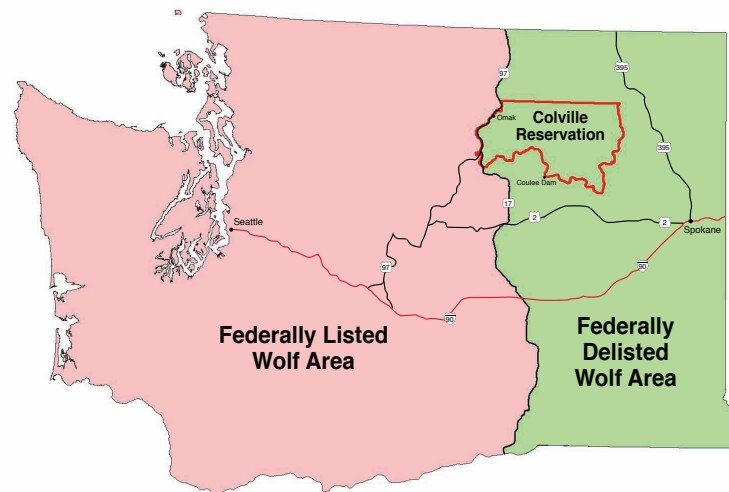




US Fish and Wildlife Service

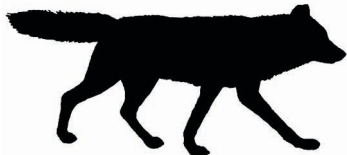
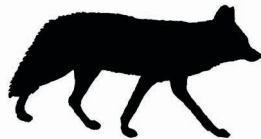
Federally Listed and Delisted Wolf Areas of Washington State



“Our cultural knowledge of the wolf and what they mean to us as Colville’s is yet to be defined because we have been without them for so long. It will be interesting to see how that relationship develops over time.”

– Randy Friedlander, CCT Wildlife Division Manager

The Gray Wolf is currently protected by Washington as an endangered species throughout the state and is federally listed as endangered in the western two-thirds of the state. According to law, a species can be removed from the endangered species list only when it no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The determination that the species has “recovered” must be based on scientific data and objective evidence. In May 2011, wolves in Idaho, Montana and parts of Oregon, Washington and Utah were delisted. In areas where wolves become federally delisted, tribes can develop their own management plans and regulations that may not be consistent with the state wolf plan.

	GRAY WOLVES	COYOTES	
LENGTH:	4.5 to 6.5 feet	3.6 to 4.4 feet	
HEIGHT: <i>(at the shoulder)</i>	26 to 32 inches	16 to 20 inches	
WEIGHT:	60 to 115 lbs	20 to 50 lbs	
COLOR:	buff tans grizzled with gray and black, but can also be black or white	gray or reddish brown with rusty legs, feet and ears, and whitish throat and belly	
EARS:	rounded, relatively short	pointed, relatively long	
MUZZLE:	large and blocky	petite and pointed	

