

Wolf Kill Statistics

When wolves lost their Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections in the Northern Rocky Mountains and Great Lakes regions in 2012, state wildlife agencies gained exclusive management of their states' wolf populations. Once given management authority over wolves, the states of Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, and Wyoming enacted "emergency" rules and laws to authorize the trophy hunting of them, with unsporting and cruel methods such as the use of painful steel-jawed leghold traps, strangling neck snares, archery, and—in Wisconsin—even packs of trailing hounds. What's more, Wisconsin adopted a reckless management plan to allow the reduction of its wolf numbers from approximately 800 down to 350—based upon no science. This was counter to the opinion of [the majority of Wisconsin residents](#) (even in rural areas), who see wolves as beneficial for balancing nature.

Fortunately, in late 2014 Michigan voters overturned laws designating the wolf as a "game species," and in 2014, two separate federal district courts ordered, as a result of lawsuits by The HSUS and other wildlife advocacy organizations, that wolves in Wyoming, Michigan, and Wisconsin were granted "endangered" status, while those in Minnesota were granted "threatened" status under the ESA. The courts' orders stopped any further hunting, trapping, or hounding of wolves in those states. Today, wolves in Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan remain under protection of the ESA.

Sadly, trophy hunting of wolves continues in Idaho and Montana. Wolves in these states were delisted through Congressional action in 2011.

The fight is not over. Every day The HSUS works hard to protect wolves from being unjustly persecuted across the U.S.—whether by individuals, states, or even USDA Wildlife Services. A 2016 study by Kelly George, Jeremy Bruskotter, and others shows that the majority—more than 60 percent—of Americans value wolves and want them protected, not harmed.

The table below details how many wolves have been killed in each state during their trophy hunting seasons:

State	Season	Total population	Quotas	Wolf kills
IDAHO	2011	768	165 in some zones, no statewide quota	Hunting: 173 (66%) Trapping: 27 (34%) (Baiting authorized in Panhandle management zone) Total: 200

	2012	722		Hunting: 210 (62%) Trapping: 199 (38%) Total: 329
	2013	684		Hunting: 218(64%) Trapping: 139 (36%) Total: 357
	2014	785	Salmon zone: 45; Sawtooth: 60; Southern Mtn.: 40; Beaverhead: 10; Island Park: 30; remaining zones are <i>unlimited</i>	Hunting: 146 (57%) Trapping: 111 (43%) Total: 257
	2015	786	185	Hunting: 144 (56%) Trapping: 112 (44%) Total: 256
	2016-2017 ¹			
MONTANA	2010-2011		220	Hunting: 121 (100%) Trapping: 0 (0%) Total: 121
	2011-2012	653		Hunting: 166 Trapping: 0 Total: 166
	2012-2013	625		Hunting: 128 (57%) Trapping: 97 (43%) Total: 225
	2013-2014	627		Hunting: 143 (62%) Trapping: 87 (38%) Total: 230
	2014-2015	554	Unlimited except in 3 zones: 110 (2) 313 (4) 316 (3)	Hunting: 130 (63%) Trapping: 76 (37%) Total: 206
	2015-2016	536	Unlimited except in 3	Hunting: 133 (64%)

			zones: 110 (2) 313 (3) 316 (3)	Trapping: 76 (36%) Total: 209
	2016-2017 ²		Unlimited except in 3 zones: 110 (2) 313 (2) 316 (2)	205
WYOMING	2010-2011	328	No hunt—under ESA protection	
	2011-2012	277		Hunting: 64 (97%) Trapping: 2 (3%) Total: 66
	2012-2013	306	Trophy zone: 26 “Predator zone” (over 80% of the state): unlimited	Hunting: 42 (63%) Trapping: 25 (37%) Total: 67
	2013-2014	195 outside Yellowstone and the Wind River Reservation	Trophy zone: 26 “Predator zone” (over 80% of the state): unlimited	12
	2014-2015		No wolf hunt—placed back under ESA protection	
MINNESOTA	2012	2,211	400	Hunting: 204 (52%) Trapping: 199 (48%) Total: 413
	2013	2,211	220	Hunting: 119 (50%) Trapping: 119 (50%) Total: 237
	2014	2,423	250	Hunting: 148 (54%) Trapping: 124 (46%) Total: 272
	2015	2,221	No hunt—placed back under ESA protection	

	2016	2,278	No hunt—placed back under ESA protection	
WISCONSIN	2011	782	No hunt—under ESA protection	
	2012	815	201 (85 protected under Tribal quota)	Hunting: 56 (48%) Hounding: 0 (0%) Trapping: 61 (52%) Total: 117
	2013	809	251	Hunting: 77 (30%) Hounding: 35 (14%) Trapping: 180 (70%) Total: 257
	2014	660	156	Hunting: 25 (16%) Hounding: 6 (4%) Trapping: 123 (80%) Total: 154
	2015	746	No hunt—placed back under ESA protection.	
	2016	Wisconsin DNR: “between 866 and 897”	No hunt—placed back under ESA protection.	
MICHIGAN	2010-2011	687 (Michigan DNR conducts counts every 2 years)	No hunt—under ESA protection.	
	2011-2012		No hunt—under ESA protection.	
	2012-2013	658 (+ 8 on Isle Royale National Park)	No hunt—Keep Michigan Wolves Protected ballot measure placed law authorizing wolf hunt on hold until 2014 general election.	
	2013-2014	636	43	Hunting/baiting/predator calls: 22 (100%)

				Total: 22
	2014-2015		No hunt—VICTORY: public vote in 2014 general election overturned two laws authorizing a wolf hunt.	
	2015-2016	618	No hunt—placed back under ESA protection.	

Updated: 11/15/2016

¹ **Idaho's** 2016-2017 wolf hunting/trapping season is year-round (July 1 – June 31) on private lands and different seasons depending on zones. It even permits killing mother wolves at the den with pups. https://idfg.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/seasons-rules-big-game-wolf_2015-2016.pdf

² **Montana's** 2016-2017 wolf hunting/trapping season is September 3 – February 28
<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/huntingGuides/wolf/default.html>