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‘Reckless slaughter’ is what animal conservation director calls Wisconsin wolf cull

By Storm Gifford
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A weeklong wolf hunt in Wisconsin, referred to as a “reckless slaughter” by one animal rights activist, was called off after less than three days once hunters exceeded the state target.

By Wednesday afternoon, the Department of Natural Resources halted the hunt after trappers and hunters bagged 178 wolves — 59 more than the state’s tally limit, reported [The Associated Press](#).

In each of the state’s six target zones, hunters exceeded kill limits.

The hunting season began Monday and had been slated to run through Feb. 28. But officials abruptly suspended the hunt due to the expedient culling of scores of wolves.

Unlike deer season, Wisconsin wolf hunters can operate at night and use dogs to trap wolves, explained Animal Wellness Action president Wayne Pacelle.

Wisconsin hunters exceeded its recent wolf-cull target. (Shutterstock/Shutterstock)

“Traps are set like landmines for unsuspecting animals and the hunters are deep into the woods and out of the range of communication, explained Pacelle. “And they can easily claim they didn’t get the ‘stop the hunt’ notice before they killed their wolf.”

Collette Adkins, the carnivore conservation director for the Center for Biological Diversity, was even more damning in her assessment of the cull.

“(It’s) a reckless slaughter,” said Adkins.

In January, the Trump administration removed federal wolf protections, noted The AP.

The Department of Natural Resources estimated that there were approximately 1,000 wolves lurking statewide before the cull. Its population goal is 350.

Wisconsin’s wolf-hunting season has become one of the state’s most antagonistic outdoors issues over the past two decades.

Animal rights advocates have argued that wolf populations are too small to support hunting and that the creatures are much too magnificent to hunt.

But rural residents and farmers claim the beasts have been killing their pets and livestock.