



Bold Visions Conservation • PO Box 941, Bozeman, MT 59771 • 406-370-3028

July 23, 2024

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Comments on Wolf issues prior to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Meeting of August 16th.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to make clear our organization's disgust with the manner in which you continue to manage wolves in Montana. You are not managing; you are destroying wolves in the wild, and the continued use of trapping and snaring is not a sport; it is wide-ranging torture.

I have personally attended many of these meetings, and they all result in the same way: You do not give an inch, but make clear that slaughter is your goal.

My organization is committed to getting the Forest Service to take over management of the 20 million acres surrounding Yellowstone National Park in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. We are also working to create a 1.6-million-acre National Monument that would not allow the killing of predator species.

You have lost all credibility with the people in Montana, and polling reflects the desire to co-exist with wolves.

We strongly support Commissioner Susan Kirby Brooke's amendment to break up unit 313 and put some of the killing into 316. We also commend her willingness to reach out and answer some of your constituents' concerns.

Your method for counting wolves, iPOM, is flawed and part of litigation against you for the inflated numbers you continue to pronounce. Wolves are suffering, packs are being destroyed, and no animal should be subjected to such a level of stress. You receive Pittman-Robertson funding, which makes clear that wildlife must be managed to maintain their health and respect their lives. You have shown no ability to live up to the very funding that keeps your agency solvent.

We ask that you reduce the wolf slaughter by 50% this coming year and not allow the trapping or snaring of these magnificent creatures. You should ban all trapping or killing of any wildlife within five miles of the Yellowstone boundary. No trapping should occur before mid-January to protect grizzlies.

Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly is practically begging you for sanity. Let's review: trappers bring nothing to Montana's economy and steal from us the right to see beautiful animals in the wild and threaten our safety. By contrast, Yellowstone is an economic engine for the state, and wolf-watching brought in \$85 million in tourism revenue last year. At what point do you listen to the logic and stop propping up the sadistic nature of trapping? What happened to being real sportsmen? That is something you need to focus on, not slaughter and torture of such a vital species. It is not sport to lay a carcass (which was killed for bait) on the border of Yellowstone and use calls to draw wolves out and then shoot or trap them; that is slob hunting. It is a disgrace.

You have a chance to earn the respect of the people of Montana, but if you continue to cater to trappers and trophy hunters, you will continue to force the change that will end your control of wildlife.

We ask you to show respect for wolves and other Keystone species and use this meeting to create a new agenda that prioritizes their protection. We look forward to your comments and to your attendance at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Capra", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Capra  
Executive Director  
Bold Visions Conservation