



UNITED STATES SENATOR ★ SERVING THE CITIZENS OF IDAHO

# LARRY CRAIG

[HTTP://CRAIG.SENATE.GOV/PRESS/](http://craig.senate.gov/press/)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
July 31, 2008

Susan Irby (202) 224-8078  
Jacq Landa (202) 224-8708

## **CRAIG SAYS STOPPING DELISTING OF THE CANADIAN GRAY WOLF IS A 'BLIND' ACT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig is criticizing a federal judge's decision to halt the delisting of the Canadian gray wolf which had been introduced into the West and protected under the provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act until they were removed from protection in March.

“As we try to bring these wolf populations under control, we have a federal judge who uses his gavel and says, ‘no,’” said Craig in remarks on the Senate floor about U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy's July 18 ruling to reinstate the Endangered Species Act protection for the wolf.

“Some are more interested in the genetics of wolves than in the deer populations and domestic livestock,” Craig said. “I say with great trepidation, but with all sincerity, do we have to wait before a wolf drags down a human being before there's a sense of alarm?”

The Canadian gray wolf was introduced by the Department of Interior into Idaho in 1995 as an experiment, with the expectation that if Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana could maintain 300 wolves and 30 breeding pairs, the wolves would be managed by the States and not the federal government. Today an estimated 1,500 to 2,200 wolves and at least 100 breeding pairs roam the Rocky Mountain region.

“We said at that time that when the number reached a certain number, it would no longer be experimental, and it would no longer be endangered and the extraordinary protection of the Endangered Species Act would come off,” Craig said. “That simply has not happened, and today we literally have thousands of wolves roaming the States of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

“To those of us who live in the West today, who live in and around occupied areas where domestic livestock graze and where people love to camp, we've got a problem and it's quite simple – wolves protected have no predator. Their food source happens to be what were once the great elk herds of Idaho, along with our deer population. And now as they have begun to decimate those populations, they're beginning to pick off domestic livestock.

“But the romance goes on about this great dream of a Wild West, where you can hear the lonesome wolf howl at night. Well, they're howling; they're howling loud right in our backyards, and a blind federal agency and a blind federal judge and a romantic environmental theory says it's okay.

**[MORE]**

## **Craig page 2 – Craig Says Stopping Delisting of the Canadian Gray Wolf is a ‘Blind’ Act**

“But it’s tragic for Idahoans and folks in Montana and Wyoming to see their pets and their domestic livestock killed with little, if anything, they can do about it.”

Senator Craig is co-sponsoring S. 2875, the Gray Wolf Livestock Loss Mitigation Act of 2008, to provide grants through the Department of Interior to Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and the Tribes to support landowners both in preventing livestock predation and compensating them for any livestock losses.