

Wisconsin Wolf Management Public Input Questionnaire

Section 1. Wolf Population and Distribution

1. It is important to maintain a wolf population in Wisconsin.
Agree or Strongly Agree
2. There were an estimated 1,200 wolves in Wisconsin in the winter of 2019/20. In the future I would like to have _____ wolves in Wisconsin.
More
3. Compared to today, I would like wolves to occupy _____ territory in Wisconsin.
More

**READ Survey Questions Carefully!
They may be shuffled by
the on-line survey program.**

Section 2. Your Thoughts About Wolves

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wolves?
 - Having wolves in Wisconsin is important so that future generations can enjoy them.
Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Wolves in Wisconsin are an important part of the ecosystem.
Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Wolves have a right to exist in Wisconsin.
Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Wolves contribute to the Wisconsin economy through tourism.
Neither agree nor disagree
 - Wolves provide value to Wisconsin through the opportunity to hunt or trap them.
Strongly disagree or Disagree
 - Having the opportunity to hear or see wolves in the wild is important to me.
Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Wolves are a symbol of the wilderness.
Agree or Strongly Agree
 - I have an emotional attachment to wolves.
Neither agree nor disagree
 - I have a cultural connection with wolves.
Neither agree nor disagree or Agree

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- The potential for conflict between wolves and livestock and / or dogs is a concern to me.
Neither agree nor disagree
- I have changed the way I recreate (hunt, camp, hike, etc.) in response to the presence of wolves in the areas I recreate.
Disagree or Neither agree nor disagree
- I am concerned about the potential impacts of wolves on deer and elk.
Neither agree nor disagree

5. Overall, how would you describe your feelings about wolves in Wisconsin?

Very favorable

Section 3. Wolf Management Plan

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6. How important is it to you that updates to Wisconsin wolf management plan address the following issues?

- Population monitoring: knowing how many wolves there are in WI and where they live
Very Important
- Population management: wolf population objectives and strategies to reach those objectives
Slightly important or Somewhat Important
- Depredation conflicts: wolf depredation of livestock and dogs
Not at all important or Slightly important
- Depredation compensation: reimbursement payments for animals killed or injured by wolves
Not at all important or Slightly important
- Wolf advisory committee: the role of the partner / stakeholder advisory committee, which discusses a variety of wolf management issues and provides recommendations to the DNR
Moderately important or Very Important
- Wolf hunting and trapping: regulated public harvest of wolves by licensed participants
Moderately important or Very Important
(NOTE: Add NO hounding, trapping in comments box)
- Impacts on deer and elk: wolf population impacts on deer and elk populations
Moderately important or Very Important
- Educational efforts on wolves: educational efforts on living with wolves, wolf influence on the ecosystem, and scientific research results.
Very Important

- Cultural / Tribal perspectives: cultural significance of wolves in Wisconsin
Very Important
- Ecological role of wolves: influences of an apex predator in the environment
Very Important
- Wolf research: scientific research efforts on wolves in Wisconsin
Very Important

If there are other important issues not listed above, please let us know in the space below:

IMPORTANT! Please add comments for Question 6 from talking points at the end of this document.

7. Do you think there are circumstances when it is acceptable for wolves to be humanely killed through targeted removal in response to conflict with domestic animals or human safety?

Yes

8. People may have various opinions on the regulated wolf hunting and trapping season in Wisconsin. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the wolf season in Wisconsin.

- The wolf population should be left to regulate itself.
Agree or Strongly Agree

- Human safety should be a primary consideration in managing wolves.
Neither agree nor disagree

- The wolf population needs to be managed like other wildlife species.
Disagree or Neither agree nor disagree

- Wolves will become endangered again due to trapping and hunting.
Agree or Strongly Agree

- Hunters should have the opportunity to legally pursue and harvest a wolf as long as it is sustainable.
Strongly disagree or Disagree

9. Which statement best describes your opinion about hunting and trapping wolves?

X I oppose all hunting and trapping of wolves

10. If you have any other comments specific to the wolf management plan update, please comment below.

IMPORTANT! Please add comments from talking points at the end of this document.

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Section 4. Fall 2021 Wolf Season

11. What are the **three most important factors** you believe the DNR should consider for the fall 2021 wolf hunt season? (Note: Please **select two of those in bold and add comments in OTHER.**)

X Sustainability and health of the wolf population

- Wolf numbers in the Central Forest
- Providing hunter / trapper opportunity
- Wolf numbers in southern Wisconsin outside of the Central Forest
- Conflicts between wolves and dogs
- Wolves on public lands vs. private lands

X The biological impact of the February 2021 wolf season

- Overpopulation of deer in some areas

X Cultural and / or tribal significance of wolves

- Wolf numbers in northern Wisconsin
- Conflicts between livestock and wolves

X Ecological role of wolves in the ecosystem

- Chronic wasting disease in wild deer
- Wolf impacts on deer and elk
- Law enforcement efforts and compliance

X Other (please specify) Suggestions below:

**READ Choices Carefully!
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Lag time for reporting kills was manipulated to increase kill numbers. The taking of collared wolves, that are part of scientific studies, should be prohibited. Hunters' failure to report kills (poaching). Negative impact of hounding on wolves, wildlife, and private property owners. Use of ATV's and snowmobiles in hunting. 24-hour hunting. "Fair chase" and hunting ethics. Lack of on-the ground monitoring by wardens and law enforcement for compliance.

