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US FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
HEARING ON THE DELISTING OF THE  
GRAY WOLF IN THE EASTERN DPS

September 27, 2004

Madison, Wisconsin

Reported by: Jeanette Sundstrom, CSR

Transcript of Proceedings 9/27/04

1 Present:

2

3 Jim Ruwaldt, Hearing Officer

4 Janet Smith, Ecological Services Field  
Supervisor in Green Bay

5

6 Ron Refsnider, FWS, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota

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8 Laura Regan, FWS Minneapolis,  
Minnesota

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11 Members of the Public

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19:50:20 1 MR. RUWALDT: I would like  
2 to welcome you all to the public hearing  
3 portion of the evening. My name is Jim  
4 Ruwaldt, I'm the Wisconsin Private Lands  
5 Coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service. I'm located here in Madison.  
7 Jeanette Sundstrom will be the court  
8 reporter for this evening.

19:50:40 9 Janet Smith, Ecological Services Field  
10 Supervisor in Green Bay will also be up  
11 here, as well as Ron Refsnider and Laura  
12 Regan from our regional office in  
13 Minneapolis.

19:50:55 14 I will serve as the presiding official  
15 for this hearing. Transcript of the  
16 hearing will be posted on the website of  
17 the Midwest Region of the Fish and  
18 Wildlife Service in a few weeks. The  
19 address of the website is available in the  
20 materials out front.

19:51:12 21 Now, I will read from a prepared  
22 statement here because it is a public  
23 hearing and there are legal requirements  
24 involved with this. I want to make sure  
25 you have all of the information and the

1 procedures that you need to follow.

19:51:27 2 I will have no further involvement  
3 with this proposal after tonight so I am  
4 an impartial participant in the hearing.  
5 However, there are other Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service representatives with us this  
7 evening as we introduced them.

19:51:39 8 They will be assisting with the  
9 hearing and many of them also will be  
10 involved in reviewing the comments and  
11 helping the service come to its final  
12 decision on the proposal.

19:51:51 13 This is a public hearing under Section  
14 4 of the Federal Endangered Act of 1973.  
15 Notice of the proposal to remove the gray  
16 wolf in the Eastern United States from the  
17 list of endangered and threatened wildlife  
18 and the 120-day public comment period was  
19 published in the Federal Register on July  
20 21, 2004 beginning on page 43664.

19:52:13 21 A notice of the nine public hearings  
22 being held in the Midwest was published in  
23 the Federal Register on August 13, 2004 on  
24 page 50,147.

19:52:23 25 There may be additional hearings

1 scheduled in the Northeastern United  
2 States. If so, the dates and locations  
3 will be announced in the Federal Register  
4 and will be posted on the Service's  
5 website.

19:52:35 6 Convening public hearings is one of  
7 the methods the Fish and Wildlife Service  
8 is using to receive data and comments from  
9 the public on this proposal. No final  
10 decision has yet been made regarding this  
11 proposal nor will any decision be made at  
12 this hearing. Public comments on this  
13 proposal will be accepted through November  
14 18, 2004.

19:52:56 15 After review and consideration of the  
16 existing administrative record, your  
17 comments, your interpretations of the  
18 existing data and all other information  
19 gathered during the comment period, the  
20 Fish and Wildlife Service will make a  
21 final decision on the proposal.

19:53:10 22 Information that you provide in your  
23 comments this evening will become part of  
24 the administrative record and will be  
25 considered by the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service in the decision making process.

19:53:18 2 I now would like to direct your  
3 attention to the two tables in the back of  
4 the room. One table is the registration  
5 table as you came in the door. You need  
6 to take a numbered note card if you wish  
7 to present oral comments tonight and sign  
8 up on the registration sheet.

19:53:35 9 If we have any elected officials we  
10 will give them a chance to provide  
11 comments first, then I will begin calling  
12 numbers for you to present your comments  
13 at the microphone.

19:53:45 14 If you do not wish to speak tonight  
15 but would like to get on our mailing list  
16 to receive future information on this  
17 proposal, please add your name and mailing  
18 address or your e-mail address to the  
19 mailing list sign-up sheet, which is also  
20 at the registration table.

19:54:00 21 The second table, this side of the  
22 room (indicating) has a variety of written  
23 information about this proposal, about  
24 wolves and about the Endangered Species  
25 Act.

19:54:10 1 Please take a copy of anything that  
2 interests you. I especially want to point  
3 out the green sheet, which is on that  
4 table also, which provides details on  
5 several ways you can get more information  
6 on the proposal and also explains several  
7 methods you can use to submit written  
8 comments other than at tonight's hearing.

19:54:27 9 The green sheet also lists the dates  
10 and locations of the other public  
11 hearings. There is also a light blue  
12 comment form on that table which you can  
13 use to turn in written comments tonight or  
14 by mail. There's a room provided on the  
15 back side of those tables where paper and  
16 tables are provided for you to write out  
17 your comments if you would like to do so  
18 tonight.

19:54:49 19 When I call your number to present  
20 your comments please come to the  
21 microphone. When you begin your comments  
22 state your full name, spell it, identify  
23 any organization you represent and give  
24 your state of residence.

19:55:03 25 If you have a written copy of your

1 comments you may give it to the court  
2 reporter or me for entry into the record  
3 as written comment.

