



Senate Bill SB 314
An Act Revising Laws Related to the Harvest of Wolves
Sen. Bob Brown (R)

February 25, 2021

Chairmen Hinebauch, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

Senate Bill 314 is nothing more than a declaration of war on Yellowstone and Montana wolves. It will virtual assure the wolf, and grizzly bear management in Montana will be entrusted to the Federal Government. This will not happen overnight but assuredly will commence sooner rather than later.

Senate Bill 314 mandates the killing of almost 900 Montana wolves immediately. When you take into account the use of snares, spotlights, night vision optics, traps, rifles, arrows, baiting, and year-round pressure from the hunting and trapping community, it will succeed, and the current population ceiling will become the minimum floor population of 150 wolves.

This irrational eradication of wolves will not go unnoticed by fellow tourists, Americans, and international tourists that want to visit Montana, Yellowstone, Glacier National Park, and everywhere in between. Many of the Tourists that come to Montana do so to see wolves, bears, and bison. Make no mistake, there will be a lag time prior to this decline, but it will occur.

SB 314 Will Lead To:

1. Negative revenue impact on Montana tourism.
2. The will lead to the wide spread use of poisoning.
3. Increase the conflict between the non-consumptive and consumptive Montanan.
4. Undermine Montanans faith in MtFWP and the Public Trust doctrine.
5. Jeopardize delisting of Grizzly bear.
6. Encourage unethical hunting and trapping behavior.
7. Increase likelihood of future wolves and wildlife litigation.

Montana human population dynamics are changing. Today wolves have a social value and aren't seen as a plague on the Montana landscape. Hunter recruitment and revenue are declining, and the wildlife watching community is increasing rapidly. It would be a positive, proactive measure to acknowledge this and establish a mechanism to tap into this sustainable revenue stream. The killing of wolves will disrupt and impede this possibility for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.



Change is coming to Montana every day as individuals from other states relocate here. With this change, we will experience an alternative value placed on wolves and other wildlife. It would behoove the consumptive community to embrace that change and find common ground sooner rather than later with the non-consumptive community.

As of this moment, Montana has killed 336 wolves in the 2020-21 hunting and trapping season. Wolves of the Rockies questions the accuracy of POM and POMI wolf population numbers. More wolves are being killed each year, not because wolf population continues to increase but instead because Montana hunters and trappers are becoming more effective at killing wolves. This kill number does not take into account the amount of wolves that are killed under SB 200, illegal poaching, Wildlife Service control actions, natural mortality, and other human-caused mortality.

On behalf of our 185,000 supporters and followers, **we strongly encourage you not to support** this road map to federal re-listing of Montana wolves.

SB 314 is bad for Montana!

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Cooke
President
Wolves of the Rockies
Stevensville, Montana