

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR WOLF PROPOSALS**  
**COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2019**

1. I oppose the proposed change of two wolves to one in unit 313 and 316. I have hunted this region prior and think two wasn't enough, now to cut that quota in half. I sure hope this is a science based proposal and not a lobbying effort from anti-hunters or because of the proximity of Yellowstone National Park. Areas outside the park need to be managed properly since anything that crosses inside the park boundary is off limits. **Kyle Reedy Great Falls, MT**
2. Do not decrease the quota for wolf harvests. They are already damaging the numbers of game animals with the current wolf population. **Brian Scott Sweetgrass, MT**
3. I am totally against lowering the wolf quota in districts 313 and 316. There is no reason other than social. The Yellowstone park biologist recommended we could harvest six in either area. It was dropped to three, then two, now suggesting one and next is none. Wolves are still a problem in this area where they were originally released. To treat them as a separate entity from the rest of the state when they were all brought in from Canada does not make sense. They are NOT special Yellowstone Park wolves. I would hate for our FWP to succumb to out of state social influences for quota setting. **Sandra Seaton Sallee Emigrant, MT**
4. I do not agree with the changes. Wolves have done enough damage to Montana big game. Need to make the quotas higher not lower. **Pat McNamee Bozeman, MT**
5. They shouldn't put a quota on this animal period in any Unit. Their range is so big you can't put an animal in a certain unit and you can't regulate numbers as closely as portrayed. **Paul Ahlin Missoula, MT**
6. I am not in favor of reducing any wolf quotas, in fact I wish there weren't any quotas at all. I also would be in favor of year-round wolf hunting. With the dismal reports from guys I know who hunt the western half of the state, we need to do more to bring the wolf population back down.  
**Dan Gagner Helena, MT**
7. Hunting district 313 should be increased to 5 **Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls, MT**
8. **Name: James Morkert**  
**Phone Number: 406-827-9305**  
**Email: Tj19441@blackfoot.net**

What are your plans to control the wolf population in NW Montana? I feel it is way out of control!  
The deer and elk harvest shows that to be the case,

9. **Name: Bonnie Toadvyn Toadvyn**  
**Phone Number:**  
**Email: [bontoady@hotmail.com](mailto:bontoady@hotmail.com)**

Stop killing park wolves. This is slaughtering those that trust

10. I don't think FWP cares what the hunters, that pay your paycheck, think about the wolf problem we have in Montana. They have trashed the elk population in the Highlands south of Butte. The

remainder of the elk get moved to private land, where there is no hunting, except for a few privileged individuals. Your wolf biologist just cares about tracking and documenting the sob's. Kill the entire spire pack and start putting human hunters first. Why leave a breeding pair to just do this shit again?

Sign me as one pissed off hunter that buys your tags, at least for now. We don't need those things out there. We did just fine without them.

Get Outlook for Android [aka.ms]

*Jim Goebel <jgoebelart@hotmail.com>*

11. Hello. I would like to go on record as opposing the lowering of the wolf quotas in HD 313 and 316. Everyone in the state except here and near Glacier it is recognized they must be controlled. I grew up in Yellowstone and have seen the changes of such a dominant predator. There is no reason to treat them as a separate animal near Yellowstone than the rest of the state. As you know, they are not "Yellowstone" wolves, they were imported from Canada. Just because people name them and adore them from outside Montana, I hope you won't succumb to their social pressure and manage them properly in our area. We had a tiny quota of three, lowered to two, and now one, and of course the next step is none. Why?

Sincerely,

Sandy Sallee

P.O. Box 117 Emigrant, MT 59027

(406)222-7455 ne/fax

*Sandy Sallee [blackmtn2@aol.com](mailto:blackmtn2@aol.com)*

12. **From: Ruth Musgrave <[outlook\\_120EF7E1328F3FD3@outlook.com](mailto:outlook_120EF7E1328F3FD3@outlook.com)> On Behalf Of [rmusgrave@comcast.net](mailto:rmusgrave@comcast.net)**

**Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:17 PM**

**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**

**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Montana wolf hunting policies**

Dear members of the Commission:

My name is Ruth Musgrave and I live in Olympia, Washington. I have been travelling to Montana specifically to see and to track wolves for over two decades. My family sometimes travels to Yellowstone National Park several times in a single year, for about a week at a time, to observe wolves. We stay, shop, and eat in Gardiner, Cooke City, Silver Gate, Livingston, Deer Lodge, Missoula, and Bozeman, Montana.

For the last several years, we have also visited areas of Northwest Montana specifically to look for wolves and wolf sign. My daughter now lives in Montana, a choice she made largely so she could study wild wolves and other Montana wildlife and have the opportunity to recreate in wild places with abundant wildlife. We feel that the efforts to reduce the wolf population with liberal hunting and trapping policies reduces the value of Montana to non-consumptive users like ourselves. In Idaho, wolf control policies have gotten so horrific that I make a point of no longer visiting or spending money in that state. Your policies threaten to make me and many like me unwilling to visit your state as well. Please consider more conservative harvest regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.  
Sincerely,  
Ruth Musgrave

13. **From: Rick Lamplugh <ricklamplugh@gmail.com>**  
**Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 3:38 PM**  
**To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Commissioner Stuker re: WMU 313 and 316 quotas**  
Commissioner Stuker,

My name is Rick Lamplugh. I'm a resident of Gardiner, Montana, and the author of two best-selling nonfiction books about Yellowstone. I met you when you came to Gardiner through Bear Creek Council.

While I see from the agenda that the commission is not proposing any changes for wolves, I respectfully request that the commission reduce the quota in WMU 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

I called earlier today, hoping to take a few minutes to explain my four reasons for doing so. These reasons are based on current data from FWP and NPS. I've included my reference sources too.

Since I couldn't speak to you, I have sent my reasons below.

If you would like to discuss this, I can be reached at 541-760-3832

Thank you

Rick Lamplugh

First: Wolves have not reduced elk herds in these units.

In 2011, the year wolf hunting became a management tool, FWP counted 3,259 elk in 313 and considered that unit "at objective." (2011 Statewide Elk Estimate, FWP)

In 2018 in 313 with 5,738 elk, the population had increased by 76% and was "over objective." (2018 Statewide Elk Trend Estimate, FWP)

The 2005 FWP Elk Management Plan states that 313 and 316 support the Northern Yellowstone elk herd. Of course, Yellowstone wolves follow these elk.

