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Title:

Independent Veterinary Evaluation of Wolves Killed With the Use of Hounds

The Problem:

Currently there is no safeguard to identify and prosecute violations of hunting wolves with dogs. A major responsibility of the DNR is oversight of public recreational lands. Funding for maintenance (including law enforcement) of these habitats and wildlife populations is financed largely through hunting and fishing fees, more than 90 percent, according to a May 10, 2012 study by The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW Madison. Therefore, the examination of the deceased wolves by DNR wardens is not objective, as the DNR is funded in large part, by hunting license fees of those people who are paying these fees and bringing pelt and carcass in for registration.

The photos of wolves killed by hunting with dogs in 2013 show the wolves' necks girdled, with deep, open wounds and skin flaps hanging. There is currently no way for the public to get reliable answers as to how these wolves died or why they were mauled. Nor is there reliable enforcement of existing regulations for how wolves may be legally killed.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress in its annual meeting in Waukesha County on April 15, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this situation by appointing no less than two independent veterinarians, chosen by a recognized non-profit humane organization, to examine the carcasses and pelts of deceased wolves hunted with dogs.

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