

## Wyoming Wolf Management Proposal:

As you are well aware, the recovery goals for the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population are that the wolf population be comprised of at least 30 breeding pairs of wolves that are equitably distributed among Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. To ensure this goal is achieved, each of the three States (Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho) committed to manage for an equitable distribution of the overall population and assume a management target of 15 breeding pairs in mid-winter within each State. The 15 breeding pair management target was not intended to be the minimum goal for each State but was instead that each State's management would provide a cushion to ensure each State's share of the wolf population did not fall below the 10 breeding pairs requirement and that the 30 breeding pairs minimum would always be met or exceeded. Within Wyoming, the 15 breeding pair management target has been divided between lands where wildlife are managed by the National Park Service and lands where the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has management responsibility. Under my proposal, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's responsibility for the overall 15 breeding pair target would be 7 breeding pairs outside the National Parks in Wyoming. We assume that the remaining 8 breeding pairs will be supported primarily on National Park Service lands. That said, the minimum recovery goal for the State of Wyoming of 10 breeding pairs must be met or exceeded. Therefore, in the highly unlikely event that the wolf population within the National Park Service managed properties should ever drop below 3 breeding pairs, additional management responsibility by the State of Wyoming may be temporarily required to avoid emergency listing actions.

Also regulatory mechanisms must be in place to ensure that wolves will be managed to prevent the need for relisting in the future. Therefore, the State of Wyoming would designate wolves as a "Trophy Game Species" within the area defined below, an area of suitable wolf habitat that is demonstrated to be capable of supporting at least 15 breeding pairs.

### Trophy Game Area:

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 120 and the Wyoming/Montana State line; running southerly along U.S. Highway 120 to the junction of Wyoming Highway 290 in the town of Meeteetse; running southwesterly along Wyoming Highway 290 to the U.S. Forest Service Boundary; following the U.S. Forest Service boundary southerly to the northern boundary of the Wind River Indian Reservation; following the Reservation boundary westerly, then southerly across U.S. Highway 26/287 to the Continental Divide; following the Continental Divide southeasterly to Middle Fork of Boulder Creek; following the Middle Fork of Boulder Creek and then Boulder Creek westerly to the U.S. Forest Service boundary; following the U.S. Forest Service boundary northwesterly to its intersection with U.S. Highway 189/91; following U.S. Highway 189/91 northwesterly to the intersection with Wyoming Highway 22 in the town of Jackson; following Wyoming Highway 22

westerly to the Wyoming/Idaho State line; following the Wyoming/Idaho State line north to the Wyoming/Montana State line; following the Wyoming/Montana State line north, then east to the junction with U.S. Highway 120.

Within the Trophy Game Area, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will have management control over the species and set harvest regulations and manage problem wolves in such a way as to assure that the 15 breeding pair targets for the State are met. Outside of the Trophy Game Area, the State of Wyoming will manage the species as predatory animals and will monitor the control of this species under the State's predatory animal status.