Senator Mike Phillips recently reported that 37 Yellowstone wolves have been killed in 313 and 316 since hunting wolves became legal. Data from collars shows these wolves spent at least 95% of their lives in Yellowstone. (2019 comment to MT Senate re: SB 185)

So the number of wolves living in the Northern Range affects the number of wolves in 313 and 316.

In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2011)

In 2018, they counted 39. (YWP Annual Report 2018)

While the number of wolves stayed consistent, the number of elk increased.

Second: Wolves are not taking elk that hunters should get.

FWP records show:

In 2018 in 313, hunters took 38% more elk than in 2011. (FWP online harvest database)

In 316, hunters took 173% more elk. (FWP online harvest database)

Third: Wolves are plentiful elsewhere.

In 2011, hunters and trappers took 166 wolves statewide. (2011 MT Wolf Hunting Season Report)

In 2017, they took 254. (2017 MT Wolf Harvest Report)

If you reduce the quota in 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit, hunters have two fewer wolves to take. Those two wolves represent less than 1% of that 2018 statewide total.

Fourth: A demographic change supports reducing the quota.

FWP records reveal the number of wolf licenses sold in 2017 (latest data online) was 8% lower than the number sold in 2011. (2011 MT Wolf Hunting Season Report, 2017 MT Wolf Harvest Report)

Meanwhile, 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011. (NPS data)

That increase in the number of people who want to shoot wolves with a camera versus the number who want to shoot wolves with a rifle is important.

Watching wolves or grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone, according to a past NPS study.

A 2018 peer-reviewed NPS study found Yellowstone visitors still ranked seeing wildlife as just below "extremely important."

Not only have more wildlife watchers come, they've left more money behind: Visitor spending in 2018 was 28% higher than spending in 2012. (NPS data)

Visitor dollars create jobs in Gardiner and other Montana gateway communities.

In summary:

Even with wolves present, elk herds in 313 and 316 have grown.

Hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units.

There are plenty of wolves elsewhere for hunters.

With fewer hunters and more wildlife watchers, wolves in these units are more valuable alive than dead.

I request that you reduce the wolf quota in units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

Thank you for your consideration.

14. **From: Stephanie Farac <[sfarac13@gmail.com](mailto:sfarac13@gmail.com)>**  
**Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 12:41 PM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lower wolf quota**

Hi,

I am a concerned citizen. Please lower the Wolf quota and let wolves live in peace. I should also get a say in how wolves are managed. Stop catering to the hunters and trappers. Stop the hunting and trapping of wolves.! Thank you.

Stephanie

Sent from my iPhone

15. **From: Debra Oskins <[wolfenpatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfenpatriot@yahoo.com)>**  
**Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 5:28 PM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Trophy hunters**

the fact that humans can just take a life for their own sick and twisted gratification is beyond ignorant. Wolves nor any wildlife need to be managed by stupid greedy humans. STOP living in the old days, come to the 21st century where there's more knowledge about these magnificent creatures? They're much smarter than their human counterparts.SMH

16. **From: Lee Kolb <[leehkolb@gmail.com](mailto:leehkolb@gmail.com)>**  
**Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 8:37 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves near Yellowstone borders**

Greetings,

Hope everyone there is well.

I am writing to express my concern with policies that allow the murder of wolves near the borders of Yellowstone National Park.

Wolves and other wildlife are precious and essential resources that belong to all Americans, not just hunters. Wildlife and their environments must be protected for all to enjoy and benefit from.

The number of wolves murdered is sickening and a crime against all of us.

I do not live in your state but I have visited and know that it is a beautiful state.

Please consider that wolves aren't crops to be "harvested." They are essential, and there's no reason for these pointless killings.

Thanks for your attention,

Lee Kolb

Huntsville, AL 35803

**17. From: Nancy Avolese <lonewolfarm@verizon.net>**  
**Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2019 7:20 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316**

Dear Commissioners,

I write this email to help you to understand more about wolves and hope that you will consider reducing the quota in Wolf Management 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

Wolves are not the savage beast depicted in art and literature. They kill only to eat, they mate, raise and educate their young and they grieve the loss of a pack member.

I know that you are pressured by area hunters and ranchers but these are the facts:

In 2018, unit 313 had 5,738 elk. The population was over the objective set. Likewise, in 2018, there were 39 Northern Range wolves and the number of elk increased by 76% in unit 313.

Hunters are certainly not losing out to wolves in these units. In unit 313, in 2018, hunters took 38% more elk than in 2011. In unit 316, in 2018, hunters took 173% more elk than in 2011.

Wolves are bringing in more tourists to Yellowstone every year. Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where wolf watchers have a chance to see a wolf in the wild. I was one of

the lucky ones last year, seeing a black Lamar Valley wolf as we were leaving Yellowstone for the night. It was a thrill of a lifetime watching him prancing into the woods.

Yellowstone visitors spent 28% more money in the Yellowstone areas in 2018 than in 2012. Plus the number of licenses to kill wolves dropped slightly. With fewer hunters and more wildlife watchers, wolves in these units are more valuable alive than dead.

I implore you to consider lowering the quotas in units 313 and 316 to only one wolf.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest regards,  
Nancy A. Avolese  
Co-founder of the Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society  
Author: The Wolf Man of Kane, Pennsylvania  
717 944 9891

18. **From:** *Jeff Beaupre* <[rockngriz@aol.com](mailto:rockngriz@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** *Sunday, December 15, 2019 8:08 AM*  
**To:** *FWP Commission* <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** *[EXTERNAL]*

Hi could we please lower Unit 316 to just one kill instead of 2 wolf, since unit 313 had 2 wolf killed when only one was legal to be killed.

Thank you for your time, Jeff Beaupre

19. **From:** *janice kendall* <[janicekendall47@yahoo.com](mailto:janicekendall47@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** *Thursday, December 19, 2019 2:59 PM*  
**To:** *FWP Commission* <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** *[EXTERNAL] Comment on proposal change Wolf no. In Units 313 & 316*

To: Montana Fish & Wildlife Commissioners

I am asking that you all please consider reducing quota in Wolf management Units 313 & 316, to one Wolf per unit. As you know, scientific evidence shows wolves have not reduced the elk herds in these Units.

