

Resolution to Stop the Recreational Killing of Wolves and Implement Ethical Wolf Policies

WHEREAS, Minnesotans (Native and non-Native alike) consider the wolf to be an iconic animal, with a sacred cultural role, similar to the federally-protected bald eagle.

WHEREAS, the wolf was the first mammal protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Upon delisting in 2012, wolf hunting and killing occurred for three years until the species was returned to the Endangered Species List in December, 2014.

WHEREAS, members of Congress and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services seek to remove the wolf from the U.S. Endangered Species List and place them under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, though currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, Minnesota wolves from many human causes, including poaching and ineffective enforcement of federal protections, and the authorized baiting, trapping, and killing of nearly 200 wolves annually by U.S. Department of Agriculture “Wildlife Services” agents.

WHEREAS, if federally delisted, the wolf would again fall under the jurisdiction of the State of Minnesota where current law allows for public recreational wolf hunting and trapping, and much more killing by private citizens.

WHEREAS, the current and future Governor of the State of Minnesota, who oversees all executive branch agencies including the Department of Natural Resources, has the authority to halt a wolf trophy hunt.

WHEREAS, recreational wolf hunting and trapping recklessly endangers the wolf population by: (1) decreasing genetic diversity; (2) creating pack disruption and thus increasing livestock predation; (3) increasing wolf mortality for those that survive the hunt; and (4) encouraging continued wolf persecution.

WHEREAS, even with federal protections, wolves are routinely killed by USDA agents in response to complaints of wolf conflicts.

WHEREAS, state and federal funds have long provided reimbursement for farmers experiencing losses from wildlife damage. In 2017 the state enacted a new grant program to reimburse costs of preventing wolf-livestock conflicts through the use of nonlethal methods.

WHEREAS, wolves have much greater value to our state alive. As an apex predator, the wolf is vital for a healthy ecosystem. Visitors from all over the world value Minnesota’s strong advocacy and seek to experience wolf habitat, such as viewing signs of wolves or hearing the unforgettable sound of howling wolves.

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that Minnesota DFL Action Agenda (2018) is amended to add the following language under “Natural Resources and the Environment”:

1. Support the repeal of Minnesota laws that allow recreational wolf hunting and trapping.
2. Ban the snare; a cruel trapping method that kills dogs, wolves and other wildlife.
3. Support grant programs to fund farmers’ use of nonlethal prevention methods to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts and fair reimbursement for livestock losses.
4. Increase public education efforts to increase knowledge about the wolf and how the wolf lives in family groups and generally fears humans.