12. Given your responses to the previous question, which management objective would you deem most appropriate for the 2021 Fall Wolf Season?

X Increase wolf numbers significantly

- Increase wolf numbers slightly
- Maintain wolf numbers near current level
- Lower wolf numbers slightly

13. If you would like to comment on the 2021 FALL WOLF Season, please do so here.

NOTE: Text Boxes after Section 6, 10, and 13 are your opportunity to share your thoughts on wolf trapping and hunting. You may abbreviate your comments as character spaces in the survey text boxes are limited. We used full sentences below for clarity of comment. It is ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT to fill out the comment boxes!

Section 5. More About You

14. What is your gender?

15. What is your age?

16. Is your primary residence in Wisconsin?

17. With which of the following descriptions / identities do you most closely identify yourself?
(Select all that apply.)

TALKING POINTS – Your written input is the most important part of the Survey

Talking Points --Specific to Question 6

- Regarding “wolf hunting and trapping: regulated public harvest of wolves by licensed participants” -- Any interest I have relates to prohibiting or greatly reducing hunting and trapping of wolves. Hound hunting wolves should be prohibited.
- Specific to “Depredation compensation”—Depredation payments should not be paid for hounds purposely put in harm’s way by hunters.

General Talking Points—Comment Boxes 10 and 13

- The land, water, and animals of Wisconsin, including Federal forests, belong to ALL the people, not just hunters and trappers.
- The DNR data does not show number of acres per wolf on the title page map. That information is necessary to understand the population. Simply saying there are 1,200 wolves in Wisconsin is misleading. Additionally, the 1,200 number is an estimate PRIOR to the February 2021 hunt.
- Wolf management programs that include hunting and hunting with hounds seem to be governed by special interest groups and not by the best available science or public will.
- The impact of the February 2021 wolf hunt has not been analyzed. Until the impact of the over-kill and collateral impacts to packs can be studied, no further hunts or trapping of wolves should be allowed.
- The February wolf hunt was an embarrassment to the people of the State of Wisconsin.
- The DNR has not calculated overharvest in quotas. That has led to over-kill of the wolf population, particularly in the recent February 2021 hunt. More zone monitoring must be done by additional wardens to address overkill.

- The poorly planned and rushed February hunt caused significant collateral damage to established packs during breeding season.
- I support a ZERO quota for a fall 2021 wolf hunt.
- The February 2021 wolf hunt did not honor treaty, land, and heritage rights of Native tribes.
- Wolves are not a human food source, therefore the hunt is only “thrill kill” for trophies.
- Livestock depredation is frequently given as the main reason wolves should be hunted -- but the percentage of livestock killed by wolves is relatively small.
- There is no evidence of direct harm to humans by wolves. That wolves attack people is a myth.
- Previous DNR Wolf Management Plans and management while wolves were protected as endangered contained effective measures for “controlling nuisance wolves and reimbursing landowners for losses caused by wolves without hunting.”
- Hunting wolves destroys pack order and the ecosystem.
- As apex predators, the wolves help to control CWD by using weakened deer as a food source.
- It is NOT a "hunter's rights" issue -- more and more ethical hunters are speaking out AGAINST trophy hunting, hounding, and trapping of wolves. They believe in “fair chase” hunting.
- Collared wolves are a part of (desperately needed) scientific study of wolves. Collared individuals should be considered to “belong to” the scientist and their studies. The taking of a collared wolf should be illegal.
- Wolf hunters and hunters with hounds often violate the rights of private property owners. Hunting hounds do not know property borders, the hunters do not respect them.
- Traps, snares, cable ties, and packs of hunting hounds create conflicts and pose dangers to other users of public lands, to private property owners and to their pets.
- Depredation payments currently in place can adequately compensate ranchers and farmers. These payments should NOT be paid to hounders who purposely put their animals in harm’s way.
- To our shame, Wisconsin is the ONLY state in the country to allow the use of dogs to track and trail wolves, with nearly unrestrained in-the-wild training of these dogs. This is NOT the type of leadership that reflects well on our state!
- Hunting wolves with hounds is just a form of “legalized dog fighting”.
- Hunting at night with dogs, ATVs and snowmobiles is disruptive to the environment and to people who live in rural areas.

- Pursuing wolves with ATVs, snowmobiles, and hounds—chasing the wolves to exhaustion—is unethical, cruel, and is not “fair chase” hunting.
- The Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest appears to be where most of the wolves live. With over 1.5 MILLION acres and low population density, it does not appear that “conflict” would be a big problem, unless you are a hunter with hounds looking for trouble.
- I oppose paying depredations to hunters who purposely set their dogs upon wildlife. Depredation payments are “rewards” for animal abuse. That is wrong.
- I have changed the way I recreate in Wisconsin NOT because of wolves—but to avoid conflict, noise, disruption, and FEAR of hound hunters and their untethered hounds.
- A minimum five mile NO HUNT buffer zone should be created around tribal lands, camping sites, hiking trails and other places used for silent sports to provide for the safety of both the tribal wolves and the general public.