



TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 712 Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage January 10, 2018

Thank you Chairman Kleefisch and members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage for hearing Assembly Bill 712 related to state management of wolves.

Assembly Bill 712 would simply make it illegal for law enforcement to enforce state or federal law relating to management of wolves in Wisconsin. It also does not allow the DNR to expend any funds relating to wolf management other than paying claims under the endangered resources program for damage caused by wolves. In 2011, Idaho Governor Butch Otter issued an executive order stating that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game would no longer monitor wolf populations, investigate illegal wolf killings, or reimburse farmers whose livestock have been killed by wolves. As a result of this executive order, the federal government de-listed the wolf in Idaho.

The Great Lakes Gray wolf has a long history in Wisconsin, both within the environment and judicially; having shifted from endangered and back by judges over the past quarter century. The wolf brings both a feeling of optimism and frustration depending on the person.

The gray wolf has made a successful comeback in Wisconsin thanks to the efforts of our Department of Natural Resources (DNR) working in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In the latest estimate, the wolf population has increased to a record 925 animals in the winter of 2016-'17, according to the DNR. With numbers that high we are going to continue to see conflicts between humans and wolves, some disastrous.

The ESA can point to wolves as a success story but with success comes a responsibility. The ESA was designed to protect those species with such low numbers, they could not survive without invention. The ESA is not designed to be used as a judicial shield with which to protect animals that have overrun a great swath of this state and have endangered the lives of residents. The gray wolf is no longer at that point of extinction, it has been recovered and it is time to write the final chapter of this success story. It is time to return the wolf to state management and if the Federal government won't lead, it is time for Wisconsin to give Lady Freedom a nudge in the right direction.

Again, thank you members of the Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage and Natural Resources for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 712. I would appreciate your support.

Thank you.

Tom Tiffany
Wisconsin State Senate
12th Senate District



ADAM JARCHOW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony – Assembly Bill 712
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
January 10, 2018

From April of 2016 to April of 2017, thirty-three head of cattle, twenty-seven sheep, forty-four dogs, and two donkeys were confirmed to be killed through wolf depredation in Wisconsin. Northern Wisconsin has witnessed a consistent growth in the number of wolves that populate this state, and it's witnessed that population take its toll on families, farms, hunters, and more. Congress isn't acting in the best interest of Wisconsinites and passing legislation to delist the gray wolf, so we must act in their stead.

Currently, due to a federal judge's decision in the District Court of the District of Columbia in 2014, Wisconsin is not allowed to manage our own gray wolf population. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is relegated to merely monitoring the gray wolf. In 1999, when the gray wolf population numbered 197, the DNR reclassified wolves from "endangered" to "threatened" and developed a management plan to remove their "threatened" status at 250 animals and to maintain a goal of 350 animals for the state. Winter counts, when populations are at their lowest, show there are approximately 925 wolves in 232 packs in Wisconsin. The gray wolf population is nearly triple that of the recommended goal. Clearly, the federal government needs to return control of the gray wolf's population management to Wisconsin. This state is literally paying for it. Wisconsin's annual wolf damage payments have risen in conjunction with rising wolf populations. In 2017, the state paid \$196,397.34 to farms, individuals, and hunters for damage done to them by wolves. In 2002, when the gray wolf population was close to the set management goal, the state paid \$54,497.10 for damage done by wolves. If the management goal were to be in place, Wisconsin would save money, livestock, and pets.

In Congress, bipartisan bills have been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives to fix the problem through federal means. These bills have not made the progress necessary to help those Wisconsinites that have been affected by rising populations. Something must be done to make meaningful change and return management to the state level. In 2011, Idaho Governor Butch Otter issued an executive order to cease enforcement of federal laws regarding the gray wolf. The wolf was quickly delisted and wolf management reverted to the state without federal interference. Wisconsin needs to send a similarly strong message to the

federal government. Assembly Bill 712 will be the impetus for affecting positive change in our state.

AB 712 would make it illegal for law enforcement to enforce state or federal law relating to the management of wolves in Wisconsin. Additionally, the DNR would be disallowed from expending funds related to wolf management other than paying claims under the endangered resources program for damage caused by wolves. Wisconsin knows what is best for wolf management within the state, not a bureaucracy sitting in Washington, D.C. This bill sends a clear message to Congress: "Act."

Thank you to the committee chair and members for hearing testimony on AB 712. I ask for your support in standing with the people of Northern Wisconsin and bringing management of the gray wolf back to Wisconsin.



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Chairman Kleefisch and Assembly Natural Resource and Sporting Heritage Committee members

I am Al Shook Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come before you today and testify on behalf of the WCC in support of AB 712 / SB 602.

The WCC District Leadership Council met January 5th and 6th and discussed this proposed legislation at the request of the WCC Wolf Committee. It is rather frustrating that we are here today and have to deal with this issue which we feel should have been resolved on a Federal level a long time ago. During our discussion it was brought to our attention that there are certain risks in moving forward with this legislation. If this legislation works quickly to leverage the federal government to delist the wolf, and once again allow Wisconsin to manage our wolf population there is little to no concern that we will lose any valuable information about population and pack distribution estimates. However, we are also aware that if it takes several years or more before the federal government moves to delist the wolf to allow Wisconsin to once again manage our wolf population there are certain risks that we may face. This could include the federal government forcing Wisconsin to harvest at less aggressive pace due to the fact we won't have any accurate population estimates. For these same reasons it could open additional avenues for litigation since there will be some loss of information regarding to the size of the population and distribution of wolf packs

The WCC takes very seriously the feedback we receive from citizens of this state on many resource issues. We have heard from many concerns citizens, sportsmen and women of their concerns with Wisconsin not having the ability to manage our wolf population. The WCC is of the opinion these risks are worth taking and for that reason the WCC supports this legislation.

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Wisconsin Bowhunters Association Testimony on Assembly Bill 712

The Wisconsin Bowhunters Association has a long history of actively supporting the delisting of wolves and return of their management to Wisconsin state authorities. We support wolf hunting and trapping seasons to maintain their numbers at the statewide population goal as defined in the Wisconsin wolf management plan.

We also appreciate and understand the frustration of legislators representing hunters, farmers, dog owners, hikers and all our citizens that continue to suffer from an overpopulation of wolves in our state. Like other groups, we have encouraged our members to contact their national legislators to enact a law that would prevent radical courts from overruling the recommendations of the experts at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. And while such legislation has continually been promised for the Great Lakes population of wolves, it has yet to be enacted. However, we continue to support efforts to expedite that process.

While we recognize that AB712 is intended to further stimulate that process, we have concerns over other unintended consequences that could prove counterproductive to the goal of returning effective management of wolves to the state.

Specifically, without continued state monitoring of the wolf population and dynamics, we are concerned that Wisconsin will not have the current data and the unquestionable scientific basis to manage wolves to the established goal once they are finally delisted. Also, should this remain in the courts, those that support unlimited wolf protection will cite this legislation as evidence that Wisconsin may not be willing to manage wolves at a sustainable level.

Again, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association supports the intent of this bill to prompt national legislation to delist wolves and return management of the Great Lakes wolf population to the states, while also disallowing courts from overruling the judgements of the experts at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. However we feel that some provisions of this bill have the potential to produce the opposite effect.

Submitted by Bill McCrary
Legislative Liaison
Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
January 10, 2018

Dear Representative and Member of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage,

Thank you for your service in the Wisconsin Assembly and on this important Assembly committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on Assembly Bill 712 and wolf biology in general in the state of Wisconsin. I plan to attend the public hearing scheduled for this Wednesday, January 10 in Madison as well.

I would like to express my strong opposition to the passage of Assembly Bill H.R. 712 intended to make it unlawful for state and, I assume, local law enforcement officials to enforce current federal **and state** (a law to prevent other state laws from being enforced ?) laws that pertain to the management and protection of the gray wolf.

Having lived, small game hunted, fished, enjoyed the outdoors, and taught ecology and other science courses, and owned properties in both northern and southern Wisconsin much of my life, I am especially concerned with the status and sustainability of the wolf population of the Great Lakes Region.

This bill concerns me on two fronts. First, on the surface, this bill sends a message to the citizenry of Wisconsin that it's "open season" on the gray wolf, and despite federal protection, Wisconsin will look the other way when wolves are killed illegally. This bill is one step short of calling for the return to the bounty years that lead to extirpation of the wolf over 50 years ago and, if the state budget wasn't already strapped, I am not so sure this bill or some other misguided legislative proposal would not consider such a return.

Secondly, if and when the gray wolf is delisted at the federal level, I still hold out some hope that the state of Wisconsin would demonstrate greater responsibility for the sound ecological management of the wolf than was shown when the state first regained control of the wolf's fate back in 2012. The rush to hunt ("manage", if you will) the wolf left us with a poorly conceived wolf season that was thrown together in a matter of months by essentially substituting the word "wolf" in the bear hunting regulations at the time. At least one high ranking WDNR wolf expert agrees there were errors made in the state's haste to hunt wolves. I do commend the WDNR for its strict adherence to wolf quotas and what appeared to be a sound effort to manage the hunts of a few years ago. Their continued efforts to monitor and assess wolf numbers and range is also commendable.

Now along comes Assembly Bill 712 that takes irresponsibility for a limited resource to the next level. This bill leads one to believe that, although state government would tolerate a reduced number of wolves on the landscape, it wouldn't mind the elimination of the wolf all together. What else would one conclude from such drastic and ill-conceived legislation ? This bill sends the wrong message for a state government that wishes to restore its right for sound management of a wildlife population rebounding from threatened status.

It certainly appears the true intent of Bill 712 is to force the federal government's hand. If the wolf is not removed from federal endangered species protection and its management is not returned to the state, then Assembly Bill 712 and the state of Wisconsin, following the lead of at least one western state, will reduce wolf numbers through reckless and unrestricted state-condoned killings by some of its citizenry. No one, including the authors of this bill I hope, really wants that to happen, but the very existence of this proposal demonstrates irresponsibility

toward wolf management, the very management the state of Wisconsin wishes to regain. There are better ways to practice wolf biology. Bill 712 steers the state in a poor direction.

This legislation might appear to be Wisconsin's response to state vs. federal management of the wolf, but, in essence, the bill's intent revolves around whether or not we hunt wolves in our state. The remainder of my correspondence centers on this issue.

Wolves are territorial, top-tier predators. In truth, because of their position in the food chain, their carrying capacities are not determined by predation from above ("hunting", if you will), but by available prey base, space to breed and hunt, territorial social behavior, inter-specific and intra-specific competition, injuries, accidents, disease, and parasitic infections. Hunting wolves may satisfy some human need to control wolves, but their populations are truly kept in check by the factors I just mentioned and probably some I have not. State management would no doubt mean a return to a hunting and/or trapping season for wolves. Such seasons, **with kill quotas set without a true understanding of the carrying capacities of the region**, are ill-advised and potentially detrimental to the future of the gray wolf.

I have lived through an approximately 15 year period in Wisconsin's history when wolves were absent from the landscape, the sad result of our ignorance of the role of apex predators in healthy ecosystems and our over-zealous persecution of the wolf in favor of a deer population that appeased the demands of human deer hunters. The return of the wolf to Wisconsin in the mid to late 1970's was a welcomed sign that our state's northern forests still retained some semblance of natural integrity and health. Now, amazingly, legislation like Assembly Bill 712 has been concocted to once again reduce wolf numbers under the guise of state level "wildlife management", when in reality this bill, if enacted, does nothing more than satisfy the same demands of human encroachment that reduced the wolf to endangered status to begin with.

Though hard for us to accept, much of our perceived wolf problem is really a human problem. We demand more and more space for our growing numbers and too often are intolerant of the the conflicts that arise when our growth and expansion stress and strain our natural resources. Over a half million deer hunters in Wisconsin invest heavily in property, equipment, license fees, and even time and their demands for a successful annual deer hunt often supersede all other interests in the ecologically sound management of natural landscapes. Many deer hunters in the Great Lakes Region blame the resurgence of the wolf on their failures to kill a deer or two and, because of their economic and political clout, the hunters are heard and legislation the likes of Bill 712 results. I do not oppose deer hunting. I hunt ruffed grouse myself. I do oppose a growing philosophy that hunting means guaranteed success and the misguided use of the wolf as a scapegoat for the failure of a deer hunter to harvest a deer.

Anyone adhering to the notion that wolves threaten to eliminate our white-tailed deer populations should read "Do Wolf Tracks and Few Deer In Your Fall Hunting Area Mean What You Think They Mean?" by Glenn DelGuidice, Ph.D., Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group, Minnesota DNR article reprint courtesy of *MDHA Whitetails Magazine*, Fall, 2009. Additionally, it would be wise to read Paul Smith's August 23, 2017, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article on the role of wolves in deer deaths in Wisconsin.

The loss of livestock, hunting dogs, and pets to wolf predation fuels further demand for state-level wolf management (i.e. hunting and trapping of wolves). No one argues that these losses occur, but the level of loss, at least in the Great Lakes, is exaggerated. I urge you to review wolf

depredation reports from the Great Lakes States' DNR websites and to read a short article from the Minneapolis Star Tribune titled "The Wolf's Gotta Go" for a perspective on the level of wolf damage actually occurring in the western Great Lakes Region. Farmers and ranchers are reimbursed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Wolf damage costs in Wisconsin have totaled just under 2.1 million dollars **since 1985**. Interestingly, the Wisconsin DNR has recently undertaken a **five year** deer study in southwestern Wisconsin with a price tag of approximately 3 million dollars. I don't mean to question the integrity of the need for this deer study, but it does place the cost of wolf depredation in perspective and may also serve to highlight state priorities in regard to deer and wolf management. I sympathize with farm and ranch interests that suffer livestock losses **and support loss reimbursement programs**. These programs represent one way we can reach compromise between human needs and those of the wolf. Mary Faulk, a resident of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, raises cattle, sheep, and goats in Burnett County within Wisconsin's wolf range. In a February 16, 2017, letter-to-the-editors of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Ms. Faulk opposes delisting the wolf and provides an interesting and worthwhile perspective that should be reviewed by anybody about to legislate the immediate future of the gray wolf in the lower 48 states.

