

**Restore Wolf Protections This *Wolf Awareness Week*:
Washington state residents can lead the pack on demanding federal action**

SEATTLE – In honor of Wolf Awareness Week, Woodland Park Zoo is asking our community to make their voices heard that gray wolves need federal protection. You can show your support for the gray wolves [by signing onto a petition](#) calling for decision makers at the Department of Interior and White House to relist gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act. Woodland Park Zoo hopes to undo the harm that has been mounting against this species since they lost federal protections and were delisted from the Endangered Species Act in early January 2021, despite scientific evidence that America's population of wolves do not meet the criteria for being removed from the Act's protections.



"Wolves are a natural and necessary part of the American landscape and our natural heritage," said Peter Zahler, Vice President of Wildlife Conservation Initiatives at Woodland Park Zoo. "Removing protection for these amazing wild creatures has already led to plummeting populations in some states, threatening the ability of these packs to sustain themselves. The United States Federal Government must take action soon to prevent further losses that may threaten the entire species."

Since wolves lost federal protections, many states have moved forward with plans to cull wolf populations – including up to 90% of some states' populations – endangering the gains that were made by this species while it was protected by the Endangered Species Act. Woodland Park Zoo calls for increased protections and long-term solutions focused on recovery and coexistence.

In Washington state, where gray wolves still receive protections, these canines are dispersing into Central Washington and the North Cascades. It is predicted that wolf populations will soon migrate to the forests surrounding Mt. Rainer. The wolf population in Washington increased 22% in the last year, demonstrating that protections are working to restore a healthy and self-sustaining population. In Washington, gray wolves may be delisted from protection when at least three breeding pairs are located in three recovery sites for three consecutive years. Wildlife researchers estimate we are approximately ten years away from those conditions being met.

The zoo encourages everyone to take three actions this week to help wolves in the wild:

- 1) [Sign the petition.](#)
- 2) Visit the zoo's new Living Northwest Trail exhibit and explore the [Living Northwest website](#) to discover how the zoo and Washingtonians are modeling the call to recover and coexist with wildlife.
- 3) Visit the zoo's [wolf keeper talks](#) to learn more about this captivating species.

Wolf Tracks

On Monday, October 11, one of the zoo's 11-year-old gray wolf sisters, Doba, began settling into her new home at Wolf Haven in Tenino, Wash. The social dynamics of wolves are incredibly complex and in the wild these sisters would naturally disperse to different ranges when they are ready. The decision to move Doba was made to shepherd a healthy social dynamic for these social canines. Doba will be joining Grayling, a lone male, at Wolf Haven while her sisters Shila (Shy-lah) and Kaya (Kye-yah) will remain at Woodland Park Zoo's Living Northwest Trail. Thanks to our dedicated animal keepers for prepping Doba for the move and ensuring our wolves are thriving. Wolf Haven is accredited by both the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the American Sanctuary Association.

Living Northwest

Woodland Park Zoo advocates for saving species and spaces around the Pacific Northwest through our Living Northwest Program, including wolves, wolverines, and many others. The recently reimagined Living Northwest Trail exhibit is now open. The exhibit and its companion website, "[We Are Living Northwest](#)," provide visitors with numerous conservation actions they can take to help the species that share our iconic landscapes. Anyone can share how they are living Northwest using #IAmLivingNorthwest on social media – they may even be featured on the website!