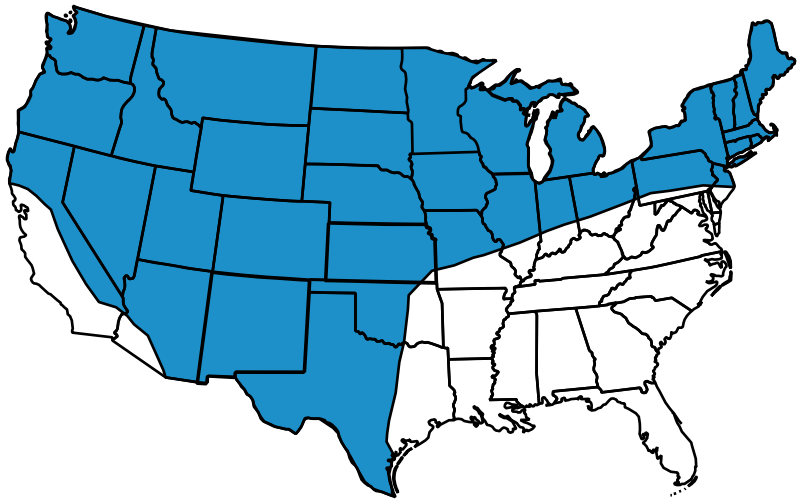
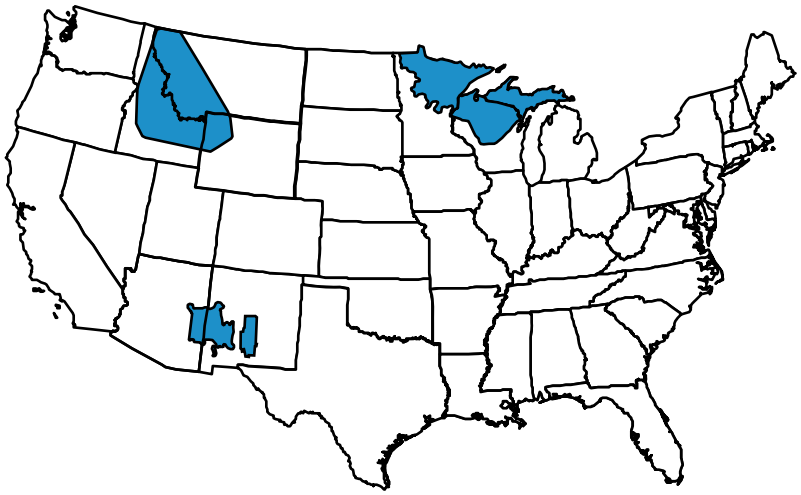
Gray Wolf Range in the Contiguous United States

Gray wolves once lived in much of the contiguous United States. They were only absent from a portion of California, the southwest corner of Arizona and from the red wolf range in the southeastern United States. By 1974, when gray wolves were listed as an endangered species, their breeding range had been reduced to a small corner of northeastern Minnesota and Isle Royale, Michigan. Individual wolves were periodically observed in the West, but there were no breeding packs. Recovery efforts have since restored the wolf to many areas of its historic range, including portions of the Southwest, the Rocky Mountains, and the western Great Lakes Region.



Historic Gray Wolf Range

Gray Wolf Range at Time of ESA Listing (1974)



Current Range and Mexican Wolf Recovery Area

January 2009