dominated the west no game existed in the mountians as Lewis and Clark documented. Elk, Deer, and even big horn sheep were discovered out on the open praires that now are fenced for domestic livestock. Then wolves had forced the animals into the open country were they could see the preditors and run from them. As humans came with livestock and high fur prices they killed preditors so they could survive. They properly would have and nearly did exterminate all the wildlife, but poisioning the preditors allowed the deer, elk, mt. goats, big horn sheep, moose, and others to retreat back into the mountains. Then let some time pass as we enjoy the sucessfull rebound of these species and we decide to reintroduce wolves, but we forgot why these species that we now regard as mountain animals were forced there by us. The wolves start to desimate animals and they respond by leaving the mountains into what is now farm land and find themselves unwelcome there. If you still don't get the picture we need to re-introduce wolves to your city parks were they might really do some good!

Commenter: wyodale

Wow, the predophiles are out in force leaving comments against wolves right to exist. I suppose you know this qualifies you as honorary LBPC members? Little Bitty Peter Club, you know, the club you all belong to with your "this is mine" mentality...kill

anything that takes something you consider yours away so you can't kill it. YOUR elk? The wildlife of this country belongs to ALL Americans, not just those that want to kill them. Wolf watching has brought millions of dollars to the Yellowstone area. The Cattle industry is a very small percentage of Wyoming, thus they should not be in charge via their leader, Salazar. Shame on Obama for appointing a special interests person to oversee OUR natural resources.

Commenter: Bernie

Oh sure! Either way, it is going to cost us taxpayers because the egocentrics keep on using taxpayer monies to pay their legal fees. They don't tell you that, do they "sparkie?" This is a facade they use to keep sucking off the system. These agencies and their expensive law firms have a great meal ticket by sueing the gov't entities (and ultimately us, the taxpayer). They are awarded monies for these lawsuits. Check it out for yourself. I am fed up with the so-called gov't for allowing frivolous lawsuits from these do-gooders and fed up with "so-called," overeducated, lacking common sense, humans(?)(using the term loosely) thinking they know more than everyone else because they have letters following their name and shoving their ideals up and down every orifice of our body, whether we want it or not. I, for one, am for erradicating your ideals and your dang icons you use as an excuse for self gratification, TOTALLY once and for all.

Commenter: cindy

Awww, are the big manly men of Idaho skeered of the wolves? Are ya gonna go kill 'em before they come fer yer cheeldrin? You have to be a certain kind of human to hunt down a wolf with a high-powered scope, rifle and snowmobile. What kind of human I won't say. Perhaps wolves enrage all of you manly men so much because they are so much like you, eh? Oh wait. Wolves don't take the best of the best and hang the head on the wall and brag about it for the rest of their lives over a cube of brewskies with the boys.

Commenter: Cecil Waldrip

we need the wolf like we need small pox. Be it the gray wolf or mex wolf. those that promote protecting them need to observe

their habits.

Commenter: Dr. Nelson

We have created a system of management that has worked for a century. You are re-introducing a species that will now compete with the resources of man. Once the depredation on the surrounding resources wipes them out they will travel to follow the food sources or prey upon what's available. At a 20% growth rate per year it will be a matter of time before the large packs wipe out the deer, elk and moose in this state. It will then set the stage for predation on what's left, prized livestock and families' livelihoods. A very bad thing has been re-introduced into our resources. Unfortunately this is not the 1800's and competition will be fierce. Without proper management kids, pets and livestock will live in fear.

Commenter: Reed Bailey

THE FOOD CHAIN WAS, FOREVER CHANGED, WHEN MAN IN MASS POPULATION ENTERED INTO THE EQUATION. UNTIL THE NUMB SKULLS WHO DO NOT LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE, ACCEPT REALITY, WE WILL CONTINUE WASTING MONEY OVER A BATTLE THAT WILL PROVE IT'S SELF IN THE END AND ALL WILL SEE WHY THE WOLF DISAPPEARED FROM HEAVILY HUMAN POPULATED AREAS. LET THE IDEALISTS AND THE WOLVES SELF DESTRUCT WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG.

Commenter: William Robinson

Grey wolves aren't native to the region. The timber wolf is what belongs in that part of the country and it is a much better fit for the ecosystem. The larger grey wolves are going to devastate the population of other wildlife in their home range, namely elk and both species of deer. Introducing them was a horrible decision as they are not endangered at all.

Commenter: Matt S.

It's interesting to hear the constant emotional "arguments" from both extremes. Wolves are not some devil in fur, nor are they the

iconic, endearing, God created puppy that some believe. They are a predator, and animal. Nothing more, nothing less. Having seen them tear an animal apart while it was still alive certainly put everything into perspective. They hunt, they kill, they try to survive. It ain't pretty, but it's real.

As someone with a biological and conservation background (and profession), I have studied and worked with both large predators and ungulates. To say that wolves aren't having a negative impact on certain ungulate populations is purely ignorant. Just as ignorant is the belief that they will wipe out all big game animals. For the sake of the wolves, the balance of wildlife populations, and human interactions (because they do matter), the wolf must be managed similar to the mountain lion and black bear.

Living outside of Yellowstone, I see the negative and positive impacts wolves have had on the landscape. Our local moose population is in alarming decline, and the wolf is one major component of that.

Also, the fact that the "pro-wolf" so-called conservationists from Defenders of Wildlife are using the wolf as a fundraising pawn to the detriment of all escapes most emotional urban and suburban people.

Here is a simple fact. ALL parties agreed to 300 wolves as a recovered population. Now that we have 1,600 some say it's not enough. Trust me, proper management will be beneficial to all. Let wildlife biology rule the management and not emotional propaganda...FROM EITHER EXTREME.

Commenter: Ed Schaub

PBS;

You folks do a mighty poor job of presenting the entire of picture, you show only what sells your point of view.

Early in this program you state '.... wolf watchers bring in money.' I guess the hunter, rancher, or resident has not contributed anything to maintain fiscal solvency in the Yellowstone area of the West. What about the wolf controversy in NM, AZ, CO. and other western states? Other facts you seem blind to are - cost - \$330K per wolf (by the USF&WS's own admission), here in the Gila Wilderness (this nations first wilderness). Is that kind of

expenditure - truly what this nations' taxpayers want to spend their hard earned monies on? You asked an attorney for one of the 'conservation' groups - 'Why are you suing?'. You forgot to have him say that they are charging back to the taxpayer at the rate of \$450 per hour here in NM for their 'dedication' to help the wolf. His answer should have been 'I sue (for any cause), because it is the way I make a good living.' Surely you as an 'un-biased' source are aware the federal government is paying these environmental group to sue the federal government. You said Doug Hunnold received his law degree from Berkley and could have made more money else where implying that he is doing this for the wolf. What in fact does that have to do with anything? Westerners are against all this nonsensical money and power grabbing because they love their homes and the country they resides in. They are not back East (or 'elsewhere'), making more money than they certainly are in the West, but what bearing does any of that have on this wolf issue?

Doug Hunnold of Earth Justice states '... wolf recovery is not quite at the legitimate recovery level' These same 'conservation groups' said the very same thing about the Peregrine Falcon until science and sound judgment prevailed. Hunnold also makes the comment '.... conceivably 1200 wolfs could face the gun.', yes and conceivably their numbers may also be reduced by exposure to decimating disease like rabies, or even highway deaths; but that does not raise the hair on your viewers neck like Hunnolds' comment 'facing the gun.' At that point in the program, I disliked your reinforcing pictorial touch of showing a bloody field research effort using a drugged wolf while you continued talking about hunting. It is very biased but quite effective presenting your side of this issue. Some of Hunnolds' group say it is necessary to have many more wolfs to '.... mingle with adjoining packs and areas.' Just exactly what do they say about the population explosion of wolfs from their 'endangered handful' just few years ago - to today's vastly over recovery plan target numbers? I knew when I first started listening to your program and to these 'conservation' lawyers that the subject of global warming would spew forth. Why don't you report that attorney fees awards to environmental groups to continue to sue the federal government is BIG BUSINESS and is likely to get bigger with these environmental groups fervor to use procedural errors by federal agencies to push the global warming agenda? That is the truth why not report it?

One other comment regarding these 'personally dedicated lawyers' in the 'environmental conservation' arena, has to do with your reported comment that the Defenders Of Wildlife have ".....

helped bring back the wolf in the Northern Rockies". Would you just for once report honestly and tell your viewers EXACTLY what the Defenders of Wildlife have actually done for the 'bringing back' effort? List some of their accomplishments, you know some facts that you profess to dig up. Look at these groups of lawyers and you know that all they have done is line their own pockets with taxpayer monies and scammed sympathy, with your help, from people who don't take the time to know both sides of these issues. I had to winch in sadness at the falsehood of Suzanne Stone from the Defenders of Wildlife saying 'We are not an anti-hunting organization' - and the even more sad truth that you at PBS report such lies in the name of honest public programs.

Ed Schaub
Buckhorn, NM

P.S. How many times did you second handedly need to slur (by inference), President Bush and his administration?

Commenter: B.A.SmithD.V.M.

Wolves are in large enough populations already. Hunting helps to regulate the population.

Commenter: James Barnes

I am a resident of Wyoming and have lived here my whole life. I spend as much time, or more time in the mountains than anyone. I have seen firsthand what is really happening and anyone who thinks there hasn't been too many wolves for a long time needs a serious wake-up call and really should get out more. There are wolves everywhere. The problem is, there is so many that they have left all the places that they were originally introduced (not re-introduced, that's all a big lie to begin with) because no wildlife is left and they have moved to greener pastures - which puts them on top of humans everywhere. Elk, Deer and Moose won't leave residential areas because that's the only place the wolves won't go near. The people that are supposed to monitor the wolves mislead the public and other officials to believe that the wolves are still struggling and that the drastic decreasing numbers of wildlife is due to drought. Just another lie. There are some people that need reality checks and need to quit lying and start doing what's in the best interest of Wyoming and surrounding states - this would mean that wolves need to be

managed somehow. Whether by Game and Fish eliminating them from a helicopter or offering people money to hunt them down.

Commenter: Darrus - wildlife biologist

Looks like you have stopped posting responses. Could it be because your poll is showing 64% or more Americans are opposed to federal protection of wolves? If you were to take a poll in just the western states where the wolf has wreaked havoc on wildlife and the people who live there you would see a number more like 100% opposed.

And you wonder why PBS is losing funding? Maybe it has something to do with the liberal and radical bias portrayed in your wolf article.

Commenter: tammie

i am a hunter. i hunt for food to put on my table this last year i paid the higher prices for the tags and the fuel to go hunting. sitting around the campfire late at night you could here the wolves. was it a good hunt NO. was i able to put food on my table no. i beleive that the wolves are taking out the elk and deer. i for one would not eat wolf, but i do plan to shoot one if it crossed my path. our for fathers were right in getting rid of them.

Commenter: Dave

The wildly sucessful return of wolves in Idaho has now tipped the scale so far as to eliminate public hunting,and very well may have been the plan all along.The feds have virtually taken a road and policy of circumventing the will of the citizens of any state.Is that setting legal precidence?The wolves do have a place but only when everyone concerned has a voice in the decisions that affect us here in Idaho.Here comes wolves to your state,without your consent and with a plan that has no clear objectives!We are putting wolves above all else at what cost?Wake up.Please!

Commenter: Dave

Yet another grossly biased effort by PBS. I'm not surprised. PBS clearly attempted to slant the story in favor of the anti-

conservation groups like DOW, NRDC, et al while ignoring sound science and the vital needs of these western states. These anti-hunt groups aren't "conservationists." They are environmentalists, the scourge of common sense. Wolves have clearly reached "recovered" status and should be managed as any other big game animal is managed.

Commenter: seth

Here in Colorado we are just stuck with coyotes. I can only imagine the problems the whole state would have if we had wolves. That being said I do think a lot of the wildlife advocates realize what wolves do to an eco system. Keep em out of Colorado!

Commenter: Denny

It is very obvious the pro wolf people have not put much boot leather on the ground. I am born and raised in Montana and live on a ranch in the mountains. I was also in yellowstone when CNN was filming the wolves moving into the park in horsetrailer right outside of Gardiner. I thought it might be nice to hear a wolf howl in the high country now and then. I didn't have a clue what was going to happen in a few years. As an avid elk hunter, which most Montanans are, we have seen our elk herds being wiped out. Now remember, elk and deer licences have paid the millions in wolf reintroduction. Who will pay for the millions of dollars in wolf control and livestock slaughter? More ridiculous government spending? With the ungulates demise, wolves are literally putting ranchers and outfitters out of business. We are starting to see many generation family ranches being sub divided and sold as a result. A lot of pro wolfers are harshing on ranchers, but enjoy a beef steak as well. Ranchers also love the wildlife, but can see the future is not bright. Both you and I deserve to make a living, why can't they? Why bitch about them? Wouldn't you be concerned if 65% of all your calves are being torn apart? What would you say if the wolves were killing your cattle? It seems the wolf advocates are just preaching about the endangered species act and the politicians. Why is there no talk about the elk being ripped apart and their calves being torn out of the cow while she is alive? Or the 125 3rd generation rams (sheep) being sport killed or left to suffer and die by 2 wolves in one afternoon by Dillon? The hunters don't hate wildlife. Even though they may not realize it, they are tree huggers as well. They like heavy timber to

hunt and clean streams to fish. Wildlife lovers, you had better enjoy it now, because this elk slaughter is just getting started. There are WAY more wolves than the biologists think. Ask the people that live and put down leather in the wilds. This is the biggest wildlife disaster since white man wiped out the buffalo. I have often said the coyote will be the last mammal alive because they are so elusive. We have been shooting them as predators for generations and they proliferate. There are still too many of them. That won't last now because the wolves are slaughtering them too. There is no way hunting will control wolves. As many as we can shoot, they will still increase in numbers. There was a reason our forefathers wiped them out. They used poison, trapping, government hunters and shoot on site and it still took 20 years. Now, the liberals seem to know more than they did. The long and the short of it is, it's over boys. Get used to it. We had our heads in the sand when this unbelievable decision to introduce them was made. And, it's just getting started!

Commenter: Dennis H

North America is a huge place with a population that is spread from the northern tier states to the arctic there are over 70,000 wolves, Wolves are far from extinction and need population control,.. wolves are currently well out of balance in the southern 48 for the amount of habitat and range

Commenter: CRAIG T.

I am a lifetime hunter of big game but do not have a desire to hunt wolves and think they are a magnificent animal that are caught in the middle of an ugly situation that is not their fault. Whoever thought that they could be introduced to their former range without following their natural instincts to spread out and form packs, did not think through the process very well. This is 2010 not the 1800's! Like it or not land has been developed and people have moved in. Managed wildlife species like Elk and Deer are dwindling in wolf inhabited areas and as this happens the wolves will spread out their range even further taking livestock and whatever they can find. It is only a matter of time before we have an incident where someone loses their life to one of these naturally instinctive hunters as they search for prey. I love and appreciate all wildlife, but in our modern age it needs to be controlled for the good of the animals. The best way to accomplish this and keep everyone happy, who knows at this

point. It should have never been started to start with, because ultimately the wolves will suffer!

Commenter: Roger Tilkemeier

Your bias in favor of environmental organizations, including the radical notions of some is obvious. One of the things that was said that caught my attention was that wolves were present in great numbers years ago and now we want them back in unlimited numbers.. This discounts the fact that the conditions and human populations are now are far different than then. Furthermore the politics of today reflect the huge numbers of people including environmental organizations that have no first hand knowledge of the problems that rural people face as the result of some of those urban popular decisions.

We don't have the votes nor the money to protect ourselves and therefore must rely on the good judgement and fair dealings of qualified officials to do the right thing, regardless of political pressure. In many cases that will is lacking. Lawsuits don't solve problems, they just cost taxpayers hundreds of million dollars to defend against environmentalists whom are funded with tax deductible donations.

Commenter: Ken S.

One of the saddest days ever was the day when they announced they were bringing wolves back in to the northern Rockies. 100 years ago the wolves couldn't get along with humans, what on Gods green earth were they thinking when they brought the wolves back. The wolf has shown a remarkable lack of adaptability. They are basically dead enders in the evolution process and don't belong in populated areas, where they inevitably clash with humans. The wolf advocates sit in their east and west coast homes and smugly shove this project down the throats of people in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Shame on all of you for doing this horrible injustice

Commenter: wolfquill

This poll and the comments are being heavily skewed by Hunt Wolves and Predator Masters Forums to name a couple. Politics as usual.

Gray wolves returning to a significant portion of their range would be a true recovery as per the Endangered Species Act, as it was originally intended to do. We have not yet seen this. Not even close.

Until people stop acting on irrational fear and hatred, and cease to skew the facts to promote their agenda, wolves will continue to be in dire need of that protection.

Commenter: gline

"Save Elk" is an irrational, fear mongering group only concerned with themselves. If they truly cared for Elk, they would educate themselves on the biology of wolves and how Elk actually need their predators to stay strong and healthy. You only care for the Elk so that you can shoot them. BS that that is your only food for the winter. Got a snowmobile in the garage too? Make room for wolves, and not TOKEN populations of them.

Commenter: KnownasTD

This is yet another classic example of how the granola crowd has used their ill-understood agenda, replete with unscientific facts and data, along with their their biased reporting, including their discriminate attacks on sound wildlife management policies.

We can't effectively manage "any" species of wildlife, especially the apex-predator wolf. And more-so, when the only wildlife management tool in your toolbox is your "warm & fuzzy heart". I digress...

Commenter: Tom

Government Sponsored Terrorism! Nothing more, nothing less.

It is amazing how the "wolf" instills so much passion in the people of the US.

Just read all of the drivel posted below. It is amazing how so many are out of touch with reality and how this nation was settled and prospered. Wolves were eliminated for a reason in the Western US and have never been endangered world wide as

they do have a function in controlling excessive wildlife in a few remote spots in the world. The only thing endangered is the western resource user and the communities that are an integral part of the West.

Leave Ken Salazar alone. He is the only bright spot in the Obama cabinet.

Commenter: Rick Ellison

Maybe those who think wolves are still endangered need to come and live among them like we do here in the West.

Populations have far, far exceeded the numbers promised in the beginning to establish them and now their numbers are spiraling out of control. Even with controlled hunting Wolves are now destroying all of their prey, livestock, neighborhood dogs, and soon elk, deer, and sheep will have to go on the endangered species act.

Wolves have NO known predator unless we control them.

