



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

WOLF MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

BHA is a proponent of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the Public Trust Doctrine that define fish and wildlife resources as the property of the people and managed on our behalf by state agencies entrusted with their stewardship. This proven conservation model is the foundation of science-based fish and wildlife management and we put our trust in state agencies to ensure that decisions are being guided by science.

*The Endangered Species Act has been an important conservation tool for recovering threatened and endangered wildlife species in the United States. The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is a remarkable ESA success story with strong population growth and expansion across targeted recovery areas in the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes. Gray wolf population recovery and habitat goals have been met and considerably exceeded for many years now and with the species flourishing, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers supports the decision by wildlife professionals at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist gray wolves in the lower 48 (with the exception of Mexican gray wolves) and transition management back to all states and tribal management entities. We also support state and tribal management agency decisions to utilize the best available science to manage healthy wolf population numbers using all the tools at their disposal including setting hunting seasons and establishing population objectives.*