19:55:11 4 Oral statements will be limited to  
5 five minutes so that all of you who wish  
6 to make comments will have the opportunity  
7 to do so. Please do not stray from the  
8 issue or exceed your time limit.

19:55:23 9 At the end of the evening there may be  
10 time to provide another opportunity for  
11 speakers to finish their comments if they  
12 are not able to do so in the allotted five  
13 minutes.

19:55:32 14 To maximize the opportunities of  
15 others to express their comments I ask  
16 that you refrain from commenting on issues  
17 beyond the scope of the Fish and Wildlife  
18 Services Wolf Delisting Proposal.

19:55:43 19 This is an informal hearing and  
20 therefore you will not be questioned in  
21 connection with your comments. This  
22 hearing is solely intended to obtain your  
23 comments so the Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 can consider them when making their final  
25 decision on the proposal; therefore Fish

1 and Wildlife Service officials will not  
2 respond to questions nor engage in any  
3 discussion of the proposal during the  
4 hearing.

19:56:02 5 The previous presentations and  
6 question-and-answer session were intended  
7 for questions and discussions so we will  
8 be devoting this portion of the evening to  
9 receiving your comments.

19:56:11 10 If you have questions about the  
11 proposal or about the Endangered Species  
12 Act, I encourage you to take advantage of  
13 the materials at the information table and  
14 on our website. You may want to read  
15 those materials and then submit written  
16 comments later.

19:56:25 17 There may be opportunities to ask  
18 questions of individual Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service staff outside of the hearing,  
20 possibly after the hearing closes or  
21 during a recess if we take one, but I  
22 emphasize that this hearing is intended to  
23 receive public input, not to respond to  
24 it.

19:56:39 25 The Fish and Wildlife Services

1 responses to the issues and questions  
2 raised during the comment period,  
3 including those that have come up at this  
4 hearing, will be published as part of the  
5 final rule as part of a re-proposal or in  
6 a withdrawal notice for this proposal.  
7 That publication will probably occur in  
8 mid or late 2005.

19:56:59 9 Again, your comments are being  
10 recorded by the court reporter to assist  
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service in reviewing  
12 them and to preserve them for the record.

19:57:07 13 Please keep in mind, however, that the  
14 reporter will only be recording statements  
15 made into the microphone. Comments from  
16 the audience and other statements made  
17 away from the microphone or made to the  
18 audience will not become part of the  
19 record and will not be considered by the  
20 Fish and Wildlife Service when making the  
21 final decision on this proposal.

19:57:27 22 In addition to or instead of providing  
23 oral comments tonight you may submit your  
24 comments in writing by e-mail or fax.  
25 Written comments may be submitted to me

1           tonight or to the staff at the  
2           registration table or sent in later.

19:57:40 3           Oral comments will not be accepted  
4           outside of the public hearing setting. As  
5           I have mentioned, written e-mail or faxed  
6           comments will be accepted through November  
7           18th, 2004 and will be given the same  
8           consideration as oral comments presented  
9           here this evening.

19:57:55 10          We will conclude the hearing at 9 p.m.  
11          If we have covered all of those who wish  
12          to speak before 9 p.m. we recess the  
13          hearing and go off the record until either  
14          additional individuals indicate they would  
15          like to speak or until 9 p.m. occurs. At  
16          that time we will reconvene the hearing,  
17          go back on record to receive additional  
18          comments or to officially close the  
19          hearing.

19:58:18 20          We will now open the floor for your  
21          comments. After I call your number please  
22          come to the microphone, again, state your  
23          name, spell it, identify who you  
24          represent, give your state of residence  
25          and begin your comments.

19:58:30 1 Remember that you are limited to five  
2 minutes. Please speak clearly so that the  
3 court reporter can record your comments  
4 accurately.

19:58:39 5 Now, before we go into the numbered  
6 comment cards, do we have any elected  
7 officials that we are aware of that would  
8 that would like to present comments? No?  
9 Number 1, then?

19:59:04 10 MS. NITZEL: Hello, my name  
11 is Lori Nitzel L-O-R-I, N-I-T-Z-E-L. I am  
12 the Director of the Alliance for Animals.  
13 And my state of residence is Wisconsin.

19:59:21 14 The Alliance for Animals is a  
15 statewide group that works for the  
16 protection of all species, and we have  
17 members throughout the entire State. And  
18 a number of them approached me with  
19 concerns about the delisting proposal and  
20 every single one of them is absolutely  
21 opposed to the delisting of the gray wolf  
22 at this time.

19:59:40 23 I'm going to read off a lot of the  
24 comments that I have gotten from my  
25 members. Some of them were mentioned

1 earlier in the question-and-answer session  
2 so some will be repeated, but --

19:59:52 3 The first comment that I got from  
4 quite a few people was that they were  
5 concerned that the Eastern region is such  
6 a large region spanning from the Dakotas  
7 to Maine and that there are no established  
8 wolf populations in these areas yet.  
9 Historically there were.

20:00:11 10 They wonder why and the Alliance for  
11 Animals of course wonders why delist  
12 before this historic range is reoccupied.  
13 And we are very concerned that by  
14 delisting at this time with that range  
15 that it will eliminate any chance of  
16 recovery in these areas.

20:00:33 17 The second point is related -- it's  
18 the US Fish and Wildlife Service isn't  
19 requiring states other than Minnesota,  
20 Wisconsin and Michigan to have management  
21 plans and that the wolves in these other  
22 states if they do at some point obtain a  
23 viable pack or any numbers at all, that  
24 they will be completely unprotected in  
25 these other states beyond the three that

1 do have the management plans. And there's  
2 a lot of concern about that.

