

# Wolves and Humans



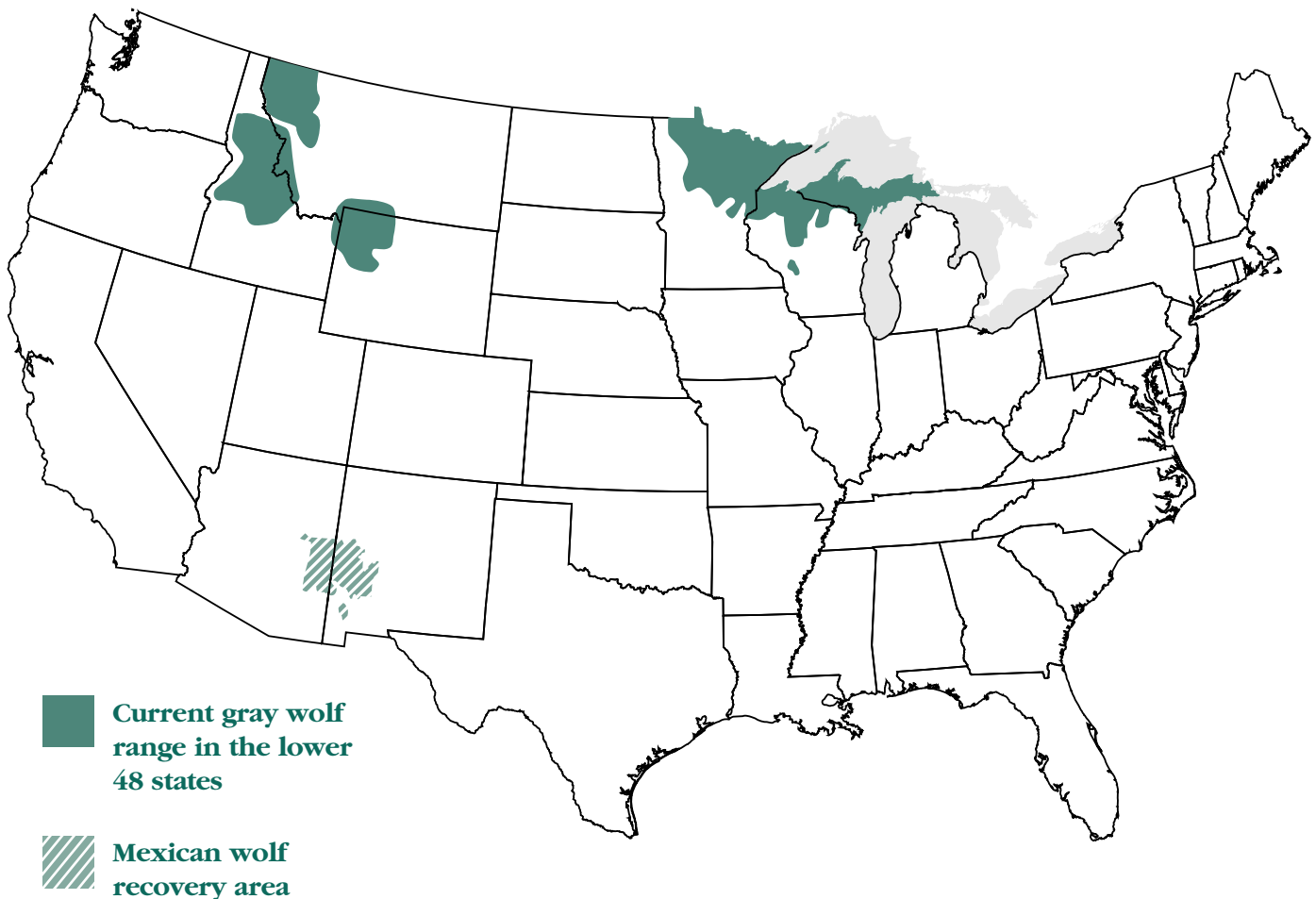
**International Wolf Center**  
Teaching the World about Wolves

## Was that a wolf?

**W**olf populations are increasing in the lower 48 states. This increase is the result of positive public attitude, legal protection, government restoration programs, and wolves' high capacity to increase in number and expand their range. Coyote populations are increasing, as well, due to their high capacity to increase in number and their ability to live close to human habitation. Coyotes now live in all of the lower

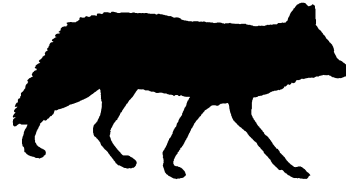
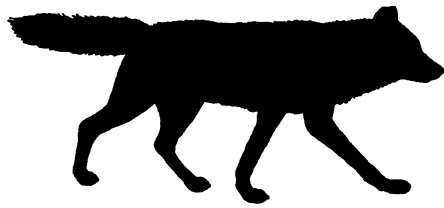
48 states. As wolves and coyotes expand their range and individual animals travel to new areas, more people may have a need to distinguish between the two species.

If you find yourself asking, "Was that a wolf?" check the range map to see if you live near wolf range. If you do, use the following guide to identify whether the animal was a wolf or a coyote.



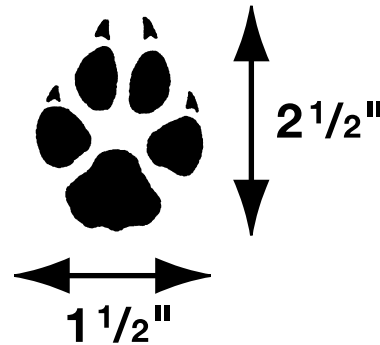
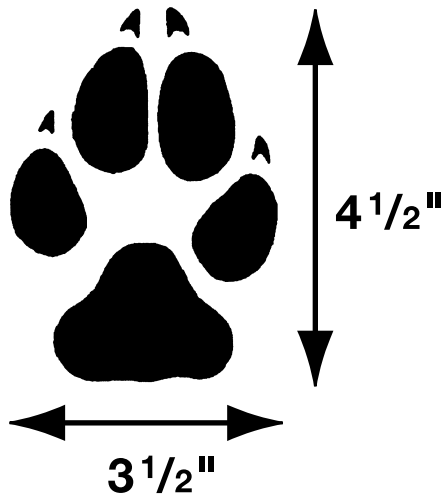
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## Comparison of wolf and coyote:



	GRAY WOLVES (adult)	COYOTES (adult)
<b>LENGTH:</b>	4.5 to 6.5 feet	3.6 to 4.4 feet
<b>HEIGHT</b> (at the shoulder):	26 to 32 inches	16 to 20 inches
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	60 to 115 lbs	20 to 50 lbs
<b>PELAGE:</b>	buff tans grizzled with gray and black, but can also be black or white	gray or reddish brown with rusty legs, feet and ears, and whitish throat and belly
<b>EARS:</b>	rounded, relatively short	pointed, relatively long
<b>MUZZLE:</b>	large and blocky	petite and pointed

### TRACK SIZE:



WOLF, COYOTE AND TRACK ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DNR

**DOG TRACK:** Variable depending on breed. Only a few breeds of dogs leave tracks longer than 4 inches (Great Danes, St. Bernards, some bloodhounds).

For more information visit the International Wolf Center's Web site at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)



**International Wolf Center**

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