

Conservation

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

[Conservation Magazine](#)

Creative Ideas for a Greener Future

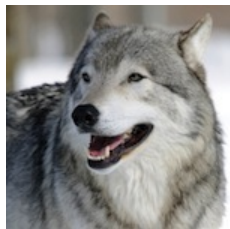


- [Magazine](#)
 - [About Us](#)
 - [Current Issue](#)
 - [Back Issues](#)
 - [Give a Gift](#)
 - [Subscribe/Renew](#)
- Events
 - [Conservation Remix](#)
- [Classroom Resources](#)
 - [Teaching Tools](#)
- [BUSINESS+ECONOMICS](#)
- [CLIMATE CHANGE](#)
- [CULTURE+HEALTH](#)
- [FLORA+FAUNA](#)
- [OCEANS](#)
- [TECHNOLOGY+DESIGN](#)

State of Fear

People in Wisconsin have become more afraid of wolves

      More Options



Gray wolves have bounced back in the United States. But how do people feel about them? According to a study in *Conservation Biology*, Wisconsin residents have become more afraid of wolves and more supportive of measures to kill these animals.

The number of gray wolves in Wisconsin more than doubled between 2001 and 2009, and the U.S. federal government [no longer offers protection for that population under the Endangered Species Act](#). Reports of wolves attacking pets and other domestic animals also has risen, and some hunters have blamed wolves for a lack of deer.

To find out how people's attitudes about wolves had changed, a research team sent questionnaires to 1,892 Wisconsin residents in 2001 or 2004. Then the team re-sent questionnaires to some of the same people, all of whom lived in wolf territory, in 2009 and received 656 usable responses.

Among people who were likely to have had some exposure to wolves, the number agreeing with positive statements such as "I think wolves are essential to maintaining the balance of nature" dropped by 9 to 19 percent from 2001 to 2009. The number agreeing with negative statements such as "I would be afraid if wolves lived near my home" increased by 9 to 31 percent.

More people also thought that wolves who attack livestock or pets should be killed, the team reports. And hunters were more likely to say that they

might shoot a wolf if they saw one in the wild. — *Roberta Kwok* | 16 January 2013

Source: Treves, A. L. Naughton-Treves, and V. Shelley. 2013. Longitudinal analysis of attitudes toward wolves. *Conservation Biology* doi: [10.1111/cobi.12009](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12009).

Image © nialat | [Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

      More Options

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Email (required; will not be published)

Website

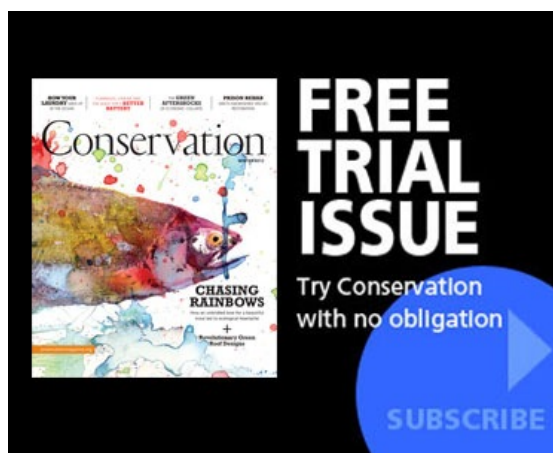
If you want a picture to show with your comment, go get a [Gravatar](https://www.gravatar.com).

Submit Comment

-

Search archive since 1999 by keyword, author, or article

- **Support Smarter Conservation**



Sign up for our free weekly e-newsletter

This Week in Conservation Science

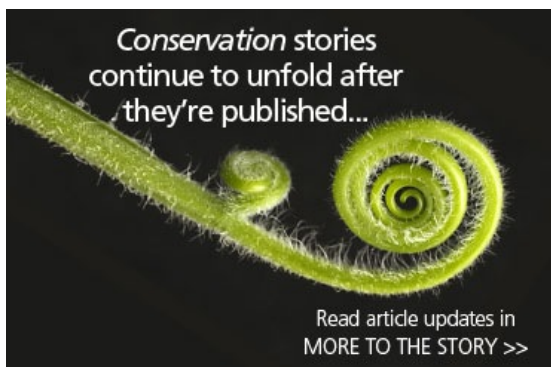
email address

Submit



- **Highlights From Our Annual Live Event**

[Explore More »](#)



Know about a story development?
Drop us a line: conservationmagazine@gmail.com

- **Browse Back Issues**



[Fall](#)

[2012](#)



[Summer](#)

[2012](#)



[Spring](#)

[2012](#)



[Winter](#)

[2012](#)

[More Back Issues »](#)

- **Classroom Resources**



- **Conservation Magazine Partners**



-

Follow Conservation on Facebook



-

- **Help and Information**

- [Free Trial Offer](#)
- [Renew](#)
- [Buy a Gift Subscription](#)
- [Manage Your Subscription](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

- **About Us**

- [Editorial Mission](#)
- [Staff and Board](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Our Partners](#)
- [Ads and Permissions](#)
- [Submission Guidelines](#)

- **Join Us**

- [Classroom Resources](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Partnership Opportunities](#)

- **Stay Connected**

- [Follow Conservation on Twitter](#)
- [Connect with Conservation on Facebook](#)

© [Conservation Magazine](#) 2013. All rights reserved. | [WordPress](#) | [WordPress Themes](#) | [XHTML](#)

