

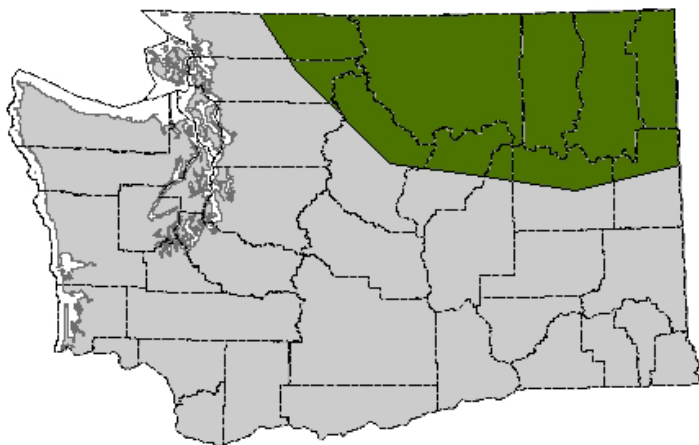
Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
www.fws.gov



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, *The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSPACE.*
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The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit www.wdfw.wa.org or www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, or www.natureserve.org.



Species: Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

Group: Mammal

Natural Heritage Rank: G4, S1

Legal Status: Federally Endangered, State Endangered

General Description

This species is the largest of the Canids (wild dogs) and can be twice the size of a coyote. Adults are up to 6 feet in length from nose to tail tip and weigh 60 pounds or more. Their coloring is generally gray to gray-brown with dark markings around the eyes. Wolves generally live in packs and pups are born in the spring and cared for by the entire group. Howling allows pack members to contact each other and serves as a territorial declaration between packs. This species is known for pack hunting large animals such as moose and elk but their diet includes all sizes of animals.

Habitat

This species has a very large home range and historically wolves occurred in most habitat types in Washington. Currently, wolves are recolonizing into more remote forested habitats in northern Washington from Canada.

Range in Washington

This species was extirpated in Washington in the early 1900s. Wolves now exist in the northern Cascades and northeastern Washington.

Threats

The primary threat to this species is persecution by humans and encroachment into remote habitat.