
HOWLING^{FOR} WOLVES[®]

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TOP PRIORITY: Remove wolf hunting and trapping from state law to protect wild wolves for future generations

While the wolf goes back and forth on the federal Endangered Species List (and is currently on it, as of February 2022), existing Minnesota law authorizes the MN DNR to hold a recreational wolf hunting and trapping season.

When Minnesota gray wolves lost federal protections in 2012, the state legislature hastily enacted a recreational hunting and trapping season without even determining whether the wolf population could tolerate losing those federal protections. The MN DNR did not even perform a baseline population survey before the first ever wolf season with baiting and trapping after 35 years of protection. Current state law is permissive: the DNR “Commissioner *may* prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves.”

Illegal wolf killing already happens, even with federal protections. With legal wolf killing comes more illegal killing. A hunt will endanger them and encourage more killing and wolf killing cannot be controlled. Killing one wolf can decimate the entire pack. This is “additive mortality.”

The following bills would remove permission for the DNR to authorize recreational wolf hunting and trapping seasons. If the DNR wants wolf hunting in the future they would need to request a new law from the legislature for when wolves lose federal protections. We can protect wolves now and into the future!

- **Senate File 2062** is chief authored by Senator Mary Kunesh and co-authored by Senators Hawj, Abeler, Marty, and Dibble.
- **House File 2144** is chief authored by Representative Peter Fischer and co-authored by Representatives Becker-Finn, Jordan, Hornstein, Olson, L., Freiberg, and Feist.

PRIORITY: Support the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture’s Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants

In 2017, a grant program passed into law that reimburses livestock producers for equipment, guard animals, and other costs of preventing wolf-livestock conflicts. This ongoing grant program has earned the support of the agricultural community and made Minnesota eligible for federal dollars. Nonlethal conflict prevention methods include guard animals, fencing, shelters, lights, and carcass removal, and have been shown to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

- **Senate File 2154** is chief authored by Senator Rob Kupec and co-authored by Senators Johnson, Kunesh, Rarick, and Putnam.
- **House File 2142** is chief authored by Representative Brad Tabke and co-authored by Representatives Burkel, Nelson, N. Hansen, R., Pursell, and Hemmingsen-Jaeger.