



Advocate for Wolves with a Letter to the Editor

Tips:

- Find your [local newspaper](#).
- Keep it short and to the point - 250 words maximum. (Sample LTE included below)
- Be mindful of accuracy and avoid personal attacks.
- Limit the number of points you make, and stay on message; likewise, avoid rambling sentences and big words.
- Make it personal explaining why you care about wolves and why they deserve protection.
- Include a call to action: urge President Biden or/and Secretary Haaland to take direct action to emergency relist wolves in the Northern Rockies.
- Please send links to your published LTE to Project Coyote at info@projectcoyote.org

Talking Points:

- On February 10, 2022, a federal judge [restored federal protections for wolves](#) in much of the contiguous United States. However, protections were not restored for wolves in the Northern Rockies where over 80% of the slaughter has occurred and continues to occur today.
- Wolves in the Northern Rockies states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and the eastern parts of Washington and Oregon are currently not protected by the Endangered Species Act.
 - The Northern Rockies population of wolves are still in jeopardy. Gray wolves are [functionally extinct in 80% of their historic range](#) and only 6,000 wolves remain in the continental U.S. Over the past two years, over 1,000 wolves were slaughtered after being baited, trapped, chased by hounds and vehicles and shot.
- States in the Northern Rockies have passed laws that authorize the slaughter of up to 90% of the species.
 - In Idaho, [legislation passed](#) in 2021 incentivizing the slaughter of up to 90% of the state's wolf population. Regulations also allow a variety of cruel tactics such as chasing wolves with dogs and vehicles until they tire out, night hunting with spotlights, baiting wolves, and even killing pups in dens.
 - In Montana, [legislation passed](#) in 2021 that allows up to 85% of the wolf population to be killed. Regulations also allow for the use of choke-hold snares and hunting and trapping seasons that extend into the animal's breeding season. In 2021, [273 wolves](#) were harvested in Montana including [25 Yellowstone National Park wolves](#).

- In Wyoming, in [85% of the state](#)—including the regions that border Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park—hunters can slaughter wolves using “whatever means necessary” and are even allowed to kill pups in dens.
- Yellowstone National Park [lost 25 of its wolves](#) to hunting and trapping, and one pack, the Phantom Lake Pack, was entirely eliminated.
 - Hunting and trapping of the park’s wolves has [damaged pack hierarchies](#) and [jeopardizes future research](#) on wolves and the understanding of ecosystems in the park. Previous to this past year, wolf research in the park represented one of only two datasets in the world where the wolves studied were unexploited by human hunting and trapping. Now that is no longer the case.
- [Twenty-one U.S. senators](#), [tribal leaders across the country](#), over [50 conservation organizations](#), and more than [400 scientists from around the world](#), have all urged for an emergency relisting of the Northern Rockies wolves.
- **Remember to make a call to action in your LTE:**
 - Ask Secretary Haaland to use her authority as Secretary of the Interior to emergency relist the Northern Rockies wolves under the Endangered Species Act.
 - Ask the Biden Administration to publicly support restoring protections for the Northern Rockies wolves with an emergency relisting.

Example Letter

Spring is upon us and wolves are currently working overtime caring for pups in dens throughout the Northern Rockies. This new life is in immediate danger, as hunters in states like Wyoming are allowed to slaughter wolves by “whatever means necessary” including pups. They are legally allowed to use snares, explosives, and vehicles to capture and kill the animals. In Idaho, private contractors have been hired by the state to trap and kill wolves. In Montana, 2021 was the deadliest season for wolves since their reintroduction, including the slaughter of 25 wolves from Yellowstone National Park. And throughout the region, hunters are even receiving bounty payments in the thousands to kill wolves, a method that was once used to extirpate the species across North America.

The Biden Administration and Secretary Haaland have failed to take a stand for wolves and restore Endangered Species Act protections despite receiving calls from twenty-one U.S. senators, nearly two hundred tribal leaders, sixty conservation groups, more than eight hundred scientists, and overwhelming public uproar.

I urge President Biden and Secretary Haaland to make the ethical and scientifically-backed decision to restore protections for this keystone species, and relist wolves in the Northern Rockies now!