



1983 – 2008

*Celebrating 25 Years  
of Conservation Success*

# Greater Yellowstone Coalition

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## **GYC response to wolf-management questions from Jackson Hole N&G**

### **1) How many wolves, breeding pairs, packs are needed in the three states?**

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) wants a healthy and sustainable wolf population throughout Greater Yellowstone. We believe that wolves should be managed based on science and as wildlife, with populations that are allowed to expand as we address issues over conflicts.

### **2) What type of connectivity is needed among the different populations?**

Natural movement between wolves in Yellowstone and those in central Idaho and northwest Montana is crucial. Wolf-livestock conflicts and any future hunts and conflict management must ensure this movement. Unfortunately, the 2009 delisting rule and present management system do not ensure this connectivity is established and maintained over time.

### **3) What is needed in Wyoming's state plan?**

Wyoming must revise its plan to focus on sound wildlife management rather than controlling for a limited number of animals. To start with, wolves must be designated as a trophy game species statewide. Wyoming must maintain a healthy wolf population by developing adequate safeguards regarding the killing of wolves due to conflicts and in setting any hunting seasons.

### **4) What level of hunting, if any, is appropriate?**

Because of the flaws in the 2009 delisting decision, we did not support the 2009 wolf hunts in Montana and Idaho and at this time, cannot support wolf hunting in 2010. However, we do not oppose reasonable, fair-chase hunting as a management tool. Hunting should not be implemented until the necessary rules are in place to protect connectivity and healthy, robust populations. The states should use the best science in planning future hunts

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*People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations.*

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and fund necessary research on the impacts on connectivity, pack dynamics and the potential for livestock conflicts. Additionally, public hunts must avoid inappropriate impacts to wolves living primarily within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

**5) Any changes you'd like to see to Montana and Idaho's state plans?**

Any long term resolution of the issue needs to ensure that science and our shared value of sound wildlife management drives decisions. Right now, the three states' plans lack the necessary safeguards to ensure long term wolf conservation and as result are subject to shifting political pressures.

**6) Anything else you'd like to add...**

Wolves are here to stay. We are committed to their conservation and to creating a workable management program that addresses the complex questions over how to best live with wolves as a valued part of Greater Yellowstone.