The responsibility for the losses of hunting dogs and pets to wolf encounters should fall squarely on the shoulders of their human owners. Human residents in wolf range are well aware of the risks at stake when they enter wild lands to train or hunt with dogs or exercise their pets. Just as a bear, coyote, bobcat, or countless other animals may be threatened into an attack, a wolf may do the same when encountering a dog. We must accept this chance and its consequences without blaming the wild animal for its natural response to a threat, just as we accept a threat to our own well-being when we hunt, hike, camp or recreate in general in wild areas. The state does not reimburse hunters if their dogs contract Lyme disease, yet that threat exists each and every time a hunter sets foot afield with a canine companion.

According to US Fish and Wildlife Service, wolf numbers in Minnesota were approximately 1000 animals in the mid-1970's. At the same time, populations in Wisconsin and Michigan were little more than a few scattered individuals that apparently wandered east from Minnesota. By the late 1990's, Minnesota's population exceeded 2000, while Wisconsin and Michigan's numbers grew to 178 and 139 respectively. Minnesota's numbers reached approximately 3000 by 2003-2004, while Wisconsin and Michigan's wolf counts had more than doubled to between 360-370 wolves in each of those two states. Data for the Minnesota population the past two years indicate a population between 2200 and 2400. Wisconsin's numbers for the past 4 years were 782, 815, 809, and 660. Michigan's numbers for the past four years were reported as 687, 658, and 636.

Often small populations entering new and favorable habitats will show slow growth (lag phase), followed by a period of rapid, exponential growth, and finally reaching a stabilizing **carrying capacity** where the number of individuals remains more or less stable as births and immigration balance deaths and emigration. Such a characteristic growth curve is recognized as a S-shaped curve by students of ecology.

A review of wolf population growth while under the protection of the Endangered Species Act (and even during the recent short-lived "hunt" years in Minnesota and Wisconsin) in all three states reflects this typical s-shaped curve. Population estimates for wolf populations in all three states seem to indicate the possibility that the wolves have reached carrying capacity throughout the region. A top wolf official at the WDNR has informed me that wolves in the state

are showing some sign of density dependent reductions in population growth rate, but a carrying capacity for the wolf is fluid, difficult to ascertain, and yet to be determined. Of course the only way to reliably determine the carrying capacity of nearly any population is to monitor its numbers and wait for the stabilized plateau to appear. **Bill 712 would prevent this from ever happening if the state removes itself from wolf management undertakings that include censusing wolf numbers.**

My point is no one knew for sure what the carrying capacity for recovering wolves would be. Early population recovery goals (for Wisconsin, at least) were well below current wolf numbers. At the very moment the protected wolf populations of the Great Lakes Region were nearing what appears to be carrying capacity, federal protection was lifted and state-managed hunts were hastily put in place in 2012, preventing the collection of a few more years' estimates that may have verified the region's true carrying capacity for the wolf.

I would urge the state to proceed cautiously so that continued monitoring of wolf numbers can provide a more true account of biologically healthy numbers and optimum densities of wolves in the Great Lakes Region and elsewhere. Return of the gray wolf to state managed programs, that no doubt include hunting them under quotas and population size targets that may be inaccurate and outdated, is poor policy. The current state management goal of 350 wolves may be outdated, having been established in 1999. Maintaining federal protection of the wolf, at least for the near future, gives us a second chance to explore more fully the population biology of the gray wolf. Any state managed hunt, should it return, needs to be done under the guise of sound population estimates, goals, and quotas. **Bill 712 has the potential to prevent the collection of the data needed to accomplish this objective.**

A number of surveys conducted by both the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR agencies indicate strongly positive public attitudes toward the gray wolf. The second chance we have been afforded to ensure the well being of the wolf in the lower 48 states should not be hastily squandered. We have a unique and exciting responsibility to get wolf survival right. Few states have the quality and diversity of habitats required to support the signature species of wild places, species like the bald eagle, loon, and the gray wolf. Bill 712 places the future of the wolf at risk and I oppose its passage and hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Stephen Anderson
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Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

WIGreenFire.Org

Wisconsin's Green Fire Testimony to

Assembly Committee on Natural Resources & Sporting Heritage

Regarding AB 712

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide information on Assembly Bill 712. My name is Tom Hauge and I am speaking on behalf of Wisconsin's Green Fire – Voices for Conservation. Wisconsin Green Fire is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to providing science-based, natural resource management information to Wisconsin's decision makers. Our membership has extensive experience in resource management, environmental law and policy, scientific research, and education. Our members have backgrounds in government, non-governmental organizations, universities and colleges and the private sector.

Green Fire is very aware of the frustration that exists with current law that, because of a December 2014 court decision, has reclassified gray wolves in Wisconsin as federally endangered and preempted state management authority. Green Fire supports federal delisting as quickly as possible. Wolves are recovered in Wisconsin. We have a science-based wolf management plan and skilled conservation staff to implement this plan for a healthy and sustainable wolf population.

The authors of AB 712 indicate this bill was introduced in frustration due to a lack of federal action to address the problems caused by the court decision. We have prepared an analysis of the conservation science and resource management impacts that will result if AB 712 is enacted. A copy of the analysis is attached to our testimony.

There are two pathways for federal delisting to occur. The first involves Congressional action like what occurred in Western states, where Congress directed the USFWS to delist those wolf populations and further precluded judicial review of the USFWS action. Legislation to require delisting of the Western Great Lake Wolf Population has been introduced but hasn't yet passed out of Congress. The second delisting pathway involves the lengthy normal process of rule-making by USFWS where each step of the process is subject to litigation.

AB 712 will not compel either Congress or the USFWS to take delisting action. It will, however, cause negative impacts to our state and may well make it tougher for our congressional delegation to convince their colleagues to advance the pending legislation.

AB 712 prohibits DNR from expending funds for managing wolves other than for paying claims for damage caused by wolves. This would require DNR to stop:

- All activities to gather information on wolf population abundance and distribution. This would include winter populations estimates, Snap Shot Wisconsin wolf monitoring, and any public informational outreach relating to the wolf populations;
- Terminate contracts with USDA-WS to provide wolf damage abatement assistance to landowners in Wisconsin and stop publishing wolf depredation alert maps that alert landowners and hunters to problem areas;

Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation is a independent, non-profit, nonpartisan organization. We support the conservation legacy of Wisconsin - promoting science-based management of natural resources.

- Examining wolves to screen for diseases that can impact other species and domestic livestock;
- Researching the impact of wolves on re-introduced elk populations at Clam Lake and Black River Falls, or improvements to population estimating procedures; and
- Convening the department's wolf advisory committee to share program updates, as well as, re-starting the long overdue update of the 1999 Wolf Management Plan.

Stopping these important work activities will hurt landowners seeking to avoid wolf damage, damage our knowledge base of the size and distribution of the wolf population at a time we need it for updates to the wolf management plan and to inform future wolf harvest quota decisions, as well as weaken our ability to provide solid support to federal decisions on the recovery of Wisconsin wolves.

AB 712 also prohibits law enforcement officers in Wisconsin from enforcing laws relating to the management of wolves or the illegal killing of wolves in Wisconsin. This provision will send a very telling message across the country about our state's willingness to conserve wolves, making it harder to convince undecided members of Congress to support delisting. This provision has other negative impacts here in Wisconsin.

- The public expect fair and uniform treatment from our law enforcement officers who have taken an oath of office to uphold the laws of the state. Forcing our conservation wardens to walk away from a violation puts them in a terrible position and jeopardizes the public trust they have worked hard to earn.
- This provision creates a ready-made alibi that can be used as a legal defense for violations involving other species. "No sir Judge, I wasn't hunting bobcats out of season, I was hunting wolves." It would also create legal confusion around the use of poison baits to kill wolves that kill the neighbor's dog, or a bear.
- Our enforcement officers would be prevented from coming to the aid of a federal LE officer in need if that officer was enforcing a wolf violation.
- This provision would make it illegal for wardens to investigate fraudulent wolf damage claims.

Finally, our analysis finds that AB 712 by restricting and expressly prohibiting DNR's ability to properly conserve Wisconsin's wolf populations creates the risk for additional litigation over management authority for fish and wildlife within the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin, as well as, creates the risk that Wisconsin will not meet the eligibility requirements needed to receive federal Pittman-Robertson funding which totaled \$19 million in FY17.

As I indicated at the start of my testimony, Wisconsin's Green Fire understands the frustration the current federal classification is causing. We believe wolves should be delisted and returned to state management. We support responsible efforts to pass federal legislation. Wisconsin should be well positioned to achieve this. Rep. Paul Ryan is Speaker of the House and can have great influence in getting the legislation acted upon. Both of Wisconsin's Senators have indicated support for the legislation and can offer a bipartisan voice to fellow senator's from around the country. Wisconsin's Green Fire offers our assistance to your committee and our federal delegation to work toward passage.

Thank you for time and attention.

A policy analysis of Senate Bill 602 and Assembly Bill 712, legislation to limit Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation and management of gray wolves

December 14, 2017

Legislation Description

The following is an excerpt of the analysis of Senate Bill 602 (SB 602) and companion bill Assembly Bill 712 (AB 712) by the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB).

"This bill makes changes to the laws regulating wolf hunting and the laws authorizing funding for wolf management activities. Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources is required to allow the hunting and trapping of wolves if the wolf is not listed on the U.S. list of endangered and threatened species and is not listed on the state endangered list. This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from enforcing a federal or state law that relates to the management of the wolf population in this state or that prohibits the killing of wolves in Wisconsin. The bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from expending any funds for the purpose of managing the wolf population in this state other than for the purpose of making payments under the endangered resources program to persons who apply for reimbursement for certain damage caused by wolves or protecting private property, including domestic cattle from wolf depredation. The bill prohibits DNR from taking any action to inform or support federal law enforcement officers regarding the enforcement of any federal or state law relating to wolves. The bill specifies that these prohibitions apply only if wolves are listed on the U.S. list of endangered and threatened species. Under the bill, if wolves are removed from that list, the prohibitions in the bill will no longer apply".

IMPACTS SUMMARY

Science

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

Natural Resource Management

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

Impact Synopsis

This legislative proposal would eliminate DNR research, monitoring and management of gray wolves not directly related to wolf depredation until federal delisting occurs. Scientific work that would be eliminated includes annual wolf population monitoring and winter population estimates, radio-collaring of wolves, and monitoring of diseases in the wolf population. Research into wolf monitoring cost efficiency and improved population estimate procedures would stop. This legislation complicates the work of law enforcement officers, raises the risk of future litigation with Wisconsin's Chippewa Tribes over co-management status, and could jeopardize Wisconsin's continued eligibility to receive federal Pittman-Robertson funding.

Federal Delisting Timetable

This legislation would remain in effect until the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) removes wolves from the federal endangered or threatened species lists. There are two scenarios under which federal action could occur:

1. The first would be congressional passage of legislation requiring USFWS to delist the Western Great Lakes gray wolf population and preventing judicial review of the delisting. This would cause an estimated 1-year disruption in Wisconsin's wolf conservation work.
2. The second, and likely more time consuming option, would be that Congress doesn't act and the USFWS restarts a delisting process from scratch. An estimated 4-5 year disruption could occur under the normal USFWS delisting process. The history of litigation in similar wolf management actions by USFWS suggests significant time may lapse before delisting is completed. This would create a multi-year gap in scientific data collection and conservation.

Science Impacts

Since 1980 the DNR has developed annual estimates of Wisconsin's wolf population. Current accurate population estimates allow Wisconsin to assess how wolf population levels relate to number of depredations (livestock, pets, etc.) and deer population trends. Data on individual wolves, especially pack members, is critical to understanding the impacts and efficacy of management actions such as wolf harvest seasons and depredation removals, and serves to guide future management decisions.

Under the proposed legislation monitoring of wolf populations would be affected as follows:

1. Replacement of wolf radio-collars whose battery life is expiring would NOT be authorized, reducing DNR's ability to track mortality, pack movement, dispersion, and related depredation.
2. Elk herd mortality research would be impacted by the inability to collar or replace collars on wolves within elk range. DNR currently can track interactions between radio-collared elk and wolves.
3. Monitoring diseases in wolves would be discontinued. Some of these diseases are known to impact other wildlife species or domestic animals.
4. Winter track surveys or work with citizen scientists on data collection could no longer be coordinated with DNR staff/experts. Two major aspects of citizen wolf monitoring are as follows:
 - a. Since 1995, the WDNR has trained, guided, and used data from volunteer carnivore trackers. Interruption of this program would reduce citizen science opportunities in Wisconsin, and eliminate a source of wolf population data for the WDNR. Though the program was started in 1995, it took several years after establishment for trackers to gain the expertise to assure and maximize data quality. Disruption of this program may require several years for re-establishment and reduce support from volunteers.
 - b. Wisconsin has launched SnapShot Wisconsin, a citizen science monitoring effort using trail cameras, to track wildlife species occurrence and abundance in our state. Wolf images captured in this effort provide information on annual reproduction and geographic distribution of wolves. This bill would prevent DNR spending time or funds to process any wolf images collected by Snapshot Wisconsin participants until wolves are federally delisted. Delayed processing of wolf images would delay discovery of new wolf pack territories and assessment of pup production.
5. DNR's Office of Applied Research has been conducting research to improve Wisconsin's wolf population monitoring methods for zone-specific population estimates, where harvest levels can be set to allow more precise wolf population management. This research would be eliminated under the proposed legislation.

Management Impacts

DNR wolf management would be directly affected by this proposed law. Tools used by DNR to responsibly manage wolves include enforcing laws, partnering with other jurisdictions, and using citizen monitoring to broaden population data. Examples include the following:

Implications for law enforcement

Prohibiting enforcement of laws relating to wolf management (such as illegal killing of wolves) by Wisconsin law enforcement officers will impact state, and in some instances, tribal conservation wardens, county sheriff deputies and local police officers. The following are some of these potential impacts (next page).

Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

Implications for law enforcement (continued)

- 1) Officers take an oath of office to enforce the law; this proposal would put law enforcement officers in the position of selectively enforcing laws.
- 2) The language in the bill prevents officers from "knowingly" enforcing or "attempting" to enforce the law. These terms are subjective and leave a gray area for interpretation by officers and the public. For instance, it would make investigations very difficult when an offense involved both wolves and other species.
- 3) This inability to enforce laws will create complex violation scenarios in which DNR would be restricted from taking action. Such as:
 - a) Violators avoiding prosecution for hunting/trapping violations for other species by claiming to be in pursuit of wolves.
 - b) Poison baits set to kill wolves that are also harming domestic pets, livestock or other species of wildlife.
 - c) Use of trap and snare types that are not legal for use in Wisconsin.
 - d) This legislation would also prohibit an officer from coming to the aid of a federal warden enforcing a wolf-related law.
 - e) Law enforcement strives for public confidence that they enforce all laws fairly and evenly. This legislation requires that they look the other way on wolf violations, effectively sanctioning illegal behavior and eroding public support for law enforcement.