20:01:05 3 There are quite a few issues that have  
4 come up in terms of the Wisconsin plan and  
5 which, of course, was approved or will be  
6 by US Fish and Wildlife Service in that it  
7 allows for land owners to proactively kill  
8 wolves and that there is no incentive  
9 whatsoever for land owners to adopt  
10 practices that would avoid the loss of  
11 livestock.

20:01:34 12 Further, we are very concerned that  
13 the habitat is fragmented and will  
14 continue with population increases --  
15 human population increases -- to become  
16 more fragmented and disbursement of the  
17 wolves into other states beyond the upper  
18 Midwestern area right now will be very  
19 limited. And, of course, this in turn  
20 would jeopardize the long-term viability  
21 of the species in the entire region and,  
22 of course, in the upper Midwest.

20:02:06 23 One of the biggest concerns that has  
24 been raised is that the wolves will be  
25 subject to a public hunt. And I know it

1 was mentioned earlier that that's not an  
2 issue right now because, you know,  
3 Wisconsin hasn't arranged for that. But  
4 they have in their management plan stated  
5 that the development of legislation would  
6 allow potentially a limited public harvest  
7 of wolves. And that is of great concern  
8 to our members and to the Alliance for  
9 Animals.

20:02:37 10 They are worried that a DNR sponsored  
11 public hunt would severely compromise the  
12 population. And this is somewhat related  
13 to the point that I just made about a  
14 public hunt. We are, of course, worried  
15 that the public attitude toward the  
16 species will be affected and that with the  
17 public hunts and trapping of the wolves  
18 and that the public will consider the  
19 species to be expendable as it was  
20 considered to be in the past. And then  
21 that would result in a legal take that  
22 would occur more frequently. And then, of  
23 course, the population could drop  
24 precipitously. And that is another  
25 serious concern that has been raised to

1 me.

20:03:24 2 Finally, we are worried, of course,  
3 that the recovery populations that have  
4 been mentioned already and minimum  
5 populations established by the states are  
6 artificially low.

20:03:37 7 We see this as the Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service and ,of course, the State directly  
9 catering to livestock interests and not in  
10 the interests -- not working for the  
11 interests of the public. And we  
12 absolutely oppose the delisting because of  
13 the recovery -- we believe that the  
14 recovery populations and minimum  
15 populations are artificially low and set  
16 at levels that are way too low for a  
17 viable recovery. Thanks.

20:04:05 18 MR. RUWALDT: Lori, thank  
19 you.

20:04:10 20 Number 2?

20:04:11 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
22 don't have any comments.

20:04:14 23 MR. RUWALDT: Number 3.

20:04:21 24 Again, state your name, spell it,  
25 identify who you represent and your state

1 of residence.

20:04:27 2 MR. KOENIG: Ron Koenig,  
3 K-O-E-N-I-G. 312 Fredrick Avenue, Fort  
4 Atkinson, Wisconsin.

20:04:39 5 And I have been a -- I have owned land  
6 and hunted it for 44 years in Florence  
7 County, so I spent a lot of time out  
8 there. Of course, other people are going  
9 to say, oh, he wants to hunt coyote.

20:04:56 10 That is not the case. I feel as if  
11 the State has run out of habitat for the  
12 Timber wolf. And there has been five  
13 Timber wolves that I know of that have  
14 been killed in southern Wisconsin. One  
15 was in Oconomowoc, two were in Johnson's  
16 Creek where Rock River crosses I-94, one  
17 in Middleton, and one in Oakland Township  
18 killed by a group of coyote hunters. And  
19 I'm sure you know about these.

20:05:31 20 Some of these animals were killed when  
21 the Wisconsin Timber wolf population were  
22 add its goal or had exceeded its goal. So  
23 why are these Timber wolves moving south?

20:05:45 24 We already know that Timber wolfs are  
25 taking a lot more farm animals, dogs,

1           because it's easier for them. They are  
2           running out of their own habitat to kill  
3           animals to feed on their own. I  
4           understand that a Timber wolf takes about  
5           a deer a week and with all of the deer we  
6           have that's not a big issue. However, why  
7           are they feeding on animals -- domestic  
8           animals at a higher and higher rate?

20:06:25 9           I would hope that you would have  
10          brought that up and pointed how this has  
11          increased. And the last hearing I was at  
12          it was pointed out.

20:06:48 13          The wolf restoration issue has cost a  
14          lot of money. Millions of dollars. I  
15          brought that up before and I will get that  
16          information.

20:06:57 17          My point that I was going to try to  
18          make was that these millions of dollars  
19          could be used for other animals, could be  
20          used for CWD problems in Wisconsin,  
21          research for a lot of different things.  
22          But we are dumping all of this money into  
23          a wolf population that has reached its  
24          goal. And I think it's time that we stop  
25          that spending to a point. I mean, we've

1 reached our goal and I think it's good and  
2 we should have a Timber wolf.

20:07:33 3 So as a result I am definitely not --  
4 I am definitely in favor of deregulation  
5 of the Timber wolf. Thank you.

20:07:40 6 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
7 Ron.

20:07:44 8 Next would be number 4.

20:07:56 9 MS. McCORMICK: My name is  
10 Maura McCormick, M-A-U-R-A,  
11 M-C-C-O-R-M-I-C-K.

