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TITLE: WOLF HUNT MORATORIUM

David Lois

THE PROBLEM:

In 2013, the long-standing Wisconsin DNR Wolf Science and legislatively mandated Stakeholder's committees were eliminated by order of the DNR Secretary. In its place, a "Wolf Advisory Committee" was created "by invitation only" by the DNR Secretary. Twenty-five of the twenty-six members of this committee are hostile to wolves.

This committee has NOT followed scientifically-informed recommendations concerning wolf carrying capacity / wolf numbers; rejected the need for refuge areas and conservative quotas, and rejected findings by social scientists that hunting does NOT "increase social tolerance" of wolves.

Finally, the committee has NOT followed the recommendations of the "Sustained Yield" theory, and instead has focused on an arbitrary and unscientifically established number of 350 wolves – about 40% of the (recently) current population.

At present, it is unknown what the overall effect has been on the wolf population after the 2012/2013 recreational hunting of over 30% of the wolf population and the additional "other mortality" factors on wolves.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Kenosha County on April 14, 2014, recommend that they work with the DNR and legislature to institute a mandatory one year moratorium on recreational wolf hunting and trapping in order to further study what the State's *actual natural carrying capacity* should be. Further, the newly-revised carrying capacity is to be decided by a scientific panel, comprised of at least two members from the University of Wisconsin Madison.

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