

MINNESOTA'S WOLVES



PREDATOR AND PREY

Wolves are important top predators in Minnesota. In parts of their range and at certain times of year, up to 70-90% of wolf diet is composed of deer and moose. Wolves tend to hunt the weakest moose. Moose calves are highly vulnerable to wolves, especially during the first 3-4 weeks of life.

As with many other factors impacting moose survival, wolf predation varies by location. For example, in Voyageurs National Park, wolves eat fewer moose, and instead prey upon more beaver and deer.

THE DEER FACTOR

Deer are occurring in moose range in increasing numbers, which impacts wolf numbers. The presence of deer supports a higher wolf density, and keeps predation pressure on adult moose and calves. Overall, moose are found at higher concentrations where both deer and wolves are absent.



WHAT ABOUT WOLF CONTROL?

During periods of federal wolf management, local wildlife managers are unable to consider boosting moose numbers by decreasing the wolf population. During periods of local wolf management, much of the general public does not support wolf control. Biologists are not even certain that decreasing wolf numbers would result in an increase in moose numbers in Minnesota. With diverse viewpoints and strong public opinions, it's impossible to please all stakeholders when it comes to wolf management. For moose, the result is continued predation pressure.

For the latest information regarding wolf management in Minnesota, visit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wolf Management web page](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wolf/management/).