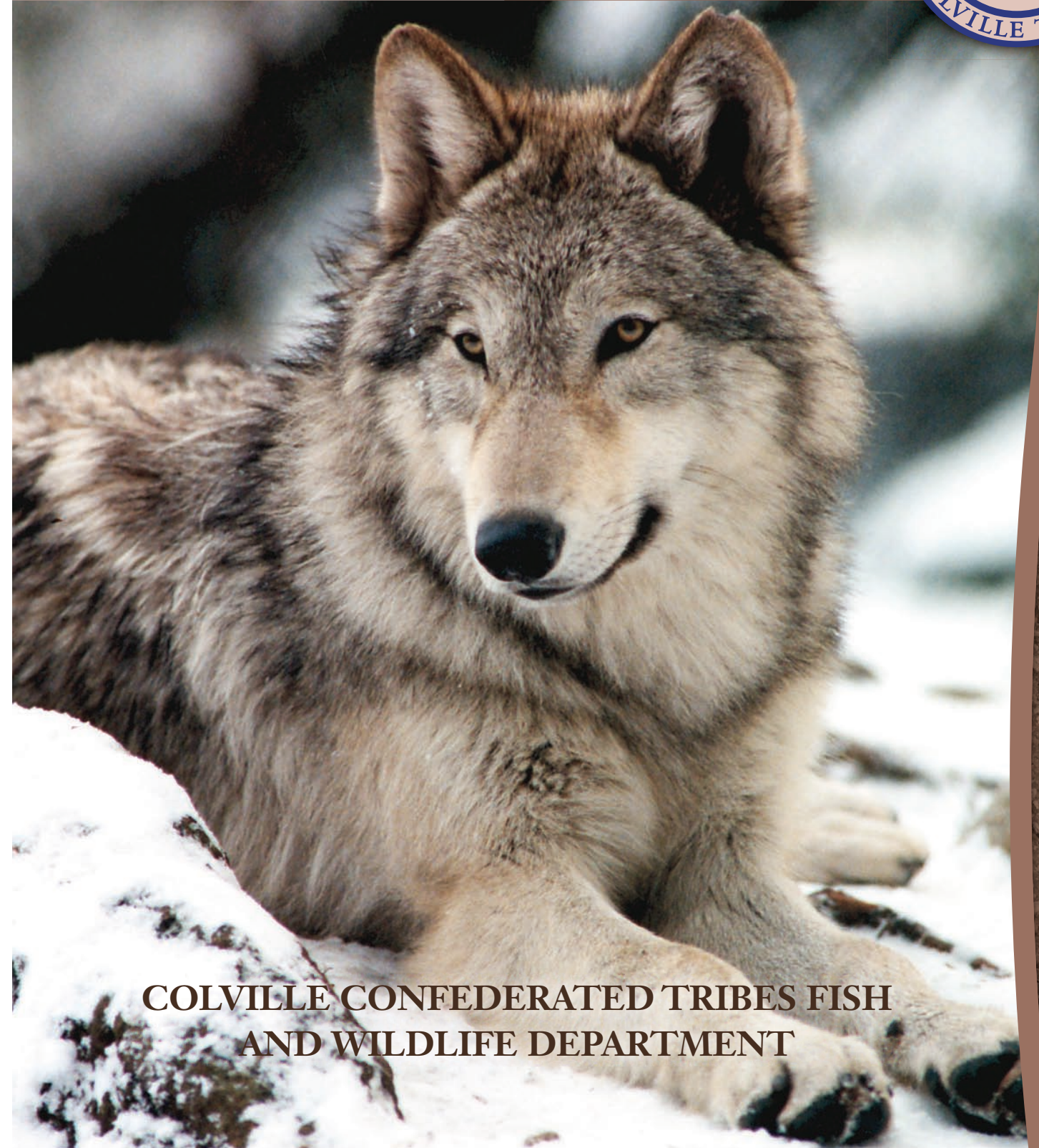


**Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation Fish & Wildlife Department**

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THE GRAY WOLF



**COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES FISH
AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**

THE FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT’S OVERALL GOAL

To maintain and protect viable populations of native and desired non-native species of fish and wildlife, and their supporting habitats, while providing sufficient numbers to meet the cultural, subsistence, recreational and economic needs of the tribal membership.



National Park Service

“This is an exciting time to be a wildlife biologist here on the Colville Reservation. We are witnessing the return of a top carnivore to the ecosystem. The presence of such a species will likely include new challenges for wildlife managers as well as the opportunity to help define the role gray wolves will play on the ecological landscape. As wildlife managers on the Colville Reservation, we are here to insure that the cultural values of all wildlife species are maintained to the fullest extent for the tribal membership.”

– Eric Krausz, CCT Wildlife Biologist

The Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus*) is the largest member of the canine family. It is an ice age survivor originating during the Late Pleistocene era, about 300,000 years ago. Wild gray wolves can thrive in a wide range of habitats such as mountains, plains, deserts and grasslands, which reflects their adaptability as a species. Though once abundant over much of Eurasia and North America, the gray wolf inhabits a very small portion of its former range because of widespread destruction of its territory, human encroachment of its habitat, and the resulting human-wolf encounters that sparked broad extirpation. Today, wolves are protected in some areas, hunted for sport in others, or may be subject to extermination as perceived threats to livestock and pets.



Julie Lawrence, Wolf Haven International



Julie Lawrence, Wolf Haven International

FACTS ABOUT GRAY WOLVES:



US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Historically, gray wolves were driven to near extinction in the lower 48 states, some populations survived and others have since been reintroduced in Yellowstone but not on the Colville Reservation. The most common cause of death for wolves is conflict with people over livestock losses.
- Gray wolves were originally listed as endangered throughout the U.S. in 1974 under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Wild gray wolves are not considered dangerous to humans; however they are intelligent, large and powerful animals that deserve respect.
- Gray wolves are social animals that live in nuclear families consisting of a mated pair, their offspring and occasionally, adopted immature wolves.
- A successful wolf breeding pair is defined as an adult male and female with at least two pups that survive until the end of the year. When a pair mates, they usually continue to be a pair until one of them dies.
- Mating season is from January to March, and a litter size can average four to six pups. Pups are born blind and defenseless and weigh about one pound. The pack cares for the pups until they mature at about 10 months of age. Most packs produce one litter annually.
- Wolves develop close relationships and strong social bonds. They often demonstrate deep affection for their family unit.
- Wolves travel and hunt in packs. Packs include the mother and father wolves, their pups and several other subordinate or young animals. The dominant female and male are the pack leaders that track and hunt prey, choose den sites and establish the pack’s territory. Their home can range from 50 to 700 square miles.

“My dad had four wolf skins, a black, grey, white and red one, and they were used as spiritual medicine during the winter dances. When I was a child, I used to ride horseback with my dad and sometimes we would see wolves, and they would never attack us. Our people lived in harmony with the wildlife, I don’t believe in shooting them, they were here long before cattle or anything else.”

– Barbara Aripa, Colville Tribal Elder

- They can run up to 40 miles per hour for short periods of time.
- Wolves may live up to 13 years in the wild and 15 years in captivity. They can grow from 4.5 to 6.5 feet from nose to tip of tail, and weigh approximately 60 to 115 pounds (in Alaska they can reach 145 pounds), males are typically heavier and taller than females. Their muzzles are large and blocky. They have thick fur to help them survive in a variety of climates and shed their coats in the summer time when the temperatures are warmer.
- The webbing between each toe allows them to move easily regardless of the type of terrain they are on. They have very large feet so they are able to shift how their weight is distributed, which helps them when they are walking on snow so they don’t sink.
- Experts believe that the wolf helps to bring order and balance to the ecosystems that they are a part of. Wolves have been known to promote herd health by hunting the old, weak, sick and less fortunate. They primarily feed on ungulates or hoofed animals like elk, deer, moose and caribou. Two wolves are capable of bringing down a large deer or elk. They are opportunistic feeders and will eat beaver, rabbits, birds, fish and other small prey. They are also scavengers and often eat animals that have died. A wolf needs three to five pounds of meat a day to survive.
- Wolves communicate through barks, whines, growls and howls, and use a variety of non-verbal forms of communication within their pack. They can be aggressive towards other wolf packs, howling to inform them not to come into their territory.
- They will mark their territory with urine and scents, they will roll around on the ground and rub against trees to release their scent.



Doug Smith, National Park Service