Also, many of the Wolves taken in these two Units are Yellowstone Wolves, which is very sad indeed. My extended family has visited Yellowstone on numerous trips for many years and consider it and the States it covers a National treasure. I personally am asking you to consider my request and all who love the Wolves.

Thank You for considering my request, thank you.

Respectfully, Janice Kendall (Lawton, Ok)  
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android [go.onelink.me]

20. **From: Rhonda Dern <rhondadern@me.com>**  
**Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 10:48 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Please write a letter for our wolves**  
December 20, 2019

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,  
Thank-you for your willingness to reduce the wolf quota in Management Units 313 and 316 from two wolves to one wolf per unit.

The Gray Wolf once numbered in the millions and was as much a part of Western landscapes as mountains, forests, lakes and rivers.

Reduced to near extinction, popular sentiment and the hard work of many federal and state agencies in the Northern Rockies, helped to restore the wolf to his historic range.

Since wolves have come back to Yellowstone, the Park has reaped millions of tourist dollars and has gained in popularity from the thousands of visitors who come from around the World in hopes of spotting a wolf. In fact, some Yellowstone wolves were so watched and loved that they became the stars of films and novels.

The Yellowstone wolves do not wear shock collars to let them know that they are straying from the safe confines of the Park. Many Yellowstone wolves, some watched by faithful followers since they were puppies, have been hunted and killed as they strayed into the two game management units bordering the Park, namely Units 313 and 316...a great loss for Yellowstone and for the people who come from near and far every year to visit their favorite wolf.

Reducing the wolf quota from 2 to 1 wolf is the right thing to do. Give the wolves a chance to thrive and contribute to the wilderness and wildlife which makes Montana such a great state.  
Sincerely,

Rose Pray  
Dillon Colorado

21. **From: STEPHANI BERTHOUD <[stephberthoud8@comcast.net](mailto:stephberthoud8@comcast.net)>**  
**Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 9:25 AM**  
**To: FWP General <[fwppgen@mt.gov](mailto:fwppgen@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gray Wolves**

My name is Stephanie Berthoud and I am writing to ask that you lower the quota in unit 316. Instead of two wolves being killed! I ask that you lower it to one. Honesty I wish none of the wolves be killed, however; I I humbly ask for only one instead of two.

Please won't you co-exist with these beautiful creatures (wolves).

I live in Colorado and would ask for you to consider that.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Berthoud

22. **From:** [idar@epix.net](mailto:idar@epix.net) <[idar@epix.net](mailto:idar@epix.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 9:01 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission and request the the following action for you to take:

Lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 kills for the rest of this season of wolf hunting. This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

Sincerely concerned

Idarose Huf

Montana USA



23. **From:** LOUIS WINGET <[corvtt4lou@icloud.com](mailto:corvtt4lou@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 3:23 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please adjust quota

After discovering that an excess wolf was taken from Unit 313 beyond the assigned quota, I am asking that the quota of Unit 316 be downgraded by one to offset that excess. It is my opinion that the wolves that reside within your area need to be fairly treated and allowing even one extra death is unsustainable.

It is also just my opinion, of course, but I feel it would be even more humane to limit the harvesting of wild animals to that of game only and not trophy animals, for what it is worth.

Sent from my iPhone

24. **From:** Miki <[grey\\_wolf@charter.net](mailto:grey_wolf@charter.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 5:35 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316

I respectfully request that the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit as wolves have not reduced elk herds in these units. In 2011, the year wolf hunting returned, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks counted 3,259 elk in unit 313 and considered that unit "at objective." In 2018 unit 313 had 5,738 elk. The population actually increased by 76% over the 2011 count and was "over objective".

Senator Mike Phillips reported that of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves showed that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. Also while the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%. Hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units. In 2018 in unit 316, hunters took 173% more elk than in 2011.

A demographic change supports reducing the quota. FWP records revealed the number of wolf licenses sold in 2017 was 8% lower than the number sold in 2011. Meanwhile, 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011.

Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where non-consumptive wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild. The increase in the number of people who want to photograph wolves compared with the decrease in the number who want to shoot wolves with a rifle is significant.

Also if you visit Yellowstone to watch wolves and you spend money in surrounding towns regardless of whether your home is in Montana or you're from out of state. Watching wolves or grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone according to a past NPS study and visitor dollars create jobs in the Montana gateway communities. With fewer hunters and more wildlife watchers, wolves in these units are more valuable alive than dead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Miki Wolf-Krenelka

25. **From:** Joseph Allen <[bluegrassguitar@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassguitar@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2019 6:31 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal-wolf quota change in units 313 and 316-Public Comment

December 21, 2019

To: Montana Fish & Wildlife Commissioners

I am writing you today, advocating for the reduction of wolf quotas in wolf management units 313 and 316. It is my hope that you will consider a hunting quota of 1 wolf per unit rather than the current 2 wolf quota.

Although I am not a resident of Montana, I support Montana in many different ways other than being a resident taxpayer.

I received my graduate degree in Wildlife Sciences from the University of Wyoming in 1979 and lived, recreated, fished and hunted in the west for 22 years subsequent to my graduation. I later accepted a position at the State University of New York at Buffalo where I retired from my academic position in 2012. While there, I became academically immersed in the wolf re-introduction in the mid-90's and have followed the re-introduction efforts throughout the northern Rockies, both at the state and federal levels. I have brought college students to the Rockies and to Montana on credit-bearing fieldwork courses since 1994. I currently direct science and ecology excursions to Yellowstone National Park and the Beartooth Range as a wilderness tour leader with a western New York non-profit environmental education organization.

Two to three times a year since 2012, I have brought many participants to Silver Gate, Montana for a period of ten days to study the ecology and natural history of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We are honored to spend our out-of-state dollars in support of local communities such as Gardiner, Silver Gate and Cooke City as well as Yellowstone National Park. Other than licensed fishing in the local waters of the park and surrounding states, we are non-consumptive users of wildlife resources. Words cannot describe the feelings of awe and wonder that my participants feel upon seeing the magnificent wildlife and vistas you have in Montana. Without question, my groups want to see wolves, bears and other wildlife species, that do not exist in our eastern ecosystems and we are more than willing to pay for that privileged experience. Montana is truly blessed to have such diversity and abundance of wildlife.

