

## I. **WHY WOLVES?**

Wolves are essential to healthy rocky mountain ecosystems. Wolves are large carnivores indigenous to most of North America. Originally, wolves were the most widespread large carnivore over this area and had important ecosystem and food web effects with consequently significant ecological influences on the landscape through top-down effects.

Wolves, the dominant carnivore across North America, were eliminated from ecosystems before scientists even knew what they did or their role in food webs. Large carnivores, including especially wolves is a keystone species that through natural predation, maintains food webs create biological and ecological diversity and complexity.

**Intended and unintended consequences of wolf restoration to Yellowstone and Isle Royale National Parks.**

<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/csp2.413>