

MINNESOTA WOLVES



STOP THE HUNT

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THE GRAY WOLF

The gray wolf or canis lupus, also called the timber wolf, is considered a pure wolf as distinct from wolf-coyote hybrids or canis latrans. Wolves are pack animals that live in small groupings formed mostly by family members. The alpha male and alpha female are the only members to have pups and the entire pack raises the pups. Occasionally, a second female will have a litter "with permission" of the alpha female. More than half of newborn wolf pups will die by 6 months of age with starvation being the most common cause. Over one third of adult wolves die of starvation each year.



If a litter of pups is orphaned by its pack due to their death, then another pack will raise them. Wolves do not kill wolf pups; they adopt them. The pack size is dependent on the amount of food available to them and the size of their territory. Wolves control their own numbers in that they protect their territories and will kill non-pack members that threaten the pack or move into their territory. This means that when wolf numbers increase beyond what their habitat is able to support, the population is maintained by an increase in wolf-on-wolf kills.

As hunters, wolves select the least productive animal of a group, the very young and very old or sick. The lead hunter (usually alphas) selects the animal and starts the pursuit; the remaining pack piles on until it is brought down. Once an animal is selected and the chase ensues, the pack does not waiver or move to a different animal. If they are unsuccessful, the pursuit stops.

RECENT HISTORY OF WOLVES

Gray wolves once freely roamed the United States from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they were killed in great numbers by shooting, trapping, and poisoning. Once numerous, wolves were eradicated from all of the lower 48 states except in Minnesota, where a sustainable but once threatened population still exists today.

Wolves have been protected as an endangered species since 1974. There were only 600 gray wolves remaining in our state in 1978. Through Federal and State conservation efforts and funding, our gray wolf population has grown to an estimated 3,000 wolves.

The last actual count of wolves in Minnesota was in the winter of 2007-2008. It should be noted that this survey was conducted at a time when the moose population was twice what it is today. The estimated wolf population in 2008 was 2,921, and the average pack size was 4.9 wolves per pack.

Wolves mainly live in the northern third of our state, primarily in forested regions and the transitional zone between forests and prairies. The Minnesota wolf population has remained stable for over ten years without human interference in the form of hunting and trapping.

Gray wolves in Minnesota are considered part of the contiguous group of the Great Lakes wolf population, ranging in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

In 2001, after two years of cooperative efforts among approximately 30 organizations on all sides of the issue, the Minnesota Wolf Management Plan was finalized by the DNR. This plan was completed in preparation for the anticipated Federal delisting of the gray wolf and the reversion of management responsibility to the state government. During the time the DNR spent assessing the public attitude toward wolves in Minnesota, they found that “Minnesotans value wolves” and view them as “ecologically important, scientifically fascinating, aesthetically attractive, recreationally appealing and significant for future generations.”



CORRUPTED PATH TO THE HUNT

The Wolf Management Plan included a provision for a 5-year moratorium on wolf hunting and trapping after the wolf was delisted from the Endangered Species Act. This plan was widely considered to be an ecologically responsible compromise attained by consensus and states, "population management including public taking (i.e. hunting and trapping) will be considered by DNR in the future, but not sooner than 5 years after Federal delisting. If a public take was proposed then there would be opportunity for full public comment. Decisions for any public take will be based on sound biological data including comprehensive population surveys."

The 5-year moratorium on wolf hunting and trapping was signed into Minnesota State Law in 2001 by Governor Ventura. Since that time, there have been some disturbing developments.



Wolves were officially federally delisted from the protections afforded under the Endangered Species Act in January, 2012.

As you may be aware, our Governor, State Legislature, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have moved forward with implementing plans for the first legally

sanctioned public wolf hunting and trapping season in state history.

Sadly, on July 20, 2011, during the hurried and dysfunctional "Special Session" of the Minnesota Legislature, the Legislature approved, behind closed doors and without public input, a 101-page budget bill that contained four obscure lines repealing the 5-year wolf hunting and trapping moratorium.

