## Just like Journey

Gray wolves. They're amazing in every way, except for the endangered part. That is most people's least favorite part. In these paragraphs we will learn what gray wolves look like, why they are at risk of going extinct, and where they live.

First let's talk about the colors of fur on this species. On top of the head, body, and tail there is usually a smokey color, sometimes there is an inkey color. Sometimes the fur color is black. Gray wolves have a wide variety of eye color. It can range from golden mist to orchid to cobalt. The nose color is black. Their fur color may help them camouflage in the wild but with humans, that is a different story.

Secondly, in Wisconsin alone there are only 812 to 1,193 gray wolves. Left in the U.S there are about 7,000 to 11,000. Lets dig deeper to figure out why this is such a low number. One of the reasons is habitat loss. While humans make more room for themselves, that leaves animals like the gray wolf left with nowhere to hunt and live. Another major reason is highways. Highways are filled with cars going at large enough speeds to kill something. One last reason is illegal food poisoning. When farmers put poisons into a lot of gray wolf drinking water, they believe that they are getting rid of the threat. When really they are hurting the ecosystem. Now we can talk about where gray wolves live in the U.S.

Lastly, gray wolves don't live in a lot of states. The states they do live in are AK,MI,WI,ID,OG,as well as WY. If we want to get more specific then they live in tundras, woodlands, deserts, including much more! If you live in or near one of these places then lend a helping hand, the animals need it!

To conclude we have learned about this amazing creature, including the description, why they are endangered, and where in the U.S they live. Now that you have read about this species you must agree that gray wolves are awesome but also facing extinction. So if you would like to donate and/or volunteer to a nature preserve then you might be saving a whole bunch of animals, including the gray wolf.

## **Resources:**

Environmental Conservation Online System. "Gray Wolf." U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 28 Mar. 2022, ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488.

"Gray Wolf." The National Wildlife Federation , www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Mammals/Gray-Wolf.