

Emergency Resolution

Support for Federal Legislation Removing the Wolf From the Federal Endangered Species List

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been and continues to be a strong supporter of the Wisconsin and Federal Endangered Species laws; and

Whereas, the Federation has been very actively involved in the Federal and State agency efforts to recover the wolf in Wisconsin to a long-term sustainable levels so that it is now clearly eligible to be removed from the Federal Endangered Species; and

Whereas, the population goal set out in the Federally approved Wisconsin **Wolf Recovery and Management Plan** is 350 animals which has been attained and which led to the removal of the wolf from the State Endangered Species list in 2004.

Whereas, the Federal population goal for the delisting of the wolf is 100 animals combined for the State of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin DNR's official winter population estimate for 2009-2010 was 690 animals and it is widely believed by many Wisconsin citizens that the population is in excess of 1000 animals; and

Whereas, wolf depredation of livestock occurred on 47 farms in the state in 2010 up from the previous high of 32 farms in 2008 and 34 cases of depredation of dogs occurred in the state during 2010 including 14 cases involving pet dogs near homes and 20 cases of dogs in hunting or training situations;

Whereas, in 2010 there were 9 instances of wolf/human safety incidents involving seven wolf packs in five counties, with two of the situations in Jackson and Price counties reaching the level of wolf habituation with humans that was so serious that the DNR killed 15 wolves; and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on three occasions initiated efforts to either delist or downlist the wolf in Wisconsin from the Federal Endangered Species list, with each of these efforts successfully challenged in court despite the clear evidence that the Wisconsin wolf population goals have been greatly exceeded; and

Whereas, the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and other conservations groups filed legal petitions in May 2010 to once again initiate the process to remove the wolf in Wisconsin from the Federal list and the USFWS is currently reviewing the delisting; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in the fall of 2010, circulated a Citizens Petition for citizens to petition the Secretary of the Interior Salazar and the Wisconsin

Congressional delegation asking them to support the delisting of the wolf in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, 36,739 people signed the Citizens Petition and in March 2010, the Federation delivered the petitions to the Secretary of the Interior and the Wisconsin Congressional delegation; and

Whereas, Federal legislation (HR 838) has been introduced in the US Congress removing the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species list in the States of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its Annual Meeting in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 8-10, 2010, that if the US Fish and Wildlife Service does not delist the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species list in the current delisting process or if the US Fish and Wildlife Service does delist the wolf and their decision is challenged in Federal Court, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation shall support Federal legislation such as HR 838 removing the wolf in Wisconsin from the Federal Endangered Species list.

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation distribute this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, the US Congress, the Governor, the Legislature, the Natural Resources Board and the DNR Secretary.

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
and Ralph Fritsch, Chair of the WWF Wildlife Committee
and Chuck Matyska, Chair of the WWF Endangered Resources Committee