



# SIERRA CLUB

## MONTANA CHAPTER

## Oppose Efforts to Decimate Montana's Wolf Population

SB 314 would reduce the wolf population to just 15 breeding pairs

SB 267 would put a bounty on wolves by reimbursing hunters and trappers for killing wolves

### OPPOSE SB 314 (Senator Bob Brown)

- This is the worst bill targeting wolves we've seen this session, and that's saying a lot - considering the bills to allow wolf snaring, an extended wolf hunting and trapping season, and others.
- SB 314 would require the state Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish hunting and trapping seasons with the intent to reduce the wolf population to just 15 breeding pairs. Montana's wolf population is currently estimated at approximately 830 wolves. **If this bill passes, it would reduce the wolf population from 830 to approximately 150 wolves.**
- SB 314 also allows **unlimited killing of wolves by a single license holder** in some areas of Montana. The current limit is five wolves per hunter/trapper. It also allows **baiting** of wolves.
- SB 314 also **allows wolves to be hunted at night** using artificial lights and other means, which has never been allowed before and is not fair chase.

### OPPOSE SB 267 (Senator Bob Brown)

- SB 267 essentially puts a bounty on wolves, because it would reimburse hunters and trappers for any costs incurred in killing wolves.
- This bill would reimburse individuals for their expenses for killing wolves and incentivize the killing of more wolves, when hundreds are killed already every year.
- Reimbursing wolf killers for their expenses would set a terrible precedent of paying for killing wildlife. It's unconscionable for even one species, but where does it stop if we start paying hunters and trappers for their expenses to kill wildlife?

It's important to keep in mind that hundreds of wolves are already intentionally killed every year in Montana by hunters and trappers, and dozens more are killed by USDA's Wildlife Services. In 2019, 298 wolves were killed by trappers and hunters, with another 59 killed over conflicts with livestock. Montana already has a very liberal wolf hunting and trapping season. According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the state's wolf population has stabilized, livestock conflicts have declined in the last decade, and in many areas of the state, elk and deer populations are over objective, yet some legislators still scapegoat wolves and are trying to decimate Montana's wolf population. Wolves play an important role in ensuring ecosystems remain in balance, and they also are key to reducing the spread of wildlife diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease. SB 314 and SB 267, in combination with other bills targeting wolves sponsored in the House by Rep. Paul Fielder, are a wholesale attack on Montana's majestic wolves. Bill sponsors are not looking at the impacts of all of these bills together and the devastation it would wreak on Montana's wolves.

Both of these bills have passed the Senate. Check out our [citizen lobbying resources](#) for more information on how to contact your Representatives .

For more information about our legislative work to protect wildlife, contact Bonnie Rice at [bonnie.rice@sierraclub.org](mailto:bonnie.rice@sierraclub.org).