GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

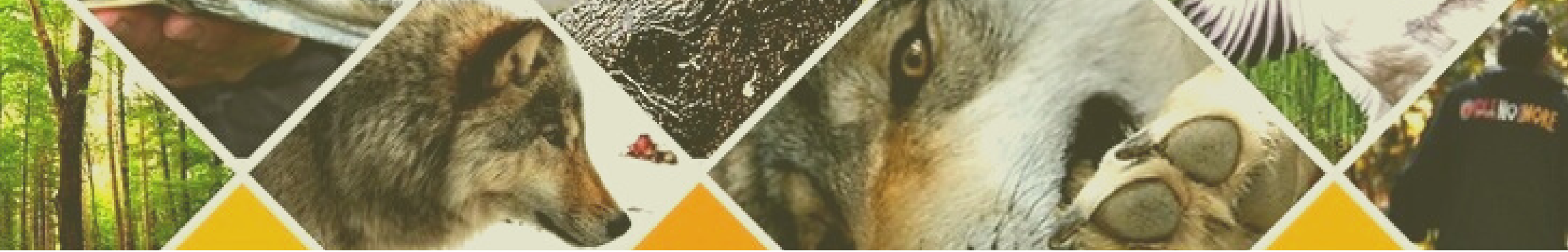
Saving the Wolf Starts with You

Wolf Management Plan Training

FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN WOLF

"To advocate for the preservation and protection of the wolves of Wisconsin."





WI DNR WOLF PLAN

IT SETS THREE KEY OBJECTIVES:

- ENSURE A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE WOLF POPULATION TO FULFILL ITS ECOLOGICAL ROLE.
- ADDRESS AND REDUCE WOLF-RELATED CONFLICT.
- PROVIDE MULTIPLE BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WOLF POPULATION.

SIGNIFICANTLY, THE DRAFT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO A NUMERICAL POPULATION TARGET.

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When the DNR stacked the committee with pro-wolf-hunting groups they continued an anti-democratic and failed policy of the Walker administration by dismissing the values of the true majority of the public that do not support killing wolves even in cases of livestock loss (Manfredo et al. 2020) and completely ignored the will of youths and future generations of Wisconsin residents. Therefore, any claim about a majority view or balanced committee in this report is inaccurate on its face

DR ADRIAN TREVES- UW MADISON



WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

ISSUES TO TACKLE- FOUR SECTIONS OF THE PLAN

- Wolf Conservation-overview including biology, ecology, and population dynamics of wolves
- Human dimensions of wolf management
- Historical context and summary of current state management of wolves in Wisconsin
- Wolf management plan goal statement with an associated suite of objectives, strategies, and products to guide wolf management in the years ahead

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WISCONSIN WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

A graphic depicting implementation of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan based upon principles of adaptive wildlife management.



DO

- Implement strategies and products to achieve Wisconsin Management Plan objectives.

EVALUATE

Monitor actions and outcomes

- Evaluate effectiveness of actions.

LEARN

- Report and review findings.

ADJUST

Adjust management actions as needed to enhance effectiveness.

GOOD PARTS OF THE PLAN



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NUMBERICAL GOAL

The previous plans referred to a 350 wolf recovery goal set when the population was much lower. The number proved contentious over the years, even though the original plan authors said it was never meant as a cap. The 2022 draft plan does away with that debate entirely. It's also reflective of a new direction for wolf management in the state

SOCIAL SCIENCE SHOWS WI LOVES WOLVES

Overall, most Wisconsinites somewhat or strongly agreed that predators like wolves keep nature in balance (77%), wolves are culturally important (71%), and wolves are special animals that deserve our admiration (75%). Similarly, a majority of Wisconsinites agreed that people and wolves should be able to coexist (75%) and that it is important to maintain a wolf population in Wisconsin (80%).

