
HOWLING^{FOR}WOLVES[®]

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TOP PRIORITY: Remove wolf hunting and trapping from state law to protect wild wolves for future generations

While the wolf goes back and forth on the federal Endangered Species List (and is currently on it, as of January 2022), existing Minnesota law authorizes the MN DNR to hold a recreational hunting and trapping season on wolves.

When Minnesota gray wolves lost federal protections in 2012, the state legislature hastily enacted a trophy hunting and trapping season without even determining whether the wolf population could tolerate losing those federal protections. The MN DNR did not even perform a baseline population survey before the first wolf hunt after 35 years of protection. (Current state law is permissive: the DNR “commissioner **may** prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves.”)

Illegal wolf killing already happens, even with federal protections. With legal wolf killing comes more illegal killing. A hunt will endanger them and encourages more killing and cannot be controlled. Killing one wolf can decimate the entire pack; “additive mortality.”

- **Senate File 2062** is chief authored by Senator Mary Kunesh and co-authored by Senators Hawj, Abeler, Marty, and Dibble.
- **House File 2144** is chief authored by Representative Peter Fischer and co-authored by Representatives Becker-Finn, Jordan, Hornstein, Olson, L., Freiberg, and Feist.

PRIORITY: Support the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture’s Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants, and the overall promotion of nonlethal conflict prevention

In 2017, a grant program through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture passed into law and now reimburses farmers and ranchers for equipment, guard animals, and other related costs of working to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. This ongoing grant program has earned the support of the agricultural community and made Minnesota eligible for additional federal dollars. Nonlethal conflict prevention methods include guard animals, fencing, shelters, lights, and carcass removal, and have been shown to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

- **Senate File 2154** is chief authored by Senator Rob Kupec and co-authored by Senators Johnson, Kunesh, Rarick, and Putnam.
- **House File 2142** is chief authored by Representative Brad Tabke and co-authored by Representatives Burkel, Nelson, N. Hansen, R., Pursell, and Hemmingsen-Jaeger.