

How can you help protect wolves in Idaho?

- **Stay informed** about Idaho's wolves.
 1. Identify your go-to resources for quick and easy access to reliable information about the current threats facing wolves.
 2. Sign up for newsletters and follow the social media pages of sources you've come to trust.
 - a. www.westernwatersheds.org
 - b. www.livingwithwolves.org
 - c. www.thewildlifeneeds.com
 - d. www.woodriverwolfproject.org
 3. Sign up for emails from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). On the IDFG homepage, on the right hand side of the page, there is a sign up box labeled, "Stay Connected, sign up for email newsletters." <https://idfg.idaho.gov>
 4. Set your news sources to provide you with current articles about "Idaho wolves."
- **Participate** in the public process of policy decision-making.
 1. Keep informed about meeting schedules and the timing for when public input is solicited: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/about/open-meetings>
 2. Submit comments during public comment periods.
 3. Attend and submit oral and/or written testimony at public hearings.
 4. Sit in or listen in on policy setting meetings open to the public, such as meetings of the IDFG commission, the Wolf Depredation Control Board, the State Legislature and other county and city community meetings.
 5. Encourage others to participate in any or all of the above.
- **Ask your elected representatives** to protect wolves.
 1. Meet with, email, write or call Idaho's elected representatives and/or their staff about wolf management. Be respectful and polite. State government officials who need to hear from wolf advocates include Idaho State legislators and Governor Little.
 2. Meet with, email, write or call your regional IDFG commissioner and regional supervisor. They, too, should represent your interests and need to hear from you.
 3. Encourage others to do the same.
 4. Contact information for Governors and game/wildlife management agencies in Idaho and from wolf states around the country: <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/who-to-contact/>
- **Engage** the public, **inform** your community.
 1. Submit Letters to the Editor or opinion pieces to newspapers in your community and beyond. Your community can learn from and be inspired by your knowledge and passion.

2. Alert the media to important developments.
3. Organize others to participate or engage in the items listed above or other community efforts.

Talking points

Idaho Wolf Management Misuses Public Funds.

- Idaho is the only state with a **Wolf Depredation Control Board**. The board uses taxpayer money to kill wolves. The government should not be channeling tax dollars to kill wolves.
- IDFG should not be channeling funds to pay wolf bounties. An Idaho-based organization, the “Foundation for Wildlife Management,” **pays a bounty**, justified as a reimbursement of costs, to people who hunt or trap wolves. Up to \$1,000 per wolf can be collected. The IDFG Commission Community Challenge Grant supports this organization, providing it with approximately \$56,000 in 2021.

Idaho Wolf Management Should Be Based in Science.

- Killing wolves to “protect” livestock doesn’t work. Proven effective, **non-lethal**, conflict mitigation coexistence practices need more support and funding at the state and federal level.
- IDFG should stop killing wolves to “protect” elk. Idaho’s elk population is within a few percentage points of its all-time historic high. We do not need to kill native predators to enhance hunter opportunity.

Idaho Wolf Management Should Be Based in Ethics.

- Financial incentives to kill wolves must be prohibited.
- **Trophy hunting** of any species, including wolves, should not be allowed.
- **Trapping**, especially wolf trapping, is a public safety hazard and is cruel and inhumane. In Idaho, traps can be set 10 feet from public trails on public lands. Idaho’s 72-hour trap check period allows any animal trapped to languish for days before it is found. Animals routinely die of exposure or lose limbs in traps. Many states have very restrictive trapping laws, with more trapping restrictions regularly passing through state legislatures. In stark contrast, Idaho has rapidly expanded wolf trapping in recent years, where it is currently allowed in approximately 98% of the state. We need less trapping, not more.

The IDFG Commission Needs to Represent Wildlife Conservation Interests.

- While IDFG solicits public comment on some of its wildlife management proposals, its public outreach is not sufficient to notify the public, which remains largely unaware of changes to wildlife management policy.
- Proposals on wolf management policy advanced by IDFG often originate from proposals submitted to them by trapping groups.
- Some wildlife management decisions are based on new proposals advanced for the first time at Commission meetings without any opportunity for public input and without input from IDFG staff biologists.
- The composition of the IDFG Commission has no representation of wildlife conservation interests or biological sciences.

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