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Manage wolves

Whereas, wolves have been successfully re-established in Wisconsin.

And whereas, the wolf population, left uncontrolled while protected by lawsuits filed by animal-rights groups, has now spread into areas never envisioned or intended for wolves.

And whereas, wolf populations in these agricultural and more densely human-populated areas have created significant problems from depredation to human safety concerns.

And whereas, a hunting/trapping season has been established to manage wolves to maintain a viable population in the state, while provide hunting/trapping opportunity and minimizing conflicts.

And whereas, university studies and the DNR's own description have defined the current wolf management Zone 6 (southern 2/3 of state except the Central Forest) as unsuitable range for wolves.

And whereas, it would be in the best interest all parties concerned to encourage our viable population of wolves remain in the wild places where they thrive – and strongly discourage them in places where they cause more problems and are already determined to be unsuitable for wolves.

And whereas, because of very limited permit availability, many Wisconsin residents may never get the opportunity to hunt or trap wolves.

And whereas, we could control wolves in areas we don't want them – and provide many times more hunting and trapping opportunity for everyone – **by allowing an unlimited harvest quota in Zone 6.** Permits for Zone 6 could not be used in other wolf zones. Although the wolf population in Zone 6 would be limited, anyone that bought a wolf license would have the opportunity to hunt or trap them there, in some cases to deal with specific problems or the spread of lone wolves and/or wolf packs.

This type of wildlife management is not new, and is used in other states for wolves and other big game species. In Wisconsin it offers several solutions:

- Minimizing wolves where they were not intended, create more problems and are not supported by a good habitat structure
- Minimizing conflicts that lower human tolerance for wolves
- Still allows management of a healthy and viable wolf population in suitable wolf range
- Expanded hunting/trapping opportunity
- Increased revenue to help fund wolf depredation where it still occurs

Therefore, be it resolved that the citizens of Marathon County on April 14, 2014, at public hearing, support a change in the wolf management program to provide an unlimited wolf quota in current Wolf Zone 6, while managing the quotas in the other wolf zones to maintain a wolf population at the established population goal.

Yes _____

No _____

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