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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

February 11, 2008

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Michigan Wolf Management Plan – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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.

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Recommendation:

We recommend submission of the *Michigan Wolf Management Plan* to the Natural Resources Commission in March 2008 for information and consideration prior to the Department's final approval.

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Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director