

# Wife wants divorce from her husband and his creepy behavior

Note: This column first appeared in 2018

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have been married for eight years. My first marriage ended because my ex was a serial cheater and all-around creep. “Mike” seemed to be the exact opposite. However, shortly after we were married, I found out he was checking out dating sites. I confronted him, and he deleted his accounts.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
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Then, about two years ago, I found out he and a 22-year-old co-worker had a sexting relationship. I was going to file for divorce, but he promised me he would stop. I insisted we go to counseling, and we went a few times. He said he had never been physically unfaithful to me. I warned him that this was strike two and that three strikes and he would be out.

A few months later, I checked his Twitter account and was disgusted by the sleazy women he was communicating with. Strike three. He pleaded with me to stay. Eventually, he deleted his Twitter account and promised to stay on the straight and narrow.

A few months ago, while paying our cell-phone bill, I glanced at the record of his text messages. I found several texts sent in the middle of the night to an 18-year-old high school girl whom he used to work with. Can you tell me any good reason a 60-year-old man should be texting an 18-year-old girl he does not even work with anymore?

I am getting up the courage to confront my husband about this and to most likely go through another gut-wrenching divorce. Why am I writing to you? I guess it's just to validate my feelings — to tell me I don't deserve this. By the way, I have never cheated on him in any way. He reads your column every day in the paper. If you would agree that a 60-year-old man reaching out to girls younger than his own daughters is creepy, he might listen. But I'm not

holding my breath. — *Deja Vu in Wisconsin*

**Dear Deja Vu:** If you're looking for someone to tell you that your husband's behavior is creepy, you have come to the right place. His behavior is very creepy. The first text with a 22-year-old woman from work should have tipped you off. You can't have a healthy relationship with someone who is preoccupied with relationships with others. It's time to pack your bags and head out. It might

cause you pain in the short term, but in the long run, you will be liberating yourself from a lifetime of lies and deception.

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to “Child-Free and Tired of Judgment.” My husband and I have been married for over 40 years and chose to not have children. We were told repeatedly that we would regret that decision. I can tell you truthfully that we have no regrets. We've always told people that we are selfish and want to do the things people with kids just can't pick up and do. All those people who had kids — some wish they hadn't had them, and that's a burden, financially and psychologically, that can't be reversed. Some have the joy of a lifetime to cherish children and grandchildren. When feasible, always reevaluate your position. But know that the childless position you have chosen could be spot on for you. — *Childless With No Regrets*

**Dear Childless With No Regrets:** I'm printing your letter so that it might offer comfort to anyone facing criticism for not having children — though I take issue with your calling yourself selfish. Having children out of peer pressure would have been selfish. You and your husband made the right choice for yourselves.



Jim Mogen/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

An Arctic grayling captured in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish trap at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana.

# Wildlife officials reject protections for rare fish

By MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — U.S. wildlife officials on Wednesday rejected special protections for a rare, freshwater fish related to salmon that's been at the center of a long-running legal dispute, citing conservation efforts that officials say have increased Arctic grayling numbers in a Montana river.

The Associated Press obtained details of the decision not to protect the fish under the Endangered Species Act in advance of a public announcement.

The move comes almost two years after a federal appeals court faulted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for arbitrarily dismissing threats to grayling from climate change and other pressures.

While some of those threats will persist, government officials said conservation measures have improved the fish's habitat and will lessen future temperature increases in the cold waters where they reside.

Known for their iridescent appearance and sail-shaped dorsal fins, Arctic grayling are members of the salmon family that can reach 30 inches in length and are prized by many anglers.

Officials credited a conservation agreement involving landowners and government agencies for recent improvements to the grayling's river habitat in south-

western Montana's Big Hole Valley.

The Big Hole River and its tributaries — home to one of the few native populations of the fish in the Lower 48 states — saw grayling numbers roughly double during the last decade to about 1,500 adult fish, said Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Jim Boyd. The population figure was derived from an estimate of the number of breeding fish.

“If you can increase the number of breeding individuals, you can start to feel really good about the conservation efforts and know they are truly working,” he said.

Wildlife advocates criticized Wednesday's decision and said the worsening climate crisis leaves the grayling's survival in doubt. Even with a commitment from ranchers along the Big Hole to reduce the amount of water withdrawn to grow hay, flows drop sharply during dry periods and imperil grayling, they said.

Despite recent habitat improvements, Arctic gray-

ling occupy only a fraction of the streams across the upper Missouri River basin where they were historically widespread. The species declined over the past century because of competition from non-native fish and after their habitat was significantly altered by dams and high summer water temperatures.

“The commitment of landowners along the Big Hole River is commendable and absolutely essential for the survival of grayling. We question whether it's enough,” said attorney Jenny Harbine with Earthjustice, the environmental law firm that represented wildlife advocates in a lawsuit over the fish.

Montana Tech professor Pat Munday, a plaintiff in the lawsuit who fishes the Big Hole regularly, said grayling have become increasingly scarce over the past three decades. Munday alleged government biologists were “cooking the books” by inflating population estimates to justify their decision.

“The biologists and technicians get better and better at knowing where to anticipate grayling and they get better at finding them, but that doesn't mean the numbers are increasing,” said Munday, a professor of science and technology studies and author of “Montana's Last Best River: The Big Hole and Its People.”

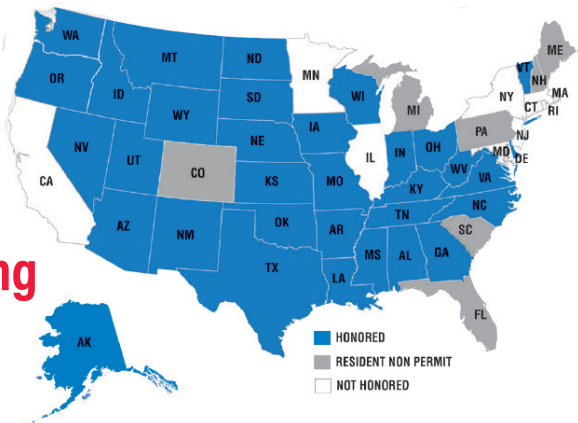
Efforts to protect Arctic grayling date to at least 1991, when wildlife advocates petitioned the government to add the fish to its list of threatened and endangered species. Officials determined in 1994 and again in 2010 that protections were needed. But they were never imposed because other species were given a higher priority.

The Fish and Wildlife Service in 2014 determined that protections were no longer needed because the landowner conservation agreement had helped the fish rebound. Wildlife advocates then sued in federal court and prevailed before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2018.

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