

Posted May 1, 2014 at 8:14 am

Wis. wolf population falls following hunting season



by NYAL MUEENUDDIN

Posted May 1, 2014 at 8:14 am

Like

3

Tweet

9

Amid continuing controversy about hunting Wisconsin's gray wolves, preliminary data shows Wisconsin's wolf population has decreased by 19 percent over the past year due to hunting and trapping across the state.

According to the [report](#) released by the Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's wolf population at the end of this winter sat at a minimum of 658, down from 809 wolves last year.

"The Wolf Advisory Committee last year recommended a more aggressive harvest to start bringing the population down towards the goal that is stated in the 1999 Wolf Management Plan, which is 350 animals," Jane Wiedenhoeft, assistant large carnivore biologist at the DNR, said.

The decrease this year is the first major decline in Wisconsin's wolf population since the grey wolf's addition to the federal endangered species list in 1974. Wisconsin's wolf population hit an all time low in 1979 with 25 wolves, Wiedenhoeft said.

After the species was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2012, 117 wolves were killed by hunters in the first regulated wolf hunt in Wisconsin history, according to DNR [figures](#).

“Opinions differ on how many wolves are good for the state. Some people think we could have more wolves in the state, and others think we could have much fewer wolves in the state. We’re trying to find that balance between what people can tolerate and what is a sustainable number,” Wiedenhoeft said.

With the removal of the gray wolf from the endangered species list in 2012 came a variety of changes in the ways in which Wisconsin’s wolf population is monitored, as well as what information is shared with the public, a topic of concern for some wildlife biologists.

University of Wisconsin environmental studies professor Adrian Treves, an expert on public opinion about wolves, raised concerns regarding the DNR’s new reporting processes.

“Wisconsin has had a long tradition of transparency and openness in the presentation and analysis and interpretation of data of the wolf population,” Treves said. “For almost 30 years, it’s been a public process with quite a bit of participation and transparency until the end of January 2012.”

The monitoring processes for wolves have not changed other than the addition of wolf harvest data from across the state, Wiedenhoeft said.

The meeting in which preliminary wolf count data is shared and discussed was moved behind closed doors for the first time this year, while it was previously public, she said.

Treves said this new practice reduced transparency for the scientific community

because the methods have changed, the reporting has changed, and I’m not able to evaluate the quality of the data in the way I was able to do for the last 14 years,” Treves said.

Wiedenhoeft said the purpose of moving the meeting to a staff-only setting was to prevent information about wolf numbers and locations from reaching hunters

keen on finding wolf hot spots.

With significant concerns among conservationists regarding the state's current goal of 350 wolves, more than double the current population, the DNR in coordination with the Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee are currently working on an updated quota for wolf populations in the state, she said.

From Twitter

AROUND THE WEB

WHAT'S THIS?



Larry J Jones @ursapater
RT @proudvegan: The
Badger Herald · Wis. [#wolf](#)
population falls following
hunting season - The Badger
Herald:
<http://t.co/yNjZu3T993>
May 1, 2014 at 9:54pm

[13 Celebrities
with Awesome
and REAL
Bodies](#)

[Little Known
Way to Pay Off
Mortgage](#)
Lifestyle Journal

[10 Countries
Having The
Least Sex](#)
TheRichest



Hannah Earth Ocean
@Lovemotherocean
RT @proudvegan: The
Badger Herald · Wis. [#wolf](#)
population falls following
hunting season - The Badger
Herald:
<http://t.co/yNjZu3T993>
May 1, 2014 at 9:34pm

[8 Things You
Probably Didn't
Know About
Seinfeld](#)



SavingOurWolves 
@proudvegan
The Badger Herald · Wis.
[#wolf](#) population falls
following hunting season -
The Badger Herald:
<http://t.co/yNjZu3T993>
May 1, 2014 at 9:33pm

ALSO ON THE BADGER HERALD

[The imbalance of tuition
and diversity at UW](#)

[UW researchers
discover how neurons](#)

[Myth of 'female
privilege' greatly](#)

[Letter to the editor: New
campus Diversity Plan is](#)



Lone Wolf Warrior
@marcmcgaugh1975

RT @CAWolfCenter:
Wisconsin wolf population
falls following hunting
season -

<http://t.co/HKTpNACxFd>
May 1, 2014 at 7:55pm



CaliforniaWolfCenter
@CAWolfCenter

Wisconsin wolf population
falls following hunting
season -

<http://t.co/HKTpNACxFd>
May 1, 2014 at 7:55pm



John E. Ouellette
@ouellette929

RT @BadgerHerald:
Wisconsin wolf population
falls significantly following
hunting season

<http://t.co/iIE1rOR9tc>
May 1, 2014 at 11:11am



Polo Rocha @polorocha18
Cool title "expert on public
opinion about wolves" MT
@BadgerHerald: State wolf
population falls after
hunting season

<http://t.co/DpSA2Kxsxf>
May 1, 2014 at 11:1am

Comments Community

Login ▾

Sort by Best ▾

Share ↗ Favorite ★

Join the discussion...



Joe Potosky • 4 hours ago

You would think the population would fall after
hunting/trapping season!

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

✉ Subscribe

Ⓟ Add Disqus to your site



The Badger Herald
@BadgerHerald

Wisconsin wolf population
falls significantly following
hunting season

<http://t.co/iIE1rOR9tc>

May 1, 2014 at 10:59am



Madison News
@MadNewsMan

Wis. wolf population falls
following hunting season

<http://t.co/NkxENq0PH5> via
[@BadgerHerald](#)

May 1, 2014 at 8:40am

All Content © The Badger Herald, 2013