

Groups File Promise to Challenge Idaho's New Harmful Wolf Hunting Laws

New laws propose substantial risks to federally protected Lynx, Grizzly Bears

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[Legal document](#)

BOISE, ID —

Citing risk to federally protected species, yesterday ten groups filed a [notice of intent to sue the state of Idaho in response to the state's newest wolf hunting laws](#).

The laws, which call for the [killing of 90% of the current gray wolf population](#), allow for year-round untargeted methods of hunting, trapping, and snaring, with hunters and trappers allowed to kill an unlimited number of wolves on a single tag. The state's authorization of an unlimited season and expanded methods of killing wolves is likely to cause incidental trapping and snaring of federally protected lynx and grizzly bears.

Earthjustice sent the notice on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity, Footloose Montana, Friends of the Clearwater, International Wildlife Coexistence Network, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, Sierra Club, Trap Free Montana Public Lands, Western Watersheds Project, Wilderness Watch, and Wolves of the Rockies.

“The Idaho Legislature’s latest assault on wolves introduces a new killing paradigm not seen since the 19th century,” said **Ben Scrimshaw, Earthjustice attorney**. “We know that traps and snares frequently capture, injure, and kill non-target animals. Flooding known lynx and grizzly habitat with yet more trapping activity will result in significant collateral damage to these federally protected species.”

“I and many Nez Perce Tribal members are against the State of Idaho's wolf slaughter plan,” said **Julian Matthews of Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment**. “We and many other tribal members feel that wolves are an important and critical piece in the ecosystem and attempts to appease ranchers and other groups in Idaho are abhorrent to us.”

“Idaho’s expansion of strangulation snares and other traps is an outrageous attack on the wolf population, but many other imperiled animals will also die,” said **Andrea Zaccardi, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity**. “These unjustifiable laws threaten to kill various species of native wildlife, including federally protected grizzly bears and Canada lynxes.”

“In reality there is no such thing as wolf trapping. Traps and snares are indiscriminate. With the liberalized trapping of wolves, there will be far more than wolves trapped, injured, and killed.” said **KC York of Trap Free Montana**.

“Idaho is one of the key states where imperiled wildlife is afforded refuge from the pressures of our modern world,” said **Suzanne Asha Stone, Idahoan and director of the International Wildlife Coexistence Network**. “Allowing reckless killing of these species in their habitat on our national forests goes against everything that most Idahoans and the American people value on our public lands.”

“Idaho’s outdated plans for wolf killing will inevitably harm other native wildlife species. It’s unacceptable to allow imperiled species to be ‘collateral damage’ in Idaho’s war on wolves,” said **Patrick Kelly, Idaho director of Western Watersheds Project**.

“Grizzlies are returning to their former home in places like the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and North Fork Clearwater,” said **Gary Macfarlane of Friends of the Clearwater**. “Idaho’s abhorrent war on wolves could kill grizzlies too and prevent their recovery in some of the best habitat anywhere.”

“Idaho’s war on wolves is also a war on Wilderness,” said **George Nickas, executive director of Wilderness Watch**. “The Forest Service has an obligation to the American public to step up and defend these special places and the wildlife that lives there.”

“Idaho continues to lead the nation in the mismanagement of the public’s wildlife. Incidental killing and flagrant disregard of wolves, lynx, and grizzly bear wellbeing is reprehensible,” said **Marc Cooke of Wolves of the Rockies**.

“Idaho’s unwarranted, extreme new laws aimed at annihilating the wolf population will not only injure and kill countless wolves but also threatened species including lynx and grizzly bears,” said **Bonnie Rice, Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club**. “Idaho is key to full recovery of grizzlies including in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The state’s war on wolves also threatens the return of grizzlies and the overall biodiversity of the region in the midst of an extinction crisis.”

“The time has come to end our Governor’s War on Wildlife, this lawsuit is designed to stop the madness that comes from his cruel and blatant assault and efforts to privatize all wildlife,” said **Stephen Capra of Footloose Montana**. “We will stop him.”

Idaho now has 60 days to respond. Just last month, Earthjustice filed a [Notice of Intent in the State of Montana in response to their new wolf hunting laws](#) as well.