

Benefits Of Wolves in Forest Ecosystems

Ultimately, wolves play an important ecological role in maintaining the health of a deer population. Their predatory role offers indirect protection of adequate deer habitat from over-browsing thus potentially encouraging greater biodiversity within the environment at some localized level.

Keeping Wild Wolves Wild

Tips to avoid having wolves coming into your backyard

- Secure garbage in animal proof containers
- Don't feed wildlife; wildlife can attract wolves
- Don't leave pet food outdoors
- Keep domestic livestock clean and secure
- Don't tie pets unsupervised overnight

References:

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- Langley, R. L. and W. E. Morrow. 1997. Deaths resulting from animal attacks in the United States. *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* 8:8-169.
- Linnell, J.D.C., et al. 2002. The fear of wolves: A review of wolf attacks on humans. *NINA Oppdragsmelding* 731:1-65.
- Michigan Dept of Nat. Res. 2012. The impacts of Wolves on Deer in the Upper Peninsula On Department of Natural Resources Website. [Http://www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

KBIC Status against Wolf hunting

A Resolution (KB-1902-2012) was passed by KBIC Tribal Council on November 1, 2012 (Appendix 1) to oppose House Bill 5834 and Senate Bill 1350 along with any changes that allows sport hunting and/or trapping of wolves in Michigan to preserve the ecological balance of predator-prey and protect the sanctity of Ma'iingan for the Anishinaabe.

In the event that legislation is enacted for a wolf hunt, KBIC designates the home territory of the 1842 Treaty as Wolf Sanctuary where sport hunting and/or trapping will not be allowed. In addition, KBIC will not provide Tribal wolf hunting permits to community members. These measures help to protect wolves and maintain a strong culturally based stance against the killing of wolves. KBIC Natural Resource Department will also participate in and maintain close communication with those involved in wolf monitoring and control of human-wolf conflicts. As funding allows, we intend to increase monitoring of wolves on and near the Reservation preferably with tracking of radio-collared wolves to keep tabs on any changing status of wolf packs.



All Wild animals should be respected...they have a natural tendency to protect themselves, to feed themselves and their young according to nature's law.



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Living with Brother Wolf In the U.P.

Ma'iingan



KBIC Natural Resources Department

***Wolves and the Ojibwa people
are "brothers in fate"***

- Earl Ojiingwaanigan

Cultural Significance of Wolves For the Ojibwa

KBIC Tribal community members have always been spiritually connected to the wolf. According to the Anishinaabe (Ojibwa First People) creation story, original man was the last creature that the Creator sent to earth. Original Man was sent his brother, Ma'iingan (Ojibwa name of the wolf) as a companion. They traveled together to visit and name all plants, animals, and places on earth. As they finished their journey, they were instructed by the Creator to walk their separate paths but that they would forever be linked to one another. They were to experience similar social pressure of being feared, respected and misunderstood. What happens to the Anishinaabe will happen to Ma'iingan by the people that would join them on earth (Benton-Banai 2010). Tribal elder Earl Ojiiingwaanigan speaks of the wolf as "brothers in fate" and that killing wolves will lead to a similar destructive fate for Ojibwa people. (Ojiiingwaanigan 2012).



The wolf remains protected within the KBIC Tribal Code under Endangered Species and Protected Animals Tribal Code 10.531. State legislation SB 1350 was recently signed by Governor Snyder so the status of the wolf is now that of a game species in MI. Hunting and trapping of wolves in MN and WI took place in 2012.

Wolf hunt seasons and regulations by State

	Hunting Season Date(s)	Trapping Season Date(s)	No. Wolves to be	Fees
MN	Nov. 3, 2012 to Jan. 31, 2012; will close earlier if harvest targets are reached – calls and meat bait allowed	Nov. 24, 2012 to Jan. 31, 2012; will close earlier if harvest targets are reached	Up to 400; using a lottery system of license applications	MN State Residents \$26 plus \$4 lottery fee; \$250 out of state license
WI	Oct. 15, 2012 to Feb. 28, 2013; scent bait and calls allowed; night hunting allowed starting Nov. 26	Oct. 15 to Feb, 28 2013	Up to 201; using lottery system of license applications (85 allotted to Tribes; 116 State)	WI St. Residents \$100; Out of State License \$500
MI	S.B. 1350 Signed by MI Governor on Dec. 28, 2012	N/A	Number undetermined, lottery system applicator	Proposed fees– Residents \$100; Out of State \$500 \$4 application fee

Common Misconceptions

- ***Wolves Kill without eating prey***

It may appear this way if wild deer killed by wolves are discovered partially eaten. However, wolves typically gorge themselves and then rest for 6-10 hours only to return later to finish feeding (Mech 2007).

- ***Wolves are a danger to people***

A lengthy report published by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (Linnell et al. 2002), documents that there were between twenty and thirty total wolf attacks of humans in North America in the past 100 years of the 20th century. Of these, three were fatal and due to rabies infected wolves. In comparison, they noted that at least 71 fatalities were caused by grizzly bears in the past 100 years in North America. Domestic dogs on the other hand, attack and kill on average 16-18 people in the United States every year (Langley and Morrow 1997, Avis 1999).

- ***Wolves kill too many deer***

Wolves kill approximately 4.8-8.3% of the total 270,000 deer (MI D.N.R. 2012). Human caused mortality to deer including hunting, auto collisions and wounding loss kills approximately 24% of the deer herd on an annual basis. Winter die offs can cause anywhere from 13-39% mortality depending on harshness of winter conditions (MI D.N.R. 2012).

- ***Wolves have no predators to control their population***

Man appears to be the most lethal predator against wolves. Illegal killing accounted for 41%. Adding collared wolf mortality caused by vehicle strikes, depredation control, and other human caused trauma, 65% of total collared wolf mortality was directly related to human-induced causes (Brian Roell, MI DNR personal communication).