

Gray Wolf Talking Points

Make YOUR Voice Heard!



There are several important points to keep in mind:

- FWS will want to HEAR and READ why you want wolves protected and restored. We encourage you to type out your oral testimony and submit the written copy to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the hearing. **Keep in mind that you'll have three minutes to make an oral statement, or 400-500 words.** *You can find additional, detailed information in our "What to Expect and How to Prepare" information sheet.*
- Please be civil in your comments. Comments that are overly emotional or threatening can be disregarded by officials (or worse, used to undermine our efforts to save wolves).
- Make your comments personal; you can use the talking points below to get started, but remember, it's critical to use your own voice to explain why it's important that wolves are protected.
- It is not necessary to use all these talking points in your testimony. In fact, if you used them all, you'd run out of time! We would encourage you to only use two or three to create the foundation of what you want to say. For example, if you live in CO or CA, you may want to focus your testimony on the fact that your state has excellent wolf habitat but no wolves.

Talking Points

- The Obama administration is **giving up on wolf recovery** before the job is done.

Habitat

- Wolves are not recovered in key parts of their range. Delisting could prevent the return of wolves to CA, CO and UT where there is **excellent habitat** and short-circuit recovery in the Pacific North West.
 - Colorado, for example, does not have a confirmed wolf presence yet, but possesses great wolf habitat. The federal government manages about 55% of the land in the state, including 9.5 million acres of roadless areas, and the state hosts an estimated 300,000 elk, or 30% of the nation's total elk population.

Ignoring the Endangered Species Act

- This proposal is a **fundamental shift** for conservation of imperiled species in the U.S.; their proposal uses the presence of gray wolves in Canada and Alaska and delisted populations in the lower-48 to argue that the species is not at risk globally and therefore doesn't warrant protection.
 - It's sad to see that on the ESA's 40th anniversary, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is abandoning the original intent of the act: to save the diverse wildlife in our country, even if the species is plentiful elsewhere. That intent led us to protect wolves, grizzly bears and bald eagles even though they were plentiful in Canada.
 - If we had previously put in place the policies that FWS is now using to delist the wolf, not only would we have not protected bald eagles or grizzly bears in the U.S., but we would not have achieved so many tremendous **recovery success stories**. Examples: wide-ranging species such as bald eagle, alligator and peregrine falcon.
 - By lowering the bar for endangered species recovery, FWS is setting a dangerous precedent that could impact conservation and recovery efforts across the country for other imperiled species.

Politics over Science

- FWS has a responsibility to manage wolves and other wildlife in a healthy and sustainable way so that future generations can enjoy the benefits of our rich wildlife heritage.
 - We've already seen what can happen in states when politics is allowed to trump science and core wildlife management principles.
 - Many states, like MT, WY and ID, where wolves have already been delisted, are not managing their wolves like other wildlife – instead their goal is to aggressively drive wolf population numbers down to the bare minimum required by law.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.defenders.org/savewolves>