MISSION:
To use science-based information to promote an ecologically-functional wolf population within areas of suitable habitat, and promote human coexistence with emphasis on Michigan and Wisconsin.

TIMBER WOLF ALLIANCE
SIGURD OLSON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE
Wolves in Wisconsin

PRESENTED BY THE TIMBER WOLF ALLIANCE

Photo Credit: UWSP
Common Myths

1. Wolves are Dangerous to People
2. Wolves Were Reintroduced to Wisconsin & Michigan
3. Wolves will Devastate the Deer Herd
4. Wolves are a Major Risk to Livestock Industry
5. It is not Safe to Walk Dogs in Areas Occupied by Wolves
The Gray Wolf
Gray Wolf Range

2019 WI Wolf Range

Image Credit: WDNR (left) & Center for Biological Diversity (right)
Coyotes
How to distinguish?

Wolf and Coyote Comparison

Height and Weight  Facial Features  Paws

Image Credit: WDNR
Paws

Dog

Wolf

Wolf

Coyote

Shown to scale (not actual size)
Pack Structure & Territory

- Territory: 30-100 square miles
- Breeding Pair
- Pups, yearlings, 2+ year old adults
- Family structure
Communication

- Defending the Territory
- Scent Marking
- Howling
- Barking
- Attack trespassers
Long Distance Dispersal from Wisconsin And Michigan
A Year in the Life of a Wolf Pack

Breeding
A Year in the Life of a Wolf Pack

Preparing the Den
A Year in the Life of a Wolf Pack

Pups Born & Denning

Photo Credit: WDNR
A Year in the Life of a Wolf Pack

**Rendezvous Site**
A Year in the Life of a Wolf Pack

Nomadic Pack Travel

Photo Credit: MI DNR
Life as a Carnivore

UNGULATES

BEAVER
Ecology of the Wolf

Forbs, Seedlings

Shrubs

White Tailed Deer

Grasses, Sedges and Ferns
Disappearance and Return of the Gray Wolf

Population Controls

- Hunting
- Trapping
- Poison

[Graph showing the decline of gray wolf populations and the changes in population controls over time.]

- **Bounty Begins**: 1870
- **Bounty Ends**: 1920
- **Endangered Species Act**: 1970
- **WI Wolf Recover Plan Begins**: 1990

Photo Credit: PBS
Wolf Distribution
Pack locations
1979-1980
Pack Locations
2011-2012
Pack Locations 2017-2018
Wisconsin Wolf Population and Packs

Number of Wolves

Number of Packs
Annual Wolf Population Cycling in WI
Percentage of Known Mortality For Radio Collared Wolves dying in Wisconsin 1979-2011

Monitoring to determine Mortality And Survival Rate
## State and Federal Listing Criteria in WI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Status</th>
<th>State Listing</th>
<th>Federal Listing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endangered to Threatened</td>
<td>80 wolves or &gt; for 3 yrs.</td>
<td>80 wolves or &gt; for 3 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delisting</td>
<td>250 wolves (outside of Indian Reservations)</td>
<td>100 wolves or &gt; for 5 years with MI</td>
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Grey Wolf in the eyes of the State of Wisconsin

1957-1960  Designated Protected Wild Animal
1960-1974  Considered Extirpated
1975-1999  Endangered
1999-2004  Threatened
2004-2012  Delisted to Protected Wild Animal
2012-Present*  Designated as a Game Species

*Federal Law Overrules state listing

Photo Credit: UWSP
Wisconsin Grey wolves in the eyes of the Federal Government

1974- 2003
Endangered

April 13, 2012-Jan. 31, 2005:
Threatened

Endangered

Delisted

Sept. 29· 2008-May 4, 2009
Endangered

May 4, 2009-July 1, 2009
Delisted

July 1, 2009- Jan. 26, 2012
Endangered

Delisted

Dec. 19th, 2014- Present
Endangered
Western Great Lakes Population Segment

Population Monitoring

VHF and GPS Collars

- Trapped and collared late spring and early summer
- Approximately 25% of packs collared
- Approximately 5-10% of individuals collared
- Trap using foot hold traps
- Chemically immobilize and monitor vitals while collaring and assessing the animals health
Population Monitoring

