

Citizen Resolution # 070122

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Ban the Use of Hounds When Hunting Wolves

Wisconsin is the only state that allows the state-wide use of hound dogs to hunt wolves. Intentionally putting both into a likely conflicting situation. When dogs track and chase a bear, the bear can climb a tree to avoid conflict. Wolves, however are unable to escape like a bear, resulting in a potentially dangerous conflict for all involved. The wolf on the run for hours is fighting for survival with up to six hunting hounds chasing and surrounding them, and the hunter may or may not be present. The wolf hunter could be miles away in a truck, or on a snowmobile tracking their dogs by GPS collars alone. The DNR Wisconsin Wolf season report 2021 confirmed one wolf killed was "indicating trauma consistent with canine bites (the hunters confirmed these injuries resulted from interaction between the wolf and their hunting dogs)". One documented wolf and dog fight is too many, and certainly begs the question how many were there that were not visible/reported AND how many more will there be in the future. This controversial practice sets up potential violations of Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 951.08, which prohibits instigating fights between animals. Regardless of this being intentional or unintentional, the risk of it happening is significant and real. Therefore the use of hounds when hunting wolves is in conflict with this statute. During the February 2021 Wisconsin Wolf Hunt, 188 total wolves were wolves killed by hunters using hounds, accounting for 86% for the total wolves killed in the season.

Do you support the WCC working with the Legislature to change state law to prohibit the use of hound dogs to hunt wolves to be consistent with Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 951.08, which prohibits instigating fights between animals?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://widnr.widen.net/s/k8vtcgjwki/wolf-season-report-february-2021> <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2022/01/26/newly-removed-from-the-endangered-species-list-whats-next-for-americas-gray-wolves>

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.