It is significant to note that more and more tourists and wildlife “watchers” are visiting the GYE, bringing in more and more dollars to the economies of local communities. It also appears that soon, non-consumptive wildlife users will perhaps eclipse the consumptive wildlife users with respect to spending power in local areas. Personally, I, for one, would gladly pay for a non-consumptive “license” to view wildlife, with supporting funds provided for the management and operation of the MFWP department. I do not know many who would not support such this potential opportunity.

As a biologist, I recognize the benefits of proper management of species. My academic training has emphasized the importance of the triad of wildlife management: people-wildlife resources-habitat. I also realize the difficulty in the decision-making processes that commissioners and managers must make. I do, however, feel that as a citizen, it is my duty to provide input into this management process via public comment.

Over the years, I have seen wolves that were collared and studied in Yellowstone, shot outside the park as they followed game herds. These are not “ordinary” wolves. They have been studied and are part of the database that yields scientific knowledge to assist managers in future decisions regarding wildlife management and wolf biology. Of the wolves killed in units 313 and 316, 30 of the 37 wolves have been wolves from Yellowstone park. The significance lies in the amount of data and knowledge lost from these highly studied wolves. It is often their first trip out of the park to hunt an ever-increasing elk population (~75% increase from 2011 to 2018 according to MFWP data) in these units. Data also shows the wolf numbers in these units have remained relatively constant (between 38-39 wolves according to NPS data) while the elk population has increased, indicating that wolves pose little threat to the elk herds or to elk hunter successes in these units (from 2011 to 2018, hunter successes in these areas range from 38-173% according to MFWP data). It appears, then, that this loss of wolf data is a more critical factor than the taking of more wolves. Furthermore, according to MFWP sources, hunter successes for wolves, statewide, has increased from 2011 to 2018 indicating that there are ample wolves to be hunted in units other than 313 and 316. Retaining the 2-wolf quota in these areas is virtually inconsequential with respect to overall wolf harvest but has large ramifications to wolf data loss from taking a Yellowstone wolf.

My groups and I look forward to our continued tri-annual trips to Montana to explore, hike, photograph and study its wildlife. We appreciate the efforts of the commission to manage wildlife for ALL the people in the best possible way, knowing that advocates exist in both the non-consumptive and consumptive areas.

Regards,

Joseph C. Allen  
SUNY at Buffalo, ret.  
Earth Spirit Educational Services  
716-228-9510

26. **From:** CATHERINE FRIZAT <[cfrizat@gmail.com](mailto:cfrizat@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2019 1:58 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment - proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 & 316

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to reduce the wolf harvest quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one (1) wolf per unit.

As you know, watching wolves and grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone National Park (per a past NPS study).

21% more tourists came to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011; in parallel, the number of wolf licenses sold in 2017 was 8% lower than in 2011. The increase in the number of people who want to shoot wolves with a camera, compared to the decrease in the number of people who want to shoot with a rifle is significant.

More visitors to the park mean more money spent in the park and in neighboring towns like Gardiner, Silver Gate, etc (28% more money in 2018 than in 2012). Wolf watching greatly benefits Montana's job market and overall economy.

Unfortunately, many wolves taken in units 313 and 316 are Yellowstone wolves (as they follow the Northern Elk herd outside the park during the winter). As reported by Senator Mike Phillips, out of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves was legalized in Montana, 30 have been killed in those units. This is an incredibly high number, and a painful loss for wolf watchers and visitors to the park and the state.

Data shows that wolves in those units have had no impact on elk herds (in 2018 unit 313 had 5,736 elk - a 76% population increase over the 2011 count, and per FWP "over objective".) Hunters are not losing elk to wolves in those units (for example in 2018 hunters took 173% more elk in unit 316 than in 2011).

Furthermore, if the issue is less wolves for hunters, wolves are abundant elsewhere in Montana - and hunters can legally shoot them. More and more wolves are killed each year in the state (166 in 2011 for example, compared to 254 in 2017). If you reduce the harvest quota to one wolf per unit, hunters only have two few wolves to take (less than 1% of the 2017 statewide total).

In view of all of the above, I respectfully request again that the wolf harvest quotas be decreased to one (1) wolf per unit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Frizat

**27. From: Rhonda Dern <[rhondadern@me.com](mailto:rhondadern@me.com)>**  
**Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 9:08 PM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316**

Please replace this email with my prior submittal - I found a typo.

December 19, 2019

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I am writing to the Commissioners to ask you to reduce the quota in wolf management units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. In doing so, the positive effects for wolves and other wildlife will create a more balanced eco-system. The biological science at-hand, and your department's statistics support the undisputable facts that wolves have not reduced elk populations in these units. As a matter of fact, the deer and elk populations have increased. Hunters have not been negatively impacted in their outdoor lifestyles. Senator Mike Phillips reported that of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. These wolves followed the natural seasonal migration of elk out of the Yellowstone park boundaries. The wolves' natural instincts to survive should not result in them being killed. A small concession in wolf count in units 313 and 316 will have large positive ramifications for wolves and for all people who enjoy watching these majestic animals.

We will be with Yellowstone Wolf Trackers in Spring 2020 spending our dollars and time in beautiful Montana. We will enjoy restaurants, shopping and lodging in Gardiner in businesses that are wolf friendly.

I was a rural Colorado Hospice Nurse for many years, and I have studied wolves since I grew up in South Dakota. My friends and family across the United States support keeping our "west, wild" by caring for these majestic and essential keystone predators. In fact, most people in the United States support our public lands and wildlife which includes an increasing wolf population and observing these wolves in the wild.

Thank-you for your time and consideration on my opinion.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Dern

Rhonda Dern

[rhondadern@me.com](mailto:rhondadern@me.com)

"Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of the wolf."

Aldo Leopold

28. **From:** Rick Lamplugh <[ricklamplugh@gmail.com](mailto:ricklamplugh@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 6:31 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment on reducing wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your willingness to consider reducing the wolf quota in units 313 and 316. I think there are a number of facts that support this reduction:

1. Wolves have not reduced the number of elk in these units. In unit 313, for example, the number of elk increased 76% between 2011 and 2018. 313 is now "over objective" according to FWP.