20:08:04 12 I am opposed to the delisting of the  
13 gray wolf. I think these minimums that  
14 have been set for the recovery project are  
15 very low. The population viability should  
16 be measured by reproducing adults, usually  
17 the Alpha pair in the pack, and the  
18 concentration of these populations should  
19 also be a factor. If they are disbursed  
20 around regions they aren't going to breed  
21 very well.

20:08:39 22 And I think that the gentleman's  
23 comments before may actually -- well, I  
24 also would just like to generally speak  
25 about the threat -- the threat assessment

1 also is being a bit inaccurate.

20:08:56 2 If they are coming into cities or  
3 outside their usual range then perhaps  
4 that's more due to the encroaching of  
5 their habitat by rises in human  
6 population.

20:09:15 7 And the extreme anti-wolf attitudes  
8 that were prevalent before the listing of  
9 them as endangered are still present if  
10 not greater. And the killing of them due  
11 to this after they are delisted will  
12 reverse the population recovery.

20:09:36 13 I think that's all I have to say.  
14 Thank you.

20:09:37 15 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
16 Maura.

20:09:40 17 Number 5?

20:09:44 18 MR. ANDERSON: Good  
19 evening, my name is Carl Anderson.  
20 C-A-R-L, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I'm  
21 representing the Timber Wolf Alliance.  
22 I'm from Wisconsin.

20:09:55 23 I'm a long-term member of our speakers  
24 bureau and advisory council and I have a  
25 one-page position statement.

20:10:00 1 First off, we at TWA thank you for the  
2 opportunity to comment on the US Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service proposal to delist the  
4 wolf of the Eastern DPS. TWA is a  
5 non-profit educational program of the  
6 (inaudible) Environmental Institute of  
7 Morton College, an environmental liberal  
8 arts college based in northern Wisconsin,

20:10:19 9 a region impacted by proposed delisting.  
10 We are committed to science-based  
11 education outreach to the committee.

20:10:25 12 TWA does support the delisting of the  
13 gray wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin and  
14 Michigan, does not support the US Fish and  
15 Wildlife Service proposal to lump the  
16 Midwest with the Northeast portion of the  
17 United States where efforts there are  
18 being made to embark on wolf recovery.

20:10:42 19 One cannot spread the success of a  
20 region to another region far removed  
21 geographically and culturally and expect  
22 adequate species protection.

20:10:50 23 You cannot say that the success of  
24 wolf population in the Upper Midwest is  
25 adequate for the success of the entire

1 Eastern segment. There are states in the  
2 Northeast that provide suitable wolf  
3 habitat discussed earlier where wolves  
4 could naturally return.

20:11:03 5 TWA asks the Fish and Wildlife Service  
6 to rewrite the proposal to divide the  
7 regions of the Midwest and the Northeast  
8 into separate DPSs. TWA would support the  
9 proposal if the Fish and Wildlife Service  
10 plans to subsidize State and Tribal  
11 agencies in the management of the wolf  
12 populations by financially contributing to  
13 population monitoring efforts.

20:11:24 14 It's imperative that monitoring  
15 continue so we can change how large or  
16 small and how healthy the wolf populations  
17 are.

20:11:34 18 Case in point, in the Fish and  
19 Wildlife Service delisting announcement it  
20 stated the latest counts in 1998 found a  
21 minimum of 24, 50 animals and data  
22 collected since then did not indicate a  
23 decline. An additional population is well  
24 established in Michigan, in Wisconsin with  
25 numbers there are 360 and 373,

1           respectively.

20:11:55 2           These figures are available only  
3           because of population monitoring. Our  
4           decisions are based on information derived  
5           from that monitoring. And population  
6           monitoring is critical to the health of  
7           the wolf and it will only continue if  
8           adequate funding is available.

20:12:12 9           TWA asks that the Fish and Wildlife  
10          Service has an adequate plan in place to  
11          ensure protection of the wolf population  
12          in case of a drastic reduction in the  
13          number due to disease or other unknown  
14          maladies that could be detrimental to  
15          wolves. It makes little sense to get our  
16          wolf population in this present place only  
17          to be devastated because of poor planning.

20:12:31 18          The last thing anyone wants is to  
19          place wolves back onto the Endangered  
20          Species List once they are removed.

20:12:37 21          As wolf populations continue to  
22          prosper, TWA along with wolf biologists  
23          are thinking outside the box and suggest  
24          that a national Large Carnivore  
25          Conservation Act be created.

20:12:50 1           Similar to the Migratory Bird Act, a  
2           National Large Carnivore Conservation Act  
3           would ensure population support of large  
4           carnivores across boundaries whether the  
5           boundaries are state or country. By  
6           creating a National Large Carnivore  
7           Conservation Act we continue to keep our  
8           lands rich with all native species,  
9           including the wolf.

20:13:08 10           I would like to thank everybody for  
11           taking our comments and for all of your  
12           efforts.

20:13:11 13                       MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
14           Carl.

20:13:19 15           Next will be number 6.

20:13:22 16           Number 6?

20:13:34 17           No? Number 7?

20:13:37 18                       MR. WILLIAMS: My name is  
19           David Williams. I'm a retired public  
20           reference librarian. I live in Madison.

