

Wyoming and U.S. Department of the Interior Wolf Management Agreement Fact Sheet

Objective:

- The Wyoming wolf management plan will promote the management of a stable, sustainable population of wolves.

Population Goals:

- Wyoming agrees to manage for a population of at least 10 breeding pairs and at least 100 wolves outside Yellowstone National Park.
- The wolf populations in Yellowstone and on the lands of sovereign nations will provide the remaining buffer above the minimum recovery goal intended by the management objective of at least 15 breeding pairs and at least 150 wolves statewide.
- The State of Wyoming will monitor the state's wolf population, based on scientifically defensible methods, to document the number of wolves and breeding pairs outside of Yellowstone.

Trophy Game Management Area (TGMA):

- The TGMA will expand from October 15 to February 28th or 29th to protect dispersers during peak dispersal periods.
- The TGMA extension will be treated as a flex-line moving from the permanent line to the extension line on October 15th and back to the existing TGMA line on March 1st.
- Reference to potential Game and Fish Commission diminishment of the TGMA will be removed from Wyoming statute.

General Management Inside the TGMA:

- Wyoming agrees to remove current statutory mandates for aggressive management inside the TGMA.
- Management of wolf depredation on livestock inside the TGMA will continue using all of the techniques currently used under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management.
- Rules governing defense of property taking shall be similar to 50 CFR 17.84(n) regarding experimental population rules, thus allowing producers to take wolves inside the TGMA found in the act of preying on their livestock.
- Taking of wolves on elk feedgrounds inside the TGMA will be limited to wolves impacting elk in said area specifically for the purposes of protecting private stack yards, transmittal of brucellosis, or health and safety related to highways.

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- Inside the TGMA, hunting seasons will occur primarily in conjunction with fall hunting seasons. However, they may be established outside of that period or extended beyond that period if necessary to achieve management objectives.
- When considering extending its hunting program Wyoming will develop a hunt plan that will take into consideration, but not limited to the following: wolf breeding seasons; short and long range dispersal opportunity, survival, and success in forming new or joining existing packs; conflicts with livestock; and the broader game management responsibilities related to ungulates and other wildlife.
- Aerial gunning of wolves inside the TGMA directed by Wyoming Game and Fish Department will be allowed to control livestock depredations, to achieve ungulate management objectives if wolves are determined to be a significant cause for not meeting those objectives, or to address human safety issues. However, other Game and Fish directed aerial gunning for routine wolf population maintenance inside the TGMA is prohibited.
- The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will divide the TGMA into smaller wolf hunt areas than are described in Wyoming's 2008 wolf management plan.
- The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will include a statement of management intentions in the revised wolf plan. The statement will address the primary timing of hunting seasons and a description of considerations used for establishing or extending seasons outside the primary period.
- While the seasonal expansion area is in TGMA status, this area will be managed to facilitate natural dispersal.
- Consistent with occupancy during periods of Endangered Species Act protection, neither party expects the seasonally expanded portion of the TGMA to maintain any wolf packs long-term.

General Management Outside the TGMA

- All Wyoming wolves outside the TGMA will be managed as predatory animals.

Statutory and Regulatory Changes

- Wyoming agrees statutory and regulatory changes will be required to implement this agreement and intends to pursue these as necessary to allow implementation of the revised Wyoming wolf management plan to be developed in consideration of the above framework.