

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - TERRESTRIAL

### COYOTE AND WOLF COEXISTENCE IN NORTHWESTERN MONTANA<sup>TWS</sup>

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Recolonizing wolves (*Canis lupus*) may affect congeneric coyotes (*C. latrans*) by altering food habits, social behavior, movements and habitat use. We examined the effects colonizing wolves have on coyote populations in northwestern Montana. Home ranges for eleven coyotes were distributed between the two wolf pack territories and on the edge of the territories, and minimally overlapped with core wolf areas. Although dietary overlap was high between the canids, food partitioning by size and age occurred. Wolf presence may be beneficial to coyotes as a source of additional food through scavenging, but it also appears that the wolves are affecting coyote distribution and survival.