



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 11, 2008
RESUBMITTED: March 10, 1008
RESUBMITTED: April 14, 2008
RESUBMITTED: May 12, 2008
RESUBMITTED: June 9, 2008

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Michigan Wolf Management Plan

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (Department) to plan and conduct wildlife management within Michigan.

Discussion and Background:

The original Michigan wolf plan was finalized in 1997. Since that time, wolf population size and distribution have expanded, understanding of wolf biology has improved, regulations have changed, and focus has shifted from biological recovery toward management. The Department has revised its wolf plan to address these changes.

The new *Michigan Wolf Management Plan*, which may be found on the Department’s website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370---,00.html>, reflects: 1) extensive review of scientific literature and consultation with wolf experts; 2) input received during comment periods and wolf-focused public meetings; 3) the results of an extensive public-attitude study conducted by Michigan State University; and 4) the recommendations of the Michigan Wolf Management Roundtable, a 20-member committee convened by the Department to represent the diverse array of wolf-related interests held by Michigan society.

The draft plan outlines four principal goals: 1) maintain a viable Michigan wolf population above a level that would warrant its classification as threatened or endangered; 2) facilitate wolf-related benefits; 3) minimize wolf-related conflicts; and 4) conduct science-based wolf management with socially acceptable methods. To help achieve these goals, the plan identifies strategies to address several issues. Some of these issues include information and education, research, regulatory protection, wolf prey and habitat, diseases, human safety, depredation of domestic animals, public harvest, and wolf–dog hybrids.

The 90-day comment period that provided the public an opportunity to provide input on the draft plan closed on November 14, 2007. Based on the comments received, the Department modified the plan as appropriate.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
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Wolf Management Plan
Page 2
June 9, 2008

Recommendation:

This item was initially submitted in February, 2008. We recommend it for Department approval at the July 10, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission.

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Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director