

# Wolves in Oregon are protected

Gray wolves are considered endangered by the state and protected by law throughout Oregon. (West of Hwy 395-78-95, wolves are also on the federal Endangered Species List.) It is unlawful to shoot wolves or to harm them in any way, except in defense of human life.

Hunters that see wolves or wolf sign are encouraged to report observations by using the online reporting system on ODFW's wolf web site ([dfw.state.or.us/wolves](http://dfw.state.or.us/wolves))

## WOLF SIGN

Dog, coyote, and cougar paw prints can be mistaken for wolf tracks. Adult wolf prints are much larger than dog and coyote prints. See graphic.

Wolf scat varies widely, depending on diet. Wolf scat is often cord-like and may contain hair and bone fragments. Wolf scat diameter ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 inches, but is usually greater than an inch. Wolf scat generally tapers to a point at one end.

The howls of wolves tend to be long and drawn-out as compared with the shorter, higher-pitched yapping sounds made by coyotes. Howling is a normal part of wolf communication and does not indicate

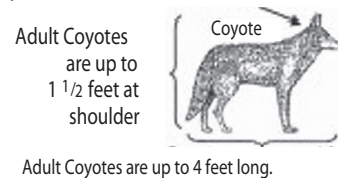
## Identification characteristics of wolves and coyotes:

Remember, wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall can closely resemble coyotes, and it can be difficult to tell them apart. While hunting coyote in wolf country, you should not shoot unless you are sure of your target.

### COYOTES:

- Weight: 15-30 Pounds
- Shoulder Height: 1 1/2 Feet
- Snout/Muzzle: Long and Pointed
- Ears: Long and Pointed

Taller, pointed ears; narrow pointed face and muzzle.



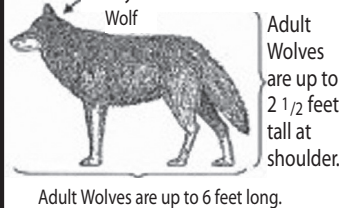
Adult Coyotes are up to 1 1/2 feet at shoulder  
Adult Coyotes are up to 4 feet long.  
Adult Coyote track about 2 1/2 inches long.



### WOLVES:

- Weight: 70-100 Pounds
- Shoulder Height: 2 1/2 Feet
- Snout/Muzzle: Large and Blocky
- Ears: Short and Rounded

Shorter, rounder ears; broad, blocky face and muzzle.



Adult Wolves are up to 2 1/2 feet tall at shoulder.  
Adult Wolves are up to 6 feet long.  
Adult Wolf track about 5 inches long.



aggression. Wolf vocalizations can also include growls and barks. Barks are not necessarily a sign of aggression; they may indicate a den is nearby.

Like other Oregon carnivores, wolves tend to be very timid and avoid detection by humans.

See the graphic to help identify wolves vs. coyotes.

## REDUCE CONFLICT BETWEEN WOLVES AND HUNTING DOGS

Wolves are by nature territorial and guard their territory from other canids, including domestic dogs. Hunters who use dogs in wolf country can take the following steps to limit potential conflicts between their dog(s) and a wolf:

- Keep dogs within view.
- Place a bell or beeping collar on wider ranging dogs.
- Talk loudly to the dog or other hunters or use whistles.
- Control the dog so that it stays close to you and wolves associate it with a human.
- Place the dog on a leash if wolves or fresh sign are seen.

