

## **TOP PRIORITY:**

### **Remove the automatic & reckless wolf trophy hunt in Minnesota State Statute to protect wild wolves for future generations**

*SUPPORT HOUSE FILE 1498, AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVES FISCHER, HORNSTEIN, EDELSON*

*SUPPORT SENATE FILE 1144, AUTHORED BY SENATORS EATON, WIGER, CWODZINSKI, PAPPAS, LOPEZ FRANZEN*

While the wolf goes back and forth on the federal Endangered Species List (and is currently on it, as of January 2022), existing Minnesota statute would authorize the MN DNR to prescribe a recreational hunting and trapping season on wolves. Last time 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.

Repeal Wolf Hunting in Minnesota:

- 1) Current state law: permission or possible “may” have a wolf hunt
- 2) Very bad option: mandatory wolf hunt, now in Senate Omnibus Environment Bill (language below)
- 3) Best option: ban wolf hunting

- Oppose SF 4062, the Senate Environment Omnibus Bill which includes a mandatory wolf hunt.

97B.645, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. Open season. There shall be no open season for wolves until after the wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. After that time, the commissioner ~~may~~ must annually prescribe one or more open seasons and for taking wolves by hunting, trapping, and bow and arrow. The commissioner may also prescribe restrictions for taking wolves but must provide opportunity for public comment.

## **ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES:**

### **Require permission to leave traps on private land**

*SUPPORT HOUSE FILE 4543, AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVES WAZLAWIK, BECKER-FINN*

*SUPPORT SENATE FILE 4279, AUTHORED BY SENATORS EATON, WIGER*

If approved, Minnesota will be the 23rd state that requires trappers obtain written or verbal permission to set traps on someone else's property. Currently, Minnesota law allows trapping on private property without the landowner's permission. Only agricultural land or land adequately posted with "no trespassing" signs are exempt from trapping access. If signs are missing or not seen, traps can be set legally without the property owner's knowledge or permission. Wisconsin has required permission to hunt and trap on private land since 1995.

### **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 federal matching dollars. Nonlethal methods include guard animals, fencing, shelters, lights, and carcass removal, and have been shown to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.