

MN Legislative Highlights for Wolf Related Legislation

Prior to the 2011 Summer Special Session

Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97B.645, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

“Subd. 9. Open season. There shall be no open season for gray wolves for five years until after the gray wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. After that time, the commissioner may prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking gray wolves but must provide opportunity for public comment.”

When the Minnesota DNR filed a Petition with the U.S. Department of Interior to de-list the wolf from protection under the Endangered Species Act in March 2010, the Minnesota DNR stated that the Wolf management plan was an adequate regulatory mechanism and referred to the 5-year moratorium on hunting. The HFW Petition to Stop the Wolf Hunt states on page 7:

“Population management measures, including public taking (i.e. hunting and trapping seasons) or other options, will be considered by DNR in the future – but not sooner than 5 years after Federal delisting by USFWS. See Minn. Stat. §97B.645; Minnesota DNR, 2011. If, in the future, public taking is proposed by DNR, there will be opportunity for public comment. Decisions on public taking will be based on sound biological data, including comprehensive population surveys.

Summer 2011

July 2011, the Minnesota legislature removed the 5-year moratorium on wolf hunting:

Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97B.645, subdivision 9, is amended to read: Subd. 9. Open season. There shall be no open season for gray wolves ~~for five years~~ until after the gray wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. After that time, the commissioner may prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking gray wolves but must provide opportunity for public comment. (Author: Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen)

July 2011, the Minnesota legislature classified the gray wolf as small game:

Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.015, subdivision 45, is amended to read: Subd. 45. Small game. "Small game" means game birds, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, jack rabbit, raccoon, lynx, bobcat, gray wolf, red fox and gray fox, fisher, pine marten, opossum, badger, cougar, wolverine, muskrat, mink, otter, and beaver. (Author: Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen)

Current Minnesota law allowing recreational wolf hunting and trapping

Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97B.645 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 prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves but must provide opportunity for public comment.