Impairs wolf depredation abatement

Wolf depredation abatement services are provided by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services in Wisconsin under cooperative agreements with DNR. DNR provides the financial support for these services. Under these bills, financial support would halt. Installation of new non-lethal depredation abatement materials such as fladry flagging and electric fences, as well as maintenance of installed materials would be stopped. The cessation of radio-collaring would end the use of radio activated guard boxes that can detect the presence of a nearby radio-collared wolf and emit a strobe light and sounds to deter wolf depredations.

Raises risk for co-management litigation

This proposed legislation has the potential to result in litigation with Wisconsin's Chippewa tribes. During the original court case that defined treaty rights in Wisconsin, the tribes sought co-management status for the fish and wildlife resources within the ceded territory. Under co-management, both the DNR and the tribes would share veto authority over proposed fish and wildlife regulations and policies within the ceded territory. The federal court decided against the tribes on this issue and placed management authority with DNR. This legislation prevents DNR wardens from enforcing federal laws relating to wolves and prevents DNR from performing basic population monitoring activities. If enacted, this legislation would provide the basis for the tribes to re-litigate the co-management question based on changed circumstances. The tribes could argue that the State of Wisconsin is not fulfilling its public trust obligations in conserving Wisconsin wolf populations.

Reduces validity and trust in Wisconsin's wolf management plans

USFWS federal delisting of wolf populations in Wisconsin will require a finding that all impacted states have science-based wolf management and conservation plans in place. This legislation will create doubts at the federal level and amongst wolf advocacy groups that Wisconsin is committed to the long-term conservation of wolf populations. This legislation will be pointed to as a sign that Wisconsin's management system can't be trusted by future litigants.

Wisconsin's 37-year data set and annual population estimates have made it possible to examine the impact of Wisconsin's wolves on prey populations and track annual variability of depredations. It also documents resiliency of wolves to mortality from harvest seasons, disease and harsh winters. This dataset allowed USFWS' original delisting determination. This dataset would be relied on in any future determination to delist Wisconsin wolves and is needed to

Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

guide decisions on annual harvest quotas for future hunting and trapping seasons. Interrupting the continuity of this dataset weakens the scientific basis for future management decisions.

Wisconsin's annual population estimates involve significant volunteer citizen effort. Wolf tracking volunteers attend training to identify wolf sign and learn proper data collection methods. Volunteers conducted roughly half of the 14,167 wolf tracking miles during winter 2016-17. If DNR is precluded from monitoring wolves, it is unlikely sufficiently trained volunteers would be able to cover the areas currently monitored by DNR personnel. DNR could lose valuable volunteer-collected data, and would need extra volunteer recruitment and training when they resume wolf management. DNR staff would be prohibited from cooperating with, and/or, notifying neighboring states when a wolf radio-collared outside of Wisconsin is identified within our state borders. This would erode the cooperation states expect as they collectively seek to manage wildlife populations.

Fiscal impacts & loss of federal wildlife conservation funding

This legislation would jeopardize Wisconsin's ability to receive federal Wildlife Restoration Grants commonly referred to as Pittman Robertson (PR) funds. If enacted, the legislation would prevent enforcement of the illegal killing of wolves, as well as scientific population monitoring and management by DNR. Wisconsin's eligibility for these funds is contingent on DNR having the legal authority to properly manage wildlife populations within the state. It is likely that the USFWS would need to review WDNR's ability to properly manage Wisconsin's gray wolf population. A negative finding would result in Wisconsin's loss of these important PR-funds.

Pittman-Robertson grants, Wisconsin's share of the federal excise taxes on hunting equipment, are used to monitor wildlife populations, undertake research, and manage wildlife habitat for a wide range of species. In 2017, Wisconsin received over \$19 million grant dollars which was nearly 14% of the total revenue to the state's Fish & Wildlife Account. Loss of these grant funds would require DNR to lay off staff and eliminate wildlife management activities.

To date the DNR has invested staff resources and funding in citizen science initiatives cited in this paper. These programs help reduce the costs of wolf monitoring and management. Lack of continuity in citizen science training will reduce the effectiveness of volunteers and would increase start up costs in the future.

About Wisconsin's Green Fire

Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices in Conservation (WGF) is a newly formed independent nonpartisan organization. WGF supports the conservation legacy of Wisconsin by promoting science-based management of its natural resources. Members represent extensive experience in natural resource management, environmental law and policy, scientific research, and education. Members have backgrounds in government, non-governmental organizations, universities and colleges and the private sector. More information about WGF can be found at www.wigreenfire.org.

Wisconsin's Green Fire

W1 - 12/14/17

Website: www.wigreenfire.org

Contact email: tomhauge@wigreenfire.org

Restoring our Conservation Legacy

Wisconsin's Green Fire *Voices for Conservation*

Wisconsin's Green Fire is a new organization continuing a proud 150-year tradition of natural resources conservation.

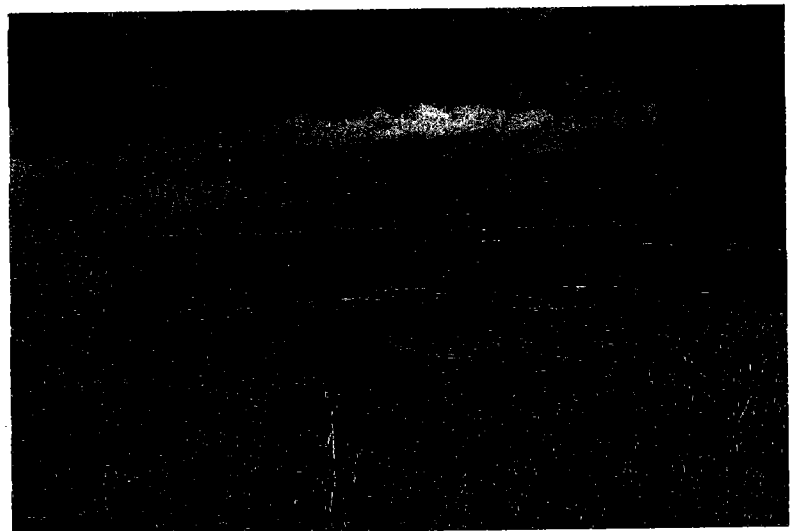


For more than 150 years Wisconsin was a national leader in caring for our natural resources through conservation and science-based management.

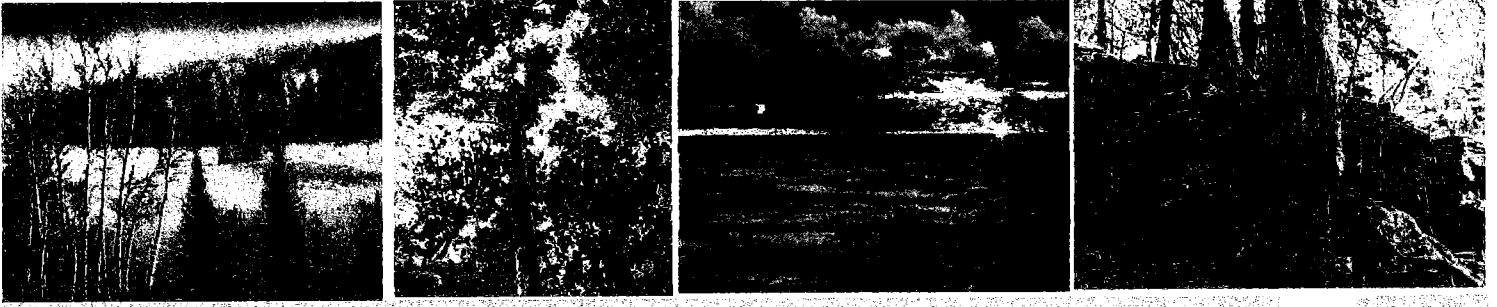
Today, **Wisconsin's Green Fire** (WGF) continues our conservation heritage by working to restore the role of sound science and professional knowledge in natural resource policy and management. *We're unique because our work is grounded by the collective experience of our members.*

WGF members are wildlife biologists, fisheries scientists, water quality experts, ecologists, foresters, engineers, land protection specialists, attorneys, and citizens from public agencies, academia, and private practice who collectively share over **2500** years of experience, from Kenosha to Superior.

Unfortunately, in today's polarized political climate the role for science in natural resources is being further diminished, season after season.



Wisconsin's Green Fire is Restoring our Proud Tradition of Conservation and Sound Science in Natural Resources



Wisconsin's Green Fire brings sound science and hard-earned field-experience to understanding and managing our natural resources. In the face of growing impacts from climate change, invasive species, threats to clean air, clean water, and natural habitats, and the elimination of science from our public agencies, *the need for an organization like Wisconsin's Green Fire has never been greater.*

Your support will help us:

- Ensure that public policy, laws, and natural resource management are informed by scientific understanding and transparent public process.
- Serve as a non-partisan source of science-based information to policy makers, public agencies, and the public.
- Focus the un-paralleled scientific, legal and hands-on expertise of respected conservation professionals in water resources, fisheries, wildlife, forests, wild habitats, clean air, climate change, and natural resources stewardship in today's policy debates.
- Help restore Wisconsin's tradition of natural resources conservation through far-sighted environmental policy that assures long-term community prosperity and ethical stewardship of natural resources.

Wisconsin's Green Fire and our members are working hard to restore our tradition of science and public trust in natural resources.

You can be a part of restoring that tradition.

Can you make a contribution to Green Fire today so we count you among our strongest supporters?

Contributions can be directed at any time to the address at right, or please contact us at WIGreenFire@gmail.com to discuss other ways you can support our efforts.

*Your contribution before December 31st will be especially critical for our new organization in allowing us to effectively respond to current issues and emerging threats to our natural resources. **THANK YOU!***

Wisconsin's Green Fire

5157 North Loop Road

Larsen, WI 54947

www.wigreenfire.org

WIGreenFire@gmail.com

IS WISCONSIN MANAGING WOLVES?

Is Wisconsin currently managing wolves? The answer is “no”!

Recently, legislation was introduced into the Wisconsin legislature that would prevent Wisconsin staff from conducting federally mandated activities related to wolf management. Wisconsin currently has no management authority regarding wolves. This has been true for many years as the federal government has authority over all management while wolves are on the Endangered Species List.

ITEM: In 2017, Wisconsin Wolf Facts, a non-profit consortium of agriculture and wildlife groups, asked the WI DNR why the DNR Wolf Advisory Committee has not met since October, 2014. The response from both Kurt Thiede and Dave MacFarland (former large carnivore specialist) – The WI DNR Advisory Committee is not meeting because the DNR is not managing wolves.

ITEM: March 5, 2011, Montana’s Democratic Governor Brian Schweitzer, sends a defiant letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, saying “As Usual in Washington, D.C., they confuse motion for action and nearly nothing is happening...He has asked that the state be allowed to manage the wolf population...” (Source Fox News, March 5, 2011) What followed was action by Congress to delist wolves in Montana without court review. A Democratic Governor tells the government the state needs to have the authority to manage its own wolves, and Congress supports farmers and rural people by giving the state that authority. It is as simple as that!







ITEM: “Wolves in Wyoming were removed from the endangered species list on April 25, 2017. This means management of this species is now led by the State of Wyoming and is subject to state statutes and Commission regulations.” (Source: Wyoming fish and game – large carnivore web page)

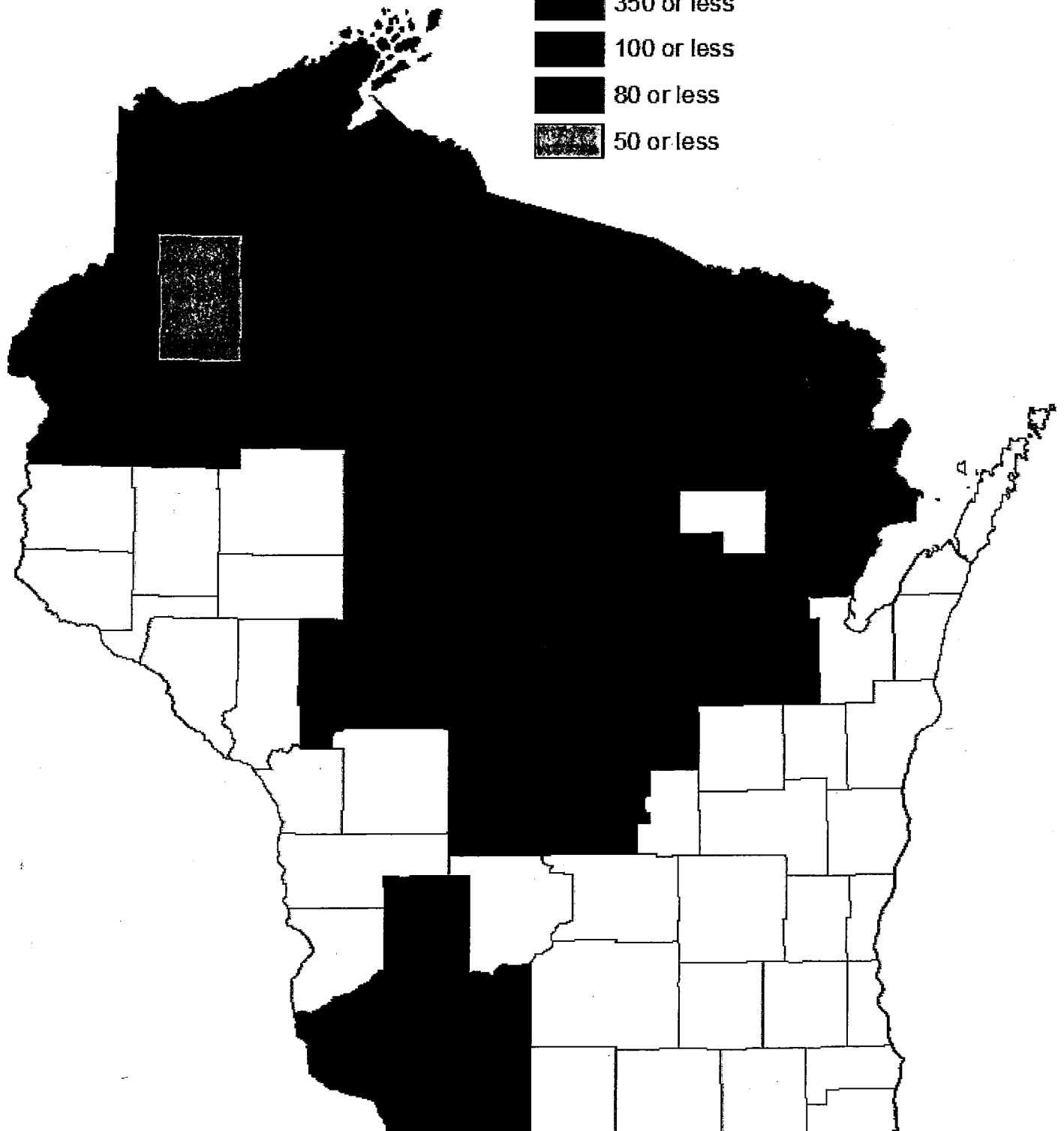
Other states have insisted on having state control of wolf management before paying for management. The DNR staff agrees we are not currently managing wolves. There is much bi-partisan support for state management of wolves.

