

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS  
WOLF COMMITTEE  
ELIZABETH INN AND CONVENTION CENTER  
PLOVER, WI  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009  
7 PM

- Call to order by chairman Al Brown at 7 PM sharp
- Roll call, all committee members present including new members Blaine Schneider and Mike Whiteside. Pete Kopplin, John Piechowski, and John Quall excused. Others present from WDNR include Randy Jurewicz, Adrian Wydeven, Dave Oginski, Michele Windsor, Kari Lee Zimmerman. Other guests present include Jane Wiley NRB, Ed Harvey WCC, and citizen speaker Laurie Groskopf, and Aades Lodelmeir
- Mike Bader made a motion to support our mission statement, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcus Breese, MC
- Michele Windsor WDNR gave a presentation on wolves, focusing on the central forest packs that she deals with most. As of 2009 there are 18 known packs, with 16 having pups last spring. Starlight and Fort McCoy did not have pups according to the howling survey done this summer. The central forest has several habituated packs, which mean public safety issues. More than 4 packs exhibit this behavior. 6 known dead wolves in the central forest area from November 2008. Some shot, some car kills. 2 new groups-Mather West and Augusta. 5 attacks on 7 dogs... 5 dogs were killed. They had the first calls on depredation this year
- Adrian Wydeven WDNR reported the late winter count, the lowest minimum count for 2009 is 626-662 in 162 packs in 2008 a total of 93 wolves were found dead, 41 depredators euthanized. 4 shot protecting livestock, 22 vehicle accidents, and 3 trapping related the rest disease or other reasons. In 1999 the goal was 350, now it's probably a lot higher than 500. We may be able to delist next spring again? With luck. The WDNR's guidelines for proactive controls of wolves document gives more flexibility in problem areas. They will work on the next wolf plan the next 1-2 years, modifying zones, population goals, and managements. The framework for potential harvest needs many legal items to happen before season framework gets fleshed out. Questions Ed Harvey asked about the 2 sets of population numbers. Laurie Groskopf asked how carrying capacity is determined. Hybrid regulations will be finalized in 2010. No breeding, cage specs ect... the seasons out west has harvested 30 in Idaho and 9 in Montana at this time. Minnesota has a citizen trapper system in place, but has never used it Wisconsin has not done their own study on number of deer killed per wolf; they are using old data from Minnesota and Michigan.
- Randy Jurewicz WDNR In 2008 damage payments exceeded \$137,000 2009 will be greater than this as there is no way to stop the killing. There is no lethal way to put an end to the damage payment. Once we exceeded 350 wolves the payments gotten out of hand. Over 30-40 thousands each year. USFW has never paid for damage. APHIS agents get paid by federal dollars.

- BREAK FROM 8:52 to 9:00 pm
- Dave Oginski WDNR law enforcement update- wolves were delisted on may 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. And relisted on July 1 2009. They are protected in Wisconsin and endangered in federal law. Forfeiture for unintentionally killing a wolf \$ 2, 2022.50 with a max up to \$ 5,030.50 intentionally killing a wolf between \$5,000 and 11,000 and/or 9 months in jail, and loss of license for 3 years... lacey act makes it a class A misdemeanor/1 year and/or \$100,000 . or a class D felony (selling) 5 years/\$250,000
- Q. how many cases a year. A. 2 or so a year go to trial with many staying open. Q. fishhooks and poison? A. yes, they seem to be a problem, but not widespread. Can you shoot a wolf that is following a person and not get in trouble? A. is wolf curious or just acting aggressively?
- No resolutions were brought forward to us this year. We did discuss a statewide coyote season during deer hunting with a closed season during the summer (May-June?). it should be on the spring hearing booklet
- We still support implementing a season in 5 years or when a certain trigger number is reached as in last May's motion
- We discussed how to go forward with a harvest plan, and how to work on it for the next 5 years. Many opinions, many options but nor further motions. Maybe we could put legislation in place (as in the elk season) while they are still listed. We supported letting our motion from May stand .it gives the WCC some flexibility on how to handle the ever changing situation.
- We basically agree to not take a wolf season to a legislator now. Hopefully soon, but when?
- Laurie Groskopf citizen speaker, Lincoln county had a few minutes to educate us. She urged us to not take any information we get from a public source at face value. Question anything and everything. Should all dog attacks be labeled hunting dogs? How this data is separated and fed to the public can give a positive or negative spin on any story. She had handouts to give us. How to educate the public on problem wolves in their location. Not all reports of wolf sighting or aggressive behavior is spread to the public that should know about it
- Member matters
- Can we move the meeting to the summer?
- Some one mentioned Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>?
- Motion to adjourn at 10:47 by Scott Zimmerman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcus Breese MC

SUBMITTED BY SCOTT MC AULEY  
SECRETARY