Commenter: Todd Black

Was this supposed to be an unbiased report? If so you did a very poor job, your opinion and side on the matter shown through in true colors.

I consider myself a conservationist and a hunter but too me it was pretty one sided.

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Commenter: scott

i own livestock as do many others and when that livestock is

threatened by anything you need to do something about it. Wolves, coyotes etc. i believe need to be regulated and hunted. Like anything else when it gets out of hand something needs to be done. i am an avid bow hunter and outdoorsman that supports conservation efforts not by all but ones that make sense to me. i am a life member of the NRA and i do see the need for hunting and sport shooting. As far as you all that are upset for the way Obama is handling things in office, you voted for him, all of this was laid out on the table and in black and white in his policies that you obviously failed to read. You wanted him, you got him now stop your whining and you try and figure out a solution that makes sense and do something about it.

Commenter: Andy Bailey

It is interesting that the video does not show the graphic violence of a pack wolves chasing, attacking, and eating alive any animals. It only shows cute cuddly wolves romping in the wild. I would love to show a PETA person a graphic video of the truly violent nature of these animals. Too bad.

Commenter: Reid Hill

Seems like a good boycott of these company's and corporations would be good enough, but it's probably going to take a lot more to convince them differently. I've been trying for several years to get authorities to either send or let me come and rescue wolves and/or cubs before destroying them, but this has been to no avail.

Reid Hill
Cheyenne & Co. Wolf Sanctuary
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Commenter: Dennis O'Brien

Relocate the wolves to Berkely or San Francisco.
Happiness is an image of a wolf in the cross hairs! Let the ranchers manage the packs, they are funding them with the loss of their livestock. Just say'n!!

Commenter: Danny A

I think the wolf should be protected but being from the area and knowing many ranchers negatively affected by these huge packs running around, and they are huge I have seen them. Ranchers should have the right to shoot them on their property. If someone shoots them out and about and doesn't own any land there, they should be punished, but not the ranchers trying to provide for their families.

Commenter: Marie

We didn't need them when they brought them back and we don't need them now. Ranchers are the ones paying the price for man's stupidity. I live in MONTANA!

Commenter: Joseph Keith

There is no logical reason for the wolves to be here in New Mexico and Arizona. The elk and deer population aren't exceeding their limits so there is no reason for predators to be brought in to keep the numbers down. The ranches in this area are suffering immensely, and for what. It's a waste of money that could be put to something more worthwhile.

Commenter: N Sanders

The wolves have had too much success in my opinion. For those who say that they will feed on the weak! Wrong, they feed on whatever they can! Try looking at the baby calves they have slaughtered! Better yet, the mommas that are giving birth and don't have their normal defense! It is gross! There is a reason that people wanted them gone a long time ago. You should see the cages that are along the highways to protect their children at the bus stops!

Commenter: psyops

Delist them, I can't wait to hunt'em.

Commenter: Jay

Cutting off the comments didn't help your effort much did it?

Commenter: Elden Hulsey

With the state of our economy, I don't think that wolves are what we need to be concerned about. And also, maybe there is a reason the Government contributed to there extermination years ago.

Thanks

Commenter: Kevin Frost

I do not accept that the Bush, and now the Obama administrations are anti-environmental. Delisting is the right thing to do. It is these environmental groups such as Earth Justice and Defenders of Wildlife that are nuts!

Commenter: Joan Richards

I like wolves very much. I approve of their family life - the way all members of a pack help raise the cubs. Also they very rarely, if at all, hurt humans. They need to be able to roam over a very large area in order to maintain genetic diversity. Hence I strongly support the continuance of their status of an endangered species.

Commenter: Scott Leach

State rights and the people that live in that state need to be making the laws on whats hunted and what is protected. If you want wolves in Washington DC than you can have them, but dont tell people in Wy what we need and want!

Commenter: Debbie L.

We were never given a chance to object to the wolves being turned loose on us. Sure, USF&WS held public meetings over the deal, had a comment period, but the decision to turn them loose here had already been made long before we got to give our input.

There are so many good folks being put out of business because of the problem, and it's a shame. Concerned citizens have erected cages at school bus stops, so that the kids have a place to stay while waiting for the bus, in case of wandering wolves. A neighbor kid was literally surrounded by wolves a couple of

years ago not far from here; it's a good thing he had parents who taught him what to do and not do, or he might not have survived the incident. It's only a matter of time before someone is fatally attacked by some of those who were hand-raised by humans, because there is no natural fear there. They will come right up on your front porch and steal your pets. Bad thing is that there's nothing you can do about that.

Commenter: C. Dude

I have hunted where there are fair numbers of wolves in Idaho. Not only are the deer and elk numbers drastically down if not devastated in these areas. The populations of lions and even the black bear numbers are suffering. A wolf not only kills for food, but also for fun. I was glad to see Idaho open a season and have wolf numbers regulated. If the decision to take management away from individual state governments is taken away and the wolf is to be federally delisted again. You can bet that every wolf I see will be shot on site. They are Killers. I'm the top predator in the woods. A wolf cant make management decisions. And if a regulated season is taken away. Then the sportsmans will regulate it them selves. We see whats happening out there. Not the tree huggers.

Commenter: Jack B.

Sorry PBS, but your little spill on the plight of the wolf was extremely biased, slanted, untrue, and really pathetic. The proliferation of unmanaged wolves in the west has reversed hundreds of years of successful wildlife management. Wild animals should be managed by sound biology and science rather than radical agendas pushed by out-of-touch groups like Earth Justice, Defenders of Wildlife, GYC, etc.

Commenter: cred

It's not an "either or" situation with wolves. Here in Mexican wolf country, pro-wolf people act as if humans don't have any rights. Environmental groups use tax-payer money (they get grants, plus they're non-profits and don't pay taxes)to sue the government (that's us, the tax-payers) as if somehow these groups actually represented the opinion of the tax-payers. I didn't vote for them to represent me! No one did! Some of the more litigious enviro

groups are quite open about wanting to confine humans to cities and leave the rest of the country to the wild animals - as if humans didn't evolve here, too.

Humans and human rights have to be part of any environmental planning, that's common sense. I'd say the very best thing that could be done to protect the wolves would be to forbid environmental groups from having a say in wolf management.

By the way, the pre-European population in the Mexican wolf "reintroduction area" was much higher than the the current human population, so let's not pretend that the failure for the Mexican wolf to thrive is caused by anti-wolf locals.

And by the way - this, too, is an area that is being "repopulated" with wolves that are non-native. I just got a reprint of a 1935 article out of the Journal of Mammology assessing the wolf species in North America - sorry, there weren't any Mexican wolves here, it was Mogollon wolves. So the environmental protection act doesn't even apply to Mexican wolves!

Commenter: Susan Alvord Boise, Idaho

How would you like these monsters in your back yard...???

http://saveelk.com/wolf_080.htm

They have killed the elk and deer...what's next...our dogs and our CHILDREN...???

They breed like rabbits...and "KILL" for fun...!!!

They are not the indigenous Timber Wolf...they are from the Canadian forest...
THEY ARE "MONSTERS"....!!!

Susan Alvord
Boise, Idaho

"NO".. "NO".. "NO"!!!

Commenter: John E. Willman

The wolf has been successfully reintroduced and has expanded

well beyond what was first believed. Now in many areas elk populations have been reduced very quickly. If the wolves continue to expand at this rate and the elk populations drop as much in the next 5 years both elk and wolves are going to have problem.

Like all game populations and predator populations we must manage them. Many of these rural towns and ranching communities rely on hunting for income and a fresh supply of meat. If we want our Western ranching heritage to continue we must slow the expanse of the wolf. We do not need to eliminate the wolf, but we need to control its expansion.

We must watch our elk herds carefully and remember once they are gone the wolves will prey on other game, pets, and livestock, just like the Canadians warned us when we reintroduced this invasive species. Yes, that is right, invasive species. Our elk, deer, moose and bison evolved around the Timber wolf, not the Canadian wolf, which is a bigger animal and more prone to hunt in packs. Because of this our Western ungulate population does not know how to evade this type of predatory tactic. To prove this theory the wolves are successfully killing not the weak, young and old, but big bull elk in their prime. Go to Yellowstone and see the majestic bulls that are being killed in their prime.

3. the Canadian wolf. This is a bigger animal and more prone to hunt in packs, which many or most of our ungulate populations does not know how to evade!

Commenter: Denean

Ok. First off they were not exotic species introduced into the different states. They were reintroduced because people felt it ok to remove a KEYSTONE species from the landscape to benefit their wants and desires. Then they realized "oh crap" they actually did have a purpose here. Second you have to understand genetics to know how many individuals are needed to

maintain a viable population and keep genetic diversity to avoid inbreeding, mutations, and other problems that could affect a population. If you underestimate that number required it can lead to a huge problem in the future where just one incident be it disease or a catastrophic event could wipe out a population very quickly. Third one has to realize these animals had been in this landscape for centuries before any human being was. Its their natural habitat that is being encroached upon not the other way around. Unlike us they lack the ability to voice their opinion and defend themselves from unfair practices. We have to learn that everything has a place and reason why it exists and that reason doesn't necessarily involve us. Fourth leaving management up to the individual states creates too many conflicting ways to manage a population. Half the time a state lacks the financial resources to implement their policies, and left on their own they would have to fund much of the implementation on their own. Having a federally mandated program is better because it allows for funding and doesn't leave it up entirely to the state (which again has enough problems gathering funding as it is for most the programs it has). Now if you get rid of the wolves its just going to lead to another predator trickling down and affecting ranching and other human uses of the land. Then it will be suggested to hunt that species that is creating problems, until you get rid of all the predatory species in the area. Then your grazing animals, such as elk, will compete for rangeland. Then it will be suggested to hunt those more. Until you have altered the landscape so much the system that nature has established to maintain a ecosystem fails and the land becomes unusable. So eradicating and hunting are not a good fix to these problems. Its meerly like slapping some ducttape on a sinking ship and continuing to sail around the ocean without getting a better fix to the problem. We have to realize in many of these areas we are altering the land to suit our needs and wants, and these alterations create problems for the ecosystem that has evolved under many billions of years to work how it does now. The land supports us not the other way around, and if we continue to shape it to suit our needs, it will not be able to adapt to these changes quickly enough, and we will find ourselves on an endangered species list. Basically up a creek without a paddle.

In conclusion I am not saying that animals and nature are more important than a human life. At the same time I am not saying that humans are more important than animals and nature. I am saying that everything has a balance and we have to really research and seek what that balance is and we can't just jump and react, it has to be sound. Also we can't always believe that

the government is right, that's why you need to look at the scientific data, which is unbiased. Results are results. Also last note, I promise, the population had to be repopulated by an outside source because the once indigenous species was hunted to eradication.

Commenter: George

As I have continued to read comment to this subject it appears many have got caught up with emotion. I find it quite relaxing to view wildlife. On a trip to Yellowstone Park. I was blessed to observe wolves in the Lamar valley. A herd of Buffalo were below them. The calves were playing enjoying the cool fall air. The wolves worked the outer edges attempting to separate a calf from its mother. The combined efforts of the mothers saved the calves. The wolves refocused on a small elk herd that came into view. For 2 hours they worked this herd in circles until a cow elk broke the herd and was soon taken down by 5 wolves. It occurred to me that the balance of ecosystem is not equal at all.

Elk, Deer, Moose, and Bison have an average of 1 offspring per year. Most predator species have 2 to 5 on average offspring. The predator/prey ratio is out of balance at birth. I know Mountain lions in my area have increased to the point that we have had sightings in our city, at the university campus. Investigation of tracks has proven to be accurate. Many residents in the community have seen their family pets being eaten on their patio, decks, and front porch. We had one case of a cougar that decided to reside under a house. It gained access under the front porch steps. I for one do not blame the animals wanting to survive. It is a natural instinct in all living things. When survival becomes a natural migration to populated areas and runs the dangerous risk of human lives being threatened I am moved to preventative concern.

The wolves have population based increased themselves to the point of spreading out. They travel extreme distances. As a Northern Idaho collared wolf was recently hit by a car in eastern Colorado it is apparent the territorial expansion is on the rise. Soon all areas will feel the impact of wolves. I enjoy snakes but I do recognize the problem in Florida nonresidential snake population has spread to the Everglades. Boas are threatening the alligator population. I need to stay out of that fray and let the local experts handle it. So should those well-intended experts in the sciences and justice for all advocates. Let the local experts in wolf states handle the balance of life for all. They really have the concerns for all sides at heart. Many talk about Teddy Roosevelt

times. The killing of wolves and buffalo. Teddy had foresight. He pushed for putting lands aside for our generation to fully observe and take advantage of. If it was not for him it could have easily been Yellowstone mining or Yosemite lumber company. Let the experts handle the wolves. I want Yellowstone to have more game than wolves and bear.

Commenter: Katherine M.

I don't believe restoring the wolf population will benefit mankind. I believe my tax dollars should be spent on helping mankind not the wolf. How sad we have our children at-risk and we are more worried about a hybrid, domesticated wolf than our children's needs (food, education, healthcare).

The wolf recovery programs are just an avenue for environmental groups to take away land from private land owners and turn it over to the government by making it impossible for a private landowner to do business on their property without disturbing the wolf.

Commenter: Tom

This is an example of a government that is out of control just like the wolves they put on top of us. Both need to be _____. Let your own imagination work on this solution.

Commenter: Rock

Just last year, in the heat of the "de-listing debate" we were told we were crazy, and we didn't know a damned thing about wolves. Those of us who live, work and recreate in Idaho did know, and now the numbers are rolling in. This is an emergency situation. Our elk, deer, and moose are on a crash course to total extinction of our big game herds. The non Native Canadian Grey Wolf needs to be removed. If those of you in New York want this killer in your State, then you take them. I am sick and tired of the Wolf Cult, and I am fed up with these lunatics allowing the complete inhalation of our wild animals. We the people of Idaho do not want them. If you think we are a bunch of rednecks, think again. We have learned from your tactics, and now we are kicking your butt on the wolf debate. Come see for yourself, the devastation of the wildlife, and human toll.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Rockholm66>

Commenter: Mike

What about Minnesota. We have over 3000 wolves, mostly located in the northern 1/3 of the state. This population is high enough according to the story for the state to regulate, yet if Federally protected, we can do nothing... so are the western states more important than MN??

Also in response to M. Kitchen's comment where he/she says: "These two camps are diametrically opposed and can never reconcile. The basic concept of 'God good, devil bad', dictates that Christians decide which side they are on.

At the end of the day, and regardless of what was allowed after the flood, if you follow God, you're going to be a vegetarian. There is no need for cattle."

Your argument is flawed. John Chapter 21. Jesus (GOD) not only helps the disciples catch 153 fish, but he cooks fish and bread for them all to eat. So, I can be a Christian, and not be a vegetarian.

Commenter: Tom

Sorry about that, I'm from central Idaho.

Commenter: Dudley Verbeck

No the wolves do not need protection

Commenter: Tom

I wish all commenters would list your home of residence. I suspect that the majority of the posts favoring the reintroduction and the relisting of wolves don't live any where near an area where wolves are located. If you did you would recognize the problems they are causing.

Commenter: George

I feel that we need to protect every wolf currently in the forest. It is apparent with the decline of Elk, Deer, Moose, Bison, and other game animals the wolf suffers from threat of starvation. It should be mandatory we round the wolf up (everyone of them.) and deliver them to the compationate enviromentalists. They can observe them in their private secluded back yards.(Reduced stress) Saveing gas they normally would use championing their cause. Greenhouse emitions lowered, and reduceing the trespass on nature itself. Most important they can assist the challenged wolf to sustain life and expand in a more relaxing atmosphere. Enviromentalist should lead by example by opening up there homes and hearts. Who's 1st in line?

Commenter: smart one

I hope all you pro wolf people one day get eatten by one of your beloved wolf, till then maybe we should hunt both of you. You can share the same faith dumbasses.

Commenter: David Baker

The wolf were killed out of the U.S. during settlers days. This was done for a reason to protect livestock and humans. We have not needed them to balance the eco system for the past 80 years so leave them in canadia. In New Mexico they have interduced the wolf and it has only caused problem for communties. The conversation groups dont care about the damage these wolf do cause were they put them they live faraway. The people need to take a stand and tell the conversation groups to live with them animals, if they love them so much let the wolf eat thier friend, and pets.

Commenter: Tim Lawrence

Wolves are not like some of the other cute and cudlys. They are very prolific and very dangerous. Management needs to start now on a proactive basis and not a reactive basis after they become a problem. Now that we're stuck with them, its the only responsible thing to do. The people responsible for reintroducing the wolves, still need their heads examined.

Commenter: Martin

I am an Idaho resident. Wolves have DECIMATED elk and moose populations in the states where they have been re-introduced (Idaho, Wyoming, Montana), costing the economies of those states MILLIONS every year. Elk and moose populations in other western states where wolves are not present (Utah, Colorado, Oregon) are on the rise. They have a place in our wilderness but they need to be controlled and managed like every other big game animal. Just like cougar hunting, wolf hunting can be a valuable and effective tool in moderating wolf populations in areas where they have grown too numerous and are damaging ungulate populations.

Commenter: Lisa Thomaschek

I thought recovery meant they were recovered in ALL areas - not just a select few.

Why bring something back when you turn around and start killing them?

Commenter: bart george

More than any other species, wolves evoke unusual emotions in Americans. Several Western states have fully recovered wolf populations. The US Fish and Wildlife Service basis for delisting has been reached far and away. Without some management (hunting) wolves wolf population will continue to grow and lead to significant lost wildlife resources and further livestock losses. The current population is too high, let's allow hunting to get the population in check and maintain a balance with game animals, hunters, ranchers, and wolves.

Commenter: Rich Baker

The general public has no place in this. To say "do you believe wolves should be protected?" in a poll shows how bias this is. Science shows that there needs to be a balance, This applies to all wildlife. Deer ,elk,bears, cougar,and wolves. The general public should not have a say in management of these species. Thats what we have biologists for and we should never limit there options to control populations of predator or prey animals.

Commenter: bone

I think some of you should watch one of Gods creatures tear apart and eat another one of God's creatures while it is still alive. And...the whole thought that they only kill the old and infirm is a JOKE. Some of you really do need to get off your couch and quit watching Disney films.

