

2012 Montana Wolf Hunting Season Report



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

About the Wolf Season

- ❖ Seasons: Regular archery 9/1 – 10/14; Backcountry archery 9/1 – 9/14; General rifle 10/15 – 2/28; Backcountry rifle 9/15 – 2/28; Trapping 12/15 – 2/28.
- ❖ Hunters took 128 wolves and trappers took 97; only one wolf was harvested with archery equipment.
- ❖ Season modifications
 - Nov. 8, a new regulation to minimize non-target captures required a minimum 8 lb. trap pan tension in Regions 1 & 2.
 - Feb. 13, House Bill 73 becomes law and hunters permitted to purchase up to 3 wolf licenses.
- ❖ Wolf Management Unit harvests:

| WMU | Hunter | Trapper | Total |
|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 100 | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| 101 | 8 | 18 | 26 |
| 110 (quota 2) | 1 | | 1 |
| 121 | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 130 | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| 150 | 3 | | 3 |
| 200 | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| 210 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 250 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| 280 | 4 | | 4 |
| 290 | 5 | 12 | 17 |
| 310 | 19 | 3 | 22 |
| 316 (quota 3) | 2 | | 2 |
| 320 | 3 | | 3 |
| 330 | 5 | | 5 |
| 390 | 22 | 4 | 26 |
| 400 | 5 | 14 | 19 |
| Total | 128 | 97 | 225 |

Wolf Hunting

- ❖ 123 resident and 3 nonresident hunters harvested wolves.
- ❖ 31 percent of respondents hunted primarily for elk or deer.
 - 84 wolves taken during Archery/General; 76 percent opportunistically.
 - 141 wolves taken after Arch/Gen; 62 percent opportunistically.
- ❖ 46 percent of respondents hunted primarily for wolves.
 - 6.5 days avg. of hunting respondents
 - 17 days avg. of trapping respondents
- ❖ 45 percent of hunters used calls

- ❖ Number bagged:
 - 124 hunters took 1 wolf.
 - 2 hunters took 2 wolves.
 - No hunter took 3 wolves.
- ❖ 18,889 wolf licenses were issued (18,642 resident; 247 nonresident)
- ❖ Approximately 15% of resident deer and elk hunters purchased a wolf license.
- ❖ License cost: \$19 Resident; \$350/(\$50 after February 13) Non-Resident

Wolf Trapping

- ❖ 2,414 trappers completed the Wolf Trapper Education course and were certified to trap wolves in Montana; approximately 1,500 purchased a trapping license.
- ❖ 62 trappers took one wolf
- ❖ 13 trappers took 2 wolves
- ❖ 3 trappers took 3 wolves

Harvested Wolves

- ❖ 48% on federal land; 3% on state land; 37% on private land.
- ❖ Wolves were harvested from approximately 60 different packs.

Age & Sex

- ❖ Adult 123; 55 percent
- ❖ Juvenile 44; 20 percent
- ❖ Yearling 30; 13 percent
- ❖ Unknown 28; 12 percent
- ❖ 117 Females
- ❖ 108 Males

Avg. Weight

- ❖ Adult avg. 84 lbs.; max 120 lbs.
- ❖ Juvenile avg. 72 lbs.; max 100 lbs.

Color

- ❖ Black 53
- ❖ Gray 141
- ❖ Gray 141
- ❖ White 3
- ❖ Unknown 28

Reported Health

- ❖ 21 with one or combination of mange, worn or broken teeth, fleas, worms, gashes, injuries to paws or legs, and one with a bobbed tail.

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2012 Gray Wolf Hunting Season Harvest Locations

