

LOBO WATCH

Northern Rockies Wolf Facts

*According to Robert H. Busch, author of "***The Wolf Almanac***", the native wolf of the Northern Rockies of the United States, commonly referred to as the "timber wolf" was the subspecies "*Canis lupus irremotus*".

*At maturity, an adult male *irremotus* would top out at a weight of 90 to 100 pounds.

*The wolves that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wrongly dumped back into the Northern Rockies primarily came from three different regions of Northern Canada - "*Canis lupus columbianus*", from northern British Columbia, the Yukon and northern Alberta; "*Canis lupus occidentalis*", a.k.a. the Mackenzie Valley Wolf, from western Canada; and "*Canis lupus griseoalbus*", from northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

*These are entirely different subspecies than the *irremotus* wolf that was native to the Northern Rockies - *columbianus*, *occidentalis* and *griseoablus* are all much larger wolves, with adult males regularly topping out at 140 to 150 pounds, with some specimens surpassing 160 pounds.

*None of the three Canadian subspecies are native to Montana, Idaho or Wyoming, nor are they endangered in their home ranges. What USFWS introduced (***they were not reintroduced***) is an invasive species. A wolf that is much larger than the native wolf of the Northern Rocky Mountains of Montana.

*These larger wolves require more wildlife and livestock to keep fed. Each consumes between 22 and 28 elk, deer, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and cattle/sheep/other livestock annually, accounting for the loss of between 30,000 to 50,000 animals in the Northern Rockies every year. (And that's not including what they kill for sport.)

*Many residents of Montana and Idaho claimed there were several small pockets of the native "timber wolf" (*Canis lupus irremotus*) still in a couple of wilderness areas prior to USFWS dumping non-native wolves back into the Northern Rockies ecosystem. If that can be proven, and shown that those native wolves are now gone due to invasion by a much larger wolf, then the USFWS has violated the Endangered Species Act.

*In 1992, at the North American Wolf Symposium, it was ***suggested*** that wolves of North America be reclassified into just five subspecies groups...

- **occidentalis* - Wolves in most of Alaska and Canada
- **nubilus* - Wolves in most of the western U.S., southeastern Alaska, central & northeastern Canada
- **lycaon* - Wolves of southeastern Canada and northeastern U.S.
- **arctos* - Wolves of most Canadian Arctic Islands & Greenland
- **balleyi* - wolves of Mexico and extreme southeaster U.S.

*Even if such had been adopted, the *irremotus* subspecies (listed in the *nubilus* group) would have been reclassified in an entirely different group than *columbianus*, *occidentalis* and *griseoalbus* (listed in the *occidentalis* group). Wolf scientists attending the 1992 Wolf Symposium had the common sense to recognize that these three giant Canadian wolves were not the same as the wolf native to the U.S. Northern Rockies.

*Prior to the release of the first wolves into Yellowstone in 1995, USFWS manipulated wolf science and took it upon themselves to reclassify all "*Canis lupus*" as "*gray wolves*" - out of convenience rather than a scientific correction.

*Congress denied USFWS funding for the Northern Rockies "wolf Recovery Project" - So USFWS stole the money from the Pitman-Robertson funds collected as excise taxes on arms, ammo, hunt & fishing equipment...that was supposed to be used exclusively for wildlife habitat and fisheries improvement.

*"Wolf Recovery Project" coordinator Ed Bangs brought Canadian wolves illegally into Montana, Wyoming & Idaho - and did not file the mandatory Form 3-177 that required listing the species/subspecies, number of wolves imported, and the cost of the project. (That eliminated the paper trail that would have revealed the true number of wolves, that is was the wrong wolf being transplanted, and where those stolen Pitman-Robertson monies were spent.

*USFWS is in violation of the Endangered Species Act - and it is time for that agency to remove, or bear the expense of removing, this invasive species - which just may be responsible for the extinction of the native "timber wolf" in Montana.

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