

Wolves Fact Sheet

INTRODUCTION

After being listed for decades on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), populations of gray wolves have recovered beyond expectations resulting in demonstrable declines in other wildlife populations, changes to big-game species behavior and continued losses to farmers, ranchers and sportsmen. To address this issue, the United States Congress and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently took actions to return management authority of gray wolves to the states.

Despite the wolves' continued recovery, radical animal-rights activists and fringe environmentalists are currently working to reinstate federal authority over gray wolves throughout much of its native range and beyond.

State agencies are fully qualified and best positioned to responsibly manage wolf populations in accordance with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Resuming state management for recovered wildlife species is the only way to maintain sustainable populations and provide for the predator, the prey and people's needs.

BACKGROUND

On April 14, 2011, Congress approved legislation reinstating the Fish and Wildlife Service decision to remove wolves from the endangered species list in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Utah. In 2012 legislation was again passed supporting the USFWS' move to delist gray wolves in Wyoming and any state within the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment upon agreement with the Secretary of the

Interior to authorize state management.

Acting on this Congressional support, between 2011 and 2012 the USFWS delisted the gray wolf from the ESA, declaring the population recovered and no longer threatened, in the Western Great Lakes region (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan) and the Northern Rocky Mountains region (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and eastern portions of Washington and Oregon.)

On June 13, 2013, the USFWS published a proposed rule to delist the gray wolf in the remaining contiguous U.S.

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation relies upon sportsmen's ability to participate in the regulated and ethical harvest of game species. Additionally, hunting has proven to be the most efficient and cost-effective means of wildlife-population control. To that end, states must have the ability to conduct regulated hunting and trapping as a wildlife-management tool for wolves as they successfully do for other species.

In addition, states have the authority to sustain wolf populations and protect the other wildlife and livestock that are vital to the economic wellbeing of communities throughout the wolves' range. Without state-administered management, wolves will expand uncontrolled and continue to disrupt conservation efforts as well as private land, farming and ranching interests.

Despite the unfounded claims by animal-rights organizations and factions of the radical environmental

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community, there is no credible scientific evidence that regulated hunting poses a threat to wolf populations in any state. Regulated hunting has never led to a species being endangered or becoming extinct.

To the contrary, hunters are America's original conservationists. Since the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act) was passed in 1937, some \$8 billion has been collected from the federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition and awarded to the states for conservation efforts helping to rebuild the population of numerous species and significantly extending their ranges.

CONCLUSION

The federal government's decision to remove the gray wolf from the list of threatened and endangered species will allow for the long-term sustainability of the species while concurrently ensuring the protection of farmers, ranchers, sportsmen and the benefits they provide to rural communities throughout America.