



**DECLARATION DESIGNATING THE WHITE EARTH RESERVATION
AS A MA'IINGAN (WOLF) SANCTUARY**

**BY THE WHITE EARTH RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
A/K/A WHITE EARTH BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

A PROCLAMATION

The Ma'iingan (wolf) has a special relationship with the Anishinabe. They are recognized as educators of the Anishinabe who teach hunting and working together as a family unit. The Anishinabe creation story explains that Ma'iingan is a brother to Original man. The two traveled together throughout the earth naming everything. When they had finished naming everything the Creator separated them and sent Original man and Ma'iingan on separate paths, but indicated that as brothers, what happened to one of them would also happen to the other.

As brothers taking separate paths there are many similarities between Ma'iingan and Anishinabe. Both have extensive clan systems, both mate for life and raise their young in a family environment. Over time, both the Ma'iingan and the Anishinabe have shared a similar fate. Both have lost lands, both have been mistreated, both have been misunderstood and both have been hunted. Yet, both have also survived. The recovery of the Ma'iingan population is viewed by the Anishinabe as a positive sign. Harm to the Ma'iingan population endangers the very being of the Anishinabe and threatens the health and welfare of the tribe.

The Ma'iingan were protected under the Endangered Species Act until January 27, 2012. The recovery of the population of Ma'iingan is due to the special protections afforded to the Ma'iingan under the Endangered Species Act. With the removal of the Ma'iingan from the federal threatened and endangered species list on January 27, 2012, they are, once again, in danger of being misunderstood and mistreated.

Without any consultation with any of the Tribes in Minnesota, the Minnesota Legislature and Governor have authorized the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to implement a regulated wolf hunting and trapping season for the fall of 2012.

Without any consultation with any of the Tribes in Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has decided that 400 Ma'iingan will be harvested in Minnesota in 2012 and that a statewide winter population of 1,600 wolves is an appropriate minimum goal. These numbers were determined without any deliberation as to the many factors that will impact the population of Ma'iingan in Minnesota independent of hunting.

The White Earth Band of Ojibwe wish to see Ma'iingan populations that are stable or growing. The State of Minnesota's proposal does not properly consider unexpected events and does not recognize the lack of certainty surrounding the effect of issuing harvest permits for Ma'iingan. It does not address the disproportionate effect of the death of an alpha female or an alpha male on a Ma'iingan pack and clan, and therefore on the Ma'iingan population in Minnesota as a whole.

The Minnesota quota system also fails to include depredation kills in the harvest totals, does not consider the potential impact of overharvesting in other states and does not properly protect against overharvesting in any particular area in Minnesota. The State of Minnesota intends to issue 6000 licenses for the harvest of 400 wolves, yet does not intend to limit harvesting unless the Ma'iingan population falls below 1600.

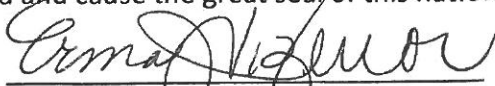
The White Earth Band of Ojibwe has the right to govern and protect its members and also its territory within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation. The failure of the state of Minnesota to consult with the White Earth Band of Ojibwe deprives the White Earth Band of Ojibwe of the opportunity to regulate matters within the reservation and therefore threatens the political integrity of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council hereby declares the territory within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation a Ma'iingan or Wolf Sanctuary. No hunting or trapping of Ma'iingan shall be allowed within the original 1867 exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation.

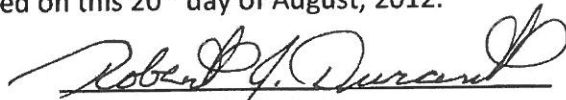
The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council hereby directs the White Earth Conservation Department to develop procedures for protecting the Ma'iingan population within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation and within the 1855 ceded territory.

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council hereby directs the White Earth Tribal Attorney to explore all options for enforcing the protection of the Ma'iingan within the original 1867 exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation and within the 1855 territory. Additionally, the Tribal Council directs the Director of Natural Resources to prepare a wolf management plan for the White Earth Reservation.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the elected governing body of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe set our hand and cause the great seal of this nation to be affixed on this 20th day of August, 2012.



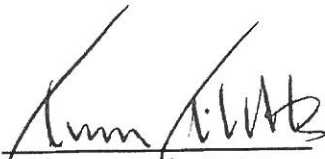
Erma J. Vizenor
Chairwoman



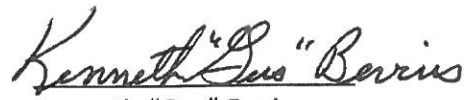
Robert J. Durant
Secretary/ Treasurer



Irene Auginaush
District I Representative



Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts
District II Representative



Kenneth "Gus" Bevens
District III Representative