



# Resolution

No. 2021-46

## Support for Wolf Conservation in Wisconsin

**WHEREAS**, the gray wolf has recently been removed from the Federal Endangered Species List in Wisconsin on January 4, 2021, the fourth time such delisting has occurred since 2007; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, with the Federal delisting management authority for wolves is returned to the State of Wisconsin and Indian Tribes within the state; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, management of wolves in the State of Wisconsin is in a state of change; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, wolves are a native wildlife species and Wisconsin has been home for wolves for thousands of years; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, the wolf is a social animal that live in packs which are family units; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Tribes in the state of Wisconsin hold the wolf in extremely high regard; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, the wolf hunt of February 2021 was poorly managed and portrayed the state of Wisconsin in a detrimental way throughout the nation and caused major disruption to many wolf packs throughout the state.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, recommends that the Wisconsin Counties Association urge the State of Wisconsin to manage gray wolf populations conservatively by maintaining the population within 2016-2020 levels until a new wolf conservation plan is developed and approved by the Natural Resources Board. To do so we recommend that the Wisconsin DNR:

- Resume work immediately on developing a new state wolf conservation plan using the best science available on wolves.
- Create an inclusive and transparent wolf governance process that reflects public perceptions and incorporates the latest social and ecological science to inform decisions around wolf management activities, and especially around wolf hunting and trapping.
- Recognize tribal sovereignty and respect the cultural views of wolves held by Native American tribes through meaningful collaboration.
- Consult with tribes within wolf range to designate buffer zones around reservations that would prohibit wolf harvest to better protect packs on tribal lands and contribute to wolf conservation.
- Continue to support citizen science efforts to monitor Wisconsin's wolf population through winter track surveys, summer howl surveys, encourage public reporting of wolf observations, and programs such as Snapshot Wisconsin. Engage WDNR's existing volunteer base to help continue vital winter track surveys and summer howl surveys; *and*,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Bayfield County recommends that the Legislature modify the Wisconsin wolf hunting and trapping regulations and return such authority to the DNR as follows:

- Restore adequate funding and authority for wolf hunting and trapping to WDNR.

