

1 **Proposed Resolution #**

3 Submitted by: George Lindquist, Statewide Vice President

4 Passed: MUCC Executive Committee, January 14, 2015

5 Title: **RESTORING STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE GRAY WOLF IN THE**  
6 **WESTERN GREAT LAKES STATES**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is a strong supporter of  
9 scientific and professional management of wildlife species including the recovery of the gray  
10 wolf under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources  
12 developed sound wolf management recovery plans that were approved by the U.S. Fish and  
13 Wildlife Service and were successfully implemented by the respective state agencies; and

14 **WHEREAS**, as a result of this successful restoration of the gray wolf in the Western Great  
15 Lakes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, by federal rule, delisted the gray wolf in the states  
16 of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin four times between 2003 and 2011; and

17 **WHEREAS**, each such delisting of the gray wolf was challenged in Federal Court on  
18 technical grounds, not based on its recovery status but on administrative or legal  
19 technicalities, which resulted in Federal Court decisions returning the gray wolf to the  
20 Federal Endangered Species list and removing state management of the species; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the latest Federal Court decision relisting the gray wolf on the Federal  
22 Endangered Species list occurred on December 19, 2014 with the court ruling that the gray  
23 wolf could not be removed from the Federal Endangered Species list until it had been fully  
24 recovered in its full historic range in 29 Eastern and Central states; and

25 **WHEREAS**, as a result of this latest court decision, state permits authorizing lethal control  
26 of wolves depredating livestock are no longer authorized, state laws authorizing land owners

27 to kill wolves in the act of attacking domestic animals are no longer valid and state laws  
28 allowing management of wolf populations through harvest regulation no longer are valid; and  
29 **WHEREAS**, based on recent and extensive experience, without state lethal methods of  
30 management, wolves will continue to cause significant depredation of domestic animals and  
31 potential threat to humans in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin; and  
32 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, in a similar situation involving state management of wolves in the  
33 states of Idaho and Montana, the United State Congress passed a law which statutorily  
34 directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to reissue its rule (from 2009) delisting wolves in those  
35 states and secondly, prohibited any judicial review of such rule; and  
36 **WHEREAS**, this type of legislation recognizes sound professional management of wolves  
37 by state and federal agencies while still upholding the basic intent and principles of the  
38 Federal Endangered Species Act and ensures that states can assure the long-term recovery of  
39 the species while still protecting domestic animals and humans. NOW,

40 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs calls on  
41 the United States Congress to enact legislation directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
42 Service to reissue its 2011 rule removing the gray wolf from the Federal Endangered  
43 Species list in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin and to provide that  
44 such rule is not subject to any judicial review.  
45 On Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 3:10 PM, Drew YoungeDyke <[dyoungedyke@mucc.org](mailto:dyoungedyke@mucc.org)>  
46 wrote:

47 Dear CPWM,  
48 I wanted to let you know that MUCC's Executive Committee passed an interim policy Wednesday night in support of the  
49 Congressional Delisting of wolves (see attached). This was largely copied language from Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's resolution  
50 (which I know some of you have seen), with some of our edits/additions from our board members. In short, it basically says that we  
51 want to do what the Northern Rockies did in codifying the delisting action into statute.

52  
53 Yours in Conservation,

54  
55 **Drew YoungeDyke**  
56 *Field & Public Relations Manager*  
57 **Michigan United Conservation Clubs**  
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61