What is the purpose of carrying out federal mandates when the state is paying for the costs, but has no decision making capability on wolf management? Recently introduced legislation in the Wisconsin Legislature, AB 712 and SB 602, simply turns federally mandated management activities over to the federal government until wolves are delisted and the federal government allows Wisconsin to manage their wolves. Essentially, Wisconsin has been providing services to the federal government to carry out their mandated rules for years. It is well past time for Wisconsin to stop paying for these federal mandates.

Submitted by Laurie Groskopf, WI DNR Wolf Advisory Committee member, 1/4/18

County Board Wolf Resolutions Recommendations for Statewide Wolf Management Goal

-  No Resolution
-  350
-  350 or less
-  100 or less
-  80 or less
-  50 or less



WOLVES – WHY 350 (OR LESS) IS THE MAXIMUM FOR WISCONSIN

WHO SUPPORTS A WOLF GOAL OF 350 OR LESS IN WISCONSIN?

- Thirty-six Wisconsin County Boards have passed resolutions supporting a wolf goal of 350 (7) or 350 or less (26), 100 or less (1), 80 or less (1), or 50 or less (1). The votes: Barron, Burnett, Vilas, Taylor, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Lincoln, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Price, Shawano, Waushara, Waupaca, Grant all passed unanimously, Adams, 16 for, 2 against, Ashland 16/2, Clark 27/1, Langlade 14/3, Rusk 10/1, Sawyer 10/2, Douglas 22/2, Wood 14/3, Bayfield 9/3, Portage 22/2, Marathon 32/2, Marquette 16/1, Richland 13/8, Outagamie 30/4, Juneau & Polk motion carried, voice vote. Washburn voted for 50 or less 11 in favor, 9 opposed. Iowa voted 13 in favor, 7 opposed to 100 or less. The 7 opposed wanted 50 or less. Lafayette voted 15/1 in favor of 80 or less. These 36 county boards are the elected representatives of 1,266,000 WI citizens.
- The Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 46,000 members support a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The Wisconsin Farmer's Union supports a wolf goal of 350.
- The Wisconsin Cattleman's Association supports a wolf goal of 80, the original recovery number.
- The Indianhead Polled Hereford Assoc., N. WI Beef Producers Assoc., and WI Hereford Assoc. all support a wolf goal lower than 350.
- The WI Bowhunter's Association Board and membership supports a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The WI Wildlife Federation, representing 200+ organizations, supports a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The WI Trapper's Assoc. supports a goal of 350 wolves.
- The Wisconsin Bear Hunter's Association supports a goal of 100 wolves.
- In an attitude study done by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW Madison, 66.5% of respondents favored a wolf population of 350 or less - Wisconsin Wolf Policy Survey – Changing Attitudes, 2001 – 2009, Adrian Treves, et al.
- The WCC Spring Hearing in 2011 voted overwhelming in favor of reducing the wolf population to 350 or less (3989 for/827 against, passed in all 72 counties). 350 or less was again approved by WCC delegates at the 2013 annual convention.

WHERE DID THE NUMBER 350 COME FROM?

In the WI Wolf Management Plan approved in the 1999 and 2007 the goal was 350 wolves.

Wolf population modeling studies done the late 1990s by David Mladenoff, Professor of Forest Ecology, U.W. Madison, used a spatial landscape projection to estimate the potential wolf population in primary wolf habitat. Wolves have shown a willingness to live in many areas not originally seen as primary wolf habitat. Whatever biological carrying capacity wolves may have, social carrying capacity is a limiting factor for wolf numbers in WI.

In social surveys worldwide, results show less enthusiasm for wolves in areas where people encounter them, and more enthusiasm by people who are less likely to encounter wolves. Familiarity does not increase tolerance.

At this time, wolves are again on the endangered species list, but several methods of returning wolves to state control are being explored. The federal relisting number for wolves remains at 100 wolves in MI and WI, under authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removal plan.

Wisconsin has been working on a revision of the Wolf Management Plan. What wolf goal will best serve the needs of Wisconsin's residents and its wildlife?

Questions or comments: contact Laurie Groskopf 715-453-6301, harrisonhounds@hotmail.com 12/17

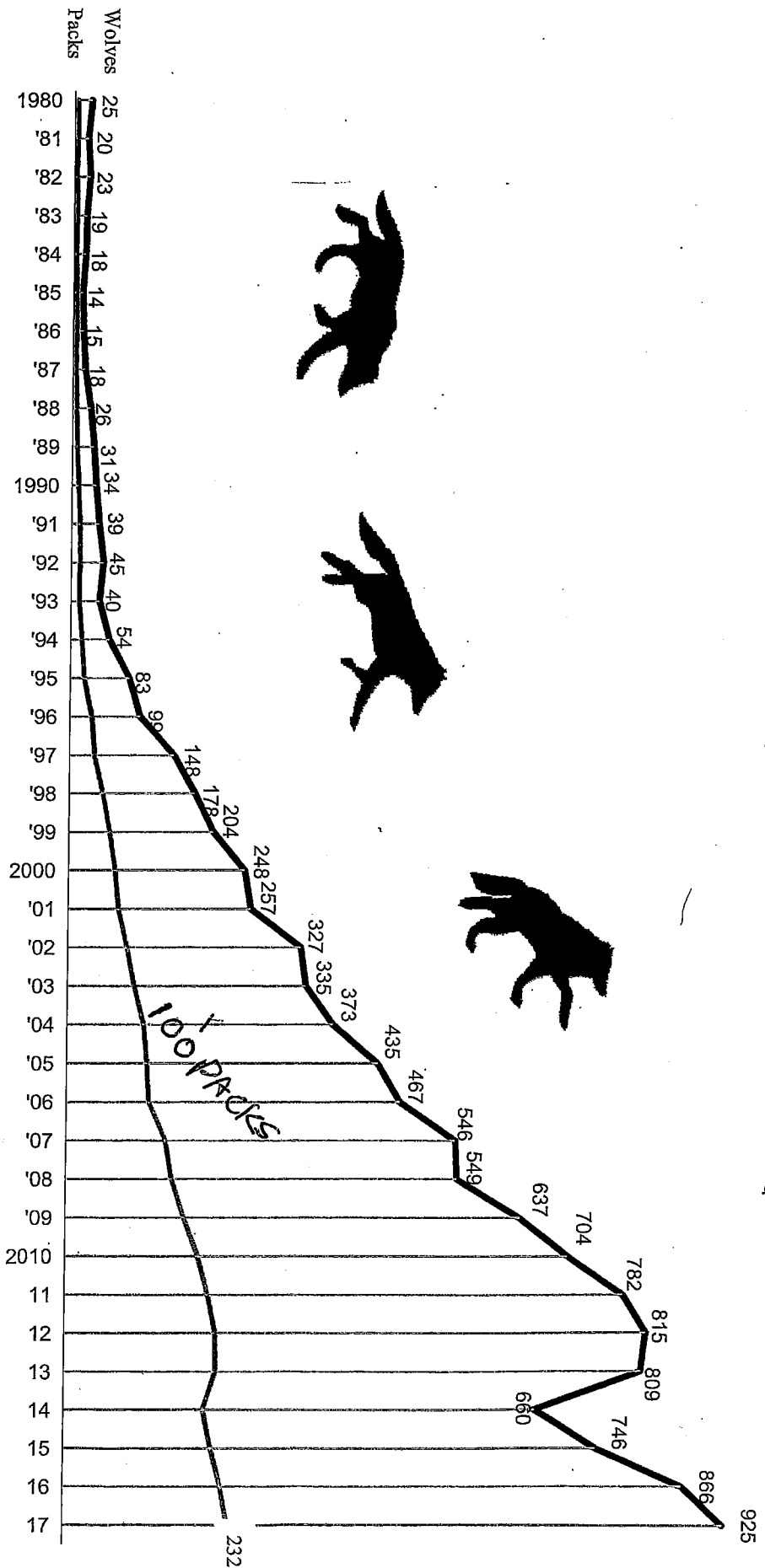


Figure 5. Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2017.

MINIMUM WOLF COUNT



SEND A MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Legislators in WI have proposed stopping funding for wolf management in WI. This would include suspending the direct count, ending law enforcement activities related to wolves, and stopping other management such as assembling the year-end report to the USFWS.

If WI refuses to manage wolves, the federal government will have no option but to manage the wolves themselves. This is something the federal government does not want to do. Under President Obama, the Department of the Interior made attempts to delist wolves nationwide (except the Mexican wolf), but were stymied by the courts.

The governors of Idaho and Wyoming both used this method to obtain federal delisting. In Idaho, the delisting of wolves without court review was included in Congressional legislation in 2011. In Wyoming, the Department of Interior finally approved their management plan and wolves were delisted, with relisting resulting from a court case. Earlier in 2017, this court case was settled in favor of Wyoming's management plan, and wolves are again delisted. In both cases, the governors' methods to bring delisting and obtain state management were effective. State governments have the right to manage wildlife. Our elected representatives need to send this message to Washington. After 30+ years of effort towards delisting, lets try something dramatic!

WISCONSIN WOLF FACTS UPDATE

Wisconsin Wolf Facts is a consortium of wildlife and agricultural groups. The goal is responsible wolf management in WI. We attempt to provide better and more complete information on wolves and wolf management.

WI Wolf Facts has a web site, facebook page, and soon, a U-TUBE site. The new U-TUBE site will allow those residents who have been affected by the presence of wolves to provide more information about these incidents.

LIVESTOCK DEPREDEATION INSTANT ALERT

Similar to the hunting dog instant alert that has been available for years, the WI Farm Bureau, partnering with WI Wolf Facts, finally convinced the WI DNR to implement an Instant Livestock Depredation alert system. On the DNR main page, scroll down to the red envelope on the lower right-hand side, click and follow the instructions. The email or text alert will provide real time information on coyote, wolf, and bear depredations and harassments as verified by USDA. For more wolf information, type "wolf" into the subject line on DNR main page.

Response to Legislative Bill SB602/AB 712 by the Timber Wolf Alliance

Chair Kleefisch, Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage, and Sponsors of AB712:

My name is Adrian Wydeven, and I am the chair of the advisory council for the Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA) of Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin. TWA would like to respond on the proposed bill.

(AB712 proposes to discontinue funding for wolf management and to make it illegal for state law enforcement officers to enforce laws related to the management or killing of wolves, while wolves remain listed as a federally threatened or endangered species in the state.)

The **Timber Wolf Alliance** is an organization committed to using science-based information to promote human co-existence with wolves and ecologically-functional wolf populations in areas of suitable habitat across Wisconsin and Michigan. We have the following concerns about this bill:

- 1) **Discontinuing Wolf Population Data Gathering:** Since 1979, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has continuously monitored the state's wolf population. This data base has been essential for wolf conservation planning and management, including the establishment of wolf hunting and trapping seasons, and responding to wolf depredation. The population information is the foundation of science-based decisions about the management of the wolf population and about the future status of wolves at both the federal- and state-level. Cessation of monitoring activities would prevent sound, science-based decision making in the future.
- 2) **Weakening of a Positive Relationship with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service:** The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the USFWS have cultivated a long-term, positive partnership focused on recovering wolves in Wisconsin, and since 2000, the USFWS has supported the delisting of wolves in our region. This bill's prohibition on the enforcement of state or federal laws related to the management or killing of wolves would seriously undermine this partnership and wolf management activities in the state.
- 3) **Disregarding Tribal Concerns in Wolf Conservation:** The wolf plays an important role in the culture of all Wisconsin Indian Tribes, and the lack of wolf protection that would result from this bill would jeopardize the maintenance and protection of wolf packs on ceded and tribal lands.
- 4) **Undermining Support for Delisting the Wolf in the Great Lakes Region:** Sponsors of AB712 indicated the intent of the bill is to encourage Wisconsin's U.S. Senators and House of Representative members to take action on delisting the wolf in the Great Lakes region. However, we believe that the bill is likely to undermine support for delisting. The proposed bill would abdicate responsibility for managing wolves, a public-trust wildlife species of international significance. The bill undermines support for delisting because it would fail to demonstrate that Wisconsin is prepared to assume stewardship of the wolf population. Plus Wisconsin's U.S. Senators and Representatives have already expressed public support for delisting.

Research conducted by the WDNR show that citizens of Wisconsin support a sustainable wolf population in the state. The Alliance welcomes any opportunity to share our educational and expert resources with the Legislature as it considers legislation that impacts the State's wolf population. The Timber Wolf Alliance believes that it is important for the Wisconsin legislature to fulfill its responsibility for managing wolves as a public trust resource by supporting wolf management practices that are scientifically sound, culturally sensitive, and publicly supported.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian P. Wydeven,
Chair of the Timber Wolf Alliance, Advisory Council
January 10, 2018.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Testimony on Assembly Bill 712

Chairman Kleefisch and Members of the Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Assembly Bill 712 which prohibits the Wisconsin DNR from conducting certain wolf management activities in the state until wolves are removed from the Federal Endangered Species.

