

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council recently issued a Proclamation providing for all lands within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation to be set aside as a wolf sanctuary. No hunting, trapping or possession of wolves is permitted within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation by any person, Indian or non-Indian. Additionally, the Tribal Executive Committee, the governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which comprises the White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte and Grand Portage Reservations, recently passed a Resolution confirming the authority of each of the six constituent Reservation governing bodies over the regulation of natural resources within their respective Reservation boundaries.

The White Earth Nation has not independently determined that the wolf population on the White Earth Reservation has reached an optimum level that would permit a wolf hunt at this time. The gray wolf was very recently removed from the federal Endangered Species list, and the State of Minnesota has not engaged in any meaningful management plan before abruptly declaring a wolf hunt season in Minnesota; nor has the State engaged in any type of meaningful consultation with the White Earth Nation prior to declaring a wolf hunt season. Accordingly, the White Earth Nation has determined that a sanctuary for wolves within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation is required in order to responsibly examine the factors that are necessary for the preparation of a wolf management plan for the Reservation.

It is a violation of federal law to hunt on tribal lands without a properly issued permit. A permit to hunt wolves that is issued by the State of Minnesota does not allow a hunter to hunt or trap wolves on White Earth tribal lands.