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Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

Winter Severity and Wolf Predation on a Formerly Wolf-free Elk Herd

Excerpts from USGS study 1997 to 1998 Yellowstone National Park
 Leopold, Rose Creek and Druid wolf packs observed wolf kills

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Elk killed per day per wolf	17.1 kg	6.1 kg
Pound Equivalent (2.2046 kg/#)	37.7 lbs	13.5 lbs
Elk killed per wolf per month (x30 days)	1131 lbs	405 lbs
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Average pounds killed per wolf per month		768 lbs.
Estimated weight per each elk*		252 lbs.
Average kill rate per wolf per month		<u>3.05</u> elk killed per wolf

	<u>total killed</u>	<u>calves</u>	<u>Ave</u>	
* 1997	15	2	13.3%	
1998	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>52.2%</u>	
total	38	14	37.0%	Ave. elk weight 400 pds x 63% = 252 lbs.

Source: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/mammals/severity/results.htm#table1>