We are here today to strongly reaffirm the position of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation that wolves have to be removed from the list in the **immediate future!** The Federation has been one of the strongest groups investing its time and money over the last 10 years to obtain that delisting. We have worked heavily on all four rulemaking efforts by the Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the wolf. We have worked alone and in close concert with other conservation organizations, agricultural groups and landowners to make it happen. Our members have written hundreds of letters, emails and on-line comments and attended several hearings and meetings to push our Federal legislators and the Department of the Interior to get it done. On three occasions we met with the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service personally on wolf delisting. Our biggest effort was that during the last Federal delisting process, Federation staff and Board members went to every city, town and crossroads of northern Wisconsin and obtained 36,537 signatures of northern Wisconsin citizens on a petition to remove the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species list. Then I and another Board member took copies of the petitions and presented them to the Secretary of the Interior and each member of our Congressional delegation.

Today we would to raise questions about whether this bill will help or actually hurt the delisting process and secondly present some other ideas on how the Legislature and the Governor and others here today can substantially raise the heat in Washington and get the delisting done in the very near future.

There are only two ways that the wolves can be delisted: 1. through the US Fish and Wildlife Service current rulemaking process or 2. through federal legislation. We have all seen through the past litigation on the wolf delisting rules and in past Congressional debates that the anti-wolf delisting groups continually raise the argument that Wisconsin will not properly manage the wolf population if wolves are delisted. Those arguments have been successfully batted down by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the DNR because of continued successful wolf management by the state in difficult circumstances. And because of that, courts have upheld Wisconsin's ability to properly manage wolves. The courts have always held against the delisting for reasons other than inadequacy of state management capability and willingness.

We raise the concern to you that this bill will likely give the anti-delisting groups Exhibit A illustrating that the state cannot be trusted to adequately protect wolves when they are delisted. They will most definitely use this bill in litigation and lobbying in the halls of Congress. Our bottom line on this bill is that this Legislature should not take action that will provide ammunition to the Humane Society of the United States and other similar groups.

We have two suggestions to you as Legislators. One is that the Legislature immediately adopt a Joint Resolution to the US Congress pushing for swift passage of the bipartisan delisting legislation. Secondly, that you all individually as legislators get on the phone and call Speaker Paul Ryan along with our two US Senators. We know Speaker Ryan is an avid sportsman, understands the issue well and supports delisting. He is however one of the two most powerful members of the US Congress and has inordinate power to make delisting happen this year. The wolf delisting bill does not cost any money and does not harm any other state. The Speaker should insist that the delisting be immediately attached to a must pass bill in the Congress and get it on the President's desk. He and our Senators need to hear directly from each and every one of you and thousands of Wisconsin citizens.

The Federation is doing its part. Attached to this testimony is a flier that we are getting out to all of our members, our 200 sports clubs, other conservation organizations and agricultural groups asking them to call Speaker Ryan, Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin and Representative Sean Duffy asking them to make the delisting happen now. We ask for your assistance and support in this effort. We have copies of the flier available for all in attendance. Thank you.

Submitted by Ralph Fritsch
Representing the
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
January 10, 2018

Are you Tired of Congress Failing to Remove the Wolf from the Endangered Species List in Wisconsin?

If so, take action by calling the following Wisconsin Federal Legislators:

- 1. Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives:
202-225-3031---The Speaker of the House has extraordinary
authority over what legislation passes the Congress**
- 2. Senator Ron Johnson---202-224-5323**
- 3. Senator Tammy Baldwin---202-2245653**
- 4. Representative Sean Duffy---202-225-3365
Rep. Duffy represents the District with the most wolves in Wisconsin**

These individuals work for Wisconsin citizens. It is time to make sure that they are doing everything they can on your behalf to pass legislation removing the wolf from the Endangered Species list in Wisconsin

Produced by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

I'm Lucas Withrow and I am the Vice President of the Wisconsin Bear hunters association. I'm here today in support of legislation AB712. AB712 is legislation derived from a non listening, non caring, federal government program continuing unnecessary protections for grey wolves here in Wisconsin. Wolves here in Wisconsin have continued to have a very successful population far exceeding the state's population goals. We are now 4 times the set population goal here in Wisconsin. Wolves have brought devastation to farmers and many families here in Wisconsin through the loss of domestic animals and farm animals preyed upon by wolves. Many businesses in northern Wisconsin have also suffered indirect revenue loss due to the high population of wolves and the degraded hunting opportunities they have caused. This has also cost the state of Wisconsin to lose revenue and continue to fund resources protecting grey wolves. Wolves here in Wisconsin NEED to be delisted by the federal government and returned to state management. Because the federal government has not taken any action to delist wolves we must take action to send a message to stop spending state resources to unnecessarily protect grey wolves here in Wisconsin. This legislation is not about making it easier to illegally kill protected grey wolves or negatively shadow the ideals of Wisconsin grey wolves. Again it's about the message that we want our right to manage Wisconsin's wolves returned to us and until that happens; the federal government can fund the wolf population and all of its issues on their own. We the Wisconsin Bear hunters Association support AB712 to help eventually return sound management to Wisconsin's grey wolves.

Lucas Withrow

WBHA Vice President



WISCONSIN
INDEPENDENT
BUSINESSÉS, INC.

WIB AGRI-BUSINESS COALITION

P.O. Box 2135

Madison, WI 53701 • (608) 255-0373

January 10, 2018

TO: Members
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage

FR: Brian Dake
Legislative Director
WIB Agri-Business Coalition

RE: 2017 Assembly Bill (AB) 712 relating to: enforcement of federal and state laws relating to the management of the wolf population and to the killing of wolves and expenditure of funds for wolf management purposes

Chairman Kleefisch and committee members my name is Brian Dake, Legislative Director for the WIB Agri-Business Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of 2017 Assembly Bill (AB) 712.

By way of background, the WIB Agri-Business Coalition (ABC) represents approximately 4,000 farmers throughout the state. The diversity of our membership mirrors the diversity that exists in Wisconsin agriculture – a mixture of small, medium and large family-owned and operated crop, dairy and livestock farms.

A little more than four years ago, a federal district court judge “relisted” wolves in the Upper Midwest on the Endangered Species List. Shortly thereafter, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued the following relevant guidance for Wisconsin farmers:

- Permits which allow lethal removal of wolves issued to landowners experiencing wolf problems are no longer valid;
- Wisconsin's law allowing landowners to shoot wolves that are in the act of depredating domestic animals on private property are no longer in force; and

- Farmers experiencing wolf problems should contact the USDA - Wildlife Service for investigation and wolf management assistance.

We viewed this judicial ruling as a temporary setback.

After all, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) spent more than twelve years reviewing the DNR wolf management plan before granting its approval. Surely, a higher court or Congress would not ignore the extensive public record replete with peer-reviewed scientific studies and decades of population data which indicate that Wisconsin's wolf population is far from endangered and can be properly managed at the state level.

We were wrong.

On August 1, 2017, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit unanimously upheld the lower court ruling. And, as we sit here today, bipartisan legislation that would restore Wisconsin's ability to manage the growing wolf population is bottled up in Congress.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering the consequences of this federal inaction. Confirmed and probable wolf depredations of livestock continue to rise. Verified wolf harassment or threats to livestock are increasing as well. Attached is a copy of DNR Wolf Depredation Reports in 2017.

In the absence of state-based wolf management, more livestock will be killed, threatened or harassed by wolves in 2018 and beyond. Partial financial compensation for the loss of livestock resulting from wolf depredation is of little consolation - a point that was confirmed by numerous farmers who testified at last year's Great Lakes Wolf Summit.

Wisconsin's wolf population needs to be properly managed at the state level and that requires federal government approval. The provisions of 2017 Assembly Bill 712 are patterned after the actions taken by the State of Idaho to regain its authority to manage its wolf population. We hope passage of this legislation will produce the same outcome for the State of Wisconsin.

We respectfully ask for your support this legislation. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Wolf Depredation Reports in 2017

- Confirmed and probable wolf depredations
- Verified wolf harassment or threats
- Unconfirmed depredation or complaints
- Confirmed non-wolf depredation or complaints

Confirmed and probable wolf depredations

| WS# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|---|----------|----------------------------|
| Waupun 01-2017 | 01/17/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting Dog (Plot) | Clark | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 5-2017 | 03/03/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Hereford) | Bayfield | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 04-2017 | 04/04/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Angus) | Portage | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 8-2017 | 04/06/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Adult beef cow (injured) 1 beef calf (killed) | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 9-2017 | 04/23/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Hereford) | Taylor | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 10-2017 | 04/27/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 2 Adult sheep (Hampshire) | Dunn | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 07-2017 | 04/28/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf (Angus) | Portage | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 09-2017 | 05/03/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 2 Adult sheep (Suffolk) | Wood | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 12-2017 | 05/04/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Angus) | Price | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 14-2017 | 05/15/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Dairy calf (Holstein) | Marathon | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |

| WS# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|--|----------|----------------------------|
| RHL 15-2017 | 05/15/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf (Angus/Hereford) | Rusk | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 18-2017 | 05/19/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 20-2017 | 05/21/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf (Angus) | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 19-2017 | 05/22/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 11-2017 | 05/26/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Simmental/Maine-Anjou) | Wood | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 21-2017 | 06/02/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 13-2017 | 06/23/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf | Vernon | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 22-2017 | 06/24/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | X | | 1 Beef calf | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 27-2017 | 07/10/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (British White Park) | Price | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 29-2017 | 07/14/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 1 Beef calf (Angus) | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 31-2017 | 07/15/2017 | HUNTING | | X | | 1 Hunting Dog injured (Walker) 1 Hunting Dog killed (Walker) | Langlade | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 33-2017 | 07/15/2017 | LIVESTOCK | X | | | 2 Beef calves (Red Angus) | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |

| WS# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| RHL 36-2017 | 07/18/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Plot) | Ashland | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 34-2017 | 07/18/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | | 1 Beef calf | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 38-2017 | 07/22/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Redtick) | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 14-2017 | 07/23/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | | 1 Beef calf (Red Angus) | Juneau | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 40-2017 | 07/26/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | | 1 Dairy calf (Holstein) | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 42-2017 | 07/28/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | | 1 Beef calf | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 43-2017 | 07/29/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Plot) | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 41-2017 | 07/30/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Walker) | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 44-2017 | 07/30/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Walker) | Bayfield | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 46-2017 | 08/02/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Bluetick) | Washburn | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 47-2017 | 08/02/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | | 1 Beef calf | Price | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 50-2017 | 08/08/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | | 1 Beef calf | Bayfield | Probable Wolf Depredation |

| W/S# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|---|----------|-------------------------------|
| RHL 51-2017 | 08/12/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting Dog (Walker) | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 53-2017 | 08/12/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | | 1 Beef Calf (Angus) | Price | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 52-2017 | 08/13/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting Dog (Walker) 1 Hunting Dog (Walker) | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 16-2017 | 08/13/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog, injured (Black and Tan) 1 Hunting dog, injured (English Coonhound) 1 Hunting dog, killed (English Coonhound) 2 Hunting dogs, injured (Plott) | Marathon | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 60-2017 | 08/27/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | | 1 Beef calf | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 64-2017 | 08/31/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | | 1 Steer (Holstein) | Marathon | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 68-2017 | 09/07/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Walker) | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 69-2017 | 09/08/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Walker) | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 71-2017 | 09/21/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Black & Tan) | Bayfield | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 72-2017 | 09/21/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (injury) (Walker/Plott) | Bayfield | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 74-2017 | 09/22/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (injury) (Plott/Walker) | Price | Probable Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 75-2017 | 09/23/2017 | HUNTING | | | X | 1 Hunting dog (Walker) | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |

| WS# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Waupun 18-2017 | 09/23/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | 1 Dairy cow (Holstein) | | Clark | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 76-2017 | 10/01/2017 | HUNTING | | | 1 Hunting dog (Bluetick) | | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 79-2017 | 10/19/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | 1 Beef calf | | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| Waupun 20-2017 | 10/27/2017 | PET | | X | 1 Pet dog (Welsh Corgi/Shepherd) | | Clark | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 81-2017 | 11/19/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | 1 Beef calf | | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |
| RHL 86-2017 | 12/22/2017 | PET | | X | 1 Pet dog (injury) (Beagle) | | Burnett | Confirmed Wolf Depredation |

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Verified wolf harassment or threats

| WS# | Date | Type | Livestock | Chronic Farms | Pet Hunting | Animal or Property Involved | County | Confirmation Status |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| RHL 3-2017 | 02/02/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | | 120 Beef calves | | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| RHL 55-2017 | 04/19/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | X | X | 300 Exotic sheep | | Price | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| RHL 48-2017 | 08/01/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | 8 Beef cattle | | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| RHL 62-2017 | 08/26/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | 30 Beef cattle | | Sawyer | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| RHL 63-2017 | 08/29/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | X | 130 Beef cattle | | Douglas | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| Waupun 17-2017 | 09/14/2017 | LIVESTOCK X | | | 9 Beef steer 1 Saddle horse | | Adams | Confirmed Wolf Harassment |
| RHL 78-2017 | 10/13/2017 | SAFETY | | | | | Douglas | Confirmed Human Health and Safety Complaint |



MADRAVENSPEAK May 7, 2017

Hunters Push for Wolf and Sand Hill Crane Killing in Context of Accelerating Extinction Crisis

“It could be a scary future indeed, with as many as 30 to 50 percent of all species possibly heading toward extinction by mid-century.” – Center for Biological Diversity

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/

As humanity hurtles toward catastrophe, our legislators turn a blind eye to reality and continue to pander to forces of destruction and death. Instead of caring for the fragile life of this earth, legislators like state Senator Tiffany, and Senator Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson at the federal level continue to ignore the science of the Endangered Species Act, pushing to kill our endangered wolves.

And the hunters want to kill cranes. They get bored killing everybody else. They want a wolf with a crane in his mouth taxidermy for their death collection.

It is not that difficult to connect the dots between the status quo and certain trajectory toward an unlivable and desolate home planet. The skies are emptying as are woods and oceans – not through any natural force, but only by the violence of man. Chris Hedges writes in his recent “Reign of Idiots” http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/reign_of_idiots_20170430, “Europeans and Americans have spent five centuries conquering, plundering, exploiting and polluting the earth in the name of human progress....They believed that this orgy of blood and gold would never end, and they still believe it.”

