

Support the Public

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Whereas, the Wisconsin wolf management plan established a statewide population goal of 350 wolves at the overwinter minimum population; substantially higher than the federal requirement.

And whereas the amount of suitable habitat for wolves in the state has not increased since that goal was established.

And whereas, the wolf population is far in excess of this goal due to a series of federal lawsuits filed by animal-rights groups, with the intent of prohibiting management while the population grew out of control and into areas where wolves were never intended and are now creating problems.

And whereas, these groups are now pressuring the DNR to raise the population goal.

And whereas, wolves are a documented threat to livestock, pets, hunting dogs, human safety, and other wildlife species including deer. Because of this, most major sporting groups, farming organizations, conservation groups and counties in the North have insisted that the overwinter population goal remain at 350-or-less. Besides all these organizations, this mandate has also come from the public through the Conservation Congress, supporting a goal of 350-or-less in 2011 by a 83% margin, which carried in all 72 counties. The 350-or-less goal was reaffirmed at the 2013 Conservation Congress convention.

Because there is overwhelming public sentiment, especially among those having to deal directly with wolves, that we will not tolerate an increased population goal number, the animal-rights groups are pushing for a new position that will potentially permit a much higher wolf population: no population goal. They want a population based on "tolerance" anywhere in the state, with the determination of what that tolerance is be left up to the DNR.

Unfortunately, some representatives of the Conservation Congress have voiced support for this "no goal" plan, in direct contradiction to the specific positions taken by the public they represent, all 72 counties, and two Conservation Congress conventions. While we understand their desire to consider new ideas and please the DNR and other groups, this position aligns the Conservation Congress with some of the protectionist groups and at odds with almost all sporting, farming and responsible conservation groups - not to mention the public that has directed them.

Finally, because the Wolf Committee of the DNR will be determining how to proceed on this issue within the next month or two, we request that this be addressed immediately by the Congress as new business.

Therefore, be it resolved that the citizens of Marathon County, and carried forward by our county delegates to the Conservation Congress on May 9-10, 2014 in Rothschild WI, insist that anyone acting as an official representative of the Conservation Congress support the will and vote of both the Conservation Congress body and the public, and continue to support the position of a statewide wolf population goal of 350-or-less.

Yes _____

No _____

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