Commenter: Bone

Nature and politics don't mix. I would bet 99.9% of politicians know nothing of the outdoors or understand the impact of wolves. They should leave management up to those that understand the issue. Typical of the problem, folks and lobbyists are pushing their agenda on other folks that actually have to live with the decision. How would someone in Washington DC be able to understand the impact of what the impact of one game species might have on another. Anti hunters have thier agenda and so do avid outdoorsman. Until all of you pull your heads out, and work together, this crisis is going to just get bigger and BIGGER.

Commenter: Ross. MONTANA

This is a Canadian wolf, not even and endangered species...What the hell are you doing. Next you will try to stop hunting all together, to save the Deer, Elk, etc. Go be god some were else... Send them back to Canada...

Commenter: Wayne

Wolves are awesome animals. Humans are overpopulated. Wolves kill livestock and elk. Wolves need to start killing more livestock and put more welfare farmers out of business.

Commenter: Wayne

Humans need managing, Hunters, would you be so kind to jump off a bridge. You worthless white trash.

Commenter: Mike

The hunters who voted no in this poll are nothing more than cowards with guns who have no regard for animal life. The wolves kill other animals to survive and hunters don't understand the nature and the reality of the wolf. I am glad that wolves kill livestock and kill elk. I hope they wipe all of the elk herds out and then go after hunters and eat them because they are worthless white trash.

Commenter: Janice42

this has gone on long enough. Now the so called wildlife advocates are just milking it for the courtroom federal reimbursement for suing. It is disgusting and they are damaging other wildlife and hurting families at this point all in the name of the all mighty dollar.

Commenter: Crayfin

Management should be left up to the individual states that wolves reside in...they are the ones that get to cleanup the mess and deal with the issues that arise. D.C. can manage them when they have breeding pairs in their neck of the woods!!

Commenter: Arnie

IMO, keep as many as you want in the national parks, anything off the park can be shot on site any time of day or night. Then once all the people going to the parks dont get a chance to see a wolf and the elk and bison numbers are down, they will stop going all together. This is not one of the mostt successful reintroductions - that would be the story of wild turkey. This is one of the biggest mistakes, bringing in the canadian wolves to an area that was not even native to them... well educated dumba\$\$es we have to thank for that.

Commenter: Rudy

Wolves are an apex predator. There is no species that preys on them, therefore their populations will go unchecked. It's been mentioned by some that when their food sources run low, they will stop multiplying. That is incorrect. As the food sources diminish, the wolves will spread to new areas, and/or seek new

food sources - namely the livestock.

Those who are in support of letting the wolves overpopulate are also supporting higher agricultural costs in terms of livestock protection and loss of stock. Are they prepared to pay even higher grocery bills in support of these voracious predators?

We have no wolves in this area, but have an overabundance of coyotes. Being the apex predators in this area, their numbers also go unchecked. As food sources dwindle, and coyote populations increase, they pack together and become very brazen. This species which will often turn and run at the sight of a human, will become very brave and bold when hungry, and in larger numbers. I know this firsthand, having experienced an attack a few years ago.

In this area, we have had coyotes come up onto porches to snatch up puppies, seen them attack small children, and pack together to take down livestock. And these are only coyotes - the wolves' smaller and more timid cousin.

When man decides to "play God", and tamper with nature by introducing new species to an area, he must also take responsibility for the effect that species has on that particular ecosystem.

I'm not in support of hunting any species into extinction, mind you, but I do believe that populations must be controlled for the sake of the indigenous species of the area.

Commenter: Steve

State wildlife agencies need to be put back in control of the wolf and they need to be managed by whatever means. and not just in the northern rockys. wolves are becoming a problem here in the southwest as well. The people that live, work and make a living in the regions of the contry that have wolves need to decide how the need to be managed not a bunch of polaticans, politacal appontees and specail intrest groups.

Commenter: Rob

LOts of links supporting protection of wolves-- but nothing about the other side of the story... glad to see you are "objective" in

your views. BTW-- do any of you live in the Rockies-- not in the city-- but actually live up here where we deal with this all the time? Pretty easy to have an opinion when it doesn't hit you in the face every day

Commenter: idaho spud

I think that all you that think the problem is toomany humans, or too many humans in general volunteer to be the first ones to be subtracted from the population. put your passion ahead of YOUR self interst. and that will free up the rest of us to rectify the mess you have fostered on our environments. that should make us all happy. it is incredible that most of you granolas couldnt survive alone on a sunny day in the wild with out your modern equipment/water bottles, yet you want to tell me how I should live. such ignorance, such arrogance. just to be clear, my horse, dog and grandchildren are too valuable to become wolf bait. they will lose if it comes that.

Commenter: TBOregon

What fool would place a wild apex predator in their backyard? No one is that foolish thats why people from the cities put them in someone elses back yard so they can think they did something right for the world. News update, you put them in my childrens backyard.....Thanks a lot. Shoot them all, or relocate them to Downtown NY NY, LA, Portland and the rest of the places you live.

Commenter: Bob S

The irony and hypocrisy of many of these comments is staggering.

To the "Mother Earth" and "all God's Creatures" crowd I'd ask if you are completely consistent in your principles. Do you place the same heartfelt energies into protecting ALL God's creatures? Do you champion the cause of rats, cock-roaches, termites, flies etc? For they are also God's creatures. If you can honestly say yes, then I completely respect your opinions here.

For those that claim some conspiracy or wrong doing, the reintroduction objectives were met, times 5 period. The current

issue is not taking the wolf back to extinction but managing their numbers. Humans are a part of that equation and that's not going to change. If your emotions tell you that the human part of the equation is all the problem then by all means, please don't breed and add to that. Frankly you're here, so clearly you are also the problem. What do you intend to do to resolve that? It's time to objectively move on and manage the issue in that reality.

For those that rail against the evil hunters, who do you think paid for Yellowstone, nearly all wildlife management costs, all the research, all the habitat improvement, and even the wolf reintroduction? Hunters did. And they did it voluntarily. And that money is for the benefit of both game and non-game species and all wild places. That is undisputable fact. I challenge you to show me one non-hunting based organization that spends a mere fraction of the money, if any, towards wildlife management. Actual on-the-ground benefit dollars, not money towards lawyers to enforce a biased agenda in the courts. If you can show me that you give equally, I believe you have an equal voice.

And for those that don't believe the people who live with the wolves should be the ones with the majority say in how they are managed. I challenge you to show me the petition you've started, the personal money you've spent to support having them introduced into your backyard, whether it be New Jersey, Connecticut, New York wherever you reside. Show me that and I say you are honorable and have a legitimate voice in the debate.

Commenter: Mtetm

wolf re-introduction is a great concept...as long as the wolves are introduced in Central Park and/or other Parks close to, or surrounded by, the population centers that feel they need wolves and want to be able to view them in the "wild". Then, those that introduced them can live with the "natural" impacts the wolves provide and deal with the wolves with any means they feel is appropriate when the wolves disregard the boundaries set by those that introduced them...

Until that time come...Wolves should be hunted and private landowners with wolves on their property should have the ability to shoot wolves at will at any time of the year...

Commenter: Brandon Gaudelli

What about the recovery of the elk, muledeer, whitetail deer ,antelope,and several species of wild turkey.I would say they have come back pretty strong,now making million`s of dollars for each state! and thousands of jobs.If you put a endangered cockroach in a full box of cereal what do you think is going to happen.Before to long you have a real problem,and so do your neighbor`s,and that endangered species is`nt so endangered.Now it endanger`s humans!There must have been a good reason the wolf`s were shot out in the first place,maybe because there DONGEROUS.What economical value do the wolfs bring in.ZERO ALL THEY DO IS TAKE AWAY.

Commenter: Audrey McQueen

These wolves that have been put here in New Mexico are ruining the cattle and hunting industry. They are eating baby calves and all kinds of wildlife every day. These wolves need to be removed permanatly.

Commenter: Irma Nance

All wild life should be left alone and protected as we are supposed to do. QWhat wedo to the animals is apauling. what is it in humans that make them natural born killers.

Commenter: Ron Rains

The Government should live up to the original promises and goals! CONTROL THE WOLF POPULATION!! The inviro's know that the way to play the game is to manipulate the "management" of the wolves by filing lawsuits (that us taxpayers pay for, but that's another story). The Mexican Grey wolf project in the Southwest is a complete mess with nothing but dollars down the drain, lies, and broken promises to show for it. The true financial and emotional impact on local residents has never been addressed and never will be as long as these programs are being manipulated in favor of the wolf over us humans.

Commenter: Marilyn Snyder

It just seems defeating to me to go through all the work to bring

this animal back from the brink of extinction, just to kill them again!!!

Commenter: Gale Moore

Wolf reintroduction in Eastern Arizona/Southwestern New Mexico has impacted rural residents' safety, peace of mind, and livelihoods. Mexican wolves are native to the desert regions, not the mountains.

Wolves that have been released are habituated to humans and have no fear of them. They have killed cattle and horses, and it's only a matter of time before they attack a human.

People who are in support of this reintroduction program are not impacted by it --- how convenient. It must be so satisfying for them to sit in their urban dwellings and weep for the fate of the poor wolves. Give me a break: these are wild animals, not Disney characters. I propose that wolves be released into urban areas and see how quickly the wolf proponents change their sentimental minds.

Commenter: Doug-Idaho

The introduction of these non-native animals into our State has been devastating and it should never have happened.

The federal government needs to stop making decisions for the State's wildlife resources, as they have shown that they are only interested in pleasing the radical wolf fanatics rather than using common sense and sound biology.

The damage that the exploding wolf populations have caused is quickly dismissed by those who don't live here, but the consequences of such a short-sighted, political decision have been devastating.

Commenter: Ben

The federal government telling individual states how they can or can't manage wildlife that is affecting big game, livestock and personal property is plain wrong. The state biologists should be the ones working on this problem, not a politician or special interest lobbyist in Washington. I have seen and heard of way too many slaughtered hounds and big game killed for sport by these

packs of wolves. And the numbers are being way under reported as to the real population.

Commenter: Mike

A population of 1600 when 300 is the appropriate number? Sounds like they need to be taken off the endangered list to me.

Commenter: Ken

The wolf was removed from the western states for a reason. Anyone wanting to protect or otherwise safeguard them has never seen their stock in trade. Turn one loose in the posh neighborhoods of Denver and see how long it takes to get "removed".

Commenter: Nathan Helm

It is absolutely disingenuous to represent Idaho's hunters as you chose to do so in this video. Idaho Sportsmen finance and fund wildlife management that is productive and diverse. There are many folks who can talk intelligently about the weaknesses in the wolf advocates suit. You could have spoken with our attorney as interveners in the case - too bad, because it demonstrates your presentation was imbalanced.

Nate Helm, President
Idaho Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

Commenter: Leloo Cly

The reintroduction of wolves in the western USA has become the train wreck that it was doomed to become. The lower 48 is no longer a suitable habitat for the wolf. Pack and total wolf numbers have far exceeded the agreed upon numbers, and the proponents want more. It is well past time to actively manage these predators as big game animals. They are decimating game populations, and impacting domestic live stock as well. The truth is they have NO PLACE in the west. The once abundant elk numbers in Yellowstone is easy evidence of the destruction that wolves put upon wildlife. Where you once could view and enjoy hundreds of elk, you now may be lucky to see any. It is past time to act and

bring these animals back to the agreed upon levels in all areas of the western United States.

Commenter: Dennis Neill

It might be a good thought for you all to post some fair-minded outfits, to at least offer some countering to the anti-hunting, anti-rationality, extremist organizations such as Earthjustice, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and NRDC, to name a few that seem to be promoted here. Having worked in their vicinity and watched their actions first-handed -- I can assure you that they are quite biased and are not in favor of actual wildlife management put on by wildlife professionals.

Wolves, like all the rest in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, need to be managed, and managed by the States.

Commenter: Jerry Collins

States do a much better job of managing game than the Feds

Commenter: GrinzatoMaria

Killing of any animal is a CRIME. As a Human being we have to make the difference.

Commenter: Dan Grasser

What I'd like to know is what have these Canadian Wolves done to the smaller native Timber Wolves that existed along the North Fork of the Clearwater river. I remember seeing pictures and reading about the sightings in the Clearwater Tribune back in the mid 80's. I believe they were seen in the Kelly Creek area. As territorial as wolves are, doesn't it make sense that the larger species will wipe out the smaller one? It seems to me that the very people who say they are trying to protect the wolves are more than likely responsible for the decimation of the more endangered species.

Commenter: TJ

We absolutly Don't need wolves in this ecosystem, Absolute BS

using the indangered species act to bring in a species that IS NOT ENDANGERED!!!!!!!

Commenter: Joseph

Wolves have surpassed expectations and now it's time to manage them like we manage all other big game and predators.

Commenter: DJ Huntsman

Managing wolves should be left to the individual States. The "Introduction" of these non-native wolves to States that did not want them to begin with was illegal, unethical, and has caused severe and tragic consequences. It is a blatant example of "poor" wildlife management practices done to merely please radical special interest groups.

Commenter: Frank Alessio

The Wolves tranplanted in Yellowstone were not even indiginous to that area. ranchers have spent generations balancing the area only to have it poluted again with predators that are not controlled properly through hunting... What a stupid move... These same people would scream like hell if the government came to there homes and reintroduced Crab grass...

Commenter: adam from Wisconsin

Wolves in the upper midwest and wolves in the upper rockies should both be hunted without regulation at least until numbers are reduced in a big way.

Commenter: Roger

The only people who want wolves to be protected are the ones who don't know any better.

Commenter: Wyatt Johnson

You should only consider the opinions of those who live in the areas being ravaged by the wolves. If you live in NYC then you

don't have a clue. Wolves are indiscriminate killers and need man to control them. I think they ought to release them in Central Park since they once inhabited there also. Let the states that are losing there wildlife and livestock decide since they are the ones being affected. Last I checked the states have biologists on staff.

Commenter: Wil

Wow. I really can't believe how many people here are so out of touch with reality. "People are the problem" even one out of touch fella said to move everyone in large cities. Are you kidding me? Look the wolves are known as a keystone species, however their numbers do need to be put in check. with over 5 times the amount that was decided to be a recovery, obviously the whole ecosystem cant support itself. Sounds to me we need to shoot, poison, trap about 1300. That would benefit ALL the wildlife that you granolas take cute pictures of.

Commenter: Tom

Wolves are having a huge affect on our Elk, Deer, Moose and Bison. They need to be managed and managed now. The following is a one recent report just released.

IDAHO FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS NEWS RELEASE
Boise, ID

Date: February 26, 2010 Contact: Ed Mitchell (208) 334-3700

idaho fish and game completes lolo zone elk survey

Recently completed aerial surveys show a marked decline in elk numbers in game management units 10 and 12, which comprise the Lolo Elk Management Zone.

Survey results indicate the elk population in the Lolo Zone has declined from 5,110 to 2,178, a 57-percent reduction since 2006. The greatest declines were observed in numbers of elk cows, calves and spike bulls. Overall, bull numbers were down zone-wide, with a shift in bulls to older animals.

"This survey, combined with ongoing research showing wolves are the primary cause of elk mortality today, is further scientific

evidence of the impact wolves are having," Fish and Game Director Cal Groen said. "The rate of this decline in just four short years should help people understand there is an urgency to manage for a balance in this area."

Appropriate management options in response to this latest survey data are being explored.

Wolf predation is the major source of mortality on this elk herd and is affecting population size because too few calves are surviving to replace the adults that die each year. Predation is preventing recovery from a decline that began in the late 1980s and a steep decline following the severe winter of 1996-97.

This survey information corroborates ongoing research being conducted in the Lolo Zone that shows survival of radio-collared adult elk and six-month-old calves has been poor. Modeling efforts based on research survival data estimate declines of 11 to 15 percent annually.

Idaho Fish and Game's aerial surveys of most elk zones are conducted on a three- to five-year rotation. Surveys provide estimates of the size of the population as well as demographic data, such as numbers of elk cows, calves and bulls.

We are so very close to losing this herd completely. Fish & Game has performed prescribed burns in this area, has allowed for double bear tags, and has spent alot of time trying to help this herd get back on its feet. For those that don't know, this is the herd that F&G wanted to help out by thinning the wolf population in the area, but the feds told them they couldn't.....

Please join me and purchase your wolf tag today they are a cunning game animal whose pelt makes a great trophy.

Commenter: Alan Two Bear

I am truly amazed at how clueless the general population of this country is. The vast majority on responses make silly emotional arguments to a biological problem. First, wolves do kill for sport as a matter of routine, and it is well documented all over the rocky mountains. Last year in Dillion, MT wolves killed 120 sheep and left them to rot in the hot midday sun. Wolves do not belong in Montana anymore then they belong in Central Park. We live here,

we see them, we live in the mountains. We Montanans don't need a bunch of liberal bleeding heart tree huggers telling us how to manage our wildlife. We don't need some fellow sitting on his couch in Manhattan telling us here on the mountain what is best for us. We have watched the wolf decimate moose/elk/deer populations here, and we are sick of it.

Commenter: Heritage

The reality is that the Canadian Grey Wolf is not endangered and never was. These animals in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho have exploded in range and population just as the wildlife "professionals" knew they would. The evidence is becoming overwhelming that this uncontrolled predator growth is having big negative consequences for game populations. Deer and elk populations in many wolf populated parts of Montana are now way below objective. I dont think the wildlife agencies have a clue about what is happening to the moose populations. Good luck seeing a moose on your next trip to Montana!

Most people in Montana value the oportunity to hunt and stock their freezers with big game over the opportunity to see a wolf. This hunter opportunity is becoming rapidly diminished because of expading wolf populations. So the user group that pays for 99% of all wildlife management is taking it in the shorts. Montana is about the people that live here to, not just the nations predator preserve. I believe these animals should never have been allowed to expand out of the Park.

Commenter: Gina W.

The wolves have been the most persecuted animals in our nations history. It is obvious that through ignorance and upbringing this magnificent creature has been regarded as a pest for centuries. Wolves are apex predators important to the ecosystem. They have been part of the natural balance for thousands of years. Our government should be ashamed. How can the wolves have a fair chance at survival with a CATTLE RANCHER in charge of their fate. What a joke people!!! I hope the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, is fired for his incompetence to support Federal Law (Endangered Species Act) and his apparent bias with regards to the wolves. In my opinion, he is directly responsible for the murder of innocent and endangered animals. Ken Salazar should be ashamed of

hissself!!!

Commenter: Eric S.

