

RESOLUTION # 2010-1 (Option 1)

DELIST THE GRAY WOLF AND RESTORE MANAGEMENT TO THE STATES

WHEREAS, the “Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf” identified population goals of 1,250 – 1,400 animals for Minnesota and 100 animals for Wisconsin/Michigan; and

WHEREAS, population estimates as of 2008 include 2,922 animals in Minnesota; 549 animals in Wisconsin; and 520 animals in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, as acknowledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota’s wolf population has met the federal recovery goal since the late 1970’s and Wisconsin / Michigan have met the federal recovery goal since the winter of 1993 – 1994; and

WHEREAS, a primary purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to “provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section.”; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the ESA has clearly been achieved for the gray wolf, and gray wolves have recovered in the Midwest, formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment; and

WHEREAS, a lack of delisting, given the species has met recovery goals, can result in an erosion of public acceptance of wolves and the ESA; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have each developed state management plans for the gray wolf that include population levels that will assure long-term sustainability and avoid the need for future state or federal endangered species listing; and

WHEREAS, State wildlife agencies are the competent authorities to manage resident species for their sustained use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the overall aim of the ESA is to recover species such that the species can be managed by the appropriate entity. State wildlife agencies are the appropriate entities to assume management of the gray wolf as a resident species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses efforts to delist gray wolves in the Midwest (formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment) from the Endangered Species Act as a recovered species, and recommends the management of this species by state agencies, including public taking, for the multiple values and benefits associated with their recovery.

RESOLUTION # 2010-1 (Option 2)

DELIST THE GRAY WOLF AND RESTORE MANAGEMENT TO THE STATES

WHEREAS, the “Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf” identified population goals of 1,250 – 1,400 animals for Minnesota and 100 animals for Wisconsin/Michigan; and

WHEREAS, population estimates as of 2008 include 2,922 animals in Minnesota; 549 animals in Wisconsin; and 520 animals in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, as acknowledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota’s wolf population has met the federal recovery goal since the late 1970’s and Wisconsin / Michigan have met the federal recovery goal since the winter of 1993 – 1994; and

WHEREAS, a primary purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to “provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section.”; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the ESA has clearly been achieved for the gray wolf, and gray wolves have recovered in the Midwest, formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment; and

WHEREAS, a lack of delisting, given the species has met recovery goals, can result in an erosion of public acceptance of wolves and the ESA; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have each developed state management plans for the gray wolf that include population levels that will assure long-term sustainability and avoid the need for future state or federal endangered species listing; and

WHEREAS, State wildlife agencies are the competent authorities to manage resident species for their sustained use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the overall aim of the ESA is to recover species such that the species can be managed by the appropriate entity. State wildlife agencies are the appropriate entities to assume management of the gray wolf as a resident species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses efforts to delist gray wolves in the Midwest (formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment) from the Endangered Species Act as a recovered species, and recommends the management of this species by state agencies, including public taking, for the multiple values and benefits associated with their recovery.

RESOLUTION #2010-2

Recognizing the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program

WHEREAS, The member states of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies are pleased to extend special recognition to the United States Department of Agriculture on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program; and

WHEREAS, The Conservation Reserve Program has been the cornerstone of all conservation programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture by providing critical wildlife habitat, improving the water quality, and protecting soil and forest resources across America; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the enhancement and protection our natural resources, the Conservation Reserve Program has been a wise investment of taxpayer funds by promoting balanced ecosystems addressing declining populations of threatened and endangered species while providing significant nesting and brooding habitat for millions of waterfowl, pheasants, quail, and neo-tropical species of birds. Over the years, the Conservation Reserve Program has also provided recreational opportunities to hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts, contributed millions of dollars in outdoor related expenditures to rural economies and private landowners, addressed essential pollinator habitat, and sequestered millions of tons of carbon; and

WHEREAS, The many individuals, both past and present, who have been involved with the work of the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are to be commended for their tremendous efforts in administering the Conservation Reserve Program over the past twenty-five years. It is certain that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies vows to work closely with these federal agencies to ensure that the opportunities to improve upon the Conservation Reserve Program will continue for many years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, in adopting this Resolution, pay tribute to the Conservation Reserve Program on its twenty-fifth anniversary and extend congratulations to the United States Department of Agriculture for its efforts during those years.

Resolution #2010-3

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL AND STATE LIVESTOCK INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL
IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) states are concerned about management of diseases shared between livestock and free-ranging wildlife, such as brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, and chronic wasting disease; and

WHEREAS, livestock is defined as domestic and non-traditional (e.g. captive wildlife) farmed animals; and

WHEREAS, the MAFWA states are concerned about the potential impacts of infected livestock on free-ranging wildlife populations and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, the MAFWA believes that individual livestock animal identification and premise registration are critical to identifying the origin of infected livestock and to epidemiologic investigations for risk assessment and control of diseases shared between livestock and free ranging wildlife; and

WHEREAS, USDA's current National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a voluntary program and only applies to inter-state transport; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State efforts to implement livestock individual animal identification and premise registration systems are currently inadequate to address MAFWA's concerns on the origin of, and intra- and interstate movements of livestock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports further development and implementation of Federal and State programs that mandate universal livestock individual animal identification, including mandatory premise registration. These programs should include requirements for individual animal identification for all livestock, applying specified alternative animal identification systems additional to ear tags, such as implanted microchips/transponders.

RESOLUTION #2010-4

ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 27-JUNE 30, 2009, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2010 annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and

WHEREAS, DNR Director Rob Carter, Fish and Wildlife Director Mark Reiter, and staff have worked together with local and national conservation partners making all the participants welcome; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for the efforts of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Peoria, Illinois, on June 30, 2010, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Directors Carter and Reiter and the staff from the great state of Indiana, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.

