



# Letter Campaign to Protect America's Wolves!

*Join us in calling for justice for wolves*

## **A young wolf's torture and death in Wyoming has sparked national outrage.**

Wyoming wildlife officials and policymakers are arguing this was a one time incident, and deflecting any culpability in allowing this incident to occur. Meanwhile, in 85% of the state, the "predator zone" allows unlimited wolf killing with essentially no restrictions. These lenient policies, and the continued allowance of slaughtering wolves across the Northern Rockies, embolden "hunters" to commit atrocious and inhumane acts upon wolves and other wildlife.

With a rapid news cycle, it's imperative to keep the Wyoming wolf incident, and our calls for justice and reform in the wake of the incident, in the forefront of the public's mind. It is imperative to increase awareness, educating others on how and why the current status quo permits rampant animal abuse and slaughter. Op-eds and Letters to the Editor are a perfect way to honor the life of this Wyoming wolf and continue the call for justice.

### **Tips for Drafting Letters to the Editor:**

1. Find your local newspaper.
2. Keep it short and to the point - 250 words maximum. (Sample LTE's included below)
3. Be mindful of accuracy (use the facts and talking points below) and avoid personal attacks.
4. Limit the number of points you make, and stay on message; likewise, avoid rambling sentences and big words.
5. Make it personal: explain why you condemn the torture and death of the Wyoming wolf, why you care about wolves, and why they deserve protection.
6. Include a call to action (see below for examples).
7. Please send links to your published LTE to Project Coyote at [info@projectcoyote.org](mailto:info@projectcoyote.org)



JOSH SHANDERA

**Thank you for leveraging your voice to demand justice for Wolves!**



# Talking Points For Writing your Letter to the Editor:

- **Highlight the torture and senseless death of the Wyoming wolf:** On February 29, in Daniel Wyoming, Cody Roberts chased down a wolf on a snowmobile, crippled the wolf, taped her mouth shut, took her to his home to pose for a horrific photo, and then paraded her around a local bar. After publicly tormenting this injured, traumatized, and suffering young wolf, he killed her. Despite all this cruelty, Roberts was fined only \$250 for the brutal crime.
  - **This was NOT an isolated incident and permissive and lenient policies in the Northern Rockies allow wolf killing and inhumane treatment to occur at large.**
    - Running over wolves and coyotes, also known as “Whacking”, is a legal practice in Wyoming and Idaho (wolves and coyotes), and Montana (just coyotes). Both Wyoming and Montana had the opportunity to prohibit this practice in 2019 and FAILED to do so.
    - Wildlife killing contests are legal and entirely unregulated in most states. Killing coyotes, foxes, rabbits and raccoons for thrills and prizes—with no respect for their intrinsic or ecological value—perpetuates senseless violence toward wildlife and wanton waste. Wildlife agencies in most states continue to allow this practice to occur.
- **Wolf killing policies in Wyoming and the rest of the Northern Rockies encourages violence toward wolves and other wild carnivores.** States in the Northern Rockies have passed laws that authorize the slaughter of up to 90% of the species. These policies have emboldened individuals like Cody Roberts to commit cruel and inhumane acts upon wildlife.
  - In Idaho, policies incentivize the slaughter of up to 90% of the state's wolf population. Regulations also allow a variety of cruel tactics such as “Whacking”, night hunting with spotlights, baiting, and even killing pups in dens.
  - In Montana, policies allow 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 Wyoming, 85% of the state is classified as a “predator zone”—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.
- **Scientific evidence asserts that wolves, coyotes and many other animals are thinking, feeling, self-aware, value their lives and wellbeing and deserve compassion and respect.**
  - Empirically and holistically, we know large carnivores and humans share most of the chemical, biological, anatomical and, to some extent, cognitive and emotional structures allowing for the sharing of basic emotions and interests such as joy, stress, sociability, wanting freedom from harm, to live and flourish.
- **Remember to make a call to action in your LTE:**
  - Demand justice for the Wyoming wolf. Legislative changes, including at a bare minimum banning the use of snowmobiles for killing wildlife, are needed to prevent future atrocities like the Wyoming wolf incident. Call on all states in the Northern Rockies to ban “Whacking” and abolish policies like the “predator zone” and other permissive wolf killing policies.