

April 29th, 2013

Dear Wisconsin Resident,

A few years ago, we sent out a survey concerning **wolf policy** to which you kindly responded. Today we are writing to ask for your help once again in shaping future wolf policy in Wisconsin.

Why?

Since wolves were federally de-listed as an endangered species in 2012, they are now managed as a game species by the state. The first annual wolf hunting and trapping season took place this past fall and winter 2012. We are sending this survey to residents of Wisconsin to learn opinions of wolves and wolf management in the state. As a resident of Wisconsin, **your opinion is very important to us**. We will share our results with you, the media, policy-makers, and managers in our state.

To participate, please **fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire** using the provided return envelope, which should take about 10-15 minutes. We include \$2 as a token of appreciation for your time. This money is yours to keep, even if you do not participate. Returning the questionnaire is voluntary but your participation is very important to the success of this research and is greatly appreciated. There are no direct benefits to completing this survey.

Will I be contacted about my response?

No. All collected response information will remain confidential. Your responses will be kept separate from your mailing address and name, and no one will contact you regarding your responses. There are no anticipated risks to participating in the survey. Your name or any identifying information will not be used in publications or reports. Only aggregate data and group characteristics will be reported. Data from this study will be retained for possible future projects.

What if I have questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments or questions. You can contact our team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by email at jhogberg@wisc.edu or by phone at 608-890-1878. We will post the survey results by September 2013, which you can access from this website: <http://wolfsurveyresults2013.weebly.com>.

*You may also contact the IRB if you have questions about your rights as research participants via email: lmlarson@ls.wisc.edu or by phone: 608-263-2320

Thank you very much for your help with this important study!

Sincerely,

Bret Shaw
Adrian Treves
Lisa Naughton
Jamie Hogberg

**Turn over to begin
the survey →**

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wolf Management in Wisconsin 2013 Public Opinion Survey

We appreciate your opinions regarding wolves and wolf policy in Wisconsin. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

The 2012-2013 Wisconsin wolf hunting and trapping season came to a close on December 23, 2012. Over twenty thousand people applied for 1,160 licenses to hunt and trap wolves. The DNR reports 117 wolves were harvested by permit this season.

1. Were you aware of the 2012-2013 wolf hunting and trapping season in Wisconsin before receiving this survey?

- Yes No

2. How often do you turn to each of the following sources for information about wolves in Wisconsin?

<i>√ Check only ONE box for EACH category.</i>	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Quite Often	A lot
Radio or Television					
Social media on the Internet					
News or magazine articles (in print or online)					
Talking with friends, neighbors, or family					
Public hearings					
Government brochures or handouts					
Brochures, mailings or handouts from a non-governmental organization					
Other _____					

3. How do you feel about the legislative decision to open the 2012-2013 wolf hunting and trapping season?

(√ Check only ONE)

- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Neutral
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove
- I don't know

4. Did you apply for a tag for this past wolf hunting and trapping season (2012-2013)?

Yes

No

If no, go to question 10

5. Were you selected to purchase a tag for this wolf hunting and trapping season?

Yes

No

If no, go to question 10

6. Did you purchase a tag?

Yes

No

If no, go to question 10

7. Did you participate in hunting or trapping in the 2012-2013 wolf season?

Yes

No

If no, go to question 10

8. What methods did you use to hunt or trap wolves?

(√ Check ALL that apply)

Firearm

Bait

Bow and Arrow

Night hunting

Crossbow

Cable Restraint

Predator calls

Please list if other _____

9. Were you successful at killing a wolf?

Yes

No

Not sure

10. Not counting yourself, do you know anyone personally who:

(√ Check ALL that apply)

A) Applied for a tag in the 2012-2013 wolf season lottery

B) Was selected to purchase a tag

C) Purchased a tag

D) Was successful in killing a wolf

11. Will you apply for a tag for the 2013-2014 wolf hunting and trapping season?

Yes Probably No Not sure I already applied for one

12. Which, if any of the following rules would you support for the 2013-2014 hunting and trapping season wolves in Wisconsin?