While the DNR has the legal authority, provided by the state legislature, to offer an open season on wolves, they are not under any legal obligation to do so. Yet the DNR continues to communicate to the public that the season is legally mandated. The Minnesota Statute that provides the DNR the option to have a wolf hunt actually states "...the commissioner may prescribe open seasons...", but there is no requirement that it must happen.

Both Governor Mark Dayton and DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr have the legal authority to stop the wolf hunting and trapping season.

AN UNNECESSARY SEASON

The Minnesota DNR determined their plan for an open season without the use of any recent comprehensive population surveys, and public comment was only solicited via a limited online survey after the decision was made. Almost 80 percent of the more than 7,300 survey participants, that included both wildlife enthusiast and hunters, made it clear they do not want a wolf hunting and trapping season in Minnesota. Sadly, this public opposition continues to be ignored by the DNR.

There is no biological justification for a public take of wolves in Minnesota. Wolves' numbers do not need to be controlled through human intervention because they control their own populations based on resources available in their territory. Due to wolves' built in population controls, the Minnesota DNR has not established a maximum population goal for wolves as they do for other species.



Wolves naturally face high rates of mortality, and according to the DNR Wolf Management Plan, approximately 35% of adult wolves die each year from starvation, intraspecific strife (territory disputes with other wolves), and human-related causes such as poaching and car collisions.

In addition to the mortality sources that have been studied, wolf populations will likely be negatively impacted by a warming climate (parasitic diseases) and the lightened state restrictions on killing wolves. The prudent and responsible action would be to wait and observe these impacts before rushing to a public take via trapping and hunting.

Though historically low, wolf depredation of livestock is always a concern. However, we should be focused on supporting our farmers with non-lethal control methods (burros and guard dogs) and lethal methods as a last resort when necessary. A USDA-APHIS report showed that only 1.7% of all beef producers in wolf range counties are impacted by depredation annually, with only 88 verified livestock claims in 2011.

Livestock owners are financially compensated by the state at fair market value for verified losses due to wolves. Owners of livestock, guard animals, and domestic animals already have the right to shoot a wolf that poses an immediate threat to themselves or their animals. The random elimination of wolves via a public take will not effectively manage depredation and may even increase it as packs are destabilized.

A BARBARIC PRACTICE: WOLF TRAPPING

State law mandates that wolf trapping must be included if the DNR offers a public take of wolves in Minnesota. One-fourth of the season quota of 400 wolves has been reserved for trappers. In the event you are not familiar with wolf trapping, below is a brief overview of what it looks like. Please be warned that you may find this information very disturbing.

First, a trapper will be legally allowed to set a baited metal snare or leg hold trap to capture the wolf. Once captured, the wolf may wait in agony in a painful leg trap for a prolonged period, up to 24 hours, until the trapper returns. During this time, the wolf is subjected to severe pain and prolonged mental distress and sometimes a wolf will chew its own leg off in a desperate attempt to escape. This is a well known phenomenon called “ring-off”, and the wolf, after experiencing this trauma, will die as a result. When the trapper does finally return to check the trap, they will kill the wolf by strangulation or blunt force trauma (stomping it to death) in order to preserve the fur, which may be sold on the open market for as little as \$100.



Trapping is a barbaric practice and would be considered criminal animal cruelty in any other context. Animal cruelty has long been recognized as a behavior trait of individuals that commit other violent acts such as child abuse. Legally protecting this type of behavior to gain pelts, claws, and skulls unnecessarily risks desensitizing young people to the animals’ pain, and sends the wrong message about the humane treatment of animals.

In addition to the wolves that will be trapped and killed, trapping is known to typically claim the lives of 2-3 other species for each species actually targeted with the trap. This is because the trapper just sets their trap and leaves and any animal unlucky enough to come across it will lose its life since the trap doesn’t know the difference.

