

Wisconsin Wolf Management Public Input Questionnaire Guide:

Green highlighted text: Important Qs or Qs to be wary of!

Yellow text: suggested responses for less critical Qs.

Section 1. Wolf Population and Distribution

1. It is important to maintain a wolf population in Wisconsin
Strongly Agree
2. There were an estimated 1,200 wolves in Wisconsin in the winter of 2019/20. In the future I would like to have _____ wolves in Wisconsin.
More or **Many More**
3. Compared to today, I would like wolves to occupy _____ territory in Wisconsin.
More

Section 2. Your Thoughts About Wolves

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wolves?
 - Having wolves in Wisconsin is important so that future generations can enjoy them.
Strongly Agree
 - Wolves in Wisconsin are an important part of the ecosystem.
Strongly Agree
 - Wolves have a right to exist in Wisconsin.
Strongly Agree
 - Wolves contribute to the Wisconsin economy through tourism.
Neither agree nor disagree
 - **Wolves provide value to Wisconsin through the opportunity to hunt or trap them.**
Strongly disagree
 - Having the opportunity to hear or see wolves in the wild is important to me.
Agree or **Strongly Agree**
 - Wolves are a symbol of the wilderness.
Agree or **Strongly Agree**

- I have an emotional attachment to wolves.

Suggested response: Neither agree nor disagree (*This Q is improper and may be used to dismiss/marginalize rest of survey answers)

- I have a cultural connection with wolves.

The potential for conflict between wolves and livestock and / or dogs is a concern to me. We feel very strongly about leaving the depredation of livestock or dogs question blank. Putting "disagree" there is just going to feed the narrative in rural Wisconsin that wildlife supporters don't care about farmers and drive a wedge ever further, since they have chosen to lump hunting hounds into the question



Suggested response: Know the facts.

Factual context: Livestock-wolf conflicts in Wisconsin affect relatively few livestock operations, with those affected receiving compensation. Most conflicts with dogs arise from hound hunters releasing packs of unleashed GPS collared dogs into wolf caution areas. See, e.g., https://madison.com/ct/news/local/state-pays-scofflaws-for-dogs-killed-by-wolves-while-hunting-other-animals/article_1a704d56-3121-5720-aa27-7c89a693e4de.html.

- I have changed the way I recreate (hunt, camp, hike, etc.) in response to the presence of wolves in the areas I recreate. (Unclear—due to fear or desire to see/hear wolves??)

Suggested responses: Disagree or Neither agree nor disagree

- I am concerned about the potential impacts of wolves on deer and elk.

*Question is highly ambiguous. Is it asking about wolves' positive impacts on deer/elk in terms of CWD reduction/health of the herd? Or is it asking about concerns relating to perceived negative impacts on deer?)

Suggested response: Neither agree nor disagree

5. Overall, how would you describe your feelings about wolves in Wisconsin?

Suggested response: Very favorable

Section 3. Wolf Management Plan

6. How important is it to you that updates to Wisconsin wolf management plan address the following issues?

- Population monitoring: knowing how many wolves there are in WI and where they live

Very Important

- Population management: wolf population objectives and strategies to reach those objectives

Slightly important or Very Important

- Depredation conflicts: wolf depredation of livestock and dogs
Not at all important or Slightly important (see above).
- Depredation compensation: reimbursement payments for animals killed or injured by wolves
Not at all important or Slightly important (*See note below: Depredation payments should not be paid for hounds purposely put in harm's way by hunters.)
- Wolf advisory committee: the role of the partner / stakeholder advisory committee, which discusses a variety of wolf management issues and provides recommendations to the DNR
Moderately important or Very Important
- Wolf hunting and trapping: regulated public harvest of wolves by licensed participants
Suggested response: Unclear. Best to use Comments box below section Qs to clarify whether you are concerned because you oppose Hunting/Trapping Seasons for wolves or approve of them.
- Impacts on deer and elk: wolf population impacts on deer and elk populations
Moderately important or Very Important (Ambiguous Q—see above and use Comment box to clarify)
- Educational efforts on wolves: educational efforts on living with wolves, wolf influence on the ecosystem, and scientific research results.
Very Important
- Cultural / Tribal perspectives: cultural significance of wolves in Wisconsin
Very Important
- Wolf research: scientific research efforts on wolves in Wisconsin
Very Important

If there are other important issues not listed above, please let us know in the space below:

IMPORTANT! Please add comments relating to Question 6 per "suggested response" notes above or Talking points at the end of this document.

7. Do you think there are circumstances when it is acceptable for wolves to be humanely killed through targeted removal in response to conflict with domestic animals or human safety?
Yes
8. People may have various opinions on the regulated wolf hunting and trapping season in Wisconsin. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the wolf season in Wisconsin.

- The wolf population should be left to regulate itself.
Agree or Strongly Agree
- Human safety should be a primary consideration in managing wolves.
Neither agree nor disagree (*Red Herring Q—unsubstantiated fear-mongering)
- The wolf population needs to be managed like other wildlife species.
Disagree or Neither agree nor disagree
- Wolves will become endangered again due to trapping and hunting.
Agree or Strongly Agree
- Hunters should have the opportunity to legally pursue and harvest a wolf as long as it is sustainable.

Strongly disagree recreational wolf hunting lacks scientific support and justification, fails to address livestock depredation concerns (in fact, exacerbates problems by dissolving functional packs), and raises significant ethical concerns pertaining to use of snares, traps, and hounds.

9. Which statement best describes your opinion about hunting and trapping wolves?

Suggested response: I oppose all hunting and trapping of wolves

10. If you have any other comments specific to the wolf management plan update, please comment

IMPORTANT! Please add comments from talking points at the end of this document.

NOTE: Text Boxes after Section 6 and 10 are your opportunity to share your thoughts on wolf trapping and hunting. PLEASE write in your own words from some of these talking points:

Question 11. Important. Below is our suggestion.

the current management plan, the scientific literature, and population model projections.

* 11. What are the three most important factors you believe the DNR should consider for the fall 2021 wolf season?

- Wolves on public lands vs. private lands
- Wolf numbers in the Central Forest
- Conflicts between livestock and wolves
- Providing hunter/trapper opportunity
- Wolf impacts on deer and elk
- Wolf numbers in southern Wisconsin outside of the Central Forest
- Cultural and/or tribal significance of wolves
- Overpopulation of deer in some areas
- Conflicts between wolves and dogs
- Ecological role of wolves in the ecosystem
- Chronic wasting disease in wild deer
- Sustainability and health of the wolf population
- Wolf numbers in northern Wisconsin
- The biological impact of the February 2021 wolf season
- Law enforcement efforts and compliance
- Other (please specify)

put comments about opposing the fall hunt here

Specific to Question 6

- Regarding “wolf hunting and trapping: regulated public harvest of wolves by licensed participants” -- Any interest I have relates to prohibiting or greatly reducing hunting and trapping of wolves. Hound hunting wolves should be prohibited.
- Specific to “Depredation compensation”—Depredation payments should not be paid for hounds purposely put in harm’s way by hunters.

General Talking Points

- The land, water, and animals of Wisconsin, including Federal forests, belong to ALL the people, not just hunters and trappers.
- The DNR data does not show number of acres per wolf on the title page map. That information is necessary to understand the population. Simply saying there are 1,200 wolves in Wisconsin is misleading.
- Wolf management programs that include hunting and hunting with hounds seem to be governed by special interest groups and not by the best available science or public will.
- The impact of the February 2021 wolf hunt has not been analyzed. Until the impact of the overkill and collateral impacts to packs can be studied, no further hunts or trapping of wolves should be allowed.
- The February wolf hunt was an embarrassment to the people of the State of Wisconsin.

- The DNR has not calculated overharvest in quotas. That has led to over-kill of the wolf population, particularly in the recent February 2021 hunt.
- The poorly planned and rushed February hunt caused significant collateral damage to established packs during breeding season.
- I support a ZERO quota for a fall 2021 wolf hunt.
- The February 2021 wolf hunt did not honor treaty, land, and heritage rights of Native tribes.
- Wolves are not a human food source, therefore the hunt is only “thrill kill” for trophies.
- Livestock depredation is frequently given as the main reason wolves should be hunted -- but the percentage of livestock killed by wolves is relatively small.
- There is no evidence of direct harm to humans by wolves. That wolves attack people is a myth.
- Previous DNR Wolf Management Plans and management while wolves were protected as endangered contained effective measures for “controlling nuisance wolves and reimbursing landowners for losses caused by wolves without hunting.”
- Hunting wolves destroys pack order and the ecosystem.
- As apex predators, the wolves help to control CWD by using weakened deer as a food source.
- It is NOT a "hunter's rights" issue -- more and more hunters are speaking out AGAINST trophy hunting and trapping of wolves.
- Collared wolves are a part of (desperately needed) scientific study of wolves. Collared individuals should be considered to “belong to” the scientist and their studies. The taking of a collared wolf should be illegal.
- Hunters violate the rights of private property owners. Hunting hounds do not know property borders.
- Traps, snares, cable ties, and packs of hunting hounds create conflicts and pose dangers to other users of public lands, to private property owners and to their pets.
- Depredation payments currently in place can adequately compensate ranchers and farmers. These payments should NOT be paid to hounders who purposely put their animals in harm’s way.
- Hunting wolves with hounds is just a form of “dog fighting” that is illegal in Wisconsin.
- Hunting at night with dogs, ATVs and snowmobiles is disruptive to the environment and to people who live in rural areas.

- Pursuing wolves with ATVs, snowmobiles, and hounds—chasing the wolves to exhaustion—is unethical, cruel, and is not “fair chase” hunting.
- The Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest appears to be where most of the wolves live. With over 1.5 MILLION acres and low population density, it doesn’t appear that “conflict” would be a big problem, unless you are a hunter with hounds looking for trouble.
- I oppose paying depredations to hunters who purposely set their dogs upon wildlife. Depredation payments are “rewards” for animal abuse. That is wrong.
- I have changed the way I recreate in Wisconsin NOT because of wolves—but to avoid conflict, noise, disruption, and FEAR of hound hunters and their untethered hounds.
- Wisconsin is the ONLY state in the country to allow dogs to be used for hunting wolves, a barbaric practice that involves large groups of hunters releasing pack after pack of unleashed, GPS-collared dogs in pursuit of a wolf or wolf pack. The pursued wolf is often trailed for hours and across great distances before it succumbs to the pack of dogs and hunters.
- Wisconsin further is the ONLY state to allow the “training of dogs” to hunt wolves, a highly disruptive, poorly regulated practice that is permitted THROUGHOUT the year, interrupting wolves’ ability to breed, raise pups to maturity, and exist without harassment. These are NOT the type of hunting and training practices that reflect well on our state!