Humans need population control. This is the source of the problem. At what point will we begin to limit our own expansion. China does it now through the government. When wolf populations exceed the available prey source their numbers will naturally decline. The human population will likely follow suit. We will exceed our ability to feed our populations and our numbers will decline. While we attempt to control our environment by protecting or killing wolves we fail to recognize the paralell between us. Let the wolves live their lives as we chose to live ours.

Commenter: las

Wolves are the most prolific of all large predators- they certainly don't need "protection" - other than good game management- in Alaska, Canada, and in the Rocky Mt West, where they have re-established/been re-introduced. They are no where near "endangered" in any of these areas, so don't deserve the rating. State/Provincial governments are fully capable of managing wolf densities - or hell - just put Ed Bangs in charge. He's a sensible, balanced biologist. And a good guy to drink with, or hunt with, wolf hat on or off.

Dr. Stringham and I have somewhat differing views on what constitutes good "wolf/prey management", but then he's smarter than I am... and his opinions/critiques are well worth listening to, and possibly implementing, at least in some situations.

One size does not fit all throughout the wolf's habitat/range...

Commenter: Ted Gorsline

Reintroduce wolves to their original range but once they are established hunt them at a level sufficient to keep them afraid of people. Otherwise you are going to have problems with them.

In Algonquin Park in Ontario they used to hunt wolves and had no problem with them. Now they protect them and encourage passive interaction with people and there have been five attacks

on children.

The Algonquin wolves are little wolves, not big ones such as have been re-introduced into the USA.

Commenter: Jess Carey

It is apparent there are many times the numbers of wolves, breeding pairs, and packs to de-list these Canadian wolves long ago according to recovery plans.

If there was an accurate account on wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming they would probably number well over 6,000.

If wolves numbers go unchecked, there is a massive decline in wildlife and a major loss to family ranchers. Common sense would dictate a low impact managed population, not an unchecked, uncontrolled number.

In many places the elk cow/calve ratio is so low that the elk herds cannot sustain herd viability.

Check out: <http://westinstenv.org/wildpeop/2010/02/27/lolo-elk-decline/>

"The principal reason for the crashing elk populations is undoubtedly the introduction of wolves in 1995, and the subsequent explosion of the wolf population'.

This wolf program has little to do with science, it is steered by pro-wolf lawsuits.

If the wolves bred to 100,000, spreading into every state in the U.S., the pro-wolf people would still want to protect it even if it devastated all wildlife.

What will happen when the Canadian wolf disperses into New Mexico and cross-breeds into the Mexican Gray Wolf? A claimed genetically separate and distinct wolf subspecies? Would this crossbreeding not destroy the genetics of such a claimed rare animal? Would this mean the Mexican wolf would be no more or just a Canadian wolf hybrid?

In New Mexico;

Wolves kill by consumption, they eat their prey alive. This has

been documented many many times. Some livestock get up and travel a long distance after Mexican wolves have fed upon them. Some have maggots in the eaten out area, rectum and female opening of the rear end. They have lived 4 to 6 days before being found alive.

Mexican Wolves do not stay in the wilderness, in over 300 investigation half were on private property. Mexican wolves are extremely habituated to humans and humans use areas and seek out such.

You have no idea of the devastation wolves do until you see it for yourself.

I'm sure it makes no matter to a lot of you, and the more damage wolves do to family ranchers and children the more you like it.

Jess Carey
Catron County Wolf Interaction Investigator

Commenter: J.Senol

To "de-list" a specific population, the population is supposed to be monitored for at least 5 years, according to the Endangered Species Act. Removing timber wolf populations from federal protection has almost proven, in less than 5 years, that certain states cannot cooperate and handle the responsibility of monitoring populations without immediately declaring "open season".

Sadly, it comes down to whoever throws the most money to the state, wins. Wolves, bears, bison and elk lose. FYI: nature extends beyond the borders of Yellowstone National Park. Don't tell me that citizens of these states didn't expect the animals to leave the boundaries of the National Park and wander into their property. Re-Evaluate, Re-Think and retract de-listing until these states can get their act together.

Commenter: Chris

Hey Mike Schumacher! Why don't all you country boy learn how to spell. Spend more time on the Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, and poking your cows.

Commenter: Chris

For some strange reason, people in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho think they have a "God given" right to encroach on land that was occupied by wolves way before man stepped foot on this continent. Got a problem with co-existing with wolves? Move someplace else. It's their territory, not yours!

Commenter: Rob Robinsen

Sad they were ever reintroduced.
Even sader they are not shot on sight.

Commenter: Elks

this should not be an issue at all. the wolves are running amuck. they are killing dogs, livestock, and even been seen watching/stalking children at bus stops, etc. They should have never been brought back to the lower 48. it was a stupid idea and a gross violation of states rights. Now they have exceeded the population goals, they are growing less cautious of man and will only be a matter of time until we end up killing more than we have saved. It is time the federal government reverse the gross injustice it has done to the citizens of the states now infected with these killing machines.

For those that think it is just nature, it is not. They will eat themselves out of house and home. The northern rockies are too over populated now, winter ranges barely provide prey animals with the food needed. As other have mentioned let em loose in your back yard, live with the results. Stop making us live with your poor choices.

Commenter: joe

it is amazing to live in wild country (wyoming) that still is wild enough to support the wildlife folks from all over the world come to see and enjoy. amny of these folks and alot that ahve posted here when it comes to the real nature and how fragile that balance is.
fact#1 hunting is a management tool
in the fragmented ecosystems of today all wildlife number have to be managed, regardless of the emotion surrounding. without management all wildlife is in danger over population and massive

dieoffs.

there is not enough habitat to support unmanaged populations.

fact#2 the exploding wolf populations are having a

serious negative effect on wildlife populations

there is much evidence that the uncontrolled numbers of wolves

are causing the collapse of prey animals

and the result is fewer wolves, as the prey animals decline the wolf packs are venturing farther into each other packs' home range and territories

causing wolf on wolf mortality.

these animals will fight to the death to protect their home ranges

and evidence in YNP supports this, in 2008 there were 69 wolf on

wolf kills and at the same time the prey base had shrunk to all

time lows in the history of YNP.

to the folks here that call for the protection of the wolf

you are not doing the wolf or any of the other species

represented here in the west any favors and this attitude will

cause much harm to the wildlife we both love.

all wildlife require management and to do less will cause the

extinction of many of these wonderful creatures.

it is a delicate and fragile balance and to disrupt the management

of wildlife by protecting a said species over the value of another

species is criminal

wildlife cannot be managed with the heart it HAS to be managed

using real science.

in 1995 there were a counted 19,500 elk in the northern region of

YNP

this yr the winter count is 2236

this is a small window of the big picture.

the hunting of the wolf to control the impact it has and will have in

these island ecosystems is the only responsible thing to do.

we were responsible enough to reintroduce them into historic

ranges, now we have manage their numbers to control the

impact.

it will not be the "rabid pro" nor the "rabid anti"

that gets this done, it will be all of us in the middle that can

understand "sound science" as the only tool for the job.

Commenter: John Brown

The wolf restoration in the Rocky Mountains was a poorly

conceived project from the beginning. The Bush administration

was correct in returning authority to individual states in deciding

what management practices would be best. The emotional outcry

of uneducated people demanding that the wolf be protected at all

costs is just another chapter in the book of animal rights advocates illogical concepts. The devastation upon the deer and elk herds, not to mention livestock, due to the reintroduction of the wolf will take years to overcome if it can be done at all. We have enough Federal government involved in our lives as it is. We don't want or need anymore!

Commenter: Diego

I see a lot of you talking about balance and I am surprised that you say the wolf will thin the deer heard but who will control the wolf packs? We so called ignorant hunters don't want them hunted to extinction just to control the population which is why there are set quotas in states that took them off the endangered list. ANd those quotas were set by wildlife people and biologists who agree on keeping the packs in check.

Commenter: Predator Hunter

"Commenter: Maria Martin

Is hunting a "sport"??? God! We must learn to respect what was given to us as a gift. Killing for killing is not sport, it's barbarism. Not even animals do it. They kill for food, to feed themself."

Here's a perfect example of someone who thinks are dogs and can cuddle up to you on the couch.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr7YiL2zp4U>

Yep, they just kill for food. Some people just don't have a clue.

Commenter: Rachelle

WHO IS THE OBAMA or Salizar or whatever his name is to say that only 300 wolves are all we need?? That they are not really going to go anywere? I think by any means necessary is cruel..I don't even want to think what some mean, ignorant person will do! Shame on you!!!

Commenter: Paul

I promise to help all wolves exactly 175 grains at a time..

Commenter: jim lee

This is what you get for voting for Obama he lied about everything so do you think he would stop here.I didn't drink the cool-aid when it came to the big vote to elect him and President Pelosi.

Commenter: mike tylor

Wolves need to be managed like any other game or the populatuion is going to grow and there will be nothing for them to eat and are going more live stock.I live in the city but it is only logical to manage wolves like any other preditor and do we really need that many wolves, I would think we should have more elk and hunt them for meat.

Commenter: mike trautman

I think they should have controled hunts to manage the parks for elk and the wolves.I think it is a bad idea to have wolves in any ranching area and let hunters manage the elk population.

Commenter: cale

The "Canadian Grey Wolf" is not even native to the lower 48 states. Timber wolves are. Its great that they reintroduced a moose and caribou predator. I'm sure the deer love it and the elk have got to be so happy as well. They aren't just in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming anymore either. They are moving to Oregon, Washington and I'm sure they will go anywhere else they can kill. They dont just kill to feed the pack, they will kill for sport. They will kill bucks and bulls, they dont just target the sick or weak. I wish we could release them in your cities and watch you change your minds in a hurry. Kill em all, save the other species they are decimateing.

Commenter: Julia Bertapelle

Quite frankly, Obama is an idiot. He's in several people's pocket and anyone with any sense knows it. He's crooked, stupid and

not good for our country or our wildlife. I wish he had never been elected and I pray that the people have learned what he really is and won't vote for him again in the next election.

Commenter: Mary ANn Bonic

Hunters should only be able to hunt wolves with no electronic equipment, no high powered weapons, no helicopters, airplanes, no group sponsorship.

Commenter: Ginger & Fritz Bachem

We firmly support federal protection of wolves until they reach the 2000 to 3000 population levels to insure genetic viability.

The delisting was based upon ranching and hunting politics, not science. The reduction of grazing animals, both domestic and wild, would benefit our stream banks and the natural balance between animals and plants. A reduction in meat consumption would also benefit human health by reducing cardiovascular disease, colon cancer and our epidemic of obesity.

We are the sickest developed country in the world and so is our environment due to our rejection of scientific knowledge. The wolf delisting is just another example.

Commenter: tammie

Everyone has an opinion. Wolves are necessary, wolves are harmful.

The worst thing that has happened to our planet is humans. Nature can take care of itself if people will butt out. Nature has a perfect balance which people have managed to ruin possibly beyond repair. Shame on us.

Commenter: Kevin Watson

Please Stop this Non-Native invasive species....They are Going to kill someone. Hopefully Not a child. If they do kill a human, you can bet we will use YOUR Names published here to charge YOU people that introduced this species, and support their cause of

Eco-Terrorism, with MURDER.

We are done with the Politics Game Here. We are moving to pass laws to protect our local citizens affected by the incompetence of People involved in this Scam of the American Public. Murder may sound like a tough Word Now, Wait till YOUR name is Called upon to have these charges brought up on YOU.

God forbid it may be a child that is killed first, but it is apparent that most of you don't care about our children anyway. Believe that this is a real threat to our children. Don't believe me? just Google .

Commenter: richard stoike

very good shows about the environment and nature.
we must do more to preserve it.

lets do a report about the japanese killing all the sharks, called finning about 85 million a year to make shark fin soup!!!

also a story about the killing of cats and dogs in china!!!

Commenter: Liz Harrison

Thanks for covering this important subject to the northern Rockies and America

Commenter: Kevin Watson

Please Save our Elk and Deer from this Non-Native invasive species...<http://www.saveelk.com/>

When all the Prey species are gone, what is left but Humans. Don't be fooled by the Wolf Advocates. Our Children's lives are soon to be in danger.

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Stuter/stuter175.htm>

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Stuter/stuter176.htm>

Here is an article showing these wolves are running out of a natural prey base....

<http://www.allbusiness.com/education-training/school-facilities->

transportation-school/13736312-1.html

Here is an article showing the wolf is becoming Human-Habituated ...

<http://mainehuntingtoday.com/bbb/2010/01/16/w-i-s-e-human-habituated-wolves-in-idaho/>

Please America, Read the Truth about these wolves, Not the propaganda presented by Wolf Advocates.

Commenter: Deborah Simpson

Wolf advocates strongly oppose the administrations decision saying the three states in the region, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming need a cohesive management plan that allows for a much larger wolf population. "It was very disappointing when Secretary Salazar in the Obama Administration, signed off on this rushed-through Bush administration delisting package for wolves," said Doug Honnold, a lawyer with Earthjustice, who is representing conservation groups challenging the government's decision.

Commenter: Chris

You pro-wolf people make me want to puke. You talk about this like you have a clue. Go back to your city and mind your own business.

Commenter: Sharon Hambley

Secretary Salazar owns ranch property in Colorado. He, therefore, has a massive CONFLICT OF INTEREST while he continues to hold his office.

It is amazing to me that he is allowed to continue to hold his office in the Department of the Interior.

He continues to allow Bush administration policies on Endangered Species--he has little or no concern for our precious wildlife. By continuing to support these Bush policies, I believe that he is committing malfeasance of office.

I believe that Secretary Salazar should resign rather than continue to hold an office in which he advocates destruction of our animals from our National Parks and Forests. We, the people, should continue to enjoy the wild animals in our National Parks and National Forests.

Commenter: brett rolfson

Why stop at Idaho, Montana and Wyoming for wolf re-introduction. Wouldn't it be O.K. to re-introduce the wolves to Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, etc.??? That used to be their range as well as the western states. I'd be willing to support that!

Commenter: brett rolfson

Why stop at Idaho, Montana and Wyoming for wolf re-introduction. Wouldn't it be O.K. to re-introduce the wolves to Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, etc.??? That used to be their range as well as the western states. I'd be willing to support that!

Commenter: jay sharpe

The only problem with wolves is 'ranchers' they have a right to live I wonder how some of these ignorant people would feel if it was decided that there were too many of them and had a hunt to reduce their population. As for the Governor of Idaho, personally I think they should declare a session on politics I would definitely sign up for that one!

I also do not think there should be 'trophy' hunting and any hunting should be limited to bows, and spears, give the game a chance, when some beer drinking yahoo wants to prove his 'manhood' let him go after the bear, or whatever with a regular compound bow or a spear, and will see who hangs on whose 'wall'.

Commenter: George

First of all it is not Rocky Mountain National Park. It's called Yellowstone National Park and you should visit it before you comment about "us" needing to save the wolves. You don't even know what "us" is. And the problem is not just in Yellowstone. The wolves need to be kept in check before they destroy the

wildlife population. You used to be able to see many wildlife forms in Yellowstone, but since the wolves have been re-introduced that number has decreased drastically. What will the wolves eat when the elk are gone? What will they eat when the Moose are gone? The raccoons will even be gone and the wolves will be left with no choice but to move into the areas where people are. Yes animals were here first but does that mean wolves have the right to come into your city now? They will be there once all the elk are gone and regulation is stopped. Set your children out on the steps cuz' they will be hungry after they finish off all the raccoons. Who fights for the rights of Elk while everyone is fighting for the rights of wolves? What happens when the last of the Moose species are old and dying? Is that when someone fights for "Survival of the Moose?" It shouldn't have to get to that point.

Commenter: Rick

I was shocked to read mis-information below that Brucellosis doesn't exist in wild bison and the Yellowstone bison herds. WRONG... Brucellosis is actually a very dangerous abortive disease to wildlife, livestock, and humans. While working an outbreak in Oregon 20 years ago one of our veterinary technicians contracted and blood tested positive for the disease. The insidious part of Brucellosis pathology is that it can skip a generation before becoming virulent again. Know the facts and please don't spread rubbish.

The Canadian Veterinary: A survey of brucellosis and tuberculosis in bison in and around Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada:

ABSTRACT: "Examinations of complete or partial remains of 72 bison found dead in and around Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada, revealed evidence of brucellosis in 18 (25%) and tuberculosis in 15 (21%), with a combined prevalence of 42%. Urease-positive and ureasenegative strains of *Brucella abortus* biovar 1, and strains of biovar 2, were isolated from tissues of bison, including synovium and exudate from severe arthritic lesions. *Mycobacterium bovis* was isolated from a range of granulomatous lesions that were similar to those reported in tuberculous cattle. Diseased bison had a broad geographical distribution, and were found outside the park on at least three natural corridors. The diseases have a deleterious effect on this population of bison, and pose a health risk to other bison herds and livestock."

Journal of Wildlife Diseases: Pathology of Brucellosis in Bison from Yellowstone National Park; ABSTRACT: "Between February 1995 and June 1999, specimens from seven aborted bison (*Bison bison*) fetuses or stillborn calves and their placentas, two additional placentas, three dead neonates, one 2-wk-old calf, and 35 juvenile and adult female bison from Yellowstone National Park (USA) were submitted for bacteriologic and histopathologic examination. One adult animal with a retained placenta had recently aborted. Serum samples from the 35 juvenile and adult bison were tested for *Brucella* spp. antibodies. Twenty-six bison, including the cow with the retained placenta, were seropositive, one was suspect, and eight were seronegative. *Brucella abortus* biovar 1 was isolated from three aborted fetuses and associated placentas, an additional placenta, the 2-wk-old calf, and 11 of the seropositive female bison including the animal that had recently aborted. *Brucella abortus* biovar 2 was isolated from one additional seropositive adult female bison. *Brucella abortus* was recovered from numerous tissue sites from the aborted fetuses, placentas and 2-wk-old calf. In the juvenile and adult bison, the organism was more frequently isolated from supramammary (83%), retropharyngeal (67%), and iliac (58%) lymph nodes than from other tissues cultured."

Commenter: Brian Lord

U really shouldn't just jump to one side or the other without considering the pro's and con's of both sides of this issue or any serious one. It's just too bad we have so many people that try to brain wash each other and a lot of people who can't think for themselves. On issues about what's good as a whole for wildlife and us and such.

I say listen to this scientist in general let the data speak for itself if there is plenty which it sounds like there is. To back up the wolves need to be left alone until a proper management system can be put in place.