WOLVES ARE MORE VALUABLE ALIVE

We should be making every effort to stop wolf trapping and hunting in Minnesota because wolves are worth much more to all of us alive. The Minnesota DNR states in their own Wolf Management Plan that “Wolves in Minnesota are a keystone ecotourism species, drawing tourists from around the world to come to view wolf tracks, scats, and kill sites, and to hear wild wolves howl.” According to the Minnesota DNR website, wildlife viewing is a 400 million dollar per year industry in Minnesota and wildlife enthusiasts outnumber hunters 4:1.



A healthy wolf population is essential to maintaining habitat for all wildlife in the forest ecosystem, and keeping important vegetation along rivers and streams healthy by controlling the movement of animals like deer and elk. Along rivers and streams, ungulates such as deer and elk do not graze as long due to the presence of wolves. This "ecology of fear" improves the health of the water systems in the forests and meadows. A healthy wolf population also supports a healthy deer population as wolves help limit the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease and new evidence shows they help control Lyme Disease.

Wolves are like us in many ways that we should be able to appreciate. Like us, wolves are social creatures that form tight family units and display great affection for their family members.

Wolves are the closest genetic link to modern dogs, without which our society would be vastly different and deficient in many ways. Dogs perform many service roles in our society from guide dogs to therapy dogs to law enforcement to personal protection. Though many breeds have been substantially altered cosmetically, the dog is still just the wolf in the living room. Thankfully, society would not tolerate the hunting and trapping of dogs for sport, but wolves need strong advocates to preserve their existence.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Our gray wolf population is the largest biologically diverse population of gray wolves remaining in the lower 48. The DNR has a responsibility as a taxpayer-funded organization and as stewards of our state wildlife to manage this valued public trust resource in accordance with the high ecological and sustainable economic value it represents to all of our residents, rather than simply catering to special interest groups like the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the Minnesota Trappers Association, and the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association.

Action #1: Tell DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr to Stop the Wolf Hunt

DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr has the legal authority to stop the hunt.

Go to <http://www.howlingforwolves.org/dnr-letter> to send a letter electronically or download a letter template in Microsoft Word format that you can mail.

If you prefer to call his office directly or send a personalized email, you will find his complete contact information below.

Office of the DNR Commissioner

500 Lafayette Rd.

St. Paul, MN 55115

Tom.Landwehr@state.mn.us

651-296-6157

Action #2: Tell Governor Mark Dayton to Stop the Wolf Hunt

Governor Mark Dayton has the legal authority to stop the wolf hunt.

Office of the Governor

130 State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Telephone: 651-201-3400

Toll-Free: 800-657-3717

Action #3: Stay Posted, Volunteer, Donate

Howling for Wolves is a local organization leading efforts to stop the wolf hunting and trapping season by raising public awareness. Visit <http://www.howlingforwolves.org> to stay posted on current efforts, connect with volunteer opportunities, or make a donation to help ongoing efforts.

SENATE VOTE: HANN AMENDMENT

The final voting record from the Minnesota Senate for the Hann Amendment that sought to reinstate the 5-year waiting period on wolf hunting and trapping in an effort to stop the hunt. While the votes on the Game and Fish Bill in the House and the Senate involved other complicated issues besides the wolf hunt, the Hann Amendment vote reflects how senators actually feel about the wolf hunt, and their perception of the value of wolves to Minnesota.

Voting for this amendment in the affirmative was voting against a wolf hunting and trapping season. Unfortunately, an amendment to reinstate the 5-year waiting period was never introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

See how your senator voted and ask them about their position on hunting and trapping wolves. If this is an important issue to you, let them know.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SENATE
2012 SESSION

AMENDMENT A-1
Hann

DATE • 4/23/2012

LEG. DAY • 107

FILE NO. - HF 2171

SEQ. NO. • 008

The question was taken on the adoption of the amendment.