2. Hunters are not losing elk to the wolves in these units. FWP harvest records show that in 2018 in unit 313, hunters took 38% more elk than in 2011. They took 173% more elk in 316. In both units the Hunter Success Rate was higher in 2018 than in 2011.

3. Demographic changes support this reduction. FWP records reveal that there were 8% fewer wolf licenses sold in 2017 as compared to 2011. Meanwhile, 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 as compared to 2011. Yellowstone is the only place in Montana where non-consumptive wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild. The money left behind by park visitors supports Montana gateway towns. As fewer people want to hunt wolves, and more people want to watch them, wolves are more valuable alive than dead.

Thank you,

Rick Lamplugh

Gardiner, MT

29. **From:** Rhonda Dern <[rhondadern@me.com](mailto:rhondadern@me.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 11:06 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** delia malone <[Deliamalone@earthlink.net](mailto:Deliamalone@earthlink.net)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I am writing you to ask you to reduce the wolf hunting quota in wolf management units 313 and 316 to zero. I am an ecologist in Colorado where I have witnessed the degrading effects of our overabundant ungulate populations that have resulted from our wolfless wildlands. In Colorado we are working to restore robust populations of gray wolves to Colorado to help in a restoration of a natural balance between predator and prey. We look to the effect of wolves in places such Yellowstone National Park.

My partner, John Emerick who is also an ecologist, and I visit Montana somewhat often – especially to see gray wolves in their natural landscape and to witness the age-old interaction between predator and prey – an evolutionary interaction that is responsible for the evolution of the magnificent bull elk that is so coveted by hunters. An interaction that has resulted in both healthier elk herds, because wolves preferentially select the weak and diseased, and healthier landscapes, because wolves prevent elk from overgrazing the range, that can support even more ungulates.

The positive effect of wolves, and other large carnivores, in Yellowstone National Park has much to do with the fact that there wolves are protected from human hunting and trapping. There, wolves can act as family units, an essential feature of wolf success – a feature that is absolutely essential to their ability to successfully hunt their prey, thereby improving the health of both elk populations and the landscape.

Hunting and trapping destroys the wolf's family structure which is essential to their hunting success. Hunting and trapping undermines the very essence of wolves – family - and their ability to initiate the cascades of events that can initiate a restoration of landscape health.

Please do not allow wolf hunting in wolf management units 313 or 316 – please retain the ability of wolves to restore a natural balance. D

*Delia G. Malone*



*"The mountains are calling,  
and I must go" – John Muir –*

Sky 970-319-9498

Land 970-963-2143

30. **From: Greg Griffin <[gs\\_griffin@yahoo.com](mailto:gs_griffin@yahoo.com)>**  
**Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 10:12 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment- Stop the senseless slaughter of endangered gray wolves in Montana**

Dear Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission (Tim Aldrich, Commissioner, Pat Byorth, Commissioner, Richard Stuker, Vice-Chairman, Logan Brower, Commissioner, Shane Colton, Commissioner :

Weekly update on the trophy hunting of our beloved wolves in Montana and Wyoming and CALL TO ACTION!!!!!!!

This last week was a hard week on one of the Yellowstone National Park's newest wolf packs, the Phantom Lake Pack, which during the last denning season were blessed with 14 beautiful wolf pups by their Alpha female, 1119F and other females in the pack. On Wednesday the pack left the park was hunting not far from the boundary and just had taken down a prey to have a meal. Sadly they did this in Unit 313 which still had a quota of one kill to be killed. The Phantom Lake Pack lost two of their pups to hunters at this time. These pups would have just turned 8 months now in December, just discovering what life in the wild is about.

UNIT 313 IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE HUNTING SEASON SO ALL THE STATE WOLVES THAT LIVE IN THAT UNIT AND ANY PARK WOLVES WHO VENTURE INTO THE UNIT ARE SAFE FROM THE BULLET.

Even though one wolf had been killed about a month ago, two hunters did take out two Phantom wolf pups, thus taking one over the allotted quota of 2. The three kills in this Unit are viewed as legal kills and to date we have not seen the official report from Mfwp regarding the two new kills and if anything will be done because of going over the quota.

The loss of the two wolf pups has been confirmed by The Wolf Project. We are waiting for the official Warden's report on the kills by Montana fwp agency.

In response to the extra kill in Unit 313 we are putting out this call to action:

Lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 kills for the rest of this season of wolf hunting. This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

---

As of noon yesterday, a total of 165 wolves have been murdered in the two states trophy hunting season for simply being a gray wolf.

117 beloved Gray Wolves have been taken from their families of Montana Wolf Nation and Wyoming trophy hunters have killed 48 wolves as of Friday evening. With the 10 killed by Wildlife Services in Wyoming we have lost 175 wolves to date.....

Unit kills in Montana are:

Unit 100-2 kill; U101-12 kills; U121-7 kills; U130-11 kills; U150-4 kills; U200-8 kills; U210 2 kills; U250-8 kills; U280-1 kill; U290-14 kills; Unit 310-6 kills; Unit 313-3 Kill; Unit 320-2 kills; Unit 330-8 kills; U390-14 kills; U400-10 kills. 117 BEAUTIFUL WOLVES' HOWLS WERE FOREVER SILENCED IN MONTANA. :'

Meanwhile in Wyoming, 48 wolves have been killed in their hunting season since Sept. 1st. and 10 Additional wolves taken out by Wildlife Services contracted by Wyoming Fish and Game, Making a total of 57 WOLVES SILENCED FOREVER IN WYOMING :'

TOTAL TROPHY ZONE KILLS -26

PREDATORY Area- No Quota Total Kills 22

Wildlife Contract Services -10 Kills

TOTAL WOLF HOWLS SILENCED IN WYOMING --58 TO DATE

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With tears and much sadness :( as 175 Gray Wolves have been silenced here on Earth and may they run free with their ancestors. MAY OUR VOICES NEVER GO SILENT AS IT IS ONLY THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS, THAT THE WOLF NATION CAN BE HEARD!