ECOLOGICAL ROLE CONSIDERED

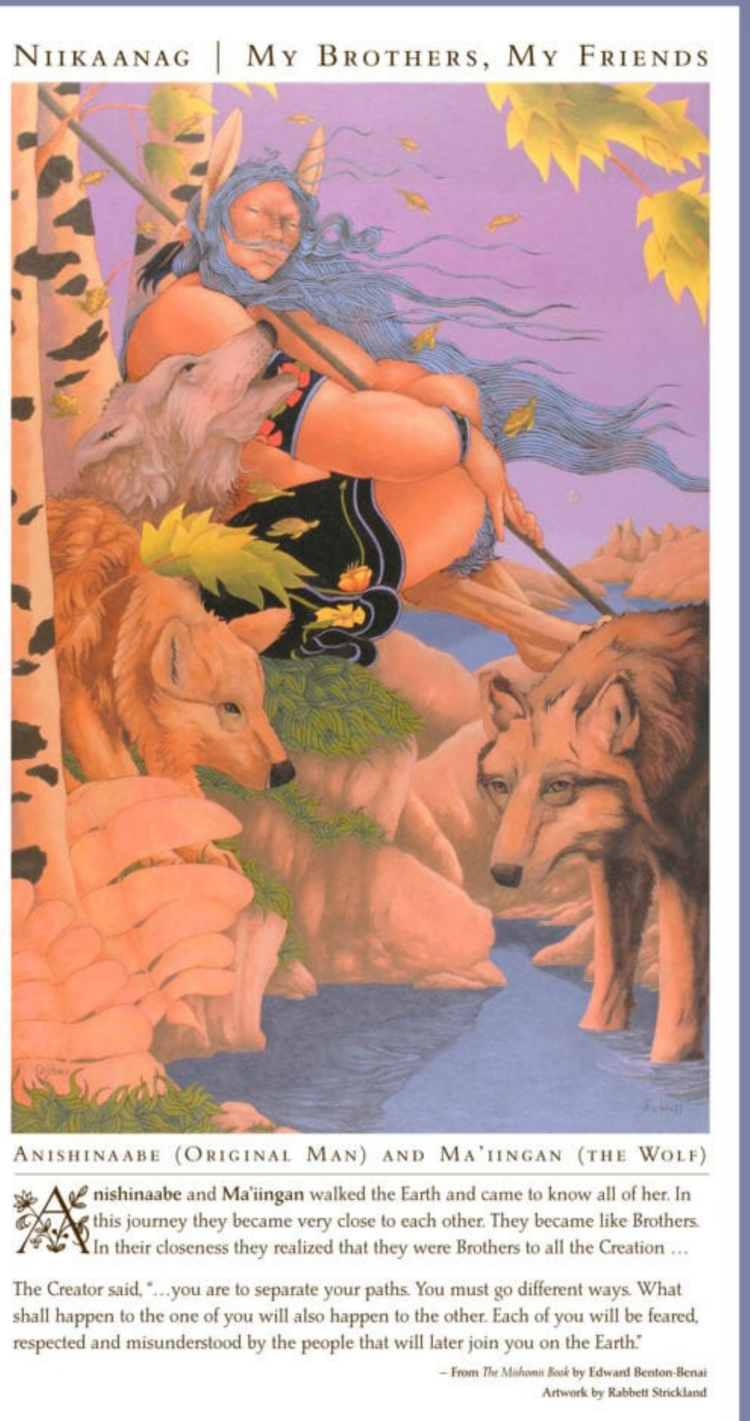
More than ever before, the DNR has taken consideration into the ecological benefits of wolves, including CWD, landcape of fear, etc.

INDIGENOUS VOICES

INCREASED ACKNOWLEGEMENT OF TRIBAL VALUES AND GOALS

WISCONSIN TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN WISCONSIN CONTRIBUTE A WRITTEN NARRATIVE ON THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WOLVES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE FOR ALL TRIBES IN WISCONSIN, THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO ALL. THE REQUEST WAS SENT TO THE TRIBAL NATURAL RESOURCE/CONSERVATION DIRECTORS AND TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS OF EACH OF THE ELEVEN FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES OF WISCONSIN. IT WAS ALSO SENT TO THE GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION.



NIIKAANAG | MY BROTHERS, MY FRIENDS

ANISHINAABE (ORIGINAL MAN) AND MA'IINGAN (THE WOLF)

Anishinaabe and **Ma'iingan** walked the Earth and came to know all of her. In this journey they became very close to each other. They became like Brothers. In their closeness they realized that they were Brothers to all the Creation …

The Creator said, "…you are to separate your paths. You must go different ways. What shall happen to the one of you will also happen to the other. Each of you will be feared, respected and misunderstood by the people that will later join you on the Earth."

– From *The Mishomis Book* by Edward Benton-Benai
Artwork by Rabbett Strickland

BAD PARTS OF THE PLAN



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USING RECREATIONAL HUNTING AS A CONFLICT RESOLUTION TOOL

There is also plenty of scientific evidence documenting the harms that may come from wolf hunting. Wolves self-regulate their populations, without any need for human intervention. Given their internal regulation, an “overpopulation” of wolves is scientifically unheard of, and clearly a value judgment by humans who would rather have fewer wolves on the landscape. Wolves know what they need and live sustainably; it is a fallacy that their numbers need to be “maintained.”
Nor is there any evidence that wolf hunting decreases wolf-human conflicts. On the contrary, wolf hunting will likely create problems that did not exist in the first place. Wolf killing disrupts the social stability that allows for their cooperation and self-regulation. Hunting causes the break-up of wolf family groups necessary for taking down large wild prey, which in turns leads to some wolves shifting from wild to easier domestic prey. Hence, wolf hunting would increase harms to wolves, domestic animals and their guardians. FRANCISCO J. SANTIAGO-AVILA

