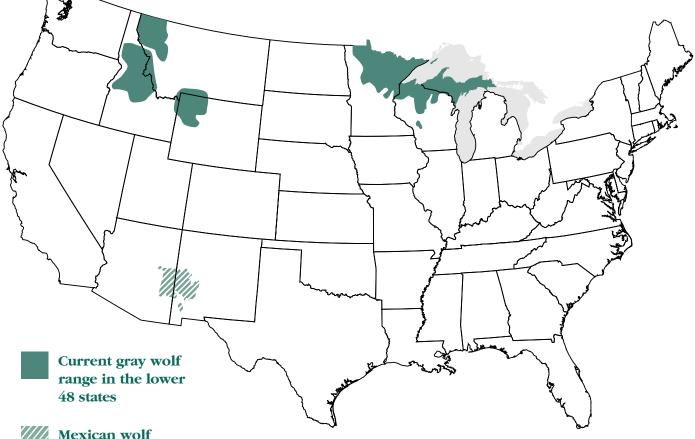


## Was that a wolf?

Wolf populations are increasing in the lower 48 states. This increase is the result of positive public attitude, legal protection, government restoration programs, and wolves' high capacity to increase in number and expand their range. Coyote populations are increasing, as well, due to their high capacity to increase in number and their ability to live close to human habitation. Coyotes now live in all of the lower

48 states. As wolves and coyotes expand their range and individual animals travel to new areas, more people may have a need to distinguish between the two species.

If you find yourself asking, "Was that a wolf?" check the range map to see if you live near wolf range. If you do, use the following guide to identify whether the animal was a wolf or a coyote.





Mexican wolf recovery area

continued on back

## Comparison of wolf and coyote:

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	GRAY WOLVES (adult)	<b>COYOTES</b> (adult)
LENGTH:	4.5 to 6.5 feet	3.6 to 4.4 feet
<b>HEIGHT</b> (at the shoulder):	26 to 32 inches	16 to 20 inches
WEIGHT:	60 to 115 lbs	20 to 50 lbs
PELAGE:	buff tans grizzled with gray and black but can also be black or white	, gray or reddish brown with rusty legs, feet and ears, and whitish throat and belly
EARS:	rounded, relatively short	pointed, relatively long
MUZZLE:	large and blocky	petite and pointed
TRACK SIZE:		$\frac{1}{1/2^{"}}$
	<b>3</b> <sup>1</sup> /2"	WOLF, COYOTE AND TRACK ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DN

DOG TRACK:

Variable depending on breed. Only a few breeds of dogs leave tracks longer than 4 inches (Great Danes, St. Bernards, some bloodhounds).

