



## WYOMING WOLF LAWSUIT FACTSHEET

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**MYTH:** Wolves are devastating Wyoming's livestock industry.

**REALITY:**

- From 1995, when wolves were reintroduced, through 2003, wolves have killed a total of 84 cattle and 129 sheep in the entire state of Wyoming. *Source:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2003 Annual Report, <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov/annualrpt03>
  - Less than 1% (0.7%) of sheep mortality statewide is attributable to wolves. More sheep die from overeating (2%), poisoning (4%), eagles (6.9%), lambing (10%), weather (10.2%), disease (6%), and other predators (50.6%). *Source:* USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wy>
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**MYTH:** Wolves are decimating Wyoming's elk population.

**REALITY:**

- The state of Wyoming continues to manage for a *reduction* in Wyoming's elk population. The population is currently estimated at 92,293 elk — 8,808 more elk than the state's population objective. *Source:* Wyoming Game & Fish Department, 2004 Annual Report.
  - The number of elk licenses sold (~60,000) and the hunter success rate (40%) have remained stable over the last six years. *Source:* Wyoming Game & Fish Department, 2004 Annual Report.
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**MYTH:** Wyoming Game & Fish revenues are dropping precipitously.

**REALITY:** Wyoming Department of Game & Fish revenues have steadily increased from \$33.4 million in 1999 to \$41.5 million in 2004. In fact, elk license revenues were up by more than \$1 million this year. *Source:* Kathy Frank, Wyoming Game & Fish Department (personal comm.): Wyoming Game & Fish Department, 2004 Annual Report.

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**MYTH:** Wolves are destroying Wyoming's tourism industry.

**REALITY:** Since 1997, total spending on Wyoming tourism, tourism revenues, and the numbers of people employed in the industry have all increased (by 30%, 35%, and 9% respectively).

*Source:* Wyoming Business Council, Wyoming Travel Industry 2003 Impact Report - [http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/tourism/2003\\_impact\\_report.pdf](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/tourism/2003_impact_report.pdf)

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**MYTH:** Wolves are decreasing the State of Wyoming's revenue base.

**REALITY:** Revenue to Wyoming's general fund has grown from \$890 million when wolves were reintroduced to \$1.37 billion today. *Source:* State of Wyoming, Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, Wyoming State Government Revenue Forecast Fiscal Year 2005 – Fiscal Year 2010.