20:13:46 21           It's been made very clear here tonight  
22           that the discussion has been very narrowly  
23           framed. In other words, the goal was  
24           simply under the Endangered Species Act,  
25           as I understand the presentation, to bring

1 the wolf population back from being  
2 threatened or endangered with extinction.  
3 And I agree with number one, Lori, that  
4 that number has been set artificially low.

20:14:19 5 And it's made even artificially lower  
6 by lumping, as other people have pointed  
7 out here, Minnesota with its large -- its  
8 supposedly large wolf population being  
9 included in the Eastern United States, a  
10 ceiling of something like 3000 wolves in  
11 these three upper Midwest states therefore  
12 being sufficient and leaving a situation  
13 in which what is really properly the  
14 Eastern United States has really no  
15 significant wolf population. And I think  
16 that that's, you know, a kind of a  
17 bureaucratic semantic maneuver to avoid  
18 the question of whether wolves could be  
19 reintroduced into their natural habitat in  
20 the Eastern United States.

20:15:04 21 I would ask -- I'm not a biologist,  
22 I'm only a retired reference librarian,  
23 but I would have to ask why wouldn't 600  
24 or 900 wolves in Wisconsin be an okay  
25 number? Or in upper -- in the UP or in

1 the upper part of lower Michigan? I  
2 simply don't understand why these numbers  
3 have to be kept so low.

20:15:27 4 And as the gentleman who wants wolves  
5 to be hunted asked where is the  
6 information about the harmful effects? We  
7 only get to hear these anecdotal horror  
8 stories about a wolf wandering into  
9 Oconomowoc or something. But there really  
10 hasn't been any data presented, any kind  
11 of systematic data presented on the  
12 supposed harmful impacts that would come  
13 from not delisting the wolf.

20:15:54 14 And so we get to be presented with  
15 these apocalyptic visions of wolves over-  
16 running a real estate development and  
17 resorts and golf courses and whatever in  
18 the northern tier of states and  
19 threatening babies in the backyard and,  
20 you know, the house pet and so on.

20:16:15 21 And I just don't understand why this  
22 -- there can't be room in the northern  
23 part of the United States for more of  
24 these beautiful animals which very rarely  
25 ever attack human beings to be restored to

1 much of the rest of their natural habitat.

20:16:32

2 And finally I would like to say that I  
3 have a great deal of respect for the  
4 biologists and the other staff, the  
5 working staff, the line staff as we used  
6 to stay in my public agency, the library,  
7 you know, for your professionalism and for  
8 whatever your private opinions may be on  
9 this process, but you know and we know, we  
10 all know that these Federal agencies are  
11 not impervious to political pressures.

20:17:00

12 And I would hope that there would be  
13 as much scientific -- rigorous scientific  
14 input into the final decision but, after  
15 all, the head of the Wildlife Service is a  
16 political appointee and we know what  
17 administration is in power at this time  
18 and what their environmental policies aims  
19 are in the country. And if anybody thinks  
20 that only scientific criteria prevail in  
21 such public decisions, just look at what  
22 happened recently to the morning after  
23 pill, you know.

20:17:35

24 The Government's own commission of  
25 experts recommended that it be made

1 available, you know, without a  
2 prescription over-the-counter. And what  
3 happened there?

20:17:45 4 So I think that those of us who care  
5 about the environment have to be prepared  
6 to mobilize in the face of what is being  
7 done to the natural ecology of North  
8 America. Thank you.

20:17:56 9 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
10 David.

20:18:05 11 Number 8?

20:18:08 12 Number 8? Number 9?

20:18:18 13 MS. HOLTZ: My name is  
14 Signe Holtz, S-I-G-N-E, H-O-L-T-Z.

20:18:24 15 I'm the director of the Bureau of  
16 Endangered Resources in the Wisconsin  
17 Department of Natural Resources and I am  
18 representing the Department here tonight.  
19 My state residence is Wisconsin.

20:18:37 20 Wisconsin Department of National  
21 Resources is pleased that the US Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service has begun the process to  
23 remove gray wolves in the Eastern Distinct  
24 Population segment from the list of  
25 Federal Endangered and Threatened Species

1 and return management to the State.

20:18:51 2 The Wisconsin Department of Natural  
3 Resources supports this process and looks  
4 forward to taking responsibility for the  
5 management of wolves in the State.

20:19:00 6 The Wisconsin Department of National  
7 Resources has had a long history of wolf  
8 conservation. In the 1940s, Aldo Leopold  
9 Conservation Commission fought to  
10 eliminate bounty payments on wolves. The  
11 State of Wisconsin ended bounty payments  
12 on wolves in 1957 and listed the wolf as a  
13 protected species at that time, the first  
14 State to list the gray wolf as a protected  
15 species.

20:19:23 16 In 1975 the Wisconsin Department of  
17 National Resources listed the gray wolf as  
18 a State endangered species when wolves  
19 returned to the State after being  
20 extirpated for 15 years.

20:19:33 21 The Wisconsin Department of National  
22 Resources has conducted annual surveys of  
23 the State wolf population every year since  
24 1979. These surveys have provided  
25 scientifically sound information on wolf

1 population status in the State

2 continuously from more than 25 years.

20:19:50

3 In 1989 the Wisconsin Department of  
4 Natural Resources approved a state wolf  
5 recovery plan that set a goal for down  
6 listing wolves to threatened status when  
7 the population exceeded 80. In 1999 the  
8 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
9 Board approved a State wolf management  
10 plan that set a delisting goal of 250  
11 wolves and a management goal of 350 wolves  
12 in the state outside of Indian  
13 reservations.