Commenter: karen lyons kalmenson

i am a wolf by karen lyons kalmenson
i am a wolf and before you came
i ran safe and free
now all that's changed
my land is gone

my numbers stunted
by so many people
who too much hunted
down my packs
for trophy and sport
or because this was
their way to cavort
this was my land before you came
now things can never be the same

Commenter: Pete

Excellent basic information that top predators like wolves create healthy ecosystems. But that is Bio-101 stuff every first year wildlife biologist knows. And anyone awake in HS science class remembers. My concern is an increase in educated idiots out there, with an "all or none" ideology. Our ecosystem is always 'dynamic' and sometimes cyclic. Nature hates stagnation, and will not tolerate it long. "Picture postcard" ecosystems don't really exist, except in someone's mind. Functioning ecosystems are really messy and sometimes very nasty places with beautiful sunrises and bloody dog-eat-dog afternoons.

So what do you do when a wolf grabs and drags an eight year old into the forest? Happened just north of my place. What do you do when there is a cougar on your driveway and the kid needs to walk to the school bus stop? I'm at work early one day and my phone rings. My son can't leave the house because there is a bear is in our carport. We had two wolf attacks in our town. One killed the pet dog inside it's doghouse, a block away another pet dog was killed inside it's owners garage. Yes, reality is there someplace and it isn't a picture postcard of pristine ecosystems. That mental image is a farce.

Answer in support of NOW wolf-human ecosystem viewpoint is to always remember "humans are the top predator". BUT, our status as top predator comes with responsibility to control and manage our effect on our ecosystem, not to ignore or have zero influence on our ecosystem. Balance must include human 'dog-eat-dog' impacts too or the wolf-human ecosystem will loose in the end. We must manage human ecosystem interaction, not ban it.
--Pete--

Commenter: s. Bell

I am ashamed of what was done to the American Bison. Please, I ask, don't let similar happen to our wolves and our natural wilderness.

EXAMPLE excerpt below:

Some U.S. government officials even promoted the destruction of the bison herds as a way to defeat their Native American enemies, who were resisting the takeover of their lands by white settlers. One Congressman, James Throckmorton of Texas, believed that "it would be a great step forward in the civilization of the Indians and the preservation of peace on the border if there was not a buffalo in existence." Soon, military commanders were ordering their troops to kill buffalo -- not for food, but to deny Native Americans their own source of food. One general believed that buffalo hunters "did more to defeat the Indian nations in a few years than soldiers did in 50." By 1880, the slaughter was almost over. Where millions of buffalo once roamed, only a few thousand animals remained. Soon, their numbers dwindled, with the largest wild herd -- just a few hundred animals -- sheltered in the isolated valleys of the newly created Yellowstone National Park. As American Buffalo shows, it is from this tattered remnant that people are today trying to rebuild the once mighty buffalo nation.

Commenter: Vicky Randall

Its nice to have wolves, but, there needs to be a population control. There should be only 150 wolves to be allowed to roam the forests of Wisconsin. There are 636 wolves in our forests of WI at this time. This is way to many wolves. And as with any other animal that is out of control, as when the bear, deer etc., a hunting season to reduce the numbers is put in place. There is no need to tax the people of WI to have scientists determine the need to reduce the population of wolves, common sense dictates the need. Bear, deer and other smaller animals are hunted for meat to eat, their meat is better than going to a store to buy domesticated animals to eat. To each their preference of meat. I do agree with the fact that the wolves should be taken off of the endangered species list, there are far too many of them, not just in my state but in other states as well.

Commenter: Ellen Stein

My only comment is that I am so disappointed and disgusted with

the new president and sooooo sorry that I worked for him and helped get him elected. He has done nothing to help our endangered wildlife, will not help stop the wolf killings, he will not help the endangered polar bears and NOW he's planning to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. I guess Shell Oil gave him a lot of money to sway his thinking. I cannot believe he is a democrat. He's going right down the republican party line.

Commenter: Ed Wilson

I am the grandson of New Mexico homesteaders and no amount of theory about how beautiful wolves are in their natural habitat can match the fear and dread that a pack of these predators can stab into your heart when alone walking home in a darkened wood.

Human beings come first, period. ...Ed Wilson

Commenter: dk bell

We need to go to the Obama website and launch massive petitions, protests, and requests, and let President Obama know we are for saving our wildlife and the wolves of the Northern Rockies.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Commenter: Patty LaCava

-Stop supporting the beef industry. Bison ranchers are more accepting of the wolves.

We need to support farming animals that can co-exist with the wolves. Boycott Beef! Eat more Bison!

-Also the use of guarding dogs with sheep interrupts the wolves stalking pattern and saves the sheep. (Reference: Dogs by Raymond and Lorna Coppenger)

Educate the ranchers in methods to co-exist.

-The Rabies vaccination for wolves and wolf-dog mixes is also a issue. Although the research has been done the Farm Bureau fights a FDA ok. Resolving this issue would help. Wolves could be vaccinated as are the coyotes along the Mexican border therefor eliminating another excuse to kill wolves.

-See the other side. How would you feel if your dog or cat was killed by a wolf?

Commenter: Colleen Caldwell

I object to your blaming Obama for removing the wolves from the endangered species list. It was President Bush who screwed it up with the help of the US Fish and Wildlife service.

This maybe considered an "error" when it comes to the blame of President Obama but it makes me wonder how many other lies are being told.

Commenter: Rev. Dr. Karla Potter

Man has to quit killing off the wild animals for personal gain. God created them and had a purpose in mind when doing so. We are killing the plant, so they should be able to enjoy what we have not yet destroyed before they too are killed off by our own arrogance. If we do not stop soon our own children will never have the joy of seeing them other then in picture books. Hold it that too is going away,. I mean on the internet. All living creatures have a right to remain here as long as there is still a world to live on.

Commenter: Ben

Why is it the "Bush" plan under the Bush administration but the "Salazar" plan under the Obama administration. Shouldn't it be called the "Obama" plan? People can't give the new administration a free pass just because they like the president or voted for him. Ultimately it's Obama not Salazar who is in charge.

Commenter: kareng

I live in a city - can drive 45 min to see cows, horses and sheep... had to drive 12 hours to another country to see a wolf in the wild. Ranchers unable to live with all nature has to offer should hang it up and leave our public land. Boycott beef!

Commenter: Hunt

They are not talking about making wolves extinct. Its called population control. For those tree huggers that dont understand everything in the world needs to be balanced and thats what this whole situation is about. Speaking of population control I think we

should just kill the old people that are living on an air supply and costing the U.S. money. Really would you want to live that way. We should have a human and wildlife.. Not allow people to have more than 2 children. If your sick or unable to use a limb properly, you should be put down.

Commenter: Lili

Wolves should continue to be protected. I think it's barbaric to kill for sport. We should protect wildlife and their habitat. If we don't do what we can to protect these species who will, how are they going to survive.

Commenter: Aaron

The State's DWR's have done a great job managing wildlife populations without federal intervention. The wolf would have a better chance with the help of hunters dollars to maintain open spaces. It seems like ant-hunting groups need to practice what they preach by giving back with donations to there local DWR's. Here in Utah I see the hypocrisy first hand with bird watchers outnumbering bird hunters 500 to 1 enjoying the use of the bird refuges that hunter dollars have paid for.

Commenter: Anna Wells

Wolves propose no threat to people. If people would stop hunting elk and other prey, the wolves would be able to thrive peacefully. Humans are meddling with the populations and need to back out before they completely destroy the natural cycle of things.

Commenter: M. Kitchen

The Creationists' belief system clearly implies that mankind is to protect and steward the environment. In God's creation there is to be no death.

The Evolutionists' belief system clearly indicates that it doesn't matter what any species does, since it is just the natural order of things.

These two camps are diametrically opposed and can never

reconcile. The basic concept of "God good, devil bad", dictates that Christians decide which side they are on.

At the end of the day, and regardless of what was allowed after the flood, if you follow God, you're going to be a vegetarian. There is no need for cattle.

If you are on the other side, silly laws won't stop your desire to kill. It is natural and part of nature. If we exterminate everything and ourselves as well, that's just the way it is. So why hold back? Why take the joy and fun and self-fulfillment out of life?

The idea that there are all sorts of combinations of these two camps are not really true, and that idea is simply adding to the confusion. There are only two legitimate sides. So make up your minds already! You can't have it both ways. Until conservationists decide which side they are on, they are adding to the confusion.

Commenter: wolf lover

my name is wolf lover and I need me eight wolf loving soldiers.

we're gonna be doing one thing and one thing only killing anyone who hates wolfs and anyone who kills them.

these wolf killers kill them by poisoning their food killing them for sport killing the babies and by ariel hunting and thats excatly what we're gonna do to them.

we will be cruel to these stupid wolf killers and through our cruelty they will know who we are and when these wolf killers go to sleep at night and they're tortured by their subconicous by the evil they have done it will be with thoughts of us they are tortured with.

these wolf poachers will be sickened by us these wolf poachers will talk about us and these wolf poachers will fear us.

these stupid sick wolf poachers aint got no humanity they're the footsoldiers of the stupid

coldhearted sarah pailin and they need to be destroyed.

each and every man under my command owes me one hundred wolf poachers scalps.

and I want my scalps!

sound good?

yeah!

Commenter: Paul J Conroy Sr

I do believe that the numbers in the Yellowstone Area are Far from safe from extinction. And that this is more bad polices,then it is given to scienctific fact.For these animals once roamed the entire Northern American Hemishpere. Yes can they and do they attack cattle,and other domesticated animals i do not doubt that fact nor contest it. For cattle are no more then domesticated bison which also once roamed better then 35% of the country. Which brings me to the point ever since we came to this land mass we have decided we are better then those who were here first and have taken over like a plague. WHY cant we as supposedly the head of the food chain and logical creatures let work as stewards of this land as our fore farthers did with in these lands. For we took no more then the land could give,worked in balance with it,respected it,and gave praise to it.Now it seems like and has been since the early 1800s that we have a right to walk over it and give nothing back and to not keep it in good health.That goes for the ENTIRE ENVIROMENT the land,water and animals on it.For nature has a way to balance it self out and does so but we keep changing the rules on what it tries to govern it self by.Does there need to be a balance and control yes but does it need to be done by politicians and self centered groups that see the wolves as a demon and not part of natures natrual check and balances in it I say NO.

And yes I do hunt,fish,totally enjoy the outdoors.But also I take resposiblity for my actions out there.Like the Native Americans and the Boyscouts both which are part of my bloodlines and how i was raised I try to leave no foots prints on where i am at. And I take care of the woods I am at;I give time and work out in the areas I hunt and fish with a gentle hand,scientific knowledge, giving back to the land for the sake of giving.For the bounty,pleasure and gifts That the Lady Mother Earth has given

us. And i feel people have forgotten it is cause of her that we live and survive on Her and not the other way around. We as a culture,society,and as a race the human race need to realize this and till we do the downward spiral we are on is not going to change.Politics,Greed,Fear,and Blindness in this matter is not going to help anyone in this or in other issues that need to be addressed.And i feel that this is just a first step on the wrong path that we are headed down.

Commenter: LoriProPhoto

Unfortunately President Obama's elected official Ken Salazar (or Sala Czar as we like to call him) is an abysmal failure as the leader of the Department of the Interior. If you think that it is just the wolves that are affected by his total disregard for nature, try looking into his shenanigans where the Wild Mustangs are concerned. Unfortunately the politicians of today are too consumed with self preservation (hiding their dirty little secrets), their mistresses and extra marital affairs and lining their already bulging pockets to care about our endangered animals or any other wild creature for that matter!!!

Commenter: ray

wolves was killed because they were killing livestock and PEOPLE and they will again but that won't make any difference to the wolf lover's because they won't be there.

Commenter: Margrit

I live in Denver, Colorado and coyotes are everywhere around here, absconding with cats and small dogs all the time. My sister lives on Cape Cod and tells me the same thing is true there. Somehow coyotes seem to get more protection than the stately and endangered wolf and I don't understand why. The wolf is getting a bad deal and I can't believe that anyone would think that 100 of them per state is a "safe" level for recovery. (PS - I don't like that I have to keep my cat inside, but I don't believe in killing coyotes either.)

Commenter: E. Christianson

Protection of wolves as an endangered species must continue. Managing the wolf population, where and when it may sometimes become necessary, has to be left to professional wildlife personnel. Are there occasional problem individual wolves which cannot be safely and effectively captured and relocated to a safer location? Yes. Are trophy hunters and closed-minded wolf-haters appropriate people to be turned loose to kill indiscriminately, slaughtering probably the healthiest and best individuals needed for survival in the wolf populations? Absolutely not! Provide sufficient funding to hire and support knowledgeable and dedicated honest biologists and wildlife managers and leave the management of the packs to them.

Commenter: daisy

This was excellent. I am sharing this everywhere. Thank you. I am very concerned that this show will end because of excellent work like this. We will regress if we don't have information like this.

Commenter: audrey

We need a more forward-thinking candidate to replace the current Sec. Ken Salazar.

Commenter: Dusty Domino aka-Gary Simmons

They were early man's first: Man's best friend, just as their cousins still are today. Our government, turned them into pests in the early 1900's. Paid people for their skins. Shot them from planes (that's not any kind of hunting, -that's cowardice) and are doing the same now. Killing them and using poison gas on the pups in the den - using choppers - more effective than planes. So this is what we let be done, in OUR name. If you ever had a good Dog, you know he would have died for you! - is this how we should payback all that love & loyalty?...Wait..I forgot, this is America 2010. That's why what their doing doesn't surprise me. I expected better out of Obama.

Commenter: jan eaker

I believe that President Obama is failing wildlife in this country.

Wolves are an essential part of a healthy wild ecosystem. I believe that this administration is allowing special interest lobbies, particularly the ranching industry, to dictate many of his policies regarding wild life. Species such as wolves, bison, mountain lions and wild horses are being sacrificed to make more room for cattle. Ranchers want predators and other grazing animals eliminated from ranges out west and that seems to be what is happening.

Commenter: Anonymous Because...

I feel that rampant building in what used to be wild areas...needs to be controlled...not the wildlife. The wildlife was here before us. The rampant building...the cities that are just grabbing land...filling in marsh areas that Canada Geese used to use...along the shores on East Coast...they are filling in land that used to be bay and salt water marshes...that created a barrier against storms at sea. Now there are so many homes...that the barrier is no longer there. This same scenario is presenting itself in the NW. The ranchers are picking on the wildlife because they are being invaded with displaced wildlife....shoved aside to make way for Man. Why is there no study about the land that is being developed? Where is the wildlife to go...they are losing their open range. This is happening everywhere...the bird population is down...natural habitat is being destroyed. We need to solve the destruction of habitat also...we need to stop the ranchers that are selling out to developers...thus; decreasing what open area that the wildlife used to be able to share. The ranchers that are fighting for their ranches and the future of their ranches...are also being displaced by the ranchers that are selling out to developers and the people that want to move out of the cities...to the country...but they do not want to "rough it" to live the life that beckoned them to move in the first place. Now they move...and want the benefits of the City to be included...paved streets...night lights...security...why did they move out to the Country in the first place? Who is studying this? The developer that builds homes next to a dairy farmer...knowing that the smell of manure has been in this area for generations....now the homes go up..."they" pass laws...and the next thing the dairy farmer is put out of business. Not fair. What needs to be controlled...are the People. The almighty dollar of greedy developers is at the base of this problem. People cannot survive if we destroy the delicate balance of nature...between civilization and nature. Science before culture...people are not even aware of the difficulties presented to wildlife in a perpetual struggle to survive...in the ever-expanding

growth of civilization. Teach conservation in schools. Instead the schools are taking away courses like Geography...heavens...this is wrong. Education of the people. Teaching peaceful coexistence...between humans and wildlife. We have a duty to leave a legacy to our grandchildren and their grandchildren. What this country needs to do...is close its borders to more people...let the animals be FREE. Set a precedent..if the wolves are allowed to be hunted and destroyed...the grizzlies, and all wildlife...then the strong arm of the Govt will impose an unfair ruling in all states. The ranchers lived with the wolves for generations...it is the developers and their uncontrolled building and snatching land that is driving wildlife into areas that used to be open...and are no longer open to them. People are the problem...not the wildlife. We must learn to live in harmony with Nature...not destroy it. What would happen if we decided to cull the sick and worthless humans just as quickly as they want to destroy the wildlife that was here long before MAN ever entered these areas? Nobody ever suggests that...do they? Thank you for your fighting to save the wildlife. Keep up the good fight. The weather is changing and putting an added burden on all...food and water are being lost...for both man and nature. There have to be some of us...the people that are 100% for the wildlife...because for each one of us for the wildlife there are 1000s of people against the wildlife. I support and hope that those of us that are for the preservation of wildlife can find a balance between the negative and the positive...and it is a shame...that the government can waive their mighty arm of power...and zap....the termination of so much wildlife will be destroyed. Before helicopters and snowmobiles...the animals had a chance...now what chance to they have? Just as criminals take the lives of humans...I do not see the government making rules and killing men that kill others...but the wolves...they are being considered such terrible animals...I think man is the horrible animal...and the government needs to stop throwing stones at glass windows...and clean up their act before they attack an animal that has no protection to protect itself. Keep up the good work...and I hope that you win...and keep all the animals on the Endangered Species List. Tell the government to protect our borders from all the illegal immigrants that are pouring into the country daily...and stop allowing people to reproduce and get on welfare rolls. Why is wildlife so viciously attacked...simple...they cannot protect themselves. Well stop the people...the wild animals should have a Bill of Rights also. Who is to say that a wolf does not have the same rights as a human...God created us all equal...the animals too. I am sick of the Mexicans that come here...and we do

nothing. But we attack the wild animals...does the government not have some of its priorities very much misplaced???? Tell the government to control the illegals coming into this country...then the animals would have enough room to roam.