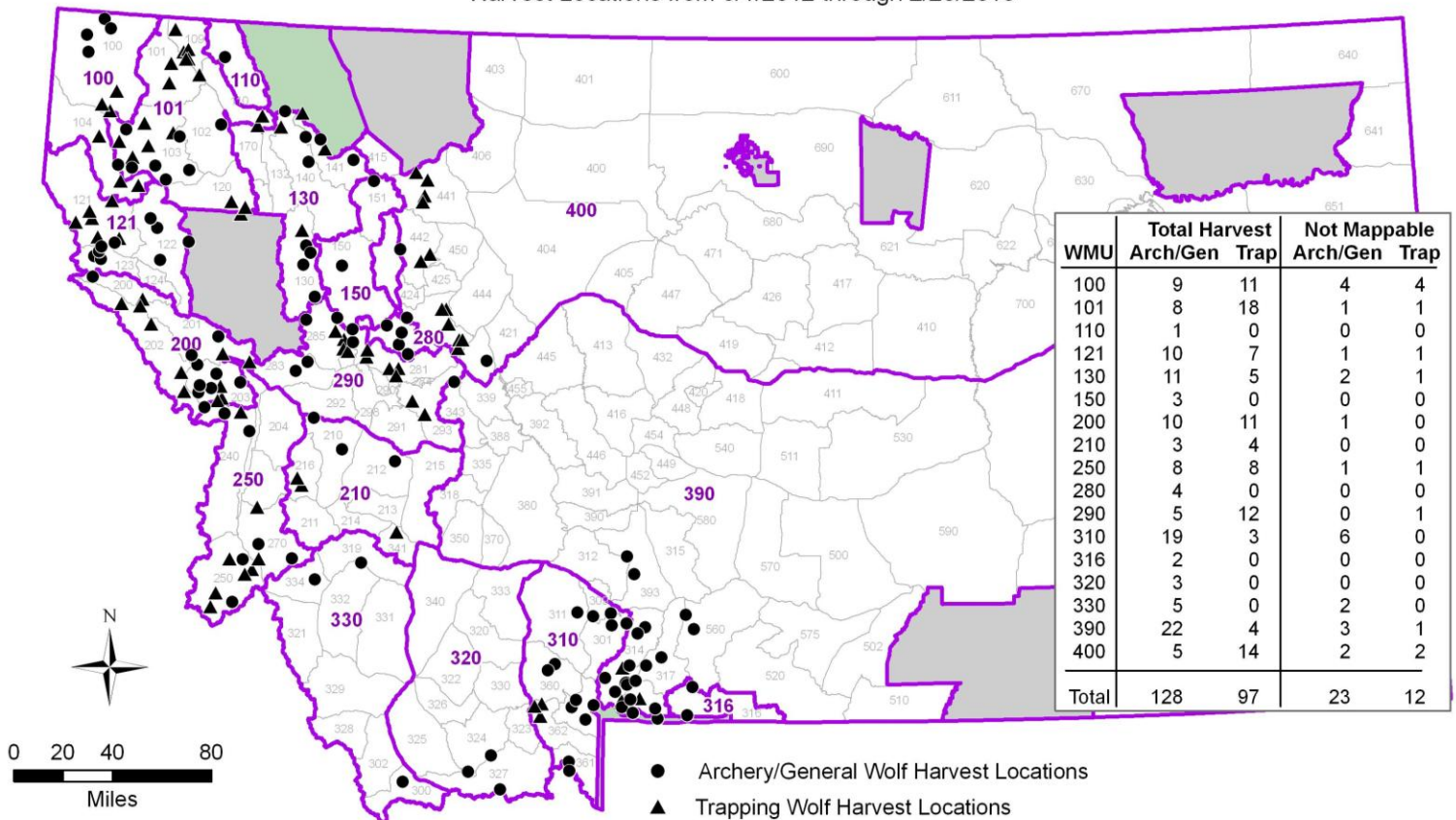
Of the statewide harvest, 84 percent came from:

The other counties include:

| County | Hunter | Trapper | Total |
|----------|--------|---------|-------|
| Lincoln | 14 | 24 | 38 |
| Park | 20 | 4 | 24 |
| Missoula | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Sanders | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| Flathead | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Gallatin | 17 | | 17 |
| L & C | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Ravalli | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Powell | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Mineral | 6 | 6 | 12 |

| County | Hunter | Trapper | Total |
|------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Lake | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Beaverhead | 7 | | 7 |
| Teton | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Madison | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Granite | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Jefferson | 1 | | 1 |
| Silver Bow | | 1 | 1 |
| Carbon | 1 | | 1 |
| Pondera | | 1 | 1 |
| Deer Lodge | 1 | | 1 |

Harvest Locations from 9/1/2012 through 2/28/2013



NOTE:
 - Some points have been moved up to 5 miles from actual harvest location for display purposes
 - Reflects harvests reported and checked as of 3/1/2013

● Archery/General Wolf Harvest Locations
 ▲ Trapping Wolf Harvest Locations
 □ Gray Wolf Management Units (WMU)
 □ 2012 Deer/Elk Hunting Districts