Thank you for your consideration. Protect our endangered gray wolves and don't allow the senseless slaughter of anymore of them! There numbers are few and not sustainable!

Sincerely,

Gregory and Gail Griffin

31. **From: Philip Procter <[pprocter56@gmail.com](mailto:pprocter56@gmail.com)>**  
**Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 10:00 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reducing wolf quota in units 313 and 316**

Dear Commissioner:

I've visited Yellowstone several times, twice in the last year, and have spent thousands of dollars in the local towns, including: Silver Gate, Gardiner and Cooke City for the sole purpose of seeing wolves in the wild. I understand that Montana is discussing the wolf hunting quota in units 313 and 316. I believe that it would be beneficial to reduce the quota to a maximum of one wolf per unit. This would also help increase the tourism in and around Yellowstone NP, a key economic driver in these areas as I believe, based on personal discussions with tourists while I was in the park, seeing predators like wolves and grizzly bears are a major reason they visited the park.

The wolves from units 313 and 316 have been shown by the NPS and your Montana's Fish and Wildlife service (FWP) to be Yellowstone wolves, but they, like any wolf, will occasionally follow its found source outside the artificial park boundaries. Information from Senator Mike Phillips stated that of 37 Yellowstone wolves killed, 30 have come from just these two units. This is an excessive strain to these wolf populations.

Eliminating just two wolves a year from these units would not even significantly decrease the total wolf hunt, which in 2017 was approximately 254 wolves in Montana but it would help these units and the Yellowstone wolf population, specifically.

Data from the FWP also shows that the return of wolves to the area in 2011 has not reduced the elk available for hunt at all. Indeed, the data shows that in 2018 there were 5738 elk in unit 313, an increase of 76% over the 2011 numbers (3259). Also, hunters took more elk from both units 313 and 316 in 2018 than in 2011. Clearly, hunters aren't suffering from the presence of wolves.

In my case, personally, and I'm sure many others, it is the presence of predators like wolves and grizzly bear that draws me to the area.

Without them, I would have never visited Yellowstone or spent my hard earned dollars in the surrounding communities. Maintaining or increasing the wolfs should be considered the highest priority for economic gain.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope I may have gained your support.

Barbara Procter

1422 Promised Land Acres

Olean, NY 14760

--

Philip Procter

1422 Promised Land Acres

Olean, NY 14760

32. **From:** [adirondack.holiday@yahoo.com](mailto:adirondack.holiday@yahoo.com) <[adirondack.holiday@yahoo.com](mailto:adirondack.holiday@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:00 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Wolf Hunting in Units 313 and 316

Commissioners: Wolves are not only critical to the balance of nature, but to the economies of Gardiner, West Yellowstone, Cooke City and Silver Gate. Yellowstone National Park continues to see increases in annual tourist and naturalist visits, and the two most critical driving factors are the likelihood of seeing wolves and grizzly bears. Money spent by tourists in these towns at restaurants, hotels, campgrounds and tourist attractions, greatly exceeds money spent by hunters.

As a naturalist, photographer and writer, I have spent 8 of the last 9 entire months of May in Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton. I hunt the wolves with my camera, which has the advantage that my trophies may be seen by thousands of other tourists and naturalists. Last Spring, I took my business elsewhere, as I became increasingly exasperated at the way in which the State of Montana seems to favor dollars spent by hunters over dollars spent by tourists. One survey a few years back indicated that 7% of tourists come to Yellowstone to see wolves, and would have gone elsewhere, had there been no chance of seeing wolves. This percentage represents millions of tourist dollars annually spent in the Yellowstone area.

In addition, I follow the elk and wolf hunting statistics from Montana, and it's pretty clear that in Units 313 and 316, just north of the Park, elk numbers and successful hunts for elk, have increased, despite the occasional presence of wolves, 90% of whom have wandered in from Yellowstone. Allowing hunters to

“harvest” wolves in Units 313 and 316 thus has a two prong negative effect: it lowers the number of wolves in Yellowstone at a time when tourists clamor to see wolves, and it alienates loyal visitors like myself, who are perfectly capable of spending my tourist dollars elsewhere.

In addition, livestock losses to wolves are an insignificant impact on Montana livestock. For example, there are about 2.6 million cattle in Montana. According to the Montana State Livestock Board, predators are confirmed to have killed 97 cattle, and are suspected in another 43 cattle death last years, for a predator impact of less than one cow for every 19,000 cows, at a compensation cost to the State of about \$240,000, the cost of your average single home. The number one killer of cattle, by an overwhelming percentage, according to the USDA, is respiratory illness. These statistics suggest that the real objective of wolf hunting, is to allow someone to hang a wolf rug on the wall.

I encourage the Commissioners to be careful what you ask for. The quotas for wolves in these two hunting units, should be eliminated or lowered. Your loyal Yellowstone visitors will be watching. Thanks for your consideration. Steve Hall

Steve & Wendy Hall, NY State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators, *Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehabilitation Center*, [www.AdirondackWildlife.org](http://www.AdirondackWildlife.org) [[adirondackwildlife.org](http://www.AdirondackWildlife.org)], *Adirondack Holiday Vacation Rentals*, West Branch of the Ausable River, Wilmington-Whiteface, NY, [www.AdirondackHoliday.com](http://www.AdirondackHoliday.com) [[adirondackholiday.com](http://www.AdirondackHoliday.com)], 866-235-9655, 518-946-2428, Steve Hall, Real Estate Broker, *Adirondack Mountains Real Estate*, [www.AdirondackMountainsRealEstate.com](http://www.AdirondackMountainsRealEstate.com) [[adirondackmountainsrealestate.com](http://www.AdirondackMountainsRealEstate.com)], and *Adirondack Artists*, [www.AdirondackArtists.com](http://www.AdirondackArtists.com) [[adirondackartists.com](http://www.AdirondackArtists.com)].

33. From: Lance Moseley <[lancefromla@gmail.com](mailto:lancefromla@gmail.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 8:09 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] This is fucked up fix this bullshit these animals are loved fuck you we want changeb

Weekly update on the trophy hunting of our beloved wolves in Montana and Wyoming and CALL TO ACTION!!!!!!!

