

Howling For Wolves | Legislative Priorities

Repeal the Reckless and Automatic Wolf Trophy Hunt from DNR Rules and State Law

Support House File 2159, authored by Representatives Fischer, Rosenthal, Ward, and Allen

Support Senate File 1850, authored by Senators Eaton, Hawj, Wiger, and Dibble

Despite current federal protections under the Endangered Species Act, wolf trophy hunting and trapping seasons remain in Minnesota state law and would automatically go into effect the moment federal protections are removed, either by Congress or by a court. Right now, Congress is pushing legislation to give the states responsibility for wolf recovery. A wolf trophy hunt in Minnesota is set to resume immediately upon loss of federal protections. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has stated publicly that they will “pick up where they left off” and resume the wolf hunt. Current state law already allows for many wolves to be killed outside the hunt yearlong, simply for existing. They can be baited and killed simply for a “perceived” threat. Without federal protections Minnesota allows baiting and killing a wolf when their paw tracks are seen. Repealing the hunt gives the people and the state time to develop a responsible and ethical wolf plan.

Eliminate Snaring of All Wildlife

Support House File 2160, authored by Representatives Fischer, Loon, Kunesh-Podein, Rosenthal, Ward, Slocum, Allen, and Dehn, R.

Support Senate File 1447, authored by Senators Hoffman and Wiger

A snaring ban would eliminate trapping that uses cheap wire nooses to kill animals. Snares are put out by the hundreds, year-round. Snares are difficult to see and can hurt pets and people. They kill and maim many animals that are not targeted including dogs, pheasants, wolves, moose, and songbirds. Snares often catch body parts and cause dismemberment, disembowelment, excruciating disabilities, and of course, death. When the wolf is snared around the neck, he suffers a prolonged and painful death of brain swelling and bleeding until he is killed by blunt force (to preserve the pelt). Twenty (20) states have outlawed the use of snares to trap animals. The bill allows for an exception for use of snares in authorized predator-control programs. This exception was included as a gesture of cooperation and to avoid losing support by legislators.

Require Permission to Trap on Private Land

Support House File 1924 authored by Representatives Bennett, Smith, Fenton, Fischer, Becker-Finn, and Christensen

Support Senate File 1390 authored by Senators Housley, Benson, Rosen, Schoen, and Simonson

Minnesota would be the 23rd state to support private property owners by enacting stronger requirements to obtain clear, written permission from a landowner to set traps on their private property. Current Minnesota law allows for individuals to put traps on private property unless it is posted. If there is not a visible “No Trespassing” sign, traps can be set without a landowner’s permission, unless it is agricultural land. Wisconsin has required permission to hunt/trap on private land since 1995.

Support Farmers in Wolf Country, Fund Farmers for Nonlethal Prevention Methods

Support House File 772 authored by Representatives Fabian, Heintzeman, Lueck, Sundin, and Ecklund

Support Senate File 845 authored by Senators Johnson and Utke

Support House File 2277 authored by Representatives Poston and Hamilton

Support Senate File 1453 authored by Senators Ruud, Lourey, Johnson, Eichorn, and Tomassoni

Like other protected species in Minnesota, many wolves spend some of their life cycle on private land, and on rare occasions, come into contact with livestock. Howling For Wolves has long supported reimbursements for farmers who experience losses from wolf predation, as funded in HF772/SF845.

Along the same lines, HF2277/SF1453 provides financial assistance for equipment and guard animals along with veterinary care of those animals for farmers working to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. This pilot project has earned the support of the agriculture community and would make Minnesota eligible for federal matching dollars, as well.