20:20:16

14 These State goals are higher than  
15 Federal goals to provide assurance that  
16 wolves will not become endangered in  
17 Wisconsin again.

20:20:22

18 Also in 1999 the Wisconsin Department  
19 of Natural Resources downlisted wolves to  
20 threatened status when the population  
21 exceeded 80 wolves. Since 1983 the  
22 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
23 has reimbursed all people requesting  
24 payments for verified wolf depredations.

20:20:40

25 Careful stewardship by Wisconsin

1 Department of Natural Resources and the US  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed the  
3 wolf population to grow from about two  
4 wolves in 1975 to more than 370 wolves in  
5 2004.

20:20:54 6 The State of Wisconsin has far  
7 exceeded requirements for Federal  
8 delisting of wolves. The goal for the  
9 state was to have at least 100 wolves in  
10 Wisconsin and Michigan for five or more  
11 years. The two states have exceeded this  
12 goal for 11 years and currently share more  
13 than 730 wolves. Also, the State of  
14 Wisconsin has an approved management plan  
15 and we have had that plan in place for  
16 five years.

20:21:18 17 We are currently reviewing the State  
18 Management Plan. We do understand that  
19 the US Fish and Wildlife Services  
20 delisting proposal is predicated on this  
21 management plan.

20:21:27 22 We urge the US Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service to quickly complete delisting of  
24 wolves and return management to the  
25 states. Depredation on domestic animals

1 is increasing in the State and more  
2 flexible management is needed.

20:21:40 3 Numbers of farms suffering wolf  
4 depredation grew from 8 in 2002, 14 in  
5 2003 and 20 so far in 2004. While the  
6 Federal downlisting to threatened status  
7 in 2003 has provided some relief for  
8 dealing with wolf depredation, the problem  
9 is continuing to grow and more flexible  
10 management is necessary to prevent  
11 establishment of wolves in unsuitable  
12 habitat.

20:22:05 13 Human tolerance of wolves is declining  
14 in portions of the state. More flexible  
15 management is necessary to allow states to  
16 maintain the wolf populations at levels  
17 that are accepted by the public at the  
18 same time they are sufficient to maintain  
19 a self-sustaining population.

20:22:22 20 The gray wolf as with several other  
21 large carnivores will continue to be a  
22 species of national significance after  
23 Federal delisting is completed. The US  
24 Fish and Wildlife Service will be  
25 insisting that surveys of the wolf

1 population will be continued for at least  
2 five years after Federal delisting.

20:22:35 3 The Wisconsin Department of Natural  
4 Resources will gladly maintain high levels  
5 of population monitoring, but we will need  
6 Federal cost sharing on funding these  
7 surveys.

20:22:46 8 For Federal delisting to be possible,  
9 the US Fish and Wildlife Service needs to  
10 make sure funds are shared with states to  
11 provide reasonable monitoring of wolf  
12 populations.

20:22:54 13 The Wisconsin Department of Natural  
14 Resources congratulates the US Fish and  
15 Wildlife Service in the successful  
16 recovery of gray wolves in the Great Lakes  
17 Region. We are proud of our partnership  
18 with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in  
19 helping wolves recover.

20:23:07 20 We also greatly appreciate the help  
21 from our partners in USDA Wildlife  
22 Services, US Forest Service, National Park  
23 Service, the Wisconsin Indian Tribes,  
24 Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife  
25 Commission, Wisconsin County Forests, the

1 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources,  
2 the Michigan Department of Natural  
3 Resources, Timber Wolf Alliance, Timber  
4 Wolf Information Network, Defenders of  
5 Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation,  
6 and all of the other groups and  
7 individuals who have supported wolf  
8 recovery in this state.

20:23:36 9 The Wisconsin DNR strongly supports  
10 the delisting of the gray wolf from the  
11 Federal Endangered and Threatened Species  
12 List. We are committed to preventing  
13 wolves from ever becoming endangered in  
14 Wisconsin and we look forward to working  
15 with our many partners to make sure wolves  
16 never return to our list of threatened and  
17 endangered species.

20:23:54 18 MR. RUWALDT: Thanks Signe.

20:23:56 19 Number 10?

20:24:04 20 MR. PILS: Good evening.

21 My name is Chuck Pils, P-I-L-S.

20:24:09 22 I represent the Wisconsin Chapter of  
23 the Wildlife Society. By the way, I live  
24 here in Madison, Wisconsin.

20:24:15 25 And the Wildlife Society in Wisconsin

1 is composed of over 200 Wildlife  
2 professionals, who include managers,  
3 researchers, administrators, and teachers.

20:24:27 4 And our objective is to further these  
5 goals of management, research, education  
6 between the private and public segments.

20:24:34 7 The Wisconsin Chapter strongly  
8 supports the Federal delisting process to  
9 begin for the gray wolf populations in the  
10 Great Lakes states of Minnesota, Wisconsin  
11 and Michigan. We too have concerns which  
12 were previously echoed by other people  
13 represented here about the Eastern  
14 Distinct Population Segment.

20:24:55 15 We would also like to commend the  
16 efforts of the State, Federal and Tribal  
17 people, private individuals such as Timber  
18 Wolf Alliance and other groups that have  
19 really gotten this whole delisting process  
20 rolling. They are really to be commended,  
21 they have done good work.

