

Rockies gray wolf numbers steady despite hunting

April 4 2014, by Matthew Brown

A new population tally of gray wolves in the U.S. Northern Rockies shows their continued resilience despite increased hunting, trapping and government-sponsored pack removals.

State and federal agencies said Friday there were a minimum of 1,691 wolves at the end of 2013.

That's virtually unchanged from the prior year even as state wildlife agencies adopted [aggressive tactics](#) to drive down wolf numbers.

Under pressure from livestock and hunting groups, Idaho officials have used helicopters to shoot packs. Montana has eased [hunting](#) and trapping rules.

Federal wolf recovery coordinator Mike Jimenez says he expects the population to gradually decline over time in the face of the states' efforts, but to remain healthy.

A pending proposal would lift protections for wolves across much of the remaining Lower 48 states.

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