(√ Check ALL that apply)

No use of dogs

No hunting at night

No use of traps

No use of predator calls

No use of bait

No hunting wolf pups

No out-of-state hunters

No hunting during the breeding and pregnancy season

Hunting only wolves that have caused property damage

Turn Over →

<i>Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. CIRCLE the letter that best describes your opinion.</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel happy that wolves live in Wisconsin.	A	a	n	d	D
My tolerance for Wisconsin wolves has increased since people can hunt them.	A	a	n	d	D
Wolves keep deer herds healthy by killing the sick and weak animals.	A	a	n	d	D
Killing wolves is the only way to stop them from threatening farm animals and pets.	A	a	n	d	D
I think Wisconsin's growing wolf population threatens deer hunting opportunities.	A	a	n	d	D
We should let nature determine the number of wolves in Wisconsin	A	a	n	d	D
I would oppose all hunting of wolves.	A	a	n	d	D
I want to be able to hunt wolves in Wisconsin without restrictions.	A	a	n	d	D
I feel angry that wolves live in Wisconsin.	A	a	n	d	D
I would be afraid if wolves lived near my home.	A	a	n	d	D
Seeing a wolf in the wild would be one of the greatest outdoor experiences of my life.	A	a	n	d	D
I think wolves are essential to maintaining the balance of nature.	A	a	n	d	D
In general, the DNR is responsive to the concerns of most Wisconsin citizens.	A	a	n	d	D
The DNR is more responsive to the demands of people living in Madison and other cities than people living in rural areas.	A	a	n	d	D
The DNR is more responsive to the hunters' lobby than any other group.	A	a	n	d	D

13. During which years do you think you have seen or heard wolves around your land?

(√ Check ALL that apply)

- Never
- 1970s or before
- 1980s
- 1990s
- 2000-2011
- 2012-2013

14. I consider myself:

(√ Check only ONE)

- A hunter
- Not a hunter but not opposed to hunting
- Opposed to hunting

15. Under what circumstances would it be justified to shoot a wolf?

(√ Check only ONE)

- A) None → Skip to 16
- B) Only with a permit → Skip to 16
- C) Without a permit under some circumstances → Go to 15a

15a. Under what circumstances?

(√ Check ALL that apply)

- If a wolf approached a person and would not leave
- If a wolf was on someone's property
- If a wolf approached someone's pets or farm animals
- If a person saw a wolf while hunting other game (outside of wolf season)
- Other _____

16. Did your opinion of wolves change since the 2012-2013 Wisconsin wolf season?

(√ Check only ONE)

- I am more tolerant of wolves living in Wisconsin
- I am less tolerant of wolves living in Wisconsin
- No change → If No change, what is your opinion of wolves in the state?

(√ Check only ONE)

- I don't like them, but I tolerate them
- I am not tolerant of them
- I like having wolves in Wisconsin
- I am indifferent

17. Do you currently own a Wisconsin Endangered Resources wolf license plate?

- Yes
- No → If No have you owned one in the past?
- Yes No



18. Now that wolves can legally be hunted, would you be more or less likely to purchase the Endangered Resources Fund license plate (shown above)?

(√ Check only ONE)

- Less likely to purchase
- More likely to purchase
- No change
- Not sure

Turn Over →

19. In the past five years, have you donated to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form?

Yes

No

Not sure

20. Now that wolves can be legally hunted, would you be more or less likely to donate to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form?

(√ Check only ONE)

Less likely to donate

More likely to donate

No change

Not sure

21. How many years have you lived in Wisconsin? _____

22. What is your zip code? _____

23. In what year were you born? _____

24. Are you:

Male

Female

25. Is raising livestock your household's major source of income?

Yes, currently

No, never

No, not currently but it was in the past

26. Have you hunted in the past two years?

Yes

No

27. Have you regularly hunted at any other time in your life?

Yes

No

Thank you for your time!

Additional Comments: