Wolf Myths Descriptions

**Wolves are dangerous to people**

False. Wolves generally are shy and afraid of people. Wolves can be dangerous to people if they become habituated to them. Avoid feeding wolves especially near human dwellings. Dog food left outside or leftover meals can be food for wolves and other predators. If you see a bold acting wolf, stop, shout, wave your arms, throw things, remove yourself by slowly backing away from the area. Never run from wolves or other large predators. Report to DNR any wolves that show bold behavior and are hanging out near people. Over the last 100 years, only 2 people have died from attacks from wild healthy wolves in North America. During the same time there were over 50 cases of black bears killing people, and annually dogs kill 30 people and cows kill 22 people.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolf/LivingwithWolves.html>

 [ttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_fatal\_bear\_attacks\_in\_North\_America#2010s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fatal_bear_attacks_in_North_America#2010s)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatal_dog_attacks_in_the_United_States>

<https://tierneylab.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/dangerous-cows>

**Wolves were reintroduced by people to WI & MI**

False. Wolf populations grew in Minnesota and started to colonize in WI and spread into MI. There was one attempt in 1974 to reintroduce 4 wolves from MN into MI. Within 8 months those wolves perished and did not reproduce. Wolves moved from Minnesota into Wisconsin in the mid-1970s, and wolves from both states moved into Michigan in the late 1980s.

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370\_12145\_12205\_63607\_63608-292026--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0%2C4570%2C7-153-10370_12145_12205_63607_63608-292026--%2C00.html)

**Wolves will devastate the deer herd**

False. The deer herd in WI and MI (UP) is very large. Wolves approximately each eat 15-19 deer. According to the DNRs, approximately 300,000-600,000 deer are hunted each year in each state. This is 15 to 30 times more than what wolves eat (at a 925 population in WI around 18,000 deer). These numbers also don’t include the number of deer killed by traffic. The most important factors controlling the deer population in Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan are winter weather and public harvest. With a record count of 866 wolves in Wisconsin in 2016, the buck deer harvest in the Northwoods where most wolves live, increased 28% from the previous year.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/harvest/deerharvest.html>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/wolf/documents/Wolfreport2016.pdf>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/reports/wtaildeerpop2.pdf>

**Wolves are a major threat to the livestock industry**

False. While a few farms suffer depredations by wolves and some individual farms receive high damage, overall wolf depredation impact is negligible to the livestock industry. In 2016, there was 41 confirmed injured and killed cattle depredations in Wisconsin, and 26 farms suffered depredation to livestock in the state. The highest number was in 2011, with 71 cattle depredations. With fully integrated management possible when wolves were delisted 2012-2014, WI DNR and its partner USDA-Wildlife Service were able to drastically reduce wolf depredations in the state. Thus the impact on the overall livestock industry is fairly minor. However, we do understand that farms do deal with other issues when cattle are stressed by wolves, and reasonable policies and assistance need to be made available to help these farmers.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolf/maps.html#tabx2>

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/CattDeath/CattDeath-05-12-2011.pdf>

**It is not safe to walk dogs in areas occupied by wolves**

Mostly false, except for hounds used for hunting and training on bears and other predators. Dog depredations are talked a lot about in the news. A majority of dogs killed by wolves in Wisconsin were hounds used in hunting and training on bears, as well as some used on coyotes, bobcats and raccoons. Through 2016, only two cases of injuries have been reported for dog s in bird hunting situations. It is most important to have control and prevent dogs from wandering out of sight. Dogs roaming at long distances from their owners are at some risk of wolf attack especially during wolf denning season in the spring and summer wolf use of rendezvous sites. It is important that if you are aware of wolf dens or rendezvous sites, to stay away from them with your dogs. However, if you are walking on well-marked and commonly used trails with your dogs within sight, there is less chances for issues occurring. Dogs that can’t be adequately controlled by commands walking in wild areas, should be on leash, especially during the wolf denning and rendezvous period in spring and summer, as well as to protect the eggs and young of ground and shrub-nesting birds.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolf/guidance.html>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolf/dogdeps.html>