

Resolution Regarding Wisconsin's Wolf Population Goal

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation was a very active participant in the efforts of restoring a population of timber wolves in the State of Wisconsin and their removal from the Federal and State Endangered and Threatened Species Act;

Whereas, as a part of the process of the recovery of wolf populations in the state, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with the approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, adopted a Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan in 1999.

Whereas, there was major public involvement in the establishment of the 1999 Wolf Management Plan involving the full range of interested organizations and citizens;

Whereas, a critical focus of the plan was establishing a long-term wolf population goal in the state, based on a combination of ecological and social carrying capacity;

Whereas, in 1999, the Natural Resources Board, after substantial public input, established a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 wolves based on the joint ecological and social carrying capacity:

Whereas, while it is very evident that the ecological carrying capacity of wolves in the state is in excess of 350 wolves based on the 2012 minimum population estimate of 850 wolves, the tolerance (social capacity) for most Northern Wisconsin residents and sportsmen and women for increasing the wolf population goal above 350 animals does not exist.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2013 Annual Meeting on April 12th -14th, 2013 held in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, re-affirms its position that the Wisconsin Wolf Population Goal remain at 350 wolves and that this resolution be sent to the Governor, State Legislature, the Natural Resources Board, the DNR Secretary and other appropriate state and federal officials.

Submitted by Ralph Fritsch, Chair
WWF Wildlife Committee Chair