I had a registered wildlife habitat...that 100 men and 40 fire trucks...allowed to burn...malicious negligence. We had a 15,000 gallon swimming pool...and a huge pond...they said they could not "suck"...and they could not "spray". Had they not entered our land...we would have saved it all ourselves. The firemen and the "govt" killed the baby pheasants, mallards, quail, and fox and destroyed the fish, frogs, and turtles and snakes...we tried our best to protect. Your taxes pay for firemen and the police for "protection"...Ha! Wake up America...and fight back. These men did nothing...and we had it saved...they destroyed us. Do NOT allow the government to get away with this...we the people have lost so many freedoms...this is just the start...fight back...do not allow this to happen...the government is out of control...and if the ranchers lost everything to the government...their attitude may change also. So please stand up for the rights of the wildlife...we were just a single family and were outnumbered. If we all stand together as a united front...perhaps we will have a chance of winning. Complacency will not work...everyone must fight...for what is right. I was up against a billionaire developer and the City with my wildlife habitat...I lost and was harassed also. This was an unfair battle...such as this... for keeping animals on Endangered List. If you allow this...they...the government will not be stopped. The foreign ships...Korea, China, Russia,etc...are raping our oceans...and the Coast Guard has no rights to keep them out of US waters. Now the government wants to attack defenseless creatures...Leave The Wolves Alone...and go get the People! Thank you.

Commenter: Nandia Black

Wolves serve a vital role in the balance of wildlife and deserve federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Without such protection their very survival is severely jeopardized. What a shame it would be to loose such beautiful animals whose very essence captures the American spirit. We can do better.

Commenter: Laurie

We rescued a wolf while living in California and had her for 12 years. I agree with most readers that wolves have a right to live in

their habitat and be protected, just as much as anything else. Can more be relocated to another State?

I do feel bad for the ranchers. They have a living to make, also, but I believe we really need to think our options through before we start exterminating them again.

They are so loyal to their packs and take care fo their own.

Commenter: John Phillips

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/cattle/downloads/cattle-bison.pdf

Apparently, Brucellosis IS capable of being transferred to cattle from bison and further, is communicable to humans in the form of undulant fever which can persist for years, post-infection.

Also, it is the GYA bison (and elk) that have the highest infection rate(s) and last I heard they are not hunted in the park.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of mis-guided emotion and a lack of pragmatic common sense exhibited by many (apparent urbanites) respondents.

Remember, Walt Disney created cartoons...he didn't create anything remotely resembling reality.

Commenter: Mike

Leave the Wolves alone, only thing most humans think of is them selfs.

Commenter: Biff Shank

I to truly think that all gods animals of the forest and lands of the world should live in peace and harmony.They have to be managed in order for that to work, period.If humans were not managed (by law)there would be wars and uncontrollable diseas the world would not be a safe place to be;imagine it for a moment.My point:if wolves(canadian grey) are not managed thats what will happen to all gods animals of the forest;in time they will all vanish from this eating machine. wolves kill in waves,wether

hungrey or not.The flight instinct from the opposing animal triggers the wolves instinct as a pack animal to kill hungry or not.This is fact people, the 6,000 or so wolves that inhabit ore,wa,ldh,mont,wy,are eating there way south,they have killed hundreds of thousands of gods creatures for pleasure,its being documented as we speek. This year it will be put in film format for all the world to see;it will not be for the faint of heart.When they reach the big cities,and they will,it will be be termination regardless.THIS Canaidian wolve realy belongs back in the vast far north canada,alaska were it can be managed properly.There are the living and there are the dead,the living can be educated.The Dead well:GOD BLESS THEM!there is some hope that our for fathers of this great country might have taught some folks some real good common sense,apearently not.Political motivation drives the wolve not common sense,if they cant be managed like all other gods creatures they should be removed.Common sense FOLKS,remember native wolves,are timber wolves, not candian grey wolves. By the way who is responsible for all the packs of timber wolves that the non-indig canadian wolves have slaughterd. HUM:SOUNDS LIKE THERE IS A LOT OF STUPID MONEY OUT THERE, and humans.Im being called by the wild;she says theres wolf on the barbie,claims it tastes like chicken wow!!!! I LOVE CHICKEN i better get some before the wolves get them all.GOD BLESS!!! be open minded.SARA PALIN WILL BE HERE SOON!!!!she will get it working,i here she is a pretty goooooood shot! BAM im out! GET YOUR CCW SOON.>>>>-O

Commenter: sharryn clark

My family came to Idaho from Wisconsin in 1863. I was raised there. The attitude of the general population is total elimination of wolves, they had the "problem" taken care with goverment help in the 1920's and 30's. As we now know the wolves are an important part of nature for the health of all species.

Commenter: sarah

It is up to us humans to fight for these endangered animals! Come on people, what's the problem? Help them live! They are a part of nature as we are. Let them live! We must NOT let anyone keep on going with this terrible evil. Make it STOP!

Commenter: cindy gates

lets all protect all wildlife before its no longer here

Commenter: John Burke

I do believe that, like coyotes, the wolf should be managed in one form or another. They are very intelligent and resourceful, therefore the extermination of the animal would not occur. Also the federal government has enough problems and issues to deal with and should leave the states handle their internal affairs as they see fit. I'm from Pa and our main predatory animal is the coyote. Although they are hunted vigorously throughout the year by many sportsmen, their presence is expanding throughout the state. I believe that the wolf species would respond in the same manner.

Commenter: Shirley

Wolves are a part of the circle of life... we can not continue the indiscriminate killing of apex predators (wolves, mountain lions, etc) without adversely impacting the balance of nature.

Wolves in The U.S. were actively exterminated for decades, and we decimated their population. They need, and deserve, our protection... before its too late, and they are all gone...

Commenter: Mary Robets

I, too, am distressed by the desire to kill wolves. In Wyoming, the attitude is "shoot, shovel and shut up". The outfitters want them gone because they think that they are taking too much of the game that they guide hunters to kill. They want them to be one of the "game animals". The ranchers want to keep them away from their livestock, and want to kill them on sight. Wyoming cannot come up with state plan that will please everyone and be fair to the wolf population. And now, to top it all off, Cabela's and others in the business of outfitting hunters, have organized "wolf hunting derbies" in Idaho, granting points to each wolf killed to those who participate.

If you cannot give money to your favorite environmental group that is endeavoring to help wolves, sign the petition that is now being publicized at Defenders of Wildlife.com, which will be

presented to Cabela's and other businesses as an appeal to stop these derbies! Check it out and be a participant.... I have started by cancelling all of the catalogs that they send to my mailbox and ceasing to purchase anything at all from them until this support of wolf killing stops permanently.

February 26, 2010

Commenter: Mrs Josephine Wright

These animals'the Wolves'have as much right to live on this planet as The Human race have!I believe with all my heart they have the right to have 100% protection for ever!Let them live and roam this earth in complet freedom,and peace!Man does to much meddling with nature,It is man who needs controlling!! Long Live The Wolf!!<3

Commenter: Stephen Stringham, PhD (Wildlife Biologist)

As recently as the 1800's, wolves and their prey south of Canada had huge areas of habitat. So excessive predation by wolves, leading to local decimation of prey, and they by crash in wolf numbers, could be compensated by later re-immigration by prey species and eventually by wolves. In the modern era, that natural cycling may no longer occur. Wolves may increase so much that they decimate populations of elk, deer, and other prey. So in some situations, wolf control may be necessary. Unfortunately, wolf control programs in general are not well-designed to meet the needs of wolves and of prey species so much as the desires of human hunters -- as one sees so clearly in Alaska. We await well designed management plans.

Commenter: Melinda

I cannot believe that they would even think of taking wolves off of the endangered species list, does America ever learn? I don't think its fair that we go into animal territory and take their land and food but we get mad and kill any of them that take livestock. What about them? How would people like it if something came in and decided there's too many of us and had open game day with us? That is cruel and wrong. Wolves deserve better! It's their land, too! If they take them off they would be hunted to extinction again and our kids and grandkids would never even know about the beautiful creatures that enhabit this country. THEY NEED

PROTECTION!

Commenter: deborah

I am a political conservative who is absolutely sickened by the attack on wolves and other wildlife. These are necessary and beautiful creatures who should NOT be subject to wholesale extermination in this most brutal fashion. Why isn't more exposure about this problem being made on all the national media outlets? More people need to know what's going on.

Commenter: John Moore

If you are a wolf fan...we suggest you have a couple in your back yard as we do. It won't take long for you to wake up and "get real." We haven't seen any moose in our country for years since the wolves have arrived. Wish you could observe in real life the wolf impact. In our opinion it is one more example of "eminent domain." Government once again taking away our freedoms....This documentary is obviously so biased and it gives me a stomach ache. Shame on you.

Commenter: Carmen Jordan

This is such propaganda and a slanted documentary. Wake up people! Wolves are the biggest carrier of deadly parasites and spread them to your food sources and your pets. They neglect to tell you the expensive and detrimental consequences. Follow the money trail. We work and live with the wolves and the people who are financed to promote wolves. As most environmental groups they are able to support their lifestyle by appealing to people's naivety and softness toward animals and they are not providing you with the whole picture. They are not held responsible for any of their heavy-handed actions.

Commenter: Betsyoh

I see with interest the comments about wolf reproduction and claims that wolves reproduce well, as if that means they repopulate well. Recently a pack in Yellowstone produced 15 pups in one season; however, every last one of the pups died. In the wild, animals are subject to far more stressors than humans

are in civilization. Pups do not equal population!

Commenter: Betsyoh

Your show, while mentioning that "ranchers fear" that cattle exposed to bison could become infected by brucellosis, failed to mention that there has NEVER been a documented case of the disease in bison. There have been many cases of it in elk, yet the ranchers do not call for mass killings of elk like they do for bison. That was very poor of you not to discuss. Ranchers use the brucellosis scare tactic because they want public land without competition for their cattle. Second, your show like so much of the media takes for granted that ranchers are entitled to let their cattle roam and range all over BML and other public lands and that they have a "legitimate" claim to drive predatory species such as the wolf to extinction in order to protect their cattle. BML and other public lands belong to the PUBLIC, not to ranchers, and we in the US have subsidized the ranching industry far too long to the detriment of our environment, our ecosystems, even our health. Many studies show the unsustainability of our practices. Shame on you for not exploring any of the negative impact of our public subsidies of cattle ranching in the US. Ranchers should have to roam and range their cattle on their own land, not public land.

Commenter: Brian Vanlandingham

It is NOT the wildlife that is the problem, IT is PEOPLE!!! WE need to SAVE ALL wildlife!!! Even if it means the PEOPLE have to move to A big city!!! THE wildlife was here FIRST!!!!

Commenter: John Shea

There are pressures enough on the populations of wolves from shrinking habitat and climate change. The last thing we need is sport hunting of wolves. If, though an unlikely event, wolf populations in the three states should require culling, that grim task should not be done by hunters. Rather, it should be done only by trained wildlife officers who can identify old and infirm animals (at least initially). This should be done from aircraft with weapons that are certain to kill immediately.

There are plenty of passive (no-kill) methods of protecting

domestic animals and people from these wild animals. Killing them should be a last resort and any culling should be undertaken only after a lengthy period of study to determine the stability of the various packs and the overall population in the region.

Sport hunting (which excludes subsistence hunting), is the killing of a living creature just for the fun of it. It is perverse and obscene. A civilized society shouldn't condone it.

Thanks to NOW for covering this issue. I hope your program stimulates viewers to share their opposition to the current Administration's lack of change with respect to this and many other environmental issues.

Commenter: John M. Britton

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE keep NOW on the air. this is one of the best investigative reporting shows I have ever seen. We need this kind of reporting, especially when it comes to revealing corruption in government and industry. There needs to be more of these kind of shows not fewer.

Commenter: Anne M Ianniciello

I have been a supporter of all endangered animals, but wolves have always been on the top of my list to save them from those who are so ignorant about the truth of the importance of all animals to the ecology.

I have lived in a rural farming and cattle breeding area, and have never understood how some people, most with a high IQ regarding running their farms and ranching, can make so many stupid ideas sound reasonable. I have sat in my bar (owned in 1993-1995) sitting there and laughing about the fun running the coyotes down with their snowmobiles. I refused to sit and listen and told them there were other places to sit and show their ignorance. Then in the spring the same farmers complained about the rabbits overtaking their crops! (i wonder what could have caused that?.)

Commenter: Katherine Lindgren

Left alone by people there is a balance of nature

and this needs to be allowed to happen in regard to the situation with the wolves in Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding areas.

Commenter: Sharon

They wonder why the deer population is increasing and causing accidents. If the human form would let Mother Nature alone and quite being "helpful"??? then the problem could be solved. Leave the wolves alone.

Commenter: Mike Schumacher

To all you city people who think the ranchers should move. Why don't you help save the wolf and leson your carbon foot print at the same time by killing yourself.

Commenter: Marina Salazar

Actions speak louder than words. Obama can SAY he is concerned about the environment, but what he DID was delist wolves, an important apex predator that is critical to a balanced ecosystem. He can SAY he was for change, but what he DID was endorse a BUSH administration policy to erode federal protections for our environment. He will NOT get my vote again if he does not reinstate the wolves' status as an endangered species. Obama has been a HUGE disappointment because of his callous disregard for this important environmental issue.

Commenter: DASR

I pray that one day, the American people, if not all people will evolve enough to realize that we need to adjust to accomodate the wild animals on this planet and not expect them to accomodate us!...We need to EVOLVE and stop eradicating animals when it suits our needs; using and abuseing, neglecting and torturing animals for entertainment, financial gain and food.

Commenter: emmymaie

why do creatures have to be threatened with extinction before they're protected? are not all creatures, in their own ways,

sacred, and deserving of life?

Commenter: Albert Lopez

WOLFS DID NOT MOVE WHERE THE PEOPLE LIVE/RANCH
PEOPLE MOVED WHERE THE WOLFS LIVE!!!!!!

Commenter: Linda Martin

The Obama administration is behaving in a way that is disappointing to environmentalists in Oregon as well. I could write a book on what is happening here with private energy speculators and how the Obama administration is enabling the policies of Bush/Cheney. I've never been so disappointed in all my life. I voted for Obama; knocked on doors; raised money; spent hundreds of dollars in money we could ill afford to get him elected. He sent representatives to Oregon to meet with our groups and promised he would never allow the things to happen that he is allowing here. I know that McCain would have been worse, but I feel as if I've lost faith in politicians. Now, instead of donating to politicians, I shall give money to environmental groups and EarthJustice.

Commenter: Jeanette Strauch

I agree with ariel; I believe that they should try anything to protect the wolves, because before you know it the wolves are going to be endangered or even extinct. If it was me I would do everything in my power to save those wolves and try to make Obama stick to his promise and make those wolves safe. If he won't listen then nobody will. It only takes one person to realize what's really happening before everybody starts saying something and then Obama will have no choice but to help the wolves with all of the power he has to make it illegal to kill any wolves in any state, or country! Jeanette Strauch, Germany

Commenter: Annie Moran

I saw this very thing on TV tonight and it made me sick. Wolves are such beautiful creatures and have a right to be protected. As people care less about each other they feel why should animals be cared about. The Fish and Game people should not be able to

kill the Wolves to thin out the packs. obama has lied again about protecting the environment which includes wildlife. Something needs to be done and very quickly.

Commenter: Mini Richards

To kill wolves is wrong....they are part of our heritage! The wolves are pack animals and are essential to a healthy eco system! These animals are important to our wilderness and we have a right to enjoy these animals and listen to their howl as it was when our ancestors came to this country. We do not want these animals to become extinct! We want to enjoy these magnificent creatures! We should NOT allow states to hunt these animals that we have worked so hard to reintroduce!! The type of people that want to hunt wolves are out for a trophy head and not meat...that is not sportsmanship! Hunters that kill wolves with pups of their own are cruel! Wolves cause very little problems! The people who are against them are very uninformed and trigger happy...all animals deserve to live..God made them for a very important reason! They must live just as any other animal lives in it's natural habitat! Haven't we caused enough distruction to our planet without listening to unscientific propaganda from hate groups!

Commenter: PD TRIEM

Secretary Salazar is a clone of Secretary Kempthorne who was a clone of Secretary Babbitt. They all share a Western ranchers' bias.

Commenter: Katharina

First we killed all the wolves. Then we re-introduced them into the wilderness. Now we are eliminating them again. An insane circle. The ranchers protect their cattle, because we cannot stop eating beef. I have suggested that the major animal-protection groups join forces with their lawyers to challenge the government's laws. President Obama would do well to take a moment from his healthcare problems and think of our precious wildlife instead. It would raise his poll numbers if he could show success in this area. Many, many Americans would love him for it. - Thank you, PBS, David Broncaccio and NOW, for bringing us this excellent program. We have to do more!

Commenter: gina jones

I so enjoyed all the information and as I am already ambassador of wild and hybrid wolves I certainly do thank you so much !

Commenter: John OBrien

The wolf population is now healthy, too healthy to require federal protections at this time. We no longer live in a frontier society. Wolves are not good next door neighbors. If you don't believe me, introduce your household pet to a wolf; or rather, allow wolves to move in next to you, and they will take care of the introductions themselves. You will not be happy with the arrangement. Wolves are still welcome to live within designated domains, but they should not be permitted to establish dens randomly.

Commenter: Mike McCoy

The unreasonable hatred for wolves is primarily born out of competition between humans and apex predators and the livestock industry. Livestock production accounts for 70 percent of all agricultural land and 30 percent of the land surface of the planet. The livestock industry presents massive problems when dealing with land degradation, climate change, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution and loss of biodiversity (including wolves and other apex predators). Bison also bear the brunt of this industry because they carry brucellosis which they originally acquired from European cattle. As tax payers we should not have to pay for so called "animal damage control services" protecting private livestock grazing on public lands. Livestock's contribution to environmental problems is on a massive scale and a solution is equally large. The impact is so significant that it needs to be addressed with urgency. Over 80 percent of corn and over 95 percent of oats produced in the United States are for feeding livestock. The world's cattle alone consume a quantity of food equivalent to the caloric needs of 8.7 billion people, more than the entire human population on earth.

Commenter: Mary M

How many thousands of years has the beautiful Wolf been on our

"Mother Earth.? But man has always had his hand in Nature and can't leave well enough alone, including our Aquatic life.

Stop hunting these wild animals "for crying out loud." Man can buy mass produced meat in any grocery store. Let "Mother Nature" run its own course and man should not except to protect it.

If we had an over abundance of Eagles, would man then have to "kill them"?

And for once, Government should do what they say they will rather than just talk about it.

Mary M

Commenter: jeff williams...

I believe it's now time to take it up another notch...We desperately need to stop this now!...

