

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR WOLF PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 6, 2020

1. **Wolf Season Comment:** I do not see the need to reduce wolf quotas in these districts. They are already too low!

Hunting District Comment: No boundary changes need to be made.

Travis Boughton Bozeman, MT

2. **Wolf Season Comment:** FWP needs to let hunters shoot wolf's over bait. We can not control the population by stocking them. Trapping is do not doing the job. Elk numbers keep going down. FWP needs to be more liberal on the wolf regulations.

District No changes Scott Missoula MT

3. I dont agree with reducing the quota in either district.

Toby Thompson Bigfork, MT

4. Just returned from my third day wolf hunting in the same area. Fresh tracks so I know they are there. But it's too thick to see them. Can't call them in, or at least not close enough to see them. Region 2 is overrun with wolves in many places. You better get it under control. Baiting would be nice. Otherwise, the few trappers and occasional random encounter kills won't do the job.

David B Duke MISSOULA, MT

5. I would like to voice my opinion AGAINST the proposed reduction in wolf quotas in hunt areas 313 and 316. It has not been publicized what the catalyst behind the proposal is. With the apparent decline in the number of wolves counted within YNP one could conclude that perhaps that is the answer to the question so many people have. The decline in the wolf population in Yellowstone is solely due to disease and infighting among the wolves. It is a natural process that was NOT brought on by hunting outside the borders of the Park. Many of those who support the wolves tell us to "leave it to nature," yet now, when their numbers are declining BECAUSE of nature they insist on fewer hunting opportunities outside the park. The fact that wolf numbers are declining within the Park should be absolutely no surprise to anyone who has spent much time in the outdoors. Predator numbers always rise and fall with the availability of prey, and in this case the populations of the prey species HAD been very high in the Park. Once the wolves were reintroduced and those prey populations brought down, it is only natural that the predator populations would follow. As it currently stands, the quota in each of these two hunting units is two. How many pups are born each year in these units? Certainly way more than two, so as it currently stands we are ADDING to the wolf population every year OUTSIDE the Park. Is this what FWP wants? It sure appears so. Nobody can argue that the elk herds near YNP have been decimated by the reintroduction, yet we are already ADDING to the problem every year- and now we have a proposal to make it WORSE? Reducing the take outside the Park does NOT mean that wolf numbers within the Park will rise. That is a natural process that will only happen when/if prey numbers rise. Reducing the take outside the Park could well mean that they will continue to expand their territory outside the Park- increasing the conflicts between the wolves, ranchers, pet owners, and recreationalists. I have read about the money that folks spend coming to Montana to watch the wolves in Yellowstone and how we "need more wolves" to bring more people. Again- the natural balance that determines wolf population within the Park

will absolutely NOT be affected by wolf quotas outside the Park. Hunting, which traditionally has been a huge boon to local Montana economies like Gardiner, is being decimated along with the elk herds by the rising wolf population. Reducing the wolf quota in these two hunt areas will only hasten the decimation and conflict caused by the rising wolf numbers outside the Park.

Ron Euerle Fromberg, MT

6. **From:** [Ellen Marmon <emarmon@gmail.com>](mailto:emarmon@gmail.com)
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2019 10:12 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Commissioners;

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

I'm writing to ask that you reduce the quotas on units 313 and 316 to one wolf.

The wolves are not harming elk harvest in those units; in fact, hunters have been able to take more elk.

Those wolves are no threat to the local elk population or to humans in the area.

Of deep concern to me and many others is that many of the wolves shot in those units are Yellowstone wolves. Many are collared for research.

The sheer volume of ecotourists coming into Yellowstone has been an economic boon to the entire area; more people would like to shoot wolves with camera than with guns. In a world of changing attitudes and demographics, I feel it important to take new attitudes into account.

