

Yellowstone is in Danger!

In the 1800's, when people expanded west through the United States, they set up their homes in wolf territory. The wolves terrorized people and ate their livestock. As a result, wolves were hunted to extinction in 1930. Now the government is trying to bring back wolves to Yellowstone National Park. There are countless reasons why this reckless idea will cause more harm than good! The wolves were extinct for a reason.

Scientists began reintroducing the wolf in 1994. These scientists, or wolf huggers, claim that since the wolf was reintroduced, the park has been saved. They say wolves have solved the elk over population problem by preying on the elk herds. Since the elk herds have declined, the meadows have re-grown. With the meadows growing, the songbirds now have their habitat back. Which in turn led to the beaver population increasing. It all seems logical, but the wolf huggers are stretching the truth. If you take a close look at the hard scientific facts, you will find the wolf did not have anything to do with saving the park. You will find the opposite to be true—that Yellowstone Park is in serious danger.

First of all, the wolf is not responsible for the decline in the elk population like the wolf huggers say. Yellowstone has experienced a severe ongoing drought that has killed many elk. In addition, the cutthroat trout has been lost as a food source to the grizzly bear. Without trout, the grizzly bear has turned to eating elk. The park has also allowed more hunting of elk. So really drought, bears, and hunting are responsible for the decline in the elk population.

If we dig deeper into the idea of a wolf hunting elk, we see how impractical this idea is. Elk are much bigger than wolves. They can kick if they are threatened! The wolf is not going to choose to eat an elk. The wolf is going to go after much smaller, easier prey like coyotes or rabbits. Hunting elk takes too much energy.

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Scientists love to attribute the return of the willow to the reintroduction of wolves. Willow and aspen trees had almost vanished from the park until the wolves returned. The beaver and elk originally competed for the willow as a food source. The elk won. That is something that happened in nature, we should not interfere with nature. Messing with nature in this way is very dangerous.

The government is lying to the public. A more likely reason for reintroducing wolves is to distract from the more serious environmental threats like natural gas drilling. When the government allows natural gas drilling inside of Yellowstone Park, the environmental consequences are great; but the government sees money there. Therefore, they distract the public with the wolf issue so they can make money on natural gas without anyone noticing! As you can clearly see, the return of the butterflies and beaver to Yellowstone really should be attributed to the grizzly bear, severe drought, and human hunting. The wolf huggers and government officials would like you to think it is because of the wolf. That is just not true.

Another major issue is that the return of the wolf to Yellowstone Park is unlawful. It actually goes against the constitution! For example, in the state of Idaho, the federal government forced it on them. Idaho did not vote to allow the wolves into Yellowstone. The Idaho state legislature's official position on wolves is the "removal of all wolves by any means necessary." The federal government took away Idaho's power and pushed the wolves on them. Then, in 2009, after Idaho's wolf population reached over 900 wolves, they removed federal funding and turned it over to Idaho. Idaho has to pay for the wolf management without any support from the federal government! By law, Idaho only has to protect 100-150 wolves. Therefore, they will only protect 100-150 wolves. The other 700 or so wolves will be hunted and killed. What a waste of taxpayer money! Shouldn't the government of Idaho be allowed to make the decision about whether or not to have wolves in their part of Yellowstone Park? The government spent millions of dollars just to see it go to waste.

One of the most harmful consequences of wolf reintroduction is that wolves are causing havoc on farmer's ranches. They are killing farmer's livestock animals. They attack cows and any other livestock on their land. This causes stress on cattle. The cattle are spending more time looking for danger than eating. This is causing low calf weight. Farmers are experiencing an average loss of almost \$7,000 a year! On top of this expense is the precautions farmers now have to take. For example, farmers have to hire cowboys to ride with their cattle like in the old west days. The cowboys have to keep the herd on the move and away from wolf dens. The cattle are constantly moving and stressed out. This added expense takes away more money from the farmer's profits. If it continues, it could be too expensive to raise cattle. The price of meat will rise. Ranchers

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will quit raising cattle if they can't make a good profit. Then we will see food shortages. Reintroducing the wolf is going to cause people to starve to death!

The most scary reason wolves should not have been reintroduced is they are an anthropomorphic species; that is, cruel, vicious, and heartless killers. They have no valuable role in the ecosystem. They just kill to kill, not for food. In 2003 alone, wolves killed 500 sheep in Montana. They did not eat all 500 sheep! There was even a story about 150 sheep chased over a cliff by a wolf pack. The sheep piled up and died at the bottom of the cliff! This was just for fun- the wolves did not need 150 sheep to eat. These wolves are an apex predator. An apex predator is an animal that is at the top of the food chain. They are a constant threat to people because they do not have another animal that preys on them. There is a reason that the wolf is the bad guy in popular stories like The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. In the 1800's those stories saved lives. Little kids needed to know and understand that the wolf is an animal to be feared and avoided at all costs. It's only a matter of time before the wolves are going to harm children.

In June of 2012, a man was hiking in Yellowstone Park and he encountered an aggressive wolf. He sprayed it with pepper spray and jumped in the river to get away. Another man in Northern Saskatchewan was attacked and killed by wolves. His name was Kenton Carnegie and he was a 22-year-old experienced hiker. He is the first human killed by a wolf in North America. This shows that wolves are no longer afraid of humans. The wolves have no predators, and hunting of wolves is almost forbidden, so it will not be long before their numbers are out of control. The more wolves there are the more human attacks we will see.

The government did not need to reintroduce the wolf to Yellowstone Park. Before the program began, there were numerous wolf sightings in the park. The numbers were already high enough to keep the wolf from extinction. This was a huge unnecessary cost to the taxpayer. It costs \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 to reintroduce just one wolf! It is expensive to catch a wolf, acclimate it to its new environment, and monitor the wolf after its release. Then, there is the added cost of compensating nearby ranchers who lose sheep due to wolf attacks. Fourteen wolves were initially released into the park. That cost the taxpayer at least 14 million dollars! This money could have been spent on more essential items than releasing wolves into a park that already had wolves.

This reckless idea will have catastrophic consequences in the years to come.

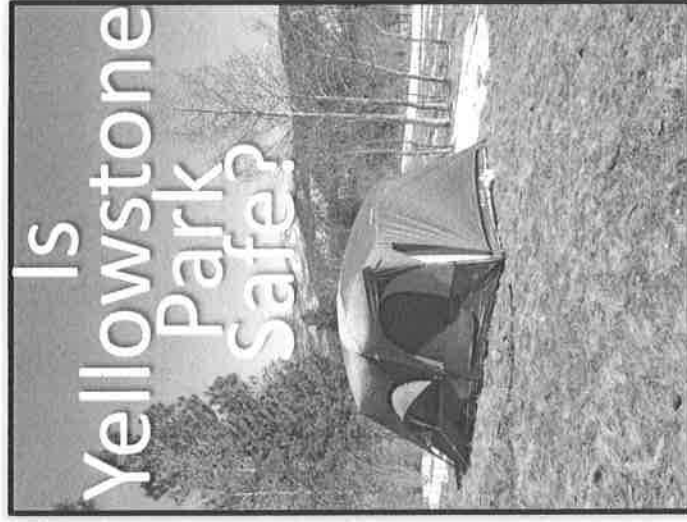


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