The roll was called, and there were yeas 26 and nays 40, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Bonoff	Goodwin	McGuire	Sheran
Cohen	Hann	Metzen	Sieben
Daley	Harrington	Nelson	Torres Ray
Dibble	Hayden	Nienow	Wiger
Dziedzic	Higgins	Pappas	Wolf
Eaton	Latz	Rest	
Gerlach	Marty	Senjem	

Those who voted in the negative were:

Bakk.	Hall	Lillie	Pederson
Benson	Hoffman	Limmer	Robling
Brown	Howe	Lourey	Rosen
Carlson	Ingebrigtsen	Magnus	Saxhaug
Chamberlain	Jungbauer	Michel	Skoe
Dahms	Kelash	Miller	Sparks
DeKruif	Koch	Newman	Stumpf
Fischbach	Koenen	Olson	Thompson
Gazelka	Kruse	Ortman	Tomassoni
Gimse	Langseth	Parry	Vandever

The motion did not prevail. So the amendment was not adopted.

SENATE VOTE: GAME AND FISH BILL

The final voting record from the Minnesota Senate for the Game and Fish Bill that included the wolf hunt. See how your senator voted and ask them about their position on hunting and trapping wolves. If this is an important issue to you, let them know.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SENATE
2012 SESSION

FINAL PASSAGE
CC REPORT

DATE • 4/28/2012

LEG. DAY - 112

FILE NO. - HF 2171

SEQ. NO. Oil

Was read the third time, as amended by the Conference Committee, and placed on its repassage.

The question was taken on the repassage of the bill, as amended by the Conference Committee.

The roll was called, and there were yeas 34 and nays 28, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Bakk	Ingebrigtsen	Lourey	Rosen
Carlson	Jungbauer	Magnus	Saxhaug
Chamberlain	Kelash	Michel	Sen jem
Dahms	Koch	Miller	Sparks
Fischbach	Koene	Nelson	Stumpf
Gazelka	Kruse	Newman	Vandever
Hann	Langseth	Nienow	Wolf
Hoffman	Latz	Pederson	
Howe	Limmer	Robling	

Those who voted in the negative were:

Benson	Dziedzic	Higgins	Rest
Bonoff	Eaton	Lillie	Sheran
Brown	Gerlach	Marty	. Sieben
Cohen	Goodwin	McGuire	Thompson
Daley	Hall	Metzen	Tomassoni
DeKruif	Harrington	Ortman	Torres Ray
Dibble	Hayden	Pappas	Wiger

So the bill, as amended by the Conference Committee, was repassed and its title was agreed to.

RCS# 2645

HOUSE VOTE: GAME AND FISH BILL

The final voting record from the Minnesota House of Representatives for the Game and Fish Bill that included the wolf hunt. See how your representative voted and ask them about their position on hunting and trapping wolves. If this is an important issue to you, let them know.

H.F. NO. 2171

DATE - 04-28-2012

SEQUENCE NO. - 1800

COMMITTEE

REPORT

CONFERENCE
Repassage

Hackbarth

The bill was read for the third time and placed upon its repassage.

The question was taken on the repassage of the bill and the roll was called. There were 68 yeas and 62 nays as follows:

0		Y	Hackbarth	N	Morrow
Y	Abeler	Y	Hamilton	N	Mullery
N	Allen	Y	Hancock	Y	Murdock
Y	Anderson, B.	N	Hansen	N	Murphy, E.
Y	Anderson, D.	N	Hausman	N	Murphy, M.
Y	Anderson, P.	Y	Hilstrom	Y	Murray
Y	Anderson, S.	N	Hilty	Y	Myhra
N	Anzelc	Y	Holberg	Y	Nelson
N	Atkins	Y	Hoppe	Y	Nornes
Y	Banaian	N	Hornstein	N	Norton
Y	Barrett	Y	Hortman	Y	O'Driscoll
Y	Beard	Y	Ho sen	N	Paymar
N	Benson, J.	Y	Hoves	N	Pelowski
Y	Benson, M.	N	Hunt ley	N	Peppin
N	Bills	N	Johnson	Y	Persell
N	Brynaert	N	Kahn	Y	Petersen, B.
N	Buesgens	N	Kath	0	Peterson, S.
N	Carlson	Y	Kelly	N	Poppe
N	Champion	Y	Kieffer	N	Quam
N	Clark	Y	Kiel	N	Rukavina
Y	Cornish	Y	Kif fmeyer	N	Runbeck
Y	Crawford	N	Knuth	Y	Sanders
Y	Daudt	Y	Kriesel	N	Scalze
Y	Dauids	N	Laine	N	Schomacker
N	Davnie	Y	Lanning	Y	Scott
Y	Dean	N	Leidiger	Y	Shimanski
Y	Dettmer	Y	LeMieur	N	Simon
Y	Dill	Y	Lenczewski	N	Slawik
Y	Dittrich	N	Lesch	N	Slocum
Y	Doepke	N	Liebling	Y	Smith
N	Downey	N	Lillie	Y	Stensrud
N	Drazkowski	N	Loef l er	Y	Swedzinski
N	Eken	N	Lohmer	Y	Thissen
N	Erickson	Y	Loon	N	Tillberry
Y	Fabian	Y	Mack	Y	Torkelson
N	Falk	N	Mahoney	Y	Urdahl
Y	Franson	N	Mariani	0	Vogel
N	Fritz	N	Marquart	N	Waagenius
Y	Garof alo	Y	Mazorol	Y	Ward
N	Gauthier	N	McDonald	N	Wardlow
Y	Gottwalt	Y	McElpatrick	N	Westrom
N	Greene	Y	McFarlane	Y	Winkler
0	Greiling	Y	McNamara	Y	Woodard
Y	Gruenhagen	N	Melin	Y	Spk. Zellers
Y	Gunther	N	Moran		

MN DNR WOLF SEASON DETAILS (1/2)

Consistent with state law, the state's first regulated wolf season will start with the beginning of firearms deer hunting on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The season will be split into two parts: an early wolf hunting season coinciding with firearms deer hunting; and a late wolf hunting and trapping season after the firearms deer season for those with a specific interest in wolf hunting and trapping.

A total of 6,000 licenses will be offered, with 3,600 available in the early season and 2,400 in the late season. Late season licenses will be further split between hunting and trapping, with a minimum of 600 reserved for trappers. The target harvest will be 400 wolves for both seasons combined and will initially be allocated equally between the early and the late seasons.

The early hunting only season will be open only in the northern portions of Minnesota where rifles are allowed for deer hunting. It will start on Saturday, Nov. 3, the opening day of firearms deer hunting. It will close either at the end of the respective firearms seasons in the two northern deer zones (Nov. 18 in Series 100 deer permit areas or Nov. 11 in Series 200 deer permit areas), or when a registered target harvest by zone is reached.

The late hunting and trapping season will begin Saturday, Nov. 24. It will close Jan. 31, 2013, or when a registered total target harvest by zone or total harvest of 400 in both seasons combined is reached, whichever comes sooner. The late season will be open only where rifles are allowed for deer hunting. The use of bait and electronic calls will be allowed.

Wolf hunting licenses will be \$30 for residents and \$250 for nonresidents. Nonresidents will be limited to 5 percent of total hunting licenses. Wolf trapping licenses will be \$30 (limited to residents only). A lottery will be held to select license recipients. Proof of a current or previous hunting license will be required to apply for a wolf license. The application fee will be \$4. A wolf season regulation booklet is being developed.

