

# Wolves & Human Safety

*With limited habitat and expanding wolf and human populations, conflicts are inevitable.*

**Grizzlies, black bears, and mountain lions are known to attack and kill humans. Coyotes and domestic dogs also attack people. Wolves, too, are a threat to human safety.**

“Until the early 1970’s the wolf was considered a predator and dangerous to people, as well as livestock. However, the table was slowly turning, and a new wave of research swarmed public opinion. The message was, “The wolf is not dangerous to humans,” and this hypothesis became a political dogma from which a new religion sprang, a lethal religion based on scientific phrases taken out of context, and so the myth of the “harmless” wolf reached extraordinary proportions. Now environmentalists teach children that it is safe to pet a wild wolf.”

*(The Gray Wolf Revealed - Kaj Granlund and Will Graves)*



“As with mountain lions and bears, when we see wild animals approaching people, there is concern for human safety. We don’t like to have to kill wildlife, but sometimes we don’t have any other choice,” said Mark Deleray, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional supervisor in Bozeman. “We are not there yet with these wolves – although they have been in and around town. We will continue to assess the situation, do our best to track current wolf behavior, and base our future actions on that assessment.” *(RMEF Elk Network – Wolves Wandering Streets of Montana Towns – January 21, 2019)*

“Dick Thiel of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources makes a good case that the development and spread of human-habituated wolves can be traced back to learned behavior passed from one wolf generation to the next. Thiel developed a list of behavioral indications associated with certain wolf packs in Wisconsin, including:

1. Wolves refusing to move out of the way of oncoming vehicles
2. Wolves laying in the open on roads and roadways
3. Wolves walking through or bedding down in residential areas
4. Wolves establishing rendezvous sites within regular visual range of humans
5. Wolves approaching occupied vehicles
6. Wolves approaching people on foot

Thiel documented that the offspring of litters of wolf pups raised near humans transmit habituation behaviors to their offspring.

*(When Man Becomes Prey: Fatal Encounters with North America’s Most Feared Predators - Cat Urbigkit)*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT COLVILLE, WASHINGTON**

Recent citizen reports of wolf activity indicate that several packs have come very close to homes in several areas of Stevens County. These reports have been confirmed by our Sheriff Wildlife Specialist. While there are no reports of any dangerous activity or threatening behavior to persons an abundance of caution makes it prudent to raise the awareness for those people especially in the Orin Rice, Seigel Hill Road, Mingo Mountain, Valley Westside and Crystal Falls areas.

To all of our residents, please be aware and be cautious regarding outside pets, livestock and feed that may be a predator attractant.

Respectfully,  
Stevens County Board of County Commissioners

*(Stevens County Sheriff's Office Facebook page - Jan. 8, 2019)*



## **KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

We live in wolf and bear country, and these animals may pass through our neighborhoods and recreation areas at any time. This is not something to be alarmed about. If, however, there are repeated sightings of wolves or they are showing unusual behavior such as attacking dogs, approaching homes, or showing lack of fear, then follow these sensible precautions:

- Keep your children close when wolves or bears are known to be near your home.
- Children (particularly small children) should remain close to adults when outside. The probability of a predatory attack by a wolf on a child is very small, but the possibility is highest for children that are alone near concealing vegetation or terrain.
- When camping in wilderness areas travel as a group keeping children comfortably close. Do not leave children alone in camps, even when car camping in established campgrounds, parks, or recreation areas.
- Although thousands of Alaskan children wait in the dark at bus stops, or walk to school in towns and villages without incident, it is appropriate for school bus stops and children to be supervised by an adult when bears or wolves have been sighted nearby.
- Noise makers (such as air horns) may be helpful and should be placed in handy locations if you live in an area that is frequented by wolves or bears.

*(Staying Safe in Wolf Country - Alaska Department of Fish & Game)*

***Colorado Wool Growers Association***

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