

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

WHEREAS, Minnesotans (Native-American and non-Native American alike) consider wolves to be an iconic animal, of great spiritual and cultural significance, similar to the federally-protected bald eagle.

WHEREAS, the wolf was on the first list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

WHEREAS, although the Endangered Species Act is responsible for the wolf's current existence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is likely to remove the wolf from the U.S. endangered species list and place the wolf under the jurisdiction of the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, with the wolf under State of Minnesota jurisdiction, there will be pressure to open a recreational wolf hunting and trapping season, which the large majority of Minnesotans oppose.

WHEREAS, human-caused mortality is the most limiting factor for wolf recovery.

WHEREAS, recreational hunting and trapping of wolves have unintended consequences that recklessly risk the wolf population, such as: (1) decreasing genetic diversity; (2) increasing livestock predation; (3) increasing wolf mortality for those that survive the hunt; and (4) enabling the continuation of wolf persecution.

WHEREAS, after federal delisting, Minnesota already has liberal laws in place to address wolf conflicts. Minnesota Statute 97B.671 allows wolves to be baited and killed - after the fact - for mere suspicion of predation on livestock. Minnesota Statute 97B.645 allows a person to kill a wolf, at any time of the year and without a permit: (1) in defense of human life; or (2) if the wolf poses an immediate threat to livestock, a guard animal, or a domestic animal.

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

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that "Action Agenda" (2016) is amended to add the following language under "Natural Resources and the Environment":

1. "Support the repeal of Minnesota laws that allow the recreational hunting and trapping, of wolves."
2. "Support legislation to implement, as much as possible, non-lethal techniques to prevent livestock-wolf conflicts, along with a fair allowance to reimburse livestock producers for wolf depredation losses."
3. "Support educational efforts to increase public tolerance of wolves."