

# MAMMALS



## gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE:** The gray wolf was virtually extirpated from Michigan by the middle of the 20th century. Restoration efforts began in the 1970s with the translocation of individuals from Minnesota to Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula, though this attempt failed. The species occurred only as an occasional dispersing individual until 1989 when a pair formed and stayed in the Upper Peninsula, successfully reproducing in 1991. By 2004, over 350 wolves were known to exist in the State and evidence was found of their spread from the Upper Peninsula to the Northern Lower Peninsula. The gray wolf remains a threatened species in Michigan and is a federally endangered species..

**ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** lowland hardwood; mesic hardwood; dry hardwood; lowland conifer; mesic conifer; dry conifer; inland emergent wetland; submergent wetland; pond; inland lake; river/stream/riparian/floodplain corridor; inland rock/cliff/ledge; large contiguous natural landscape; down woody debris

**ASSOCIATED THREATS:** fragmentation; industrial/residential/recreational development; removal of wildlife; social attitudes

**COMMENTS:** Education and social attitudes are important conservation issues for this species. Assessment of population expansion into the Northern Lower Peninsula and subsequent habitat use there is an important research and survey need.