I realize I don't live in Montana; I am an Oregonian, where we have our own challenges learning to coexist with wolves, but I have been watching the recovery of wolves with awe and wonder. They are a boon and benefit, but a problem to be dealt with by killing. I do realize they are a game species in your state, but perhaps we could limit the impact of hunting in the units closest to Yellowstone.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Marmon

7. **From:** sbott@nycap.rr.com <sbott@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 10:22 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

I am very concerned about the safety and wolf numbers concerning this proposal. The numbers should be reduced to 1 wolf per unit. The wolves are not effecting the Elk population at all. Out of the 37 wolves shot and killed 30 of Yellowstone's wolves were from units 313 & 316. Collars show that 95% of their lives were spent inside the Park. The numbers of wolves stayed consistent while the Elk population increased by 76%. So Hunters are not losing Elk to Wolves in unit 316 hunters took 173% more Elk than in 2011. While in 2017, 254 Wolves were taken State wide. IMO, that's 254 too many

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FYI more people prefer a camera when it comes to Wolves than a rifle. Visitors spend a lot of money in gateway Towns, 28% more money spent in 2018 than 2012. Which also creates more jobs. Which proves Wolves are much more valuable Alive than Dead

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Please take these points into consideration while considering any proposals on Wolf shootings allowed in units 313 & 316

Thank you ,

Linda Bott

8. **From: Dennis McManus <dennisynp@gmail.com>**
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 1:28 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comment on wolf quotas near Yellowstone

Hello Commissioners,

I understand that you will be meeting in February to consider the quotas for hunting wolves in Units 313 and 316. My preference would be that you eliminate hunting completely in those areas but last I knew that's not an option for you, so I hope you will instead reduce the quota in each Unit to one.

I was fortunate to live and work at Mammoth Hot Springs for four years, and to travel widely throughout Montana, so I am familiar with the area involved and the heated opinions on both sides regarding wolves. I am not a wolf lover in particular, but have great appreciation for wildlife in general and the wild lands they require.

That is what draws millions of people to Montana every year, supporting your economy. And while tourism can certainly be a double-edged sword, the negative publicity Montana gets for allowing the public's favorite Yellowstone wolves to be killed is not good for anyone. Increasingly, the public is interesting in viewing wildlife and the number of hunters declines. It is time to start shifting state priorities to reflect those facts.

I'll add that I now live in northeastern Minnesota, a smaller state than Montana, with substantially higher numbers of both people and wolves. The sky here may not be as big, but it is not falling because of those numbers.

Thank you for your time,

Dennis McManus

9. **From: Megan Jones <megan91075@yahoo.com>**
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 8:34 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request regarding quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316

Hello, I am writing to you to request that the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. Wolves have not reduced elk herds in these units. Most wolves taken in these units have been Yellowstone Wolves, which are protected and an essential part of a healthy ecosystem in and around Yellowstone, as multiple research studies have shown. There is overwhelming public interest in and support for these wolves. The wolves are beneficial to Yellowstone tourism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Megan Jones

Sent from my iPhone

10. **From:** david hand <dhand34@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 1:04 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Feedback for Yellowstone Wolf Hunts

To All It May Concern:

My wife and I, plus several others from Nashville TN, make annual visits to Yellowstone, primarily to see wolves. This is one of the only places in the World where one has a really good chance of viewing a wild wolf. On our last visit in May, we spent over \$3500 in Bozeman, Silver Gate and Gardiner. I deer and duck hunt too but when I come up there, I do it to watch wolves and other wildlife we don't have in the East.

I am requesting that Montana Fish and Wildlife & Parks reduce the quota of wolf management units 313 and 316 down to one wolf per unit. Elk counts are up 76% in unit 313 from 2011 so wolves clearly aren't killing all of the elk. Wolves are however getting harder to find. Also when a park wolf gets killed, its a poor reflection on all of us hunters. Since wolf hunting began Senator Mike Philips reported that 37 park wolves have been killed and 30 were from units 313 and 316. Plus you also have those that poach and shoot to wound, where wolf hunters are often seen bragging online about the gut shots.

While I get it that wolves are big game, do they really need to shoot them in 313 and 316? Many more come to Yellowstone to shoot wolves with a camera than a gun.

Thanks for listening

David and Jennifer Hand