

2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Howling For Wolves supports effective, science-based, and nonlethal wolf plans to support the gray wolf population into the future so communities and wolves can coexist. Howling For Wolves does not oppose ethical game hunting that is targeted and humane, and that maintains a sustainable and healthy wildlife ecosystem.

ELIMINATE SNARING

- Howling For Wolves supports legislation to end the use of snares as a method of recreational trapping.
- Snares are anchored cable or wire nooses set to catch small or medium sized wild animals. They are simple and cheap. Neck snares choke the wild animal to death, although many larger animals (like wolves) are not killed quickly and suffer unnecessarily. Foot or leg snares restrain the animal until the trapper arrives.
- For the snared animal, the snare restricts the flow of blood back to the heart through surface veins, while the deeper arteries continue to pump blood into the foot or head. This causes painful swelling and brain injuries.
- 20 other states have effectively eliminated the recreational use of snares on land as it is a particularly cruel method of hunting wolves and other wild animals. It's unnecessary and agonizing as snares maim animals causing unnecessary suffering until their eventual death.
- Animals unintended for the snares are often caught, hurt, and disabled.
- Minnesota trappers may continue to use other types of traps.

"I've never used snares at all because they are very nonselective. They catch everything that will go through them."

*Carter Niemeyer is an experienced trapper, wolf biologist, and former
Wolf Management Specialist of the USDA Animal Damage Control Department*

PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR LANDOWNERS

- Howling For Wolves hopes Minnesota will join 22 other states that support private property rights and stronger requirements to obtain clear permission from a landowner to set traps on someone else's private property.
- Currently, Minnesota law allows trappers to set traps on private property without the landowner's permission, unless it is adequately posted that hunting/trapping is not allowed. Lands that are cropped or grazed and show signs of tillage, crops or crop residue, or fencing for livestock containment do not require posting of signs and trappers must ask permission to enter these lands.
- Wisconsin has required permission to hunt/trap on someone else's land since 1995. To hunt/trap on private lands in Wisconsin, you must get permission from the landowner.

SUPPORT FARMERS

- Howling For Wolves supports state and federal funding for nonlethal and effective methods for farmers/ranchers to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. Nonlethal methods, such as the use of guard animals and carcass removal, can effectively reduce conflicts.
- Reducing predation on livestock and supporting farmers/ranchers is a shared goal with the agriculture community. Howling For Wolves supports compensation for livestock predation by wolves.
- Due to the federal court ruling to relist Minnesota wolves as "threatened" there is urgency and interest in nonlethal methods because only government agents can legally kill wolves except when human life is at risk.
- In December of 2014, Washington State University published findings that demonstrated killing wolves over livestock conflicts resulted in more predations on livestock the following year. (*Study based on 25 years of wolf management data.*)
- During the previous 40 years of federal protection in Minnesota, nonlethal methods to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock were not funded. Livestock producers were given more support for killing wolves than for preventing conflicts to begin with.

SUPPORT A FIVE YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE WOLF HUNT

- Howling For Wolves supports, as it has done every year, the original five-year wolf hunt moratorium following a federal delisting as the start of a long-term plan to let wolves co-exist in Minnesota. Senate File 612 was introduced on February 6.