Commenter: S. S. Sweet

Thank you to Now for airing this very timely piece on the wolves & the Endangered Species Act. The more publicity and awareness that is created, the more 'voices' will be be raised. We need to educate the public to stop the slaughter of our beautiful, wild animals. It DOES feel like history is repeating itself with these Derbies (Cabela's), aerial slaughters (Thank you Mrs. Pallin, & Gov. Sean Parnell), and the delisting of the Endangered Species Act (Sec. Ken Salazar). I think it's time we bombard the Office of the Interior, Sec. Ken Salazar with letters, phone calls, txt messages what-have-you. We need to create further awareness of these cruel anti-wolf, anti-animal practices. They have no voice, we are their voice. It's not OK to hunt for sport, it's not OK to torture animals, it's not OK to provide protection & then strip it away! I am writing my letters to Obama & Salazar immediately!

Commenter: Maria Martin

Hello! What I do not understand is the following thing:
The animals are hunted (wolves, bison and gray bear)

consumed by the North Americans? Or are they only hunted by sport?

Is hunting a "sport"??? God! We must learn to respect what was given to us as a gift. Killing for killing is not sport, it's barbarism. Not even animals do it. They kill for food, to feed themselves.

I find it very hard to believe that Defenders of Wildlife promise the sportsman of America as soon as the wolf recovered they would support hunting.

Humans are taking over their habitat and have no where else to go! So, please, leave the animals alone!

Let's love all life on this planet, every living being on it.

Why is so hard to love? It's hard to love?

May God enlighten the Obama Administration.

Commenter: Mary M

How many thousands of years has this beautiful animal been on the face of our "Mother Earth,"

how about man? Well, man has always had to have his hand in Nature and thinks he is making such great progress with all of our Technology and Machines.

For once, why can't man just leave well enough alone? He can buy mass produced meat in any grocery store. Stop hunting these wild animals including those of aquatic nature for "crying out loud."

And why won't Government just do what they say instead of just talking about it?

"I'd love to change the world."

Sincerely,

Mary M

Commenter: Thomas R Detman

We have a huge and increasing surplus of humans on the planet, but places that are wild, beautiful, and remote mostly shrink and disappear. We need these places, now more than ever, to escape the crush of humanity, to find solitude, and to refresh

our spirits. I think "We the people" should begin buying land adjacent to Yellowstone, when it becomes available, to expand Yellowstone so that it includes the ranges into which bison, elk and wolves migrate during the Winter. Cattle and ranching are in no way threatened; our little bit of remaining wild places and wild life have the greater need for that land.

Commenter: Robbie Sue Main

Wolves will need government support for their survival due to the economic impact on ranchers who lose money due to cattle loss. Many ranchers see no need for their survival and would shoot wolves anytime anywhere due to the death of their animals on their ranches. I don't know if the government allows tax deduction on their income taxes due to the loss of livestock. To me that sounds fair because ranching is a business. Ranchers would have to produce evidence of the death of the cattle to prevent fraud. I like the idea of a state plan submitted to the federal government for the number of wolves to be killed. With the change of weather becoming warmer the habits of wildlife will change with many of them moving north to stay in the climate they prefer.

Commenter: Jene'

I think the one thing most don't realize is that Secretary Salazar was a rancher. Ranchers tend to want to kill anything that is in competition with them. Unless we give them compensation for the kills, they will continue to hunt the wolf. What concerns me is that not all of the kills are made by wolves. Their own dogs kill their animals.

I hope that Mr. Hollond can make the repeal happen and keep these great creatures on the list. All animals deserve a life on this planet. They were here before us to pave the way. Without them our planet would not have been suitable for us. We answer by detroying them and our habitat?! Shame on us.

Commenter: Ben Schwehr

It is very simple. If the wolf population is uncontrolled, they will eat all of the other wildlife and then even the wolves will die. That would be a terrible loss. Wildlife management must be based on knowledge, not emotions. At the same time, we know that wildlife

management is an economical issue. Without hunting expenses, there would be insufficient funds to manage wildlife. So if we let the wolves kill the game animals, then there will be insufficient funds to manage the wildlife. There should be so few wolves that it should be a challenge to even find one; they should not be so populous that they are seen everywhere. Wolves should also respect man and domestic livestock. I love all game animals. If the wolf becomes a game animal, I will love them also.

Commenter: Dr. Hubertus G.J. de Klerk

Wolves need protection period. If it's federal, environmental protection it doesn't matter. Restoring the wolf population in every possible way in every state that wolves once roamed helps getting a back the balance in nature. The Yellowstone reintroduction of wolves proves it and in area's like Alaska or Canada wolves have been a successful part of the landscape. There are many ways livestock can be protected, killing wolves is not one of them.

Commenter: WOLFMAN M

THE PREZ AND SALAZAR HAVE FOLDED.
THEY HAVE DESERTED THE WOLVES.
JUST WAIT UNTIL 2010, WHEN THEY'RE
DESERTED AT THE VOTING BOOTH.
LEAVE THE WOLVES ALONE...

Commenter: Ryan

Coyotes in Idaho have been hunted year round for years without a bag limit. To my knowledge this has yet made an impact on the coyote population. Coyotes like the wolves, can have litters of five or more pups. I believe with or without a bag limit in ID,MT,or WY the wolf population wouldn't decline to numbers of no return, at least not in this day and age. Many years ago trapping and hunting the wolves and other fur bearing animals, was a way of making a living. Today hunting the wolves would just be a way of keeping the balance. Over the last twenty years i have seen evidence of the wolves killing elk to kill, leaving the meat for other scavengers or to rot. I understand why some people feel they should be killed off. Why should we leave it to the federal government to protect the predator?

Commenter: James G. Deane

In "Hunting Wolves, Saving Wolves" NOW did an excellent report on this important wildlife conservation issue. I am greatly disappointed by the Obama administration's apparent lack of interest in following through on the success of federal agencies and conservation organizations in restoring the wolf to a visible presence in and around Yellowstone and maintaining appropriate Northern Rockies wolf protection under the Endangered Species Act. I hope the conservationist lawsuit succeeds.

Commenter: Frances Evans

I have always thought the wolves and the wild horses to be the most majestic of all God's animals and put here to be enjoyed, not murdered. Yet, this country's political atmosphere has not changed enough since this country was founded to know these animals are a treasure and should be protected at all costs. Give the voters a list of the names of politicians who sponsor and vote for the killing and let us get them OUT OF OFFICE where they can do no harm.

Commenter: Ronnie Chittim

Wolves are native to the land...cattle and sheep are introduced by ranchers and the land is poorer for it. Elk and deer are kept in balance by wolves and the hunter with his expensive high powered rifle wants to do that job for bragging rights and photo op. Examine Ken Salazars record on environmental issues and it is no surprise his department is falling in line with commercial interests.

Commenter: Karin

This is not what Obama promised the people of this country before he got elected. Wolves have long been vilified by fanatics who want to eliminate all wolves. The Interior Department abandon the wolves to those that will destroy them,, speeding up the extinction of America's beautiful wolves. Approximately half of all wolves die before reaching one year of age. This heavy toll is taken by predators, such as grizzlies, factors such as inexperience, hunting

accidents and disease. We hardly need much wolf management for nature takes care of itself. Research shows that when wolves are removed from an area, the remaining big game often suffers starvation and disease. We all have the responsibility to protect our wildlife and wild lands, for every creature on this earth there is a reason for it to exist, everything in nature is connected, only man takes more than he needs, only to fulfill greed. Save the wolves.

Commenter: Robert

Ariel,
I hope your sister is o.k. I took care of her in Tucson.
RLDarling@yahoo.com "Robert"

Commenter: Sarah Thorsteinson

Thank you so much for this program!! I am republican, but I believe strongly in protecting the earth's natural species, so that our children and grandchildren may enjoy them as well. Humans are a cancer on this planet. Why are we spending so much time "managing" the environment and wildlife, and not doing anything to control our own overgrowth on our small planet? It seems extreme to manage ourselves and our own proliferation. So why would we manage everything else?

Commenter: Robert

I find it amazing that a population of 1600 wolves is considered 'too many'. Less than 5,000 cattle and sheep killed since re-introduction into Yellowstone seems a tiny loss. The reactions on television of people who hate wolves seem to have more to do with 'you're not the boss of me' than with any rational plan. Sad.

Commenter: Deb T

I'm disgusted by people/organizations that think that containing the wolf/bear/bison population to "zoo" levels, as was suggested by one of the anti protection organizations, is how we should control predatory animals

populations. I appreciate the work that reputable zoos, like the Minnesota Zoo, do to protect endangered species, but when I go I'm sadden to think that for many animals, this is it, the final destination for their species. When I see a giraffe in a pen no larger than my front yard, which is the case at the Como Zoo in St. Paul, I grieve, not just for the animal but for humans. We have so little regard for what came before us, we don't learn from our past mistakes and I think it will ultimately contribute to our downfall as a "species" .

Commenter: Tammy

There are no words to describe how it feels to get to watch a wolf pack for the past 10 years. I have been to Yellowstone almost every year since 2000 and have got the pleasure to be able to watch the Druid Pack. Now the pack is almost obsolete. I think everyone that is against wolves needs to experience this once with their kids and then take a hard second look on what they are feeling about this matter. Please save the wolves and protect all wildlife. We are all here only once and remember the life span of a wolf is not very long. I also want to say please remember the DRUIDS and thank you for making the trails that are still visible today and hope that your brothers can follow in your paw prints.

Commenter: Dennis Donath

I am extremely disappointed that the U.S. Dept. of Interior is seemingly continuing any Bush administration environmental policies. I know Bush and his cronies knew little about the environment. I guess we have to rely on organizations like Earth Justice and the court system to sort out the mess.

Commenter: John Phillips

Nature has an intrinsic sense of balance and will superimpose that balance over time regardless of who/what causes a temporary change in the norm.

If humans are considered a part of nature as we so are in the NA sense, our actions while sometimes apparently detrimental will eventually fade into the ecosystem tapestry.

It is therefore incumbent that simple logical reasoning be

employed at every turn in decisions regarding our world.

In one part of your piece, it appears said logic has almost entirely vanished from the scene at hand.

Why would anyone even entertain the notion that allowing a bison herd with 40-60% infection rate of Brucellosis to intermingle with commercial cattle, a FDA regulated food product and integral part of this nation's food supply?

Especially, when cattle (and other livestock) have previously been slaughtered in the tens of thousands for simply being in the vicinity of another animal infected with Bovine Spongiform encephalopathy?

Have they gone "soft" in the head?

Commenter: Barb3000

These so-called hunters act like a blood thirsty mob. I have a good idea that these people killed wolves where ever they spotted them in the wild. Laws don't mean anything to low-life creeps like these. I read a good article a while ago that said that when the apex predator such as the wolf is gone that smaller predators such as coyotes move in and do a lot more damage to sheep herds than the wolf ever did.

Commenter: Mike Schumacher

Hey can anybody reading this tell me what happend to the T rex did Fred and Barnne Kill them off!

Commenter: S. Urton

As mentioned in the program, the Obama administration is raising questions regarding their environmental views and policies. Along with the wolf issue is the wild horse and burro issue. Again public land is the site of the removal of large numbers of wild horses in the midst of winter for what reason? The BLM is saying that there are too many horses and since the ROAM Act was ammended during the Bush Administration, they feel they may now remove the wild horses and burros from these lands. They apparently want the land for the use of cattlemen and pipe line construction.

These animals, much like the wolves, are being inhumanly treated during these roundups. A number have been killed and injured. The horses are being held at the public's expense in corrals. Now the BLM intends to purchase other land in other areas of the country to hold these horses. That means public money will be used to haul them to these new sites. No one knows how long these animals will be held, before they are probably sent to slaughter. Again, public money is being spent when these horses were doing well on public land without the interference of the BLM. Is this how our government intends to manage our heritage and wildlife? When they are through will there be anything left to manage?

Commenter: Joe Heinrichs

When the other animals start to diminish and the Wolves are hungry you will see the livestock pay the price, or maybe school zones maybe backyards are you willing to take that chance. Like anything else if they are not controlled they will be a problem. I can only hope and pray that some innocent person doesn't pay the ultimate price due to oh my god the poor wolves. Thank You President Obama

Commenter: Cynthia Test

How sad. I have never felt so moved to comment on an issue as I feel on this one. I have a wolf that lives with me day in and day out. He is the wisest soul I have ever encountered. I do not promote humans "owning" wolves and I never forget that he is at heart a wild animal! I just happened to come upon one that had been hit by a car and picked him up and brought him to my vet for treatment. It was then that I discovered he was not a furry puppy but a furry wolf pup. That was 8 years ago and he has been my constant friend. Loyal, kind, loving and so very intelligent. I fear for their future. How can humans be so cruel?

Commenter: pat mangino

A wonderful book worth reading is The Ninemile Wolves by Rick Bass. (Any book by Rick Bass is highly recommended by the way)

Commenter: Jack

I'm sorry if this busts your world view, but wolves are not always regal. Sometimes wolves are revolting killing machines. Look for web sites displaying wolf kills. It will turn your stomach. People who live with wolves are near a breaking point. I live in Idaho and I sense that relisted wolves will be viewed as an attack against residents. I don't have a crystal ball, but I would not be surprised if the wolves go by-by.

Commenter: Ron Kyllonen

The wolves are at the top of the food chain and are necessary to keep the ecosystem in balance.

Commenter: M. Kitchen

I was interested in hearing the one rancher who was stating that the humans were the top predator, and suggesting that humans had to control the population of the wolves. What he didn't address were the two questions: What exactly do ranchers mean by "control", and who is going to "control" the population of humans?

Please let me know if I can help in the human "control" effort. Someone has got to step in and control the population of ranchers who have done nothing but damage the Creator's land by introducing non-native species, by polluting the water and air, by killing off the superior native fauna, and by causing huge amounts of soil erosion. Since their selfish natural tendencies are also responsible for promoting the rape of other natural resources, exactly what are they good for and why should anyone listen to what they want?

Commenter: Julie Morrell

I think humans should stop breeding so much before we destroy the entire planet.

Commenter: Tricia

I feel that these Wolves in the surrounding states and areas as well as Yellowstone. Also would like to mention

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota, Michigan as well as Wisconsin should all be protected under Federal Protection or we will be back to square one with the hunters killing wolves until they become extinct!

Commenter: Agnes Fleming

My decision is unshakeable and unequivocal that wolves should be protected, as should all wildlife, from the greed of the most obnoxious predator of all, men and women with rifles who do not kill off the weakest in the herds, packs, or flocks but rather, the strongest. I supported Obama during the campaign, but I am increasingly disappointed that he is turning into a typical politician, the job at any cost, not the responsibilities that go with it, and I know they are huge. But that's why he ran in the first place, wasn't it - he could handle it? No pussyfooting now, protect our wildlife, period! Whether we are naturalists, evolutionists, creationists is not the question, Someone placed these animals on our planet along with us, or they evolved alongside us; kill them off and soon these idiots will turn upon the rest of us because we failed to act on time.

Commenter: Tsula Lea RedSheild (100% Native American)

They need to save those wolves! It took years to recover them into the US and we need to keep them. If you think of it, when we reintroduced wolves into the United States we made a commitment to help protect and care for them. If we just go out and start shooting them, then we just wasted years of work and tons of money. Wolves have been here before us. This is their home. WE are the invaders of this land. NOT THEM!! We need to do all that we can to protect them.

Here is a website that you can join. It's trying to save wolves and bring them back.

Join H.O.W.L

<http://howlforthem.webs.com/>

Poem written by me

A flash of fangs

A howl of pride

Teeth and claws making the law

Burnished silver in the moonlight shine

A glimpse of flashing eyes

Fierce and powerful

Strong and swift

We are wolf

The hunter

The lover

Feared

And

Honored

Commenter: Laura T

The management of the wolf and its long-term survival as a species depends on a citizenry with a broader understanding of natural history and wildlife ecology than is the norm in America. It is disheartening to see employees in federal agencies charged with wildlife management who do not understand the importance of adequate numbers and genetic richness to species health and longevity. I hope the wolves win -

Commenter: Suzie

The Obama administration's delisting of wolves and allowance of the three states to control the future of America's wolves is incredibly disappointing. There is no justification for killing these animals. They belong to all of us, not just the ranchers or hunters in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Commenter: Nichole

I agree wolves should be managed, however they should be managed when they are actually at a viable population. Wolves are hated by ranchers which i think is a hate pointed in the wrong direction, it is proven wolves kill less livestock then coyotes, illness, and weather do combined. Wolves should be protected and they should all be protected no matter what the state. I live in wyoming and went into a local out doors facility where they sold hunting equipment and without hesitation they said if you see a wolf shoot it on the spot. And that my friends and fellow americans is wrong.

Commenter: clayton I

were in trouble when groups tell us when we need to take wolves or not . i think the conservation department probably knows better than some group setting in an office. but they are the ones that want to eliminate hunting altogether. stupid fools are not intelligent enough to no that hunters pay for the management and the comeback of the wolf. stupid.

Commenter: Barbara Crane

I oppose the slaughtering of wolves. They have as much a right to live as human beings.

Commenter: Sharon DuBois

With regard to wolves, if a population is too large, how about using the trap/neuter/return (TNR) method ? It is a humane way to control a population of any type of animal, without reverting to the barbaric practice of killing something if someone decides they don't like it. I am not an expert on wolves, but, having visited (1x) a local wolf sanctuary in Ipswich, Massachusetts, I learned how bonded these animals are with each other, they have an infrastructure, where each depends on the other for survival. We humans seem to forget how much we encroach on nature's original blueprint. Try trap/neuter/return. It works. (Ask feral cat folks).

Commenter: Joel Kuhlberg

Looks like Obama has let us down again. Delisting wolves at this point (1600) in 3 very big states is not going to result in a stable, healthy population. Yes, the ranchers have a right to protect their herds, but shooting wolves for sport is stupid.

Commenter: Joan Ashton

Thank you for NOW's involvement with this important issue.

Commenter: e148

What makes you think that government should protect any animal? Should put any animal over a human?

Commenter: Michelle

Common sense must prevail over and beyond wolf-haters! Whenever humans destroy the natural hierarchy (specifically a 1st tier predator) of animals - all of nature is put into chaos. The chaos may not be visible to humans for many years but that does not mean it will not occur. It boggles my mind how those who live off of the land in America are so utterly blind to the cycle of nature including the consequences of aborting that cycle!

Commenter: Sandy Mckay

I live in Reno Nevada, in winter we have coyotes, actually walking down our street, feel people took away their habitat, do not already shop at Cabellos or Scheel's, against hunting, when they lived here first, too bad these animals don't know how to use a gun, for the people who do this to them!!