This last week was a hard week on one of the Yellowstone National Park's newest wolf packs, the Phantom Lake Pack, which during the last denning season were blessed with 14 beautiful wolf pups by their Alpha female, 1119F and other females in the pack. On Wednesday the pack left the park was hunting not far from the boundary and just had taken down a prey to have a meal. Sadly they did this in Unit 313 which still had a quota of one kill to be killed. The Phantom Lake Pack lost two of their pups to hunters at this time. These pups would have just turned 8 months now in December, just discovering what life in the wild is about. :(

UNIT 313 IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE HUNTING SEASON SO ALL THE STATE WOLVES THAT LIVE IN THAT UNIT AND ANY PARK WOLVES WHO VENTURE INTO THE UNIT ARE SAFE FROM THE BULLET.

Even though one wolf had been killed about a month ago, two hunters did take out two Phantom wolf pups, thus taking one over the allotted quota of 2. The three kills in this Unit are viewed as legal kills and to date we have not seen the official report from Mfwp regarding the two new kills and if anything will be done because of going over the quota.

The loss of the two wolf pups has been confirmed by The Wolf Project. We are waiting for the official Warden's report on the kills by Montana fwp agency.

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CALL TO ACTION!

In response to the extra kill in Unit 313 we are putting out this call to action:

Please contact Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission and request the the following action for them to take:

Lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 kills for the rest of this season of wolf hunting. This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

Contact information

E-mail address for the whole commission:

[fwcomm@mt.gov](mailto:fwcomm@mt.gov)

Contact Info for writing or calling the individual members:

District 1

Tim Aldrich, Commissioner

3340 Rodeo Road

Missoula, MT 59803

Phone: (406) 241-7164

District 2

Pat Byorth, Commissioner

2360 Whitetail Road  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Phone: (406) 548-4830

District 3  
Richard Stuker, Vice-Chairman  
1155 Boldt Road  
Chinook, MT 59523  
Phone: (406) 357-3495

District 4  
Logan Brower, Commissioner  
P.O. Box 325  
Scobey, MT 59263  
Phone: (406) 230-2188

District 5  
Shane Colton, Commissioner  
335 Clark  
Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: (406) 698-6772

(Please remember to be courteous in your email, letter or phone call as the Wolves of Montana pay the price if not.)

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As of noon yesterday, a total of 165 wolves have been murdered in the two states trophy hunting season for simply being a gray wolf.

117 beloved Gray Wolves have been taken from their families of Montana Wolf Nation and Wyoming trophy hunters have killed 48 wolves as of Friday evening. With the 10 killed by Wildlife Services in Wyoming we have lost 175 wolves to date.....

Unit kills in Montana are:

Unit 100-2 kill; U101-12 kills; U121-7 kills; U130-11 kills; U150-4 kills; U200-8 kills; U210 2 kiills; U250-8 kills; U280-1 kill; U290-14 kills;Unit 310-6 kills;Unit 313-3 Kill; Unit 320-2 kills; Unit 330-8 kills; U390-14 kills; U400-10 kills. 117 BEAUTIFUL WOLVES' HOWLS WERE FOREVER SILENCED IN MONTANA. :'

Meanwhile in Wyoming, 48 wolves have been killed in their hunting season since Sept. 1st. and 10 Additional wolves taken out by Wildlife Services contracted by Wyoming Fish and Game, Making a total of 57 WOLVES SILENCED FOREVER IN WYOMING :'(

TOTAL TROPHY ZONE KILLS -26

PREDATORY Area- No Quota Total Kills 22

Wildlife Contract Services -10 Kills

TOTAL WOLF HOWLS SILENCED IN WYOMING --58 TO DATE

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With tears and much sadness :'( as 175 Gray Wolves have been silenced here on Earth and may they run free with their ancestors. MAY OUR VOICES NEVER GO SILENT AS IT IS ONLY THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS, THAT THE WOLF NATION CAN BE HEARD.....PLEASE LET THEIR VOICES BE HEARD BY TAKING A COUPLE OF MINUTES OUT OF YOUR DAY AND DO THE CALL TO ACTION TO THE MONTANA FISH,WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMISSION.

Thank you.

Paula

on behalf our grassroots network partnership

34. From: Paula Ozzello <[pozzello@gmail.com](mailto:pozzello@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 11:01 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unit 313 harvest

Re: one harvest over the 2 quota in Unit 313 Wolf trophy hunting season

At this time I would like to request that in a positive action to the extra kill in Unit 313 you consider the following:

Lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 harvests for the rest of this wolf hunting season. This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

I have concerns that if something is not done, it will become a regular incident that hunters will start to take out more in the units with the Quota of 2, with no negative results to the hunters that kill the extra wolves.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

---

Paula Ozzello

35. **From:** *Bijin Chihiro* <[troyhorses16@gmail.com](mailto:troyhorses16@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** *Monday, December 16, 2019 9:35 PM*  
**To:** *FWP Commission* <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** *[EXTERNAL] Unit 316*

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 kills for the rest of this season of wolf hunting.

This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

Yours respectfully

Dr Bijin Lindi Engelbrecht

36. **From:** *karen.querin@comcast.net* <[karen.querin@comcast.net](mailto:karen.querin@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** *Monday, December 16, 2019 9:03 AM*  
**To:** *FWP Commission* <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** *[EXTERNAL] We are watching*

Dear esteemed leaders,

Please note that you are managing the world, the forests, and the wild creatures for more than just ranchers and industries.

This last week was a hard week on one of the Yellowstone National Park's newest wolf packs, the Phantom Lake Pack, which during the last denning season were blessed with 14 beautiful wolf pups by their Alpha female, 1119F and other females in the pack. On Wednesday the pack left the park was hunting not far from the boundary and just had taken down a prey to have a meal. Sadly they did this in Unit 313 which still had a quota of one kill to be killed. The Phantom Lake Pack lost two of their pups to hunters at this time. These pups would have just turned 8 months now in December, just discovering what life in the wild is about.

UNIT 313 IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE HUNTING SEASON SO ALL THE STATE WOLVES THAT LIVE IN THAT UNIT AND ANY PARK WOLVES WHO VENTURE INTO THE UNIT ARE SAFE FROM THE BULLET. They had better be! Please enforce strongly!