Senator Tiffany held yet another Wolf Hate conference, in early April, completely skewed to myth, lies, and fearmongering. He should be reminded that Richard Thiel, retired DNR wolf biologist, said on Wisconsin

Public Radio, "I have worked with wolves in Wisconsin for 30 years. I have pushed them off of deer carcasses and had them walk right up to me. I never felt the need to carry a firearm and I never did." Tiffany has been informed that only 2/10ths of one percent of livestock deaths can be attributed to wolves whereas 90% of pre-slaughterhouse death is due to horrific farm conditions (http://www.wildearthguardians.org/site/PageServer?pagename=priorities_wildlife_war_wildlife_livestock_losses#.WQpGr9xOnce).

Yet Tiffany, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Johnson and Republicans are bloodthirsty in pursuit of wolf hater votes.

The Center for Biological Diversity

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/ describes the acceleration of extinction: "Because the rate of change in our biosphere is increasing, and because every species' extinction potentially leads to the extinction of others bound to that species in a complex ecological web, numbers of extinctions are likely to snowball in the coming decades as ecosystems unravel."

This weekend, May 6, the DNR is holding a Wisconsin Hunter Education convention, "on the future of Hunter Education with statewide experts in the field of hunter recruitment, retention, and reintroducing people of all ages to the outdoors and hunting." For years, the DNR has been on a killing recruitment spree offering \$5 licenses to entice new hunters and trappers, bolstering their killing power base, especially targeting women and children.

The DNR has recruited and trained another 10,000 trappers over the past five years, deregulated lead shot and weapons, massively extended and liberalized seasons, shooting ranges, and access to public lands. It is paying for private land access. It is promoting the use of dogs on our wildlife without mercy or licenses, anytime, anywhere, with little or no oversight. It is paying \$2500, from the Endangered Species Fund, for each dog killed by wolves or bears defending themselves and their young.

2015-16, with prices down on the furs of trapped animals, the DNR anecdotal survey of kill <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/documents/reports/furbuyersrep.pdf> documented 284,395 wild animals crushed in traps throughout the state, with prices ranging from 71 cents for possums to \$75.00 for bobcat skins. The total monetary value comes out to \$1,258,651.00 or \$4.42 per wild animal killed. Trappers are the only citizens who can destroy unlimited wild animals for profit, indiscriminately, and self-report.

Non-hunters have zero say.

If the 4.4 million voting-eligible citizens each put in 29 cents, we could buy back our 284,395 innocent wildlife and save them from such suffering and needless death. We are not given the option. Only death has a price tag and license.

The DNR "furbearer" committee

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/committees/furbearer/fur060116.pdf> kills and parts out our wildlife like trashed cars. Instead of the cost-efficient beaver deceiver (a simple PVC pipe run through the bottom of a beaver dam to let water flow through), over 15 thousand beavers are drowned and killed by trappers to stock trout, and the federal Wildlife "Services" also kills thousands more for damage to timber and for wild rice protection. All of these so-called problems have humane solutions, not utilized by the DNR.

The Center for Biological Diversity warns, "...conserving local populations is the only way to ensure genetic diversity critical for a species' long-term survival." That means wolves, bears, bobcats, beavers, coyotes, and all wild life.

As Chris Hedges writes in "Reign of Idiots" http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/reign_of_idiots_20170430, "There is a familiar checklist for extinction. We are ticking off every item on it."

"When We Finally Know We Are Dying, And All Other Sentient Beings Are Dying With Us, We Start To Have A Burning, Almost Heartbreaking Sense Of The Fragility And Preciousness Of Each Moment And Each Being, And From This Can Grow A Deep, Clear, Limitless Compassion For All Beings."

Sogyal Rinpoche

This legislation proposes to undermine the Endangered Species Act in order to destroy our wolves, either by green-lighting poaching or by annual killing, legislating out the protection of the courts which are a check and balance on over-reach. It is shameful pandering to a small group of obsessed wolf trophy killers.

Since it took 38 years of protection to reach 850 wolves in the state, and 1100 wolves were killed during the three years of hunts (Wildlife Services, ag tags, the usual SSS, and the hunts), and with escalating blood lust and poaching, it is not to be believed that in four years, not 38, the wolves miraculously have come back to 800 in the state. All governments lie – this is no exception.

Randy Jurewicz, retired DNR wolf biologist, has admitted, ***"There is no need to hunt wolves. Their populations are self-limiting."***

Richard Thiel, retired DNR wolf biologist said on WPR, "I have worked with Wisconsin wolves for 30 years. I have pushed them off of deer carcasses and had them walk right up to me. I never felt the need to carry a firearm and I never did."

Adrian Treves, head of the Carnivore Co-Existence Lab at Nelson Institute found that "non-lethal methods were more effective than lethal methods in preventing carnivore predation on livestock generally" and that "at least two lethal methods (government culling or regulated public hunting) were followed by increases in predation on livestock," - while no studies showed that nonlethal methods increased wolf predation.

Senator Tiffany and Rep. Jarchow claim that wolves are killing livestock. According to the Dept. of Agriculture, wolves may be responsible for **2/10ths of one per cent cause** of livestock death before being sent to the slaughterhouse for human consumption. 26 % cause of pre-slaughterhouse death is due to bad husbandry and respiratory diseases. 90% altogether are health related due to poor care. Why not tackle those issues that are 450 times the cause of money and livestock losses? Dogs are three times as responsible for livestock deaths as wolves.

You are killing wild creatures for their natural and essential keystone role in ecosystems – they are hunting to survive. **How many billions of farm animals do humans eat? Are we the only species allowed to eat on planet Earth?** We are destroying the fragile balance of life that sustains us. These animals protect us from disease.

In Wisconsin in 2017, the 26 confirmed wolf/livestock depredations were **0.000015** percent of the 1,549,000 beef and dairy cattle in the state.

Treves also found that the three years of hunting escalated wolf hating and blood lust, as I heard when I attended one of Senator Tiffany's wolf hate conferences up north where only wolf hate enthusiasts were allowed to speak.

Treves concludes: "We recommend suspending lethal predator control methods that do not currently have rigorous evidence for functional effectiveness in preventing livestock loss until gold-standard tests are completed,"

The human deer hunt has been extended from 9 days to over four months. Wolves are not a significant factor in trophy deer kills. Humans are.

Even back in 2003, the CWD Alliance considered wolves a partner in fighting the disease.

"The Role of Predation and Disease Control" study states: "Wolves and other large carnivores are essential to the health of the ecosystems on which our game animals and we depend.... 'We suggest that as CWD distribution and wolf range overlap in the future, wolf predation may suppress disease emergence or limit prevalence'."

"Chronic wasting disease could wipe out our elk and deer."

National parks biologist Douglas Smith helped lead the program returning wolves to Yellowstone in 1995. He said, "Wolves are probably the single best way to stop the spread of CWD.... Chronic wasting disease causes animals to act weird. Wolves kill animals like that."

University of Calgary professor Valerius Geist, an expert on deer and elk, is also convinced. "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt," he said. "They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease."

Norman Bishop, a retired naturalist from Yellowstone, gave a talk in 2013 in which he said: "We risk losing wolves' essential ecosystem services by continually inventing new ways to reduce their numbers to a socially-acceptable minimum. The goal of wolf management might better be to establish ecologically effective populations of wolves (Lee et al. 2012) wherever the absence of conflicts with livestock make that feasible."

The paper references Wisconsin spending \$27 million to eradicate deer with CWD and notes: "**No CWD has been detected where wolves live.**"

A recent study shows that our closest relatives, primates, fed muscle meat from deer with no symptoms of CWD, contracted CWD. It has jumped the supposed species barrier and is a real threat to other wildlife and humans. No cure.

Right now Wisconsin is epidemic with lyme disease and chronic wasting disease. Wolves and coyotes, bears and bobcats, would help with this. Farming for high populations of deer in the wild by trophy killing bucks leaves us with deer as a major carrier of both CWD and lyme ticks. Trapping doubled in five years on \$5 licenses has created an explosion of the mice population – the other main carrier of lyme carrying ticks. Western states have found bubonic plague in mule deer where Wildlife Services has done intensive predator destruction.

Sixty percent of large mammals, both herbivore and carnivore, are threatened with extinction right now. Two-thirds of all wildlife on the planet have been destroyed in just 50 years. It took 100,000 years in the Permian extinction to destroy 97% of life. Humans have destroyed 67% in just 50.

You must change direction and save all you can. Climate change is exponential, not linear, and so is extinction. As animals cannot find what they need or move fast enough, earth is at tipping points of ecosystem collapse. You have a sacred responsibility to go beyond your own special interests to serve the greater good and meet the crisis of our time. 8 of 9 citizens in Wisconsin polled across every demographic, voted against killing wolves at all.

Mercy, gentleness, empathy, kindness and love is what every creature on earth needs right now, including the citizens of this state - including the wildlife that weaves the world together for us and keeps us healthy, spiritually and physically. We need wolves and our wildlife who are given the gift of life that is fleeting and sacred – for our own brief sojourn in this miracle of life.

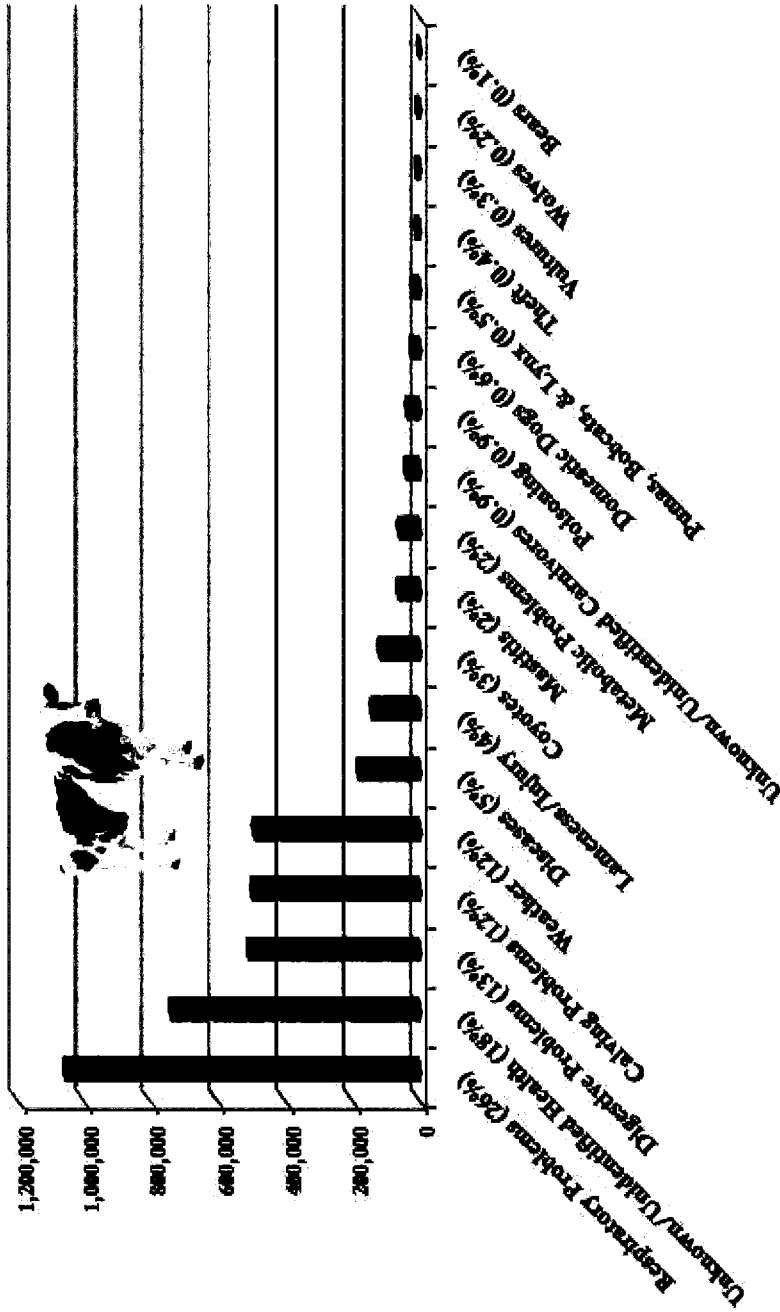
January 9, 2018

Submitted by:

Patricia Randolph, State Journalist, Capital Times newspaper Madravenspeak living wildlife columnist/researcher

Unintended Cattle Losses to Agribusiness (3.9 Million), by Rank

Cattle inventory equaled 94 million head. Data from NASS (2011)





MADRAVENSPEAK

Senator Tiffany and Rep. Jarchow Push Legislation Signaling to Wolf Poachers – Kill with Impunity

“Many consider CWD the biggest single threat to wildlife in North America. ~“Officials Fighting CWD Ponder a Natural Partner: Wolves” <http://cwd-info.org/officials-fighting-cwd-ponder-a-natural-partner-wolves/>

Republican legislators Senator Tiffany, Reps. Adam Jarchow, Mary Felzkowski and Romaine Quinn have proposed legislation to end state protection of wolves in Wisconsin <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/midwest/ct-wisconsin-wolf-management-20171109-story.html> in an attempt to force the federal government to de-list wolves from Endangered Species Act protection in the Great Lakes region and Wyoming.

This action, whether passed, or not, signals to wolf haters across Wisconsin that they can poach wolves without penalty.

These legislators are abdicating their responsibility to citizens of this state to enforce federal law and keep wildlife and us healthy.

Their memo and Rep. Jarchow's interview on Wisconsin Public Radio <https://www.wpr.org/wolf-management-wisconsin-would-end-under-new-bill> are full of distortions and exaggerations, if not outright lies.

"They are depredating our deer population, killing livestock and attacking family pets," they said in the memo.

This ignorance can be countered with facts.

Start with the fact that it took 38 years and protection of the state to reach maybe 850 wolves in Wisconsin, pre-hunts. I documented in a January, 2015 column http://host.madison.com/ct/columnist/patricia-randolph-s-madravenspeak-wolves-ripleve-short-lived-if-ribble/article_3405f459-7f2a-5de4-a2ad-57e837baf774.html that over 930 wolves were killed in agricultural tags, road kill, the three hunts, and illegal kills during those three years. With mortality of wolf pups 75% in the first year of life, and studies showing that illegal kills escalated after the hunts were shut down, it is absurd to believe that wolves recovered from almost nothing in 3 years to what took 38 years to restore.

On Public Radio, Rep. Jarchow claimed that "only the extreme fringe" think 950 wolves (bogus figure) are not enough.

