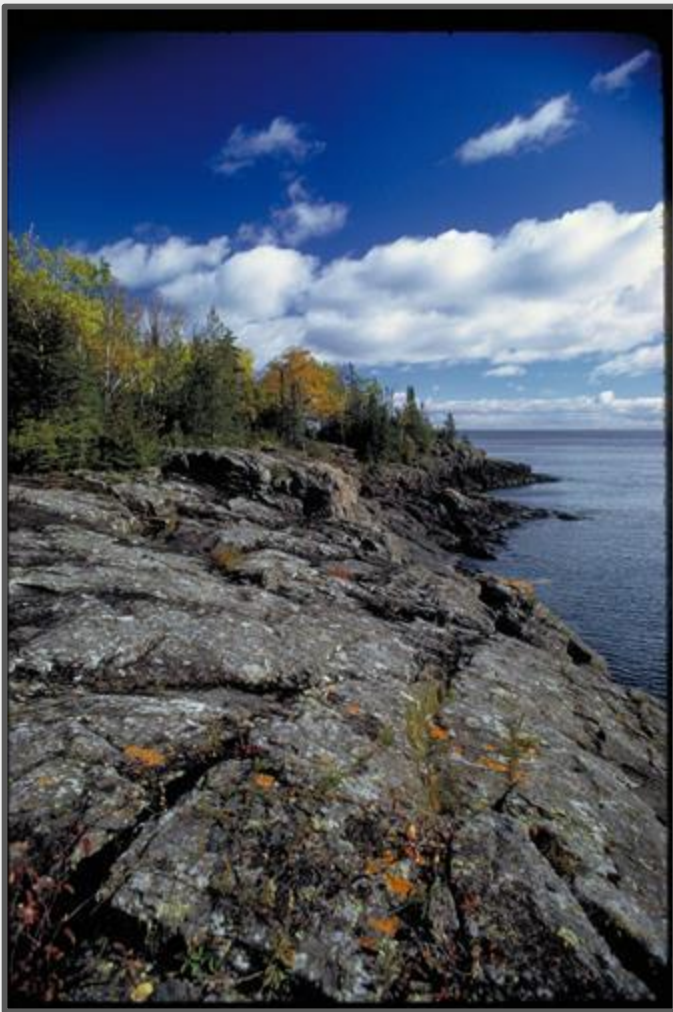


# The Wolves of Isle Royale

Return of the Wolves: Lessons from the Wilderness  
National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation

[www.NPLSF.org](http://www.NPLSF.org)





Isle Royale is a large island  
in Lake Superior.

It is a national park.

It is part of Michigan.



Isle Royale is a wilderness. Many trees and other plants grow there.

Birds, fish, turtles, foxes, squirrels, snakes, and insects live there.





Beavers build dams there.



Moose eat plants and tree branches.



Snowshoe hares live under bushes.





Eagles and loons fish in the lakes.



One of the most important animals that lives on Isle Royale is the gray wolf.





Gray wolves hunt moose for food. It is much easier to hunt moose by working together, so wolves live in family groups called packs.



The wolf packs care for the wolf pups that are born each spring.



If the pack gets too small, the wolves might not be able to hunt enough to eat.

They might not have pups each year.





There used to be fifty wolves on Isle Royale, living in four pack families.  
But in 2019, there were only two wolves left.



The National Park scientists decided to bring more wolves to Isle Royale, to form new pack families.

So far they have brought 19 new wolves to the island.





The scientists look for evidence that the new wolves are hunting, forming pack families, and having new pups each year.





How can scientists tell where a wolf has been, or what it's been doing?  
Looking for wolf tracks is one way to gather evidence.



Scientists look for wolf scat or bits of wolf fur. The scat can tell scientists what the wolves are eating.





In the winter, scientists fly over the island and count the wolves.  
They are easier to see in the winter when the trees don't have leaves.





Some wolves can be tracked with radio collars or seen on video cameras set up in the forest.



So far, scientists have evidence that the new wolves are doing well and have had some new pups.



If you were a National Park wolf scientist, how would you study wolves?



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