Even though one wolf had been killed about a month ago, two hunters did take out two Phantom wolf pups, thus taking one over the allotted quota of 2. We understand that the three kills in this Unit are viewed as legal kills going over the quota must be penalized.

The loss of the two wolf pups has been confirmed by The Wolf Project. We are waiting for the official Warden's report on the kills by Montana fwp agency.

We request that you lower the quota immediately in the neighboring Unit 316 that borders the park to just one kill instead of the current 2 kills for the rest of this season of wolf hunting. This is a way to show that Montana does truly wish to coexist with the gray wolf in their state and by doing this it will discourage any future over the limit kills in the three units with quotas.

We love our wild animals and think they have a right to exist in peace.

Sincerely,

Karen Guerin

**37. From: G Straube <[gkstraube@aol.com](mailto:gkstraube@aol.com)>**  
**Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2019 8:13 AM**  
**To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>**  
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Kill over 2 in Unit 313**

To whom it may concern, So now that hunters have taken out two 8 month old sibling wolf pups as they were eating with their pack, in Unit 313, just barely beyond the boundary, I would kindly like to request if the overkill by 1 quota can be counted towards lowering the quota by 1 in Unit 316, effective immediately?? We can do better in Montana. Every year we have to deal with irresponsible trigger happy hunters taking out more of our beloved Yellowstone wolves and pups than legally required. Let's do something about this right now. If this is the incorrect email to send my request, please advise where I can send my request.

Thank you.

Gloria Straube  
Gardiner, Montana

38. **From:** Barbie <[bostonpup17@gmail.com](mailto:bostonpup17@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 10:01 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf Quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioner:

I've visited Yellowstone several times, twice in the last year, and have spent thousands of dollars in the local towns, including: Silver Gate, Gardiner and Cooke City for the sole purpose of seeing wolves in the wild. I understand that Montana is discussing the wolf hunting quota in units 313 and 316. I believe that it would be beneficial to reduce the quota to a maximum of one wolf per unit. This would also help increase the tourism in and around Yellowstone NP, a key economic driver in these areas as I believe, based on personal discussions with tourists while I was in the park, seeing predators like wolves and grizzly bears are a major reason they visited the park.

The wolves from units 313 and 316 have been shown by the NPS and your Montana's Fish and Wildlife service (FWP) to be Yellowstone wolves, but they, like any wolf, will occasionally follow its found source outside the artificial park boundaries. Information from Senator Mike Phillips stated that of 37 Yellowstone wolves killed, 30 have come from just these two units. This is an excessive strain to these wolf populations.

Eliminating just two wolves a year from these units would not even significantly decrease the total wolf hunt, which in 2017 was approximately 254 wolves in Montana but it would help these units and the Yellowstone wolf population, specifically.

Data from the FWP also shows that the return of wolves to the area in 2011 has not reduced the elk available for hunt at all. Indeed, the data shows that in 2018 there were 5738 elk in unit 313, an increase of 76% over the 2011 numbers (3259). Also, hunters took more elk from both units 313 and 316 in 2018 than in 2011. Clearly, hunters aren't suffering from the presence of wolves.

In my case, personally, and I'm sure many others, it is the presence of predators like wolves and grizzly bear that draws me to the area.

Without them, I would have never visited Yellowstone or spent my hard earned dollars in the surrounding communities. Maintaining or increasing the wolfs should be considered the highest priority for economic gain.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope I may have gained your support.

Barbara Procter

1422 Promised Land Acres

Olean, NY 14760

39. **From:** Greg Gates <[ggates@towerglass.com](mailto:ggates@towerglass.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 12:48 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment reduction of wolf killing quotas in units 313 & 316

**I respectfully request that the Montana fish and wildlife commissioners reduce the quotas in unit 313 and unit 316 to one wolf per unit.**

Wolves have not reduced elk populations in units 313 & 316. As I'm sure you are aware, the elk population in Unit 313 not only has sustained a healthy population but has grown from 3,259 in 2011 to 5,738 in 2018 according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). That's over a 75% increase. Proving that wolf presence has not decreased elk populations in these units. This northern range herd as the national park service calls them, move in and out of Yellowstone park and into unit 313 and 316 with the change of the seasons, and the Yellowstone wolves follow this food source. Most of the wolves that move out of the park along with the elk move back into the park at the end of winter. These wolves spend 95% of their lives within the park boundaries according to radio collar data. These Yellowstone wolves are habituated to human contact in the park and don't understand boundaries. When they leave the park they are easy targets for hunters because they don't have the natural fear of humans that wolves outside the park learn. Killing these wolves can have a devastating effect on the entire pack and can even increase rather than decrease predation on cattle and domestic animals.

According to FWP near record elk harvests in 2018 topped the 2011 stats by 38% in unit 313 and a whopping 173% in unit 316 with the same number of wolves in these units. As shown by these numbers' hunters are not competing with wolves for their share of the elk harvest. There are plenty to go around.

Wolves support a healthy elk herd by removing the sick and elderly and keeping the herd on the move which in turn supports a healthy ecosystem. Using hunters on the other hand to help control and cull weakens the herd by taking out the largest and strongest animals. With diseases like CWD and brucellosis becoming an ever-growing problem for the elk populations and the cattle industry, wolves can help in reducing that risk by taking out these weakened animals from the herds.

It has been shown that ecotourism dollars coming into Yellowstone and the gateway areas surrounding it, are increasing every year. The amount of people coming to the Yellowstone area to see or photograph wildlife including wolves is constantly growing and the number of hunters wanting to kill them is steadily shrinking every year.

I'm one of the many frequent park visitors that come to Yellowstone and the surrounding areas to see, photograph, and experience wildlife in its natural habitat including elk, wolves, bears, bison and many other diverse species. I brought 2 people last year and 5 people with me this year. I have seen firsthand the changes that have occurred from the reintroduction of the grey wolf into these areas not only inside the park but outside the park and ask that you help to preserve this extraordinary ecological diversity

not just for the hunters, or the ranchers, but for the ever-growing population of wildlife watchers and future generations.

Respectfully

Greg Gates

Thank you for your consideration in this matter



Greg Gates

Wolf Education Project

Julian Ca.

619-719-6082

[ggateswolfeducationproject@gmail.com](mailto:ggateswolfeducationproject@gmail.com)