Season structure

- The early wolf hunting season (legal firearms or archery) will be concurrent with the deer season and open only in that portion of the state where rifles can be used to hunt deer.
- The early season dates are Nov. 3-18 in 100 Series deer permit areas (northeastern and east-central Minnesota) and Nov. 3-11 in the rifle zone portion of 200 Series deer permit areas (central and northwestern Minnesota). The early season will close before those dates if the target harvest by wolf zone is reached sooner.
- No trapping will be allowed in the early season.
- The late hunting and trapping season will open Nov. 24 statewide. It will close Jan. 31 or when the total target harvest by wolf zone is reached, whichever is sooner.
- Licensed wolf hunters will be responsible for checking each day to assure that the season is still open.
- Landowners and tribal authorities may close land under their control to wolf harvest at their discretion.

The bag limit is one wolf per licensee.

Continued on following page.

MN DNR WOLF SEASON DETAILS (2/2)

Licensing

- A person cannot purchase both a wolf hunting and a wolf trapping license. A person with a hunting license may take a wolf only by firearms or archery; a person with a trapping license may take a wolf only by trap or snare.
- 3,600 licenses will be available for the early season and are only valid for the early season.
- 2,400 licenses will be available for the late season (at least 600 trapping) and are only valid for the late season.
- The number of hunting licenses offered to nonresidents will be capped at five percent for both the early and late seasons.

Licenses must be purchased prior to the opening day of the respective seasons.

Application process

- Application materials will be available online in mid-August with a \$4 application fee.
- A person must have proof of a current or previous hunting license to apply.
- Trappers born after Dec. 31, 1989, need a trapper education certificate or proof of a previous trapping license to purchase a wolf trapping license.
- The application deadline will be Sept. 6; online winner notification will be no later than Oct. 14. Licenses will be available for purchase no later than Oct. 15.
- Groups of up to four individuals may apply as a single group and may assist another licensed wolf hunter but may not shoot or tag for each other.

Applicants can apply for only one of three license types: early wolf hunting; late wolf hunting; or late wolf trapping.

Registration

- All animals must be registered by 10 p.m. of the day of harvest (can be done electronically at ELS agent, online or by phone).
- Harvest registration information/reporting will be available online and via a toll-free phone number.
- Harvest registration must identify the zone in which the wolf was taken.

Carcasses must be presented for collection of biological data.

Season closure and notification

- The season for each wolf zone will close at the end of legal shooting hours on the day for which hunters and trappers are notified that the closure will occur.

Notification will be available via a 1-800- number and DNR website indicating whether the season is open or closed in each wolf zone.

2012 season details reproduced directly from the Minnesota DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html>.

RED LAKE RESOLUTION

American Indians revere the wolf in their culture, recognizing him as a spiritual brother. Many Ojibwe believe the fate of the wolf is closely tied to the fate of all Ojibwe people, according to Karen Driver, chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Red Lake Nation has respectfully requested that the DNR halt the 2012 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season.

RED LAKE BAND
of CHIPPEWA INDIANS
RED LAKE NATION HEADQUARTERS

PO Box 550, Red Lake, MN 56671

Phone 218-679-3341 • Fax



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THUNDER ALLEN PKMBKRTON
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DONALD J. "DUDIE" MAY
WILLIAM "BILLY" GREENE
RICHARD BARRETT, SR.

ADVISORY COUNCIL:
7 HEREDITARY CHIEFS

RESOLUTION NO. 139-12

Upon a motion by Secretary Cook and second by Representative Pemberton, the following was enacted:

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Tribal Council is the governing body of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the gray wolf in Minnesota was officially removed from protection under the Endangered Species Act on January 27, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has approved a 2012 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season; and

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians protects wolves and their habitat on the Red Lake Indian Reservation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Red Lake Tribal Council hereby respectfully requests that the Minnesota DNR stop the proposed 2012 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season.

FOR 9
AGAINST 0

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and enacted upon at the Regular Meeting of the Tribal Council held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, with a quorum present, at the Red Lake Nation Headquarters, Red Lake.


FLOYD JOURDAIN, JR., CHAIRMAN

DON R. COOK, SR., SECRETARY