Fact:

A 2013 Wisconsin statewide Mason-Dixon poll

http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2013/06/wisconsin-voters-support-protecting-wolves-061913.html showed 8 out of 9 Wisconsin citizens from every demographic and political affiliation support protection and oppose trapping and trophy hunting of our wolves.

"Killing our pets"

Fact: One pet was killed this year. 17 hounding dogs were killed by wolves protecting themselves during the bear kill over packs of dogs.

Tiffany claims that wolves are "Depredating our deer population".

Fact:

According to the DNR web site, "CWD is fast spreading in the deer herd in Wisconsin: During the past 15 years, the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from 8-10 percent to over 30 percent and in adult females from about 3-4 percent to nearly 15 percent." <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>

Even in 2003, the CWD Alliance considered wolves a partner in fighting the disease: **Officials Fighting CWD Ponder a Natural Partner: Wolves** <http://cwd-info.org/officials-fighting-cwd-ponder-a-natural-partner-wolves/>, states:

National Parks biologist Douglas Smith helped lead the program returning wolves to Yellowstone in 1995. He said, "Wolves are probably the single best way to stop the spread of CWD.... Chronic wasting disease causes animals to act weird. Wolves kill animals like that."

University of Calgary professor Valerius Geist, an expert on deer and elk, is also convinced.

"Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt," he said. "They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease."

It continues: "We risk losing wolves' essential ecosystem services by continually inventing new ways to reduce their numbers to a socially-acceptable minimum. The goal of wolf management might better be to establish ecologically effective populations of wolves (Lee et al. 2012) wherever the absence of conflicts with livestock make that feasible."

"The Role of Predation and Disease Control"

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/rocky-mountain-chapter/Notes%20on%20Wolves%2C%20Chronic%20Wasting%20Disease%2C%20and%20Brucellosis%20-%20Norm%20Bishop%27s%20Comments.pdf> a paper presented to the U.S. Congress, agrees:

"Wolves and other large carnivores are essential to the health of the ecosystems on which our game animals and we depend.... 'We suggest that as CWD distribution and wolf range overlap in the future, wolf predation may suppress disease emergence or limit prevalence'."

"Chronic wasting disease could wipe out our elk and deer."

The paper references Wisconsin spending \$27 million to eradicate deer with CWD and notes "No CWD has been detected where wolves live."

Tiffany and Jarchow claim that wolves are killing livestock.

Fact:

- According to the Dept. of Agriculture http://host.madison.com/ct/opinion/column/patricia-randolph-s-madravenspeak-state-legislators-sponsor-irrational-hatred-of/article_8b44124e-845a-5a46-ab4d-fbfceb45b349.html, wolves "may" be responsible for 2/10ths of one percent of livestock deaths before the slaughterhouse for human consumption. 90% die due to health issues related to poor husbandry.
- There were 24 confirmed cattle and 2 sheep deaths by wolves in Wisconsin in 2017. <https://dnrx.wisconsin.gov/wdacr/public/depredation/2017>. That is .000015% of the 1,549,000 beef and dairy cattle in the state.
- The Madravenspeak column "Leaked Emails Show Hunters Want to Wipe Out Wisconsin Wolves" http://host.madison.com/ct/opinion/column/patricia-randolph-s-madravenspeak-leaked-emails-show-hunters-want-to/article_6883c60f-eb3a-5cb9-bf7a-ac88f8b21388.html, just a year ago, covered the studies done by biologist Adrian Treves of the UW Madison and his video "Predator Control Should Not Be a Shot in the Dark" <http://www.voki.com/presenter/playPresentation.php?id=c31a43b48306bf35a8513a0b9e5c63d3>

"Regarding the predation of wolves on livestock, Treves finds that "non-lethal methods were more effective than lethal methods in preventing carnivore predation on livestock generally" and that "at least two lethal methods (government culling or regulated public hunting) were followed by increases in predation on livestock," while no studies showed that nonlethal methods increased wolf predation.

"We recommend suspending lethal predator control methods that do not currently have rigorous evidence for functional effectiveness in preventing livestock loss until gold-standard tests are completed."

Citizens of Wisconsin must act now if they do not want CWD in freefall, suffering deer and dead wolves. Vote out the ignorant and cruel legislators so obsessed with killing wolves that they ignore the health of our state.

<http://www.mysterium.com/extinction.html>

BIOLOGISTS SAY HALF OF ALL SPECIES COULD BE EXTINCT BY END OF CENTURY (U.K. Guardian-- 2017)

WORLD ON TRACK TO LOSE TWO-THIRDS OF WILD ANIMALS BY 2020 (U.K Guardian-- 2016)

EARTH'S SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION EVENT ALREADY UNDERWAY, SCIENTISTS WARN (U.K. Guardian/Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences-- 2017)

WARNING OF 'ECOLOGICAL ARMAGEDDON' AFTER DRAMATIC PLUNGE IN INSECT NUMBERS (U.K. Guardian-- 2017)

MASS EXTINCTION CONFIRMED, WITH MANY SPECIES-- INCLUDING HUMANS-- LABELLED "THE WALKING DEAD" (U.K. Independent/American Association for the Advancement of Science-- 2015)

UN: ACCELERATING BIODIVERSITY LOSS A "FUNDAMENTAL THREAT" TO "SURVIVAL OF HUMANKIND" (U.N./IPBES-- 2013)

HUMAN ACTIVITY HAS PUSHED EARTH BEYOND 4 OF 9 "PLANETARY BOUNDARIES" INCLUDING SPECIES EXTINCTION RATE (Washington Post-- 2015)

35 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S 'NATIONAL ANIMALS' ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION (BioScience-- 2017)

EARTH HAS LOST 50% OF ITS WILDLIFE IN PAST 40 YEARS (WWF-- 2014)

60% OF LARGE WILD ANIMAL SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION (Wildlife Conservation Society-- 2016)

WORLD'S MAMMALS BEING EATEN TO EXTINCTION (U.K. Guardian-- 2016)

POPULATION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS CRASHES 30% IN JUST SEVEN YEARS, 2007-2014 (Washington Post-- 2016)

MOST PRIMATE SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION (N.Y. Times-- 2016)

POPULATION OF EASTERN GORILLA HAS CRASHED 70% IN LAST 20 YEARS (U.K. Guardian-- 2016)

INVERTEBRATE POPULATIONS DOWN 45% IN LAST 35 YEARS (U.K. Independent-- 2014)

WORLD'S SEABIRD POPULATIONS PLUMMET 70% IN 60 YEARS (U.K. Guardian-- 2015)

SALT-WATER FISH EXTINCTION SEEN BY 2048 (Science Magazine-- 2014)

E.O. WILSON, HARVARD: CURRENT RATE OF HUMAN ACTIVITY WILL RESULT IN 50% OF ALL SPECIES EXTINCT BY 2100. "I DON'T THINK THE WORLD CAN SUSTAIN THIS. DON'T SAVE THE BIOSPHERE AND WE'RE DOOMING OURSELVES." (U.K. Times-- 2014)

UN: EARTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS PUSHED TO BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS-- SUDDEN, IRREVERSIBLE, POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC CHANGES LOOMING (CBS/United Nations-- 2012)

SCIENTISTS WARN EARTH'S ENTIRE BIOSPHERE NEARING CATASTROPHIC "TIPPING POINT" (Nature-- 2012)

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN 300 MILLION YEARS-- MASS EXTINCTION "MAY BE INEVITABLE" (U.K. Guardian-- 2013)

ONE-FIFTH OF ALL INVERTEBRATE SPECIES FACING EXTINCTION: "EXTINCTION OF HUMANS COULD SOON FOLLOW" (IUCN/Zoological Society of London-- 2012)

60% of Large Herbivore Species Threatened with Extinction (American Association for the Advancement of Science-- 2015)

21% OF PLANT SPECIES FACING EXTINCTION (BBC-- 2016)

ONE QUARTER OF NORTH AMERICAN BEE SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION (Center for Biological Diversity-- 2017)

More Than A Third of North American Bird Species Face Extinction Risk (Washington Post-- 2016)

ONE QUARTER OF WORLD'S MARINE SPECIES IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION (U.K. Independent-- 2015)

Half of All Tree Species in Amazon Face Extinction (BBC-- 2015)

WORLD'S ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK OF COLLAPSE-- TIPPING POINTS NEAR (United Nations-- 2010)

IUCN RED LIST ANALYSIS: "LIFE ON EARTH IS UNDER SERIOUS THREAT" (IUCN-- 2009)

2009 RED LIST RELEASED: "EXTINCTION CRISIS CONTINUES APACE" (IUCN--2009)

2008 RED LIST RELEASED: 50% OF MAMMAL SPECIES IN DECLINE, UP TO 36% OF MAMMALS THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION; 40% OF ALL STUDIED SPECIES THREATENED (2008-- Agence France Presse/IUCN)

WORLD'S OCEANS FACING MASS EXTINCTION WITHIN ONE HUMAN GENERATION (Oxford Univ., IUCN, IPSO-- 2011)

UNITED NATIONS: HUMANS CAUSING GREATEST MASS EXTINCTION IN 65 MILLION YEARS (Reuters-- 2006)

Patricia Randolph, N328 3rd Avenue, Portage, WI 53901 608-981-2287



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in Opposition to AB 712
Presented to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
By Melissa Tedrowe, Wisconsin State Director
The Humane Society of the United States**

January 10, 2018

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our supporters in Wisconsin, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to AB 712. This measure sanctions wolf poaching and prevents state officials from monitoring wolves until federal delisting occurs—actions that will have dire and long-lasting consequences for the species. Equally concerning, AB 712 violates Wisconsinites' deeply held conservation values and sets a dangerous precedent for lawmakers to cherry-pick which laws get enforced.

Wolves in the Great Lakes region had just begun to recover from being wiped out completely when they lost their federal protections in 2011. In the period between 2012 and 2014, trophy hunters, trappers and houndsmen killed more than 1,500 wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan under hostile state management programs. At least 520 wolves were killed in Wisconsin alone. In just one season, Wisconsin's wolf population plummeted 20%, with 17 packs disappearing entirely. Wolves were killed with exceptionally cruel and unsporting methods—nearly 70% were caught in barbaric steel-jawed leghold traps or neck snares, while other methods included baiting, electronic calls, and packs of hounds.

Largely in response to this devastation, in December of 2014, a federal court mandated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) restore federal ESA protection for Great Lakes wolves. The court noted that the FWS failed to explain how states' "virtually unregulated" killing of wolves did not constitute a continued threat. On August 1, 2017, a U.S. appellate court, in a unanimous ruling, affirmed the district court's decision. That's how we got where we are today.

Many negative claims are made against wolves—all of them unfounded or grossly exaggerated. To begin, there is no correlation between an increase in wolf numbers and confirmed conflicts with livestock, as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources's (DNR) own statisticsⁱ show. Despite an increase in the wolf population, the number of confirmed incidents of wolf depredation to livestock during 2016-17 decreased 29% from the previous year. Furthermore, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture,ⁱⁱ wolves (and all other carnivores put together, including coyotes, dogs, bears, and cougars) take less than 1% of all annual livestock inventories in the Great Lakes region. What really causes 99% of unwanted livestock loss? Disease, injury, theft, and weather events. Indiscriminately killing wolves has been found to actually increase livestock losses by disrupting the social structure of packs and leaving young and inexperienced wolves desperate to find easy prey.

It's also important to note that almost all the depredations on pets last year were hounds engaged in hunting activities. The DNR establishes wolf caution areas that can easily be viewed on their website, yet hounders continue to intentionally run dogs in areas where wolves live. This behavior is costly, dangerous and cruel. We should not let irresponsible human behavior justify turning a blind eye to the illegal hunting and trapping of a vital species that was here long before any of us.

When it comes to deer, research demonstrates that hunters kill far greater numbers than wolves. And wolves improve deer herd health by taking the oldest and weakest animals, including those with chronic wasting disease – a fatal, incurable and infectious disease found in Wisconsin's deer population.ⁱⁱⁱ In the past two years, the Wisconsin DNR has reported a sharp increase in deer-hunting numbers in the Northern Forest Zone, the area where wolves reside. Minnesota has seen similar results, as deer-hunting numbers have increased in areas where the wolves are located.

The vast majority of Wisconsinites know that wolves matter enormously, recognizing their vital role in keeping our ecosystem healthy and balanced, and taking pride in the fact that our state is one of the few places these wolves call home. The Wisconsin DNR's own 2014 survey of nearly 9,000 residents, which was heavily weighted to rural areas, found that most people do not want wolves hunted or trapped. They want wolves conserved for future generations.

In closing, AB 712 is a bad bill – one that endangers scientific research and obstructs law enforcement, puts our ecosystems in jeopardy, and ignores the will of the majority of state citizens. I urge the committee to vote no on this proposal and ensure that protections for gray wolves are not irrationally and prematurely taken away on behalf of a tiny, vocal minority.

ⁱ J. E. Wiedenhoft, D. M. MacFarland, N. S. Libal, and J. Bruner, "Wisconsin Gray Wolf Monitoring Report 15 April 2016 Through 14 April 2017," <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/wolf/documents/Wolfreport2017.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services, "Death Loss in U.S. Cattle and Calves Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015," https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/general/downloads/cattle_calves_deathloss_2015.pdf (2017).

ⁱⁱⁱ The Wisconsin DNR's own gray wolf factsheet states, "Ironically, studies have shown that wolves have minimal negative impact on deer populations, since they feed primarily on weak, sick, or disabled individuals." <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolf/facts.html>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Delisting a Species

Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act

Delisting is the removal of species from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Downlisting is the reclassification of a species from Endangered to Threatened. Delisting and downlisting actions result from successful recovery efforts. To delist a species, the Service must determine that the species is not threatened based on a number of factors, such as population size, recruitment, stability of habitat quality and quantity, and control or elimination of the threats. If some of the threats have been reduced and the population has met its recovery objectives for downlisting, we may consider changing the species status from Endangered to Threatened. Delisting species is the ultimate goal of implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Why, when, and how are species removed from the list of endangered and threatened species?

Recovery plans, developed by the Service and stakeholders for listed species, identify delisting and downlisting goals. When a species reaches its delisting goals, the Service considers removing it from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Likewise, when a species reaches its downlisting goals, the Service considers changing its status from Endangered to Threatened.

