



Proposed Federal Wolf Reclassification What Does It Mean In Wisconsin?

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service has worked closely with the State of Wisconsin as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, working with people in the state and elsewhere, developed its Wolf Management Plan. Today (July 11, 2000) the USFWS has announced its intent to begin a year-long process that would lead to reclassification of the gray wolf from federally endangered in Wisconsin to federally threatened. Currently, the gray wolf is listed as a threatened species on Wisconsin's endangered and threatened species list.

- **When might this federal action take place?** Not for a year. The USFWS is beginning a year-long process and is accepting comments concerning its proposal until Nov. 10, 2000.
- **How will this change Wisconsin Wolf Management?** Wisconsin Wolf Management will continue as is outlined in the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan which was approved on October 27, 1999. Once the wolf is reclassified to federally threatened status in the state, government agents would be allowed to kill wolves killing livestock and pets if no other solutions are available
- **Will this mean Gray Wolves are no longer protected?** No. Wolves will be protected both by state and federal law as long as they are threatened. Wisconsin's Wolf Management Plan calls for them to remain as a protected nongame species after complete delisting from the state and federal Endangered Species Lists and lists a management goal of 350.
- **Has Wisconsin met the federal goal for reclassification?** Yes. Wisconsin now has 248 wolves and that exceeds the number called for in the federal recovery plan.
- **Will this lead to State changes in the status of the wolf?** Wisconsin's management depends on the number of wolves in the state. Wisconsin's plan calls for delisting of the wolf once there are 250 wolves in the state for one year.
- **Who manages the wolves on Native American Reservations?** In Wisconsin Native American tribes will manage wolves on their reservations.
- **What do I do if I see a wolf?** Contact your local Department of Natural Resources office to report a wolf sighting. Sightings are filed as part of a continuing process to maintain good records of where wolves exist in the state.

- **Can I kill a wolf if it is near my livestock?** No. Not at the present time. You can contact the Department of Natural Resources of USDA-Wildlife Services at 1-800-228-1368 (Northern Region) or 1-800-433-0663 (Southern Region) for assistance in case of depredation.
- **Does the state pay if I suffer losses from wolves?** Yes. USDA-Wildlife Services will investigate a site where wolf depredation is believed to have occurred and submits a report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources.
- **Where can I get information about how to reduce the chances of wolf depredation?** Contact USDA-Wildlife Services at either of the numbers above and ask for the pamphlet "Wolves in Farm Country in Wisconsin" or contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Species: (608) 267-7507.
- **Will wolves be safe in Wisconsin with the federal change?** Yes. Wisconsin and the USFWS both are responsible for managing a wolf population that will continue into the foreseeable future.
- **Where are wolves located in Wisconsin?** Most wolves are located in the northern third of the state in the Northern Forest (primarily north of Highway 64). Several wolf packs also are located in the Central Forest in the area between Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids.
- **Will I have a chance to comment on this proposal?** Yes. USFWS Public information meetings and a hearing will be scheduled. Dates and locations are being determined now and will be sent to newspapers, radio and television stations across the state. Written comment will also be accepted.