OCCUPANCY MODELING- SEE SLIDE AND DISCUSSION



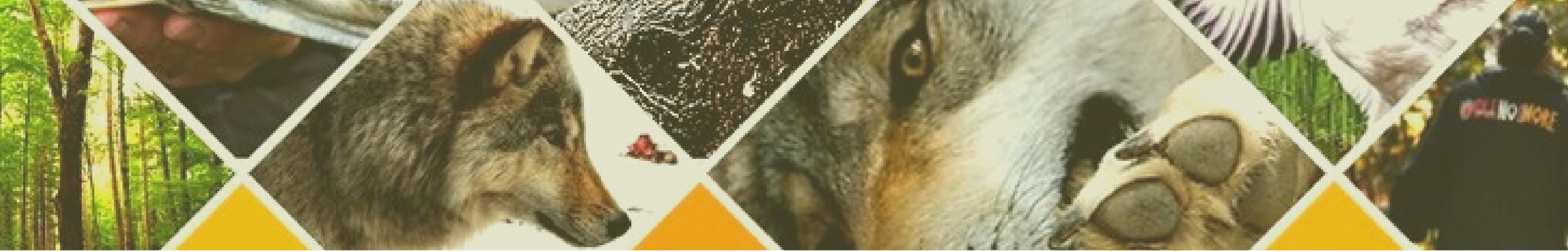
HOW POPULATION WAS COUNTED

Previous to the Feb Hunt, Wolves were counted mid-winter and the minimum population count was used to estimate total wolf population. With hundred of miles by both DNR staff and volunteers, along with telemetry collars. While not perfect, this system was much more accuate with limited confidence interval and more conservative.



NEW OCCUPANCY MODEL

The new model relies on estimated territory size and how likely wolves are to inhabiat a certain area. This estimate is of the the entire population with much larger confidence intervals. The agency believe this estimates the entire poplulation. Built in the framework of full protetion and A lot of uncertainity without being conservative and not good for setting hunting quotas



OTHER CONCERNS

No policy for baiting, hound dog training, chocolate or other poisons

Hound damage compenstation still intact

Who continues to implement this plan?

And finally.....

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DOES WISCONSIN FAVOR A HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON

THE 2022 SURVEY RESULTS SHOWED THAT SUPPORT (46%) FOR A REGULATED HUNTING AND TRAPPING OF WOLVES IS HIGHER THAN OPPOSITION (29%); ONE-QUARTER OF WISCONSINITES WERE UNDECIDED. SUPPORT WAS HIGHER AMONG WOLF-RANGE RESIDENTS (57%) THAN IT WAS FOR RESIDENTS OUTSIDE WOLF-RANGE (43%). WHILE MODIFICATIONS TOQUESTION DESIGN BETWEEN 2014 AND 2022 LIMITED STATISTICAL COMPARISONS, INFORMAL COMPARISONS SUGGEST THAT STATEWIDE SUPPORT FOR A WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON HAS DECLINED OVER THE LAST EIGHT YEARS. ASWAS FOUND IN THE 2014 SURVEY, THE TOP REASON FOR OPPOSITION IN 2022 WAS CONCERN THAT WOLVES WOULD BECOME ENDANGERED AGAIN. THE LEAST SELECTED REASON FOR OPPOSING A REGULATED WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON

OUR STANCE



WE oppose the recreational hunting of wolves by trapping

WE oppose the recreational hunting of wolves to recuce conflct

WE oppose the recreational hunting of wolves in prime habitat



We oppose the hunting trapping and hounding of all candis to articially increase ungulate poplulations, hunting satifcation or to generate funds for wolf management.



We oppose all hound hunting but especiaily of hound v wolf.

We oppose all hound training but especially of hound v wolf.

We oppose all reimbursement of dead or injured hunting hounds

Other Resources



ADVOCACY TOOLS PAGE

HTTPS://WIWOLVESANDWILDLIFE.ORG/ADVOCACY-TOOLS/



NATIONAL WOLF RECOVERY PLAN

https://www.endangered.org/wolf-conservation-planning/



SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

We will continue to provide you any scientific evidence you need. The review by our SAB will come out next week.



YOUR CHALLENGE

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Take the survey!
https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wolfmanagementplan

HOW CAN YOU INFLUENCE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME?

Share this presenation with friends and family! Stay informed by attending our firesides and prepare for things to change quickly.

Write LTE's, encourage others, donate, volunteer!

WHAT CAN BE DONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO INFLUCENCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT?

MELISSA SMITH

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