Snow Track Surveys
- Citizen Scientist and DNR staff
- Assigned a tracking block
- Complete Carnivore Tracking Course & Wolf Ecology course
- More than 15,000-18,000 miles tracked in recent years
Population Monitoring

*Observation Reporting*
People who care about wolves in the Great Lakes

Native Americans

Deer Hunters

Conservation Congress

Resource Managers

Politicians

Conservationists

Trappers

Bear Hunters

Farmers

Rural Landowners

Animal Welfare Groups

Environmentalists
Wolf Complaints investigated by WDNR & USDA-WS

1974-2015

- 2392 complaints
- 1172 verified complaints

Graphic from USDA Wildlife Services
Wolf Complaints by Location (2015)

35 Counties with complaints
23 Counties with verified complaints

Check out the Wisconsin DNR’s website for more information on depredations and verified complaints.
Wolf Complaints by Category 2015

Graphic from USDA Wildlife Services
Cattle Depredations

- Integrated Mgt. (control)
- Limited Mgt. (non-lethal only)
- Fully Integrated Mgt. (harvest & control)
- Limited Mgt. (non-lethal only)

*Graphic by USDA Wildlife Services*
Hunting Dog Depredations

![Graph showing hunting dog depredations from 2003 to 2016. The graph indicates a general increase in depredations over time. The vertical axis represents the number of depredations, ranging from 0 to 45. The horizontal axis represents the years from 2003 to 2016. The graph includes two bars for depredated and injured, with a dashed line representing a linear trend.](image-url)
Lethal Controls

- Trapping and Shooting by Government Agents
- Landowner Permits
- Regulated Hunting and Trapping Season when delisted
Preventative Non-Lethal Controls of Wolves
Attitudinal Survey of Wolves in WI by WDNR

Sampling of Residents in Wisconsin

- “Wolf Range” – Clusters 1-11
- “Non Range” - Cluster 12
Favorability of Wolves

- Very unfavorable: 4 Non-Range, 16 Range
- Unfavorable: 10 Non-Range, 16 Range
- Neither: 24 Non-Range, 29 Range
- Favorable: 22 Non-Range, 26 Range
- Very favorable: 22 Non-Range, 29 Range

Frequency of response

Non-Range: Red bars
Range: Blue bars
Statewide Population Goal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of response (%)</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Non-Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many more</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many fewer</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wolf Harvest

Range

- Yes: 62
- No: 21
- Undecided: 17

Non-range

- Yes: 51
- No: 27
- Undecided: 22
Some tips for living with wolves

- Don’t feed wolves or leave pet food outside
- Report wolves frequently near people to the DNR
- Maintain control on pets
- In spring and summer, stay away from sites where wolves may have den or rendezvous sites while walking your dog
For more information on wolves...

Check out these sites.
- International Wolf Center
- Wisconsin DNR
- Michigan DNR
- Timber Wolf Alliance
- Timber Wolf Information Network

Attend another workshop
- August, Wolf Weekend with TWA
- October, Wolf Ecology Workshop with TWA
- November, Carnivore Tracking Course with TWA
Thank you!

If you liked our presentation please consider donating to the Timber Wolf Alliance!

https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/twa/
QUESTIONS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.NORTHLAND.EDU/SUSTAIN/SOEI/TWA/

OR EMAIL US AT SOEI@NORTHLAND.EDU

Photo Credit: WDNR
MI Pop numbers
Michigan History

- **1817**: Government Wolf Bounty Begins
- **Pre-settlement**: Wolves Live Everywhere in MI
- **1935**: No Wolves in LP
- **1960**: Government Wolf Bounty Ends
- **1974**: UP Reintroduction Attempt
- **1973**: Estimated 6 Wolves in UP
- **1989**: Wolf Recolonization
- **1956**: Less than 100 Wolves in UP

(Images of wolves and a map indicating historical events.)