To delist or downlist a species, the Service follows a process similar to when we consider a species for listing under the ESA: we assess the population and its recovery achievements; we assess the existing threats; and, we seek advice from species experts in and outside of the Service. To assess the existing threats, the Service must determine that the

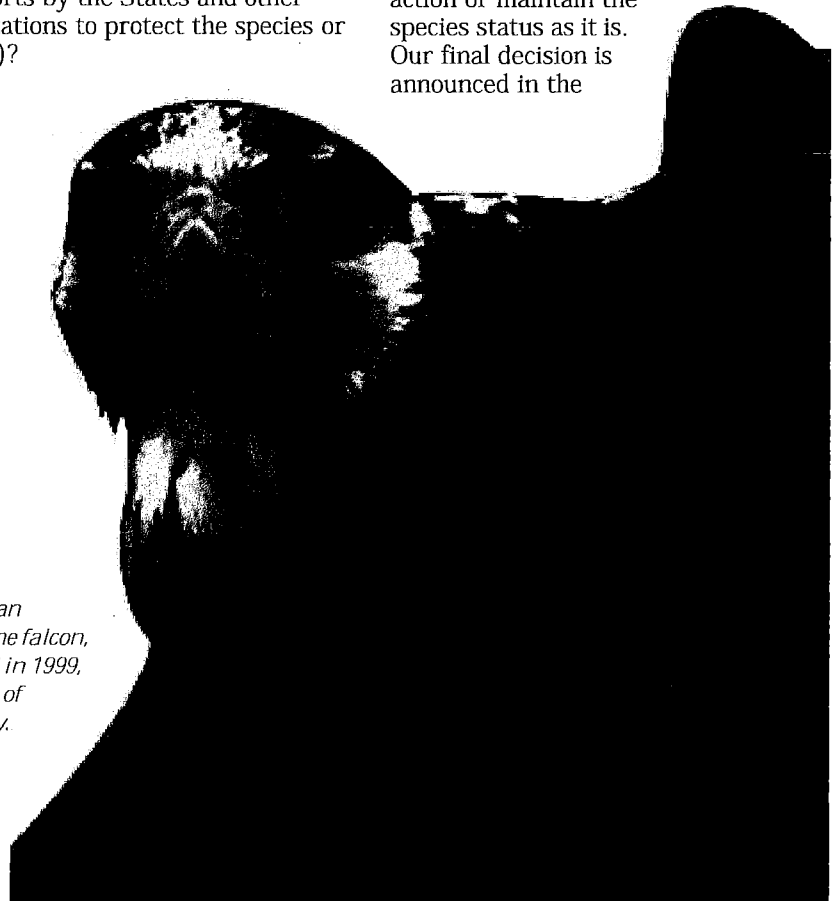
species is no longer threatened or endangered based on five factors:

- Is there a present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of species' habitat or range?
- Is species subject to overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes?
- Is disease or predation a factor?
- Are there inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms in place outside the ESA (taking into account the efforts by the States and other organizations to protect the species or habitat)?

■ Are other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence?

If the Service determines that the threats have been sufficiently reduced, then we may consider delisting or downlisting the species. When delisting or downlisting a species, the Service first proposes the action in the *Federal Register*. At this time, we also seek the opinion from independent species experts, other Federal agencies, State biologists, and the public. After analyzing the comments received on the proposed rulemaking, we decide whether to complete the proposed action or maintain the species status as it is. Our final decision is announced in the

American peregrine falcon, delisted in 1999, because of recovery.
Craig Koppie, USFWS



Federal Register. The comments received and our response to them are addressed in the final rule.

What happens after a species is delisted?

If delisted due to recovery, the ESA requires the Service, in cooperation with the States, to monitor the species for a minimum of five years in order to assess each species' ability to sustain itself without the ESA's protective measures. The draft post-delisting monitoring strategy is generally available at the time the proposal for delisting is published in the *Federal Register*. We seek peer review and public comment of this document. Once the final delisting monitoring plan is approved, it is put into action. If, within the designated monitoring period, threats to the species change or unforeseen events change the stability of the population, then the species may be relisted or the monitoring period extended.

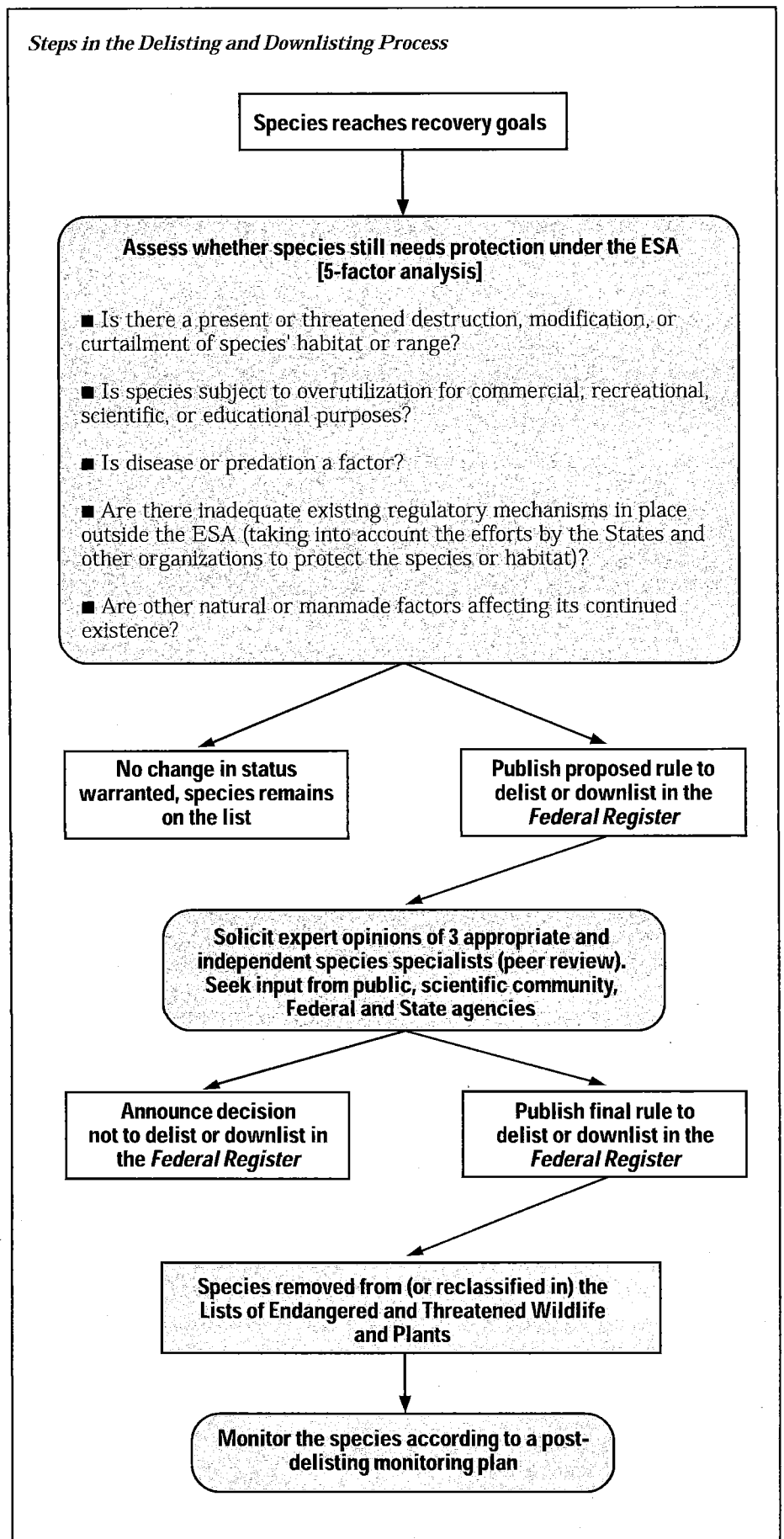
Why are species delisted?

Species are taken off the endangered and threatened species list (i.e., delisted) for a variety of reasons: recovery, extinction, new evidence of additional populations, and other reasons. Over the years, the Service has delisted few species, because we have focused our attention and resources on saving more imperiled species. For more information about species that have been delisted or downlisted, please see our web site at <http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html>.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Endangered Species Program
 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420
 Arlington, VA 22203
 703/358 2061
<http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery>

August 2002

Steps in the Delisting and Downlisting Process





John Muir Chapter

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**Statement of the Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter in opposition
to
Assembly Bill 712
January 10, 2018**

Chairman Kleefisch and members of the committee, my name is Will Stahl. I am a volunteer for the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to Assembly Bill 712. The John Muir Chapter represents over 18,000 members and an additional 30,000+ supporters living throughout the state. We work to provide opportunities for Wisconsinites to enjoy nature, and we advocate for the fair and rational management of our common resources, so that all Wisconsin residents have access to the clean air, water, and land they need for their health, safety, well-being, and moving our economy forward.

The Sierra Club believes AB 712 is bad policy for Wisconsin for four reasons:

- It will put wardens and other law enforcement officers in an untenable position, caught between federal law and this legislation.
- By allowing virtually unrestricted killing of wolves, this bill eliminates the most effective mechanism for controlling Chronic Wasting Disease in northern Wisconsin.
- This bill would abandon Wisconsin's long tradition of managing our natural resources based on solid scientific information.
- Finally, the bill ignores the contribution wolves make to the overall health of our forests.

Since this bill prohibits the use of any state funds to enforce laws pertaining to the management of wolves, it will lead to free-for-all killing without limits as to location or means. Those who wish to could hunt at night, from vehicles and use lights, bait, traps or poison. Such practices can be reckless and dangerous and will lead to conflicts in the state. If some lay traps for wolves that are found by pets or children, what action can law enforcement take under this bill? If a person chasing a wolf crosses onto private property, what action can law enforcement take to protect the landowner's rights? As the law enforcement action would involve wolves, the answer would seem to be none. What happens then? If the landowner takes matters into his

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own hands, on what basis would the conflict be resolved?

For more than a decade, we have known that Chronic Wasting Disease is a problem in Wisconsin's deer herd. Though it was long believed that CWD was not a threat to human health, recent cases have cast doubt on this assumption, as it appears that the disease did cross to humans through contaminated venison. Because wolves cull weak and sick deer, they are the best mechanism for controlling CWD. Given recent state efforts to slacken other controls, wolves are the best providers of this service.

From the time of Aldo Leopold, Wisconsin has been known for scientific management of its resources. AB 712 abandons these proven policies by prohibiting the state from spending any funds studying wolves, leaving no sound basis for managing them. One ironic result might be for the federal government to maintain wolves on the Endangered Species list.

Lastly, as has been demonstrated in other ecosystems, most famously Yellowstone National Park, the presence of wolves actually improves the health of the entire forest ecosystem through a phenomenon known as "trophic cascade." By keeping deer and elk moving, it minimizes their impact on vegetation, allowing other species of plants and animals to thrive.

For all these reasons we urge the committee to oppose AB 712.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

My Name is Robert Boucher and I am here to testify my outrage and disapproval of Senate bill 602 and Assembly bill 712. I have a MS in Water Resource Management from the UW in Madison with a focus on Ecosystem Management of Watersheds. I also have had a hunting and fishing license in Wisconsin for over 50 years.

I'm here to remind you that you took an Oath of Office to uphold federal law and the Constitution, this bill is a violation of that. This means that state governments and officials cannot take action or pass laws that interfere with the Constitution.

There is a Public Law 96-303 which is a Code of Ethics for Government Service and this Bill is a violation of that code of ethics. I've attached that oath and code for your reference.

I quote from the official analysis of Bill 602:

This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from enforcing a federal or state law that relates to the management of the wolf population in this state or that prohibits the killing of wolf in this state.

It amazes me the legislators would sponsor a bill that "Prohibits Law Enforcement from Enforcing."

This bill proves to the entire World that the Wisconsin Legislature is populated with individuals who have violated the oath of their office, the code of ethics for government service and the public trust. It also shows to the world that Wisconsin government is populated with unprincipled law breakers who encourage poaching in direct defiance of upholding the laws of this country and the Endangered Species Act.

The Wisconsin legislators who sponsored this bill have embarrassed the citizens of Wisconsin to the world. This is also an embarrassment to all the University natural resource scientists who recognize the important role wolves play in land health. The sponsors of this bill should be ashamed of themselves.

Wolves play a critical role in maintaining biological land health. As a keystone species wolves create a trophic cascade that support healthy forests in Wisconsin. The recovery of Grey Wolves in the western Great Lakes is a great success story and needs to continue.

Regardless of the proven merits of maintaining a healthy wolf population, this bill proves that the Wisconsin legislators who signed on this bill are in violation of their oath of office, code of ethics and the most basic principle of respect for the laws of this country. Thank you.

Oath of Office in the State of Wisconsin

He who cheats on an oath acknowledges that he is afraid of his enemy, and he thinks little of God. ~ ~ Plutarch

If you are a public servant in the State of Wisconsin or any city, town, county or municipality thereof and are not abiding by your oath of office, you are operating outside the law. Below are Federal and state laws and statutes by which you MUST abide. Failure to abide by your oath of office carries both civil and criminal penalties.

Oath of office. Members of the legislature, and all officers,

The respective offices, take and subscribe an oath or affirmation to support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Wisconsin, and faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices to the best of their ability.

Source: Wisconsin Constitution: Article IV, Section 28: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/2wiscon.html>

The Actual Wisconsin Oath of Office Public Servants in Wisconsin are Required to Take

Wisconsin Statute EB-154 (6/86).

"I, (official's name), having been elected or appointed to the office of (title) swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability. So help me God."

Source: <http://elections.state.wi.us/pdf/EB-154 Official Oath.pdf>

The Constitution Comes Before Statutes, Edicts, Ordinances, Rules or Regulations

Article VI, U.S. Constitution

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United

States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution

From Law.Cornell.Edu:

"This means that state governments and officials cannot take actions or pass laws that interfere with the Constitution, laws passed by Congress, or treaties. The Constitution was interpreted, in 1819, as giving the Supreme Court the power to invalidate any state actions that interfere with the Constitution and the laws and treaties passed pursuant to it. That power is not itself explicitly set out in the Constitution but was declared to exist by the Supreme Court in the decision of McCulloch v. Maryland."

PUBLIC LAW 96-303

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE (signed into law on July 3, 1980)

ANY PERSON IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE SHOULD:

II. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the United States and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.

IX. Expose corruption wherever discovered.

X. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.