20:25:14 22 The Wisconsin Chapter recommends the  
23 service return to designating gray wolves  
24 as two distinct populations.

20:25:22 25 The Western Great Lakes Distinct

1 Population Segment, which is restricted to  
2 the Great Lakes Great Lakes states of  
3 Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and  
4 surrounding states and the Eastern  
5 Distinct Population Segment which includes  
6 the Northeastern New England states.

20:25:38 7 I also have five reasons why we favor  
8 the splitting, which I will give to you  
9 when I'm done with my comments.

20:25:48 10 And also we believe that the delisting  
11 is warranted based on current population  
12 numbers. We were concerned with the  
13 ability to monitor population levels given  
14 the reduced Federal support to states that  
15 will also accompany a delisting decision.

20:26:03 16 Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife  
17 Society urges the Fish and Wildlife  
18 Service to continue to allocate funds for  
19 population monitoring of the species as a  
20 way of determining population levels. We  
21 believe this is crucial to keep our  
22 fingers on the population pulse.

20:26:21 23 Thank you very much for the  
24 opportunity to comment and I will turn in  
25 my comments to you.

20:26:24 1 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
2 Chuck.

20:26:28 3 Number 11?

20:26:35 4 MR. MEYER: Good evening,  
5 any name is George Meyer, G-E-O-R-G-E,  
6 M-E-Y-E-R. I live in Madison, Wisconsin  
7 and I'm the Executive Director of the  
8 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

20:26:47 9 The Federation is the largest  
10 conservation organization in the State of  
11 Wisconsin and is made up of 89 hunting,  
12 fishing and trapping groups through the  
13 state.

20:26:58 14 The Wildlife Federation has been  
15 working for over 20 years with the US Fish  
16 and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin  
17 Department of Natural Resources and other  
18 conservation organizations in the state to  
19 ensure the protection and proper  
20 management of the gray wolf in the state  
21 of Wisconsin.

20:27:15 22 Based on the information available to  
23 our members and the general public, we  
24 strongly support the proposed US Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service delisting of the gray

1 wolf from the Federal Endangered and  
2 Threatened Species List.

20:27:28 3 Tonight it is time to recognize the  
4 success of the Federal and State  
5 Endangered Species Laws and the efforts of  
6 public agencies and private citizens to  
7 assure the long-term continued survival of  
8 the gray wolf in the Eastern United  
9 States. These efforts show the true  
10 principles of conservation in the state  
11 and country.

20:27:49 12 As true conservationists, hunters,  
13 anglers and trappers were not satisfied  
14 with the depleted populations of many  
15 species and their habilitate that were  
16 falling throughout the United States in  
17 the last century and have been active  
18 supporters of species restoration efforts,  
19 the gray wolf being just one species.

20:28:09 20 However, it is now time to recognize  
21 that the restoration goals for the gray  
22 wolf have been exceeded and that it is  
23 time to remove the now overly protective  
24 requirements of the Federal Endangered  
25 Species Act in order that the species can

1 be professionally managed as are other  
2 species within the state.

20:28:29 3 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
4 acknowledges that an overly conservative  
5 population estimate of 373 to 410 wolves  
6 exist in the state of Wisconsin, well over  
7 the number of 250 at which the species  
8 would be considered endangered through the  
9 state or threatened in the state.

20:28:52 10 Also, the combined population of  
11 wolves in Michigan and Wisconsin exceed  
12 750 animals, well beyond the US Fish and  
13 Wildlife Service recovery plan population  
14 criteria of 200 wolves.

20:29:04 15 Because of these high population  
16 levels and the overly protected  
17 requirements of this Federal Endangered  
18 Species Act, management problems involving  
19 the gray wolf are occurring, including the  
20 depredation of domestic livestock and  
21 hunting dogs in the states. The delisting  
22 of the gray wolf will allow the Wisconsin  
23 Department of Natural Resources to  
24 professionally manage this species  
25 consistent with sound wildlife management

1 and conservation principles.

20:29:32 2 A strong wolf management plan has been  
3 developed in the state with the input of a  
4 wide range of interested citizens and  
5 groups. It is now time to put that plan  
6 into action.

20:29:42 7 The Federation would strongly  
8 encourage the Fish and Wildlife Service to  
9 accomplish the delisting as quickly as  
10 possible in order that the problems  
11 currently caused by the size of the gray  
12 wolf population is taken properly and  
13 professionally managed.

20:29:57 14 Please do not take the full year that  
15 you have to make the final delisting  
16 decision.

20:30:02 17 Lastly, the Wisconsin Wildlife  
18 Federation urges the Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service to return to the agency's year  
20 2000 proposal which separated out the  
21 Western Great Lakes and Northeast Distinct  
22 Population Segments of wolves. We do not  
23 want to see the Western Great Lakes  
24 delisting of the gray wolf get caught up  
25 and delayed by the likely litigation

1 relatively to Northeastern wolf  
2 population.

20:30:26 3 If I could just make two  
4 extemporaneous comments: Hunters, anglers  
5 and trappers in the organization I  
6 represent believe strongly in protection  
7 and proper management of the gray wolf  
8 population. We would be the last in the  
9 world to want to see management take place  
10 or put the species back on the state or  
11 Federal current Endangered Species Act.

20:30:48 12 We want to see it properly managed  
13 but, in fact, we would also want to see  
14 that it is thoroughly protected for the  
15 long term.