Commenter: Blue

I almost laughed at the comment about how ranchers think city people know nothing about wolves, that we're too soft to know the problems they face. First, they kind of people they are referring to are the ones that stand around in the mall all day. Now I don't live in Wyoming, but I don't live anywhere near a city, and I never want to; disgusting places. I have seen these ranchers go on and on about how evil the wolf is because it kills their cattle. Well there is more than 6 million cattle roaming

American lands; where are the wolves supposed to go? Humans are spreading so fast, tearing up every scrap of land that they see, we're lucky to have national parks. Because otherwise the wolf would be gone.

And ranchers always get mad when wolves enter their property, but how are wolves supposed to know? It's not that they don't know boundaries, they know boundaries very well, but our way of passing along those boundaries is unknown to them. They communicate through scent marking and voice. We think fencing will do it but that's not enough. When wolves see cattle, they don't register it as owned by a rancher because the territory isn't marked in their language. We have become so cut off from nature that we jump to the wrong conclusion of that wolves just hunt out of bloodlust, which is a better description of man than wolf.

And I wanted to slap that woman across the face, the one who asked why animals should have more rights than people. How in the world do animals even have close to the amount of rights that people have? Animals don't even have the choice of being euthanized or not, it's made for them. While humans have freedom, animals are subjected to cages and chains because their living standards don't meet our "expectations".

Hunters are so selfish; as the video put it, the wolves kept the elk population in check, something the hunters like to do. So is it a big fight over elk now? Are we going to kill wolves for a food source that wolves base their entire living off of when our world is stock piled full of other food choices?

I love this video, it's really informative.
Please save the wolf!
H.O.W.L. Help Our Wolves Live

Commenter: Charlie Lammers

I wish Ken Salazar would retire or find some other career path. I am equally disappointed in President Barack Obama for failing to exercise better leadership and allowing Salazar to have free reign over the Department of the Interior with little or no Presidential input. As for the woman in the video who questioned why a four legged creature should have more rights than people my answer would be because they were in her part of the US long before her forebears were. Wolves shared the land with native people who lived in harmony with them and other animals. Wolves and other animals have not invaded the ranchers habitat. Rather, it is the

ranchers and other humans who have invaded the habitats of wolves and other wildlife. If these people are incapable of living peacefully with wildlife they should move to cities where much less wildlife exists.

Commenter: David Cannon

SENATOR ALLEN CHRISTENSEN OF UTAH IS EITHER SO CORRUPT AND ARROGANT THAT HE IS INTENTIONALLY SPREADING LIES & FALSE INFORMATION OR HE IS SO STUPID & INCOMPETENT THAT HE CANNOT DISTINGUISH FACT FROM PROPAGANDA. Most likely it is a combination of his corruption and stupidity. Arrogance, corruption, incompetence and stupidity are not desirable traits in any politician. The American people are fed up with politicians like him. Here is his exact response to someone who addressed their concerns about wolf conservation to him:

"You live in la-la land. The reintroduced wolves are large canadian wolves not the previous ones put here by nature. No animal can stand up to a pack of 10-20 wolves, thus the wildlife populations suffer. Also much killing is done by the wolves just because they can and not for survival. You are choosing to believe one side of the issue and I believe the other. Ask the people that live with them. They tell me that these wolves are unmanageable and uncontrollable. I trust they will be invading your area soon and I hope you then remember our conversation. Senator Christensen"

First of all "You live in la-la land" is a response someone would expect from a 12 year old, not a US senator. The senator is either intentionally lying or he is too incompetent & stupid to know what he is talking about. There is little genetic difference between gray wolves from across north america. (1) There is practically no difference between the gray wolves from Canada and those that were in the western United States.(2) This has been clarified with new techniques such as molecular genetics. (3) In other words, there is no difference between "canadian" wolves & "previous ones put here by nature". All of senator Christensen's statements are false, including "these wolves are killing just because they can." That happens only rarely and in uncommon situations. It is rare for wolves to kill wild prey in surplus. If wolves occasionally do kill more than they can immediately eat, they are responding normally to a situation that is drastically different than usual.(4) In areas where wolves have been absent for some time, the prey have become more vulnerable. The prey will quickly adapt to the

presence of wolves, and the small ammount of surplus killing he is refering to will be nothing to worry about. Restoring wolves will increase overall species diversity and help restore the balance of nature.(5)

After reviewing the current scientific literature, I have come to the inevitable conclusion that Senator Allen Christensen is an incompetent moron of such limited intelligence that he is unfit to be a US senator.

References:

1) Ecology & Management of Large Mammals in North America. 2000, Prentice hall Inc. p. 337

2) Wolves. Behavior, Ecology & Conservation. David Mech & Luigi Boitini 2003, Universiy of Chicago Press. p. 245

3) Ecology & Conservation of Wolves in a Changing World. 1995, Wayne, RK pp. 399-407

4) Wolves. Behavior, Ecology & Conservation. David Mech & Louis Boitani 2003, University of chicago press. p. 144

5) Large Carnivores and the Conservation of Biodiversity. 2005, Island Press. p. 40

Commenter: Kim G.

That's pretty amusing, Bruce; your comment that "wolves sport kill in ever [sic] state they live." So if I'm understanding you, I should believe that wolves must just sit around in their man "caves," enjoying their pizza, potato chips & beer. That is, until morning rolls around when they all head out together to kill other animals just for sport. Wow. Who would've known?

No Bruce, the larger threat to this area are those who support eradication of the wolf population. Diminishing the number of wolves is purely motivated by dollar signs, selfishness and ignorance. Any population that is unnaturally altered by man will ultimately throw off the bigger ecosystem. Unfortunately, man's influence over the wolf population brought about nearly wiping out wolves in this region of the country. I believe as citizens, we need to be good stewards to our environment, and right now, wolves

need our help.

That said, it might interest you that I am not affiliated with any animal rights group or PETA and I'm not an environmental alarmist. In fact, I mostly vote conservatively, I am a NRA Lifetime Member, I drive a gasoline-fueled vehicle, I prefer more toilet paper than not and I don't tie myself to trees. However, I do what I can to protect what I can by turning off faucets, recycling, picking up trash and I'm teaching my children to do just the same.

I'd love to see your data, Bruce, to back up all your claims. Please, be sure to include the sources.

Personally, I'm standing with the wolves, who by the way, are standing on my federal land.

Commenter: Steve Easten

Bruce, you need to educate yourself before you make foolish statements.

Wolves only kill what they eat, and many other animals benefit. They strengthen herds and bloodlines of Elk, Deer, Bison, etc. They cause River lowlands to flourish and increase habitats for water fowl, fish, Otters, Beaver etc, by keep herds moving and not stagnant.

On record less than 500 kills of livestock in 5 years. Not all were proven Wolf kills. U.S. gov. pays the farmer. No farmer has gone out of business from Wolf predation.

Commenter: Heidi

Its So Hard to read about this it breaks my heart their poor animals just trying to live, but man uses them for their own benefit,

Commenter: Donna Reichart

It is just amazing to me how stupid these legislatures are to enable killing of predators.

If they went to an accredited college, they should have been required to take a basic course in biology with some animal ecology highlights. Animal ecology is a very

delicate balance, taking millenniums to perfect. Predators, have few offspring, are generally NOT KILLED for food and serve an extreme importance in keeping prey in check. Prey, on the other hand, have many offspring and ARE KILLED for food. Prey when left unchecked can absolutely wreck havoc. Australia has been to the brink of catastrophe with mice eating all their grain, Canada with rabbits. Grain is one of the most important food staples needed by all humans and the very prey (cattle, chicken, etc) they consume. You don't have to look very far to see how large civilization can be wiped out by disease or massive consumption of their grain. I haven't heard of anything of such due to predators, except the stupidity of mankind. I am a third generation rancher, and yes wolves sometimes kill calves or weak cattle, but this is an aberration. Some states deal with this loss by allowing the ranch to write off it's loss just as a grocery store is allowed to do so when it's fruit rots on the shelves either because the price was too high for people to purchase or it was shipped that way, etc. Wolves are kept in check by natural selection.

Commenter: Emilia Ghitulescu

Protecting life for all Wildlife. That is the best present which GOD give to all of us.

Commenter: JEFF WILLIAMS...

I am very disappointed at the way the Obama administration has handled this wildlife issue. I truly hope it's not an example of what is yet to come, because I was relying on this administration to lead the world in many areas (including all wildlife issues and supporting the endangered species act!)

Commenter: Lucy Honeychurch

People must learn to live in harmony with, and in support of, wildlife and wild places.

We were put here to be caretakers of creation. Anything less is a sin.

Commenter: Kate Kenner

Wolves are being killed from helicopters in Alaska and Idaho. Oddly enough Idaho is where they were relocated for their own safety and Sarah Palin has been no great champion to them. the slaughter goes on even though she is no longer Governor. I would love to see that brought to the public's attention. This is an abomination.

Commenter: Jeanne Daniels

The government saves and the government kills. They do what that want to...if we don't have a voice. Please protect God's creatures...they do not have a voice, we are their voice.

Commenter: Linda Bentley

My husband is a rancher. We lose several cows and calves each summer when they graze in the mountains. On our lower altitude winter range, we have seen coyotes (the smallest species of wolves)start eating the head of a calf as it was being born while the mother was helpless. Once you live around them and have them eating your meager profits, you think differently about their needs. The wolves have multiplied rapidly and in the process killed many elk so that herds are perhaps endangered themselves.

Commenter: Thomas Johnston

The Obama Administration is just wasting time. I admit that I badly need help with health concerns, but nobody is shooting at me or trying to wipe my family out.

The only real way to handle states like Montana, Wyoming and Idaho is to remove their US government sponsored funds such as funds for roads and other government sponsored programs. I'd leave AFDC and some of the other programs for the needy in place and remove subsidization of ranchers (who only want to kill and are unwilling to change) who are using the public's lands to graze their livestock. Farmers and ranchers need to be much better husbandry-ites of their livestock and not just turn them loose with no oversight and expect a 100% increase.

Wolves and wildlife are our gifts to our children and grandchildren. They are not ours to destroy.

Commenter: Robert

This show was nothing more than a pro-wolf propoganda piece, and lacked any input from other sides of the issue...biased is an understatement...we have wolves living in and around towns and populated areas 20 miles from National Forests...not places meant for reintroduction, and pro-wolf groups still want to limit our ability to control the out of control populations....maybe if everyone had to stand guard with guns at their kids bus stops because of over-populated wolves, some common sense would come into the equation...not for wiping out the wolves, just for controlling them...if left to run amok, they will eat themselves out of prey, and then what???? In some areas they have already devastated the elk hearsds....and yes they do sport kill elk and deer....controlling the woves is good for the wolves...the reason our mountain states have all the game we do is because of hunters, and the \$ they spend and time they volunteer for wildlife.....just think this show could have spent at least a few minutes on facts from another perspective..instead of just feeding people the enviro point of view.....

Commenter: Naturalbill

This is God's dog and must be protected against the bloodlust of ranchers and hunters. The livestock kills are minimal and the informed ranchers are coexisting with these keystone animals. Once reestablished, the habitat becomes more healthy. Yes, the cows are alittle lighter from being more active and alert when predators are present but is the eradication of a magnificent species worth augmenting the bottom line of the few cattle ranchers left in this small area of Yellowstone? The wolf must remain on the endangered species list and it must be enforced. If the days of the iron grip of the cattle, mining and timber industries on government are not strongly confronted with education and enforcement, the battle will never end.

Commenter: Charles Swanson

I cannot possibly make my comment any more appropriate than St. Francis of Assisi, who said: "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

Commenter: MaryAnne Carse

I believe the wolf is the most "misunderstood" of any animals. It is a proven fact they do not deliberately kill.

We have tried so hard to bring them out of extinction only to have them slaughtered because of various political means.

It is truly sickening. Perhaps maybe we should start doing this with humans. It is the same premise. Don't want something around, get rid of them by any means.

Commenter: Aaron

Very good documentary. Clearly Salazar is corrupt

Commenter: ariel

i believe that they should try anything to protect the wolves, because before you know it the wolves are going to be endangered or even extinct. If it was me i would do everything in my power to save those wolves and try to make obama stick to his promise and make those wolves safe. If he wont listen then nobody will it only takes one person to realize whats really happening before everybody starts saying something and then obama will have no choice but to help the wolves with all of the power he has to make it illegal to kill any wolves in any state, or country!

Commenter: Bruce Hemming

The real goal of the wolf is to attack the rural culture of America. Defenders of Wildlife promise the sportsman of America as soon as the wolf recovered they would support hunting. The wolves official recovered in 2002 ever since DOW has done everything they can to stop wolf hunting.

1. Ranchers have been forced out of business watch Undue Burden the real cost of living with wolves. www.prosts.com
2. School distrust have build wolf proof bus stop shelters.

3. The official wolf count is base on a fraud. No singles doubles or un known packs are not counted.
 4. Wolves don't kill they eat some large animals the pack will hold down and eat on the animal while they are alive. Once full they leave the animal suffering.
 5. Wolves sport kill in ever state they live. For an easy fact check search Dillion MT 120 sheep slaughtered by wolves.
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Commenter: Sandra McGee

Since the "white man" came onto this continent, it has reeked havoc. We have messed with the balance of wildlife long enough. It is evident that nature needs wolves for that balance. Just as we need other species for the balance of nature, whether people regard them as nuisances or not. Really that has no barring on nature. It is NOT up to us. We are supposed to be stewards of this earth - and as far as I have seen we have done a crap job of taking care of it. I would like to mention all of the folks who have worked hard to reverse years of pillage & plumage on this earth & its wildlife - they should not go unnamed or forgotten. For they are the ones who keep wolves and other species alive. Without them we would have nothing.

Commenter: Kathy Stuart

It is hard for me to believe that once again America is finding herself in another "kill em all" mindset; the same as we lived through in the nintenth and early twetieth centuries. In those years we saw most of our apex predators and a large number of other species nearly disappear from between our shores. I am so ashamed that yet again certain groups find that it is politcally expedient to pander to large corporations like the meat industry instead of following good science and the will of the "People". Those involved with the derbies, cullings, or whatever euphimemism is currently bandied about, continue to line their pockets at the expense of our national treasures.

I can only hope that the Obama administration hears the voices of those that are fighting to save not only our wild lands but our wild animals as well. He simply cannot allow us to return to the time when the poular photos of the day showed dozens or hundreds of dead wolves, cougars, and innumerable other furred or feathered victims hanging from wires, fences or the sides of lodges while grinning pseudo humans preened and posed for the

camera, proud to the bone of the carnage they had wrought.

No more.

Commenter: Susan Brereton

The wolf is very misunderstood. This is a regal animal and to slaughter these is about the worse decision that the Obama administration has made. He will never get my vote again.

I owned a wolfdog, 3/4 gray wolf and 1/4 german shepherd and she was the most docile and loving animal, she recently passed on at the age of 13.

This slaughter needs to stop....

Commenter: Rosalie Godines

How can the Obama administration do such a thing. The wolf need to be on the endanger species list. Its a beautiful animal and we need to protect this animal with everything we have.

Commenter: Todd

Even though I'm giving what I can, I do wish I was rich so I could give ALOT more. Why must humans kill animals for "sport"? It's very aggravating to me and I HATE it!!! Humans kill animals because they get over populated in areas? That's because humans are taking over their habitat and have no where else to go! We should think about OUR population before we kill off animals because without animals on this planet, we have nothing but the disease and virus that is us as humans. I may be human but I think our species are a menace to this planet and it would be better off without us.

Commenter: Sandra L. Girffel

Is history repeating itself? Did we not learn one thing during the Teddy Roosevelt days? Are we going to repeat the days of wolf slaughtering? Shame on our government!

Commenter: Kathleen Hatt

We must fight to save our wildlife.

Commenter: Linda Spillman

Wolves need to be part of the balance of nature. They should be protected by the government. I understand they aren't aware of boundaries and appropriate food sources.

Commenter: Eric Burr

The International Wolf Center in Minnesota is the best source for unbiased information.

Commenter: carol

I never believed obama. nor trusted him. with all the wolves killed since palin was in office to now the servival of the wolf has diminished greatly. The ariel hunts are cowardly and disgusting. Ranchers moved into the wolf habitat - therefore they knew before hand the chances of their livestock being attacked. They are just in the wrong place- they should be moved away from the wolf habitat.the ranchers are greedy for the land and care only how much money they can make off the cattle flesh they harvest for meat eaters of the human specie. Move the ranchers save the wolf, bison and bear.

Commenter: Rodger Schlickeisen

The Obama administration made a horrendous mistake in adopting George Bush's interpretation of the Endangered Species Act and removing federal protections for wolves in the n Rockies. I am confident the court will rule that in doing so they acted illegally. I believe the administration itself now recognizes their mistake. They should therefore act before the court rules and thus save the lives of numerous wolves in ID where they plan over the next month to hunt and kill them right up to their well-known den sites. They should be truthful with the public and acknowledge that what they did put politics above science in the ESA and thus weakened that law severely, something they promised not to do. We all make mistakes. The real difficulty is if after you know you made one, you don't acknowledge it and act

to stop the harm you mistake is causing.

Commenter: Billy Klock

If they go by science which was the promise when he took office then there is no other choice but to protect them under the endangered species act.

Commenter: jo cittadini

stop killing God's creatures ..

Commenter: Juanita Larkin

These animals have just as much right to be on this planet as we do. More destruction is done by man than these wolves. They should be protected as promised.

Commenter: mary ann LaJoie-Sandroff

You have done a great job so far, but hunters and contests killing wolves are still going on. Human beings seem to be the terrorists still of the animal world. Cruelty, torture and ignorance is still the human condition. There must be a way of birth control for the wolves. spend your money with research that is studying that possibility. We can't keep killing everything that has as much right to live here as we do.

Commenter: Anne Lerdvina

I am appalled the Obama administration opting to allow this to happen, especially since beautiful wolves were on the endangered species list, due to inhumane hunting.

Commenter: Ron Voltz

As far as the complete protection going on indefinitely I don't think that will work. The wolf is highly adaptable and will reproduce at a rate that will surprise you. With no control and not many natural predators for them. It could be a problem.

Commenter: Marg Salemme

Stop killing these magnificent creatures, they are too important to our ecosystem, and most of all because they were here first!

Commenter: Kimela Blue Horse Perkey

We must band together to save our Creator's most majestic creature the "Wolves", it is a disgrace for any one of our Creator's creatures to be destroyed or hunted and killed for pleasure or for any reason....