



Gray wolf **(*Canis lupus*)**

Northern Minnesota's boreal forests constitute the last stronghold of the gray wolf in the lower 48 states. Before their recent delisting as a federally endangered species, Minnesota's stable wolf population warranted a relaxing of

their status to "threatened" within the state, while they remained endangered in all other states besides Alaska.

Wolves are large predators requiring large areas for their hunting: a pack generally defends 50 to 120 square miles of territory, with an average of not more than one wolf per 10 square miles. You'll therefore need a lot of skill and/or luck to see a wolf, but you might well hear wolves howl or see their tracks or other signs during your visit to the forest. If you want to gather information before heading into the wild, check out the International Wolf Center in Ely (www.wolf.org).