



WOLF HUNTING IN ALBERTA

A Management Plan for Wolves in Alberta has been in place since 1991. Wolves currently occupy approximately 39,900 km² of range in Alberta or 80 percent of the province.

Physiology:

- The wolf is the largest wild member of the dog family. It can be many colours from white to black, but most often grey.
- Average Height: 60 to 90 cm
- Average Weight: 20 to 75 kg. The average for adult male is 75 pounds and the average for adult female is 60 pounds
- Time of Mating: January – April
- Litter size: Between 1 to 11 (Pups are born blind and deaf, opening their eyes 10 to 15 days after birth)
- Longevity: Up to 13 years in the wild, but up to 20+ years in captivity

Habitat / Behavior:

- There is always a dominant male and a breeding female. The pack is hierarchical, and each wolf has its own place in the group. Pack size tends to be largest in the winter.
- Wolves hunt as a pack and respond to signals from the dominant member. They either take turns chasing the prey to tire it, or they split up and chase it into an ambush
- A wolf pack may cover a distance of more than 100 km in a single day and lay claim to a large territory of 100 to 500 km². The boundary is marked repeatedly with urine and scat that signal possession. This territory may then be defended by the pack from other possible wolf intruders.

Communication:

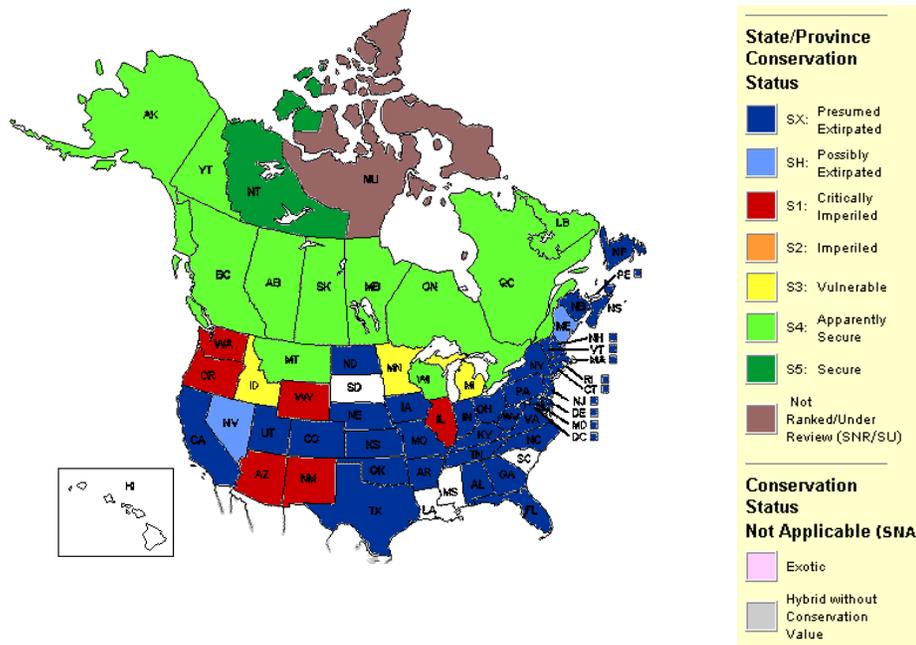
- The first way wolves communicate is by sound. Wolves are generally known for howling, but wolves will also growl, squeal, whine and gruff. Whimpering and whining conveys friendly intentions while growling is considered an aggressive noise. When wolves howl each individual within the pack sings a different note, which makes a pack of 4-8 sound like a pack of 10-12 individuals. Wolves howl for many reasons, some of them being that it reinforces pack unity and territorial claims.
- The second way wolves communicate is with scent. Most packs will urine mark the boundaries of their territory; this is also an important form of communication during breeding season, because it affirms an individual's breeding status.
- The third way wolves communicate is with body posture, they do this by using their eyes, ears, mouths and tails to send and receive messages. For example, a threatening gesture would be a direct stare, and if the other wolf is submissive it will divert its gaze. The breeding pair in the pack holds their tails higher than the other individuals and when submissive individuals approach the breeding pair they hold their tails down.

Main Prey:

- Moose, deer, elk and caribou are the main food of wolves, but their diet may include beaver, hare, fish, and some plant material.
- Common attack zones on adult livestock: Tail, hindquarter/groin, flank and behind and under front leg.
- Wolves normally attack their prey from behind. Bite marks and lacerations are often found on the animals hindquarters, and the tail may also be missing or stripped of its hide.
- Wolves may attack other parts of the body. Bite marks can also be found on the nose, under and behind the front legs and on the ears. When wolves prey on younger or smaller animals, they may centre their attack on the animal's back.

Licensing and Baiting:

- On public land, hunters cannot use bait for hunting wolves or coyotes except a.) from December 1 to March 31, or b.) during an open season for the hunting of black bear where the setting out, use and possession of bait for the purpose of hunting black bear is perm



KEY CONTACTS

<p>Alberta Environment and Parks Fish and Wildlife Division</p>	<p>Phone: 310.0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Web-site: www.mywildalberta.com www.aep.alberta.ca</p>
<p>Nature Serve Explorer</p>	<p>Web-site: www.natureserve.org</p>

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