20:30:56 16 Secondly, chuck Pils I think raised  
17 the points well in his remarks. It does  
18 not make sense to have one population in  
19 the Midwest governing what happens in the  
20 Northeast. Clearly from an ecosystem  
21 management system and biological  
22 standpoint that is a separate population.  
23 It should be managed separately. We would  
24 like to see a good population in the  
25 Northeast as they have in the West and now

1 in the Midwest.

20:31:23 2 And please do not base your decisions  
3 on Northeast management based on Midwest  
4 management. Thank you very much.

20:31:28 5 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
6 George.

20:31:34 7 Number 12 would be next.

20:31:40 8 MS. NOSSAL: Hello, my name  
9 is Susan Nossal. The last name is  
10 N-O-S-S-A-L. Thank you for the  
11 opportunity to speak here tonight.

20:31:51 12 I work at the University as an  
13 atmospheric physicist but I'm only  
14 representing myself here tonight.

20:31:55 15 MR. RUWALDT: Your address,  
16 Susan?

20:31:58 17 MS. NOSSAL: 138 West  
18 Gorham Street.

20:32:01 19 MR. RUWALDT: State?

20:32:01 20 MS. NOSSAL: Madison,  
21 Wisconsin. Thank you.

20:32:06 22 I'm concerned about -- I'm concerned  
23 about the potential impacts of climate  
24 change on the future of species such as  
25 the gray wolf. And I can send you a

1 report about these potential impacts which  
2 was sponsored by the United -- the Union  
3 of Concerned Scientists and the Ecological  
4 Society of America and also includes  
5 authors here at UW and -- who are faculty  
6 members at UW and who are faculty members  
7 at other Midwestern universities.

20:32:38 8 Their predictions for increased  
9 temperatures in this region as well as  
10 more extreme weather events and as a  
11 result northern forests are expected to  
12 change in their composition with changes  
13 in species to -- including changes to tree  
14 species, fish populations and bird  
15 species. And of special concern is that  
16 without continuous corridors it's  
17 difficult for species to move to new  
18 habitats to adapt to changing conditions.

20:33:07 19 I thus urge as part of the protection  
20 -- future protection plans that habitat  
21 and corridor protections be well protected  
22 as to present and future protection plans,  
23 including habitat protections for the wolf  
24 and other animals.

20:33:24 25 I also am urging you special

1 consideration of the long-term role of the  
2 wolf to Native Americans in this region.  
3 And I have heard from Native American  
4 colleagues of the importance of the wolf  
5 to their culture and the concern about the  
6 future of the gray wolf.

20:33:39 7 In summary, I urge that the wolf  
8 retain its threatened species status.  
9 Thank you.

20:33:43 10 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
11 Sue.

20:33:47 12 I would like to remind everyone that  
13 you can provide written comments either  
14 tonight or up until the closing, that we  
15 will be taking comments through November  
16 18th provided by e-mail or fax.  
17 Information is back there on the table.

20:34:03 18 Next would be number 13.

20:34:04 19 MS. HUSSEY: Yes, good  
20 evening. Thank you for hearing me.

20:34:09 21 My name is Jillian Hussey,  
22 H-U-S-S-E-Y. That's J-I-L-L-I-A-N.

20:34:20 23 I live in Madison. And I'm  
24 representing myself.

20:34:25 25 I believe delisting is premature at

1           this time. Population sizes in Wisconsin,  
2           Michigan and Minnesota may sound large,  
3           but just counting individual wolves is  
4           misleading because only a small proportion  
5           of adults, usually only the alpha pair in  
6           the pack, reproduce successfully.

20:34:45 7           Humans are the number one cause of  
8           mortality of wolves. Being delisted will  
9           mean those who oppose wolf recovery, and  
10          there are known to be much many such  
11          people, will be able to kill with few  
12          restrictions.

20:34:58 13          For example, in parts of Minnesota  
14          wolves will be able to be killed without  
15          cause. Minnesota may even be able to  
16          higher trappers to kill wolves at \$150  
17          each. Surely a very lethal method of wolf  
18          control.

20:35:14 19          Some segments of the hunting community  
20          and all three states: Minnesota,  
21          Wisconsin and Michigan, are pushing for  
22          hunting and trapping seasons using the  
23          rationale that an increased wolf  
24          population will result in a decreased deer  
25          population and other species for hunting.

1 This isn't supported by the evidence.

20:35:36

2 For example, Minnesota with the  
3 largest wolf population in the lower 48  
4 states in 2002 had a deer population  
5 estimated to be the largest in 50 years in  
6 Minnesota. Minnesota and Wisconsin  
7 management plans would allow for the  
8 possibility of trophy hunting and  
9 recreational trapping of these beautiful  
10 animals, even as they attempt to make a  
11 comeback.

20:36:03

12 Heavy killing of Minnesota wolves  
13 after delisting would probably restrict  
14 gene flow to Wisconsin and Michigan  
15 populations, given the very few protected  
16 corridors available for crossing between  
17 populations.

20:36:20

18 Delisting wolves in states where there  
19 are no wolves makes no sense. It  
20 virtually eliminates any future  
21 possibility of their appearance. Why not  
22 give them an open-ended time period to  
23 reappear? Thank you.

20:36:36

24 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
25 Jillian.

20:36:46 1 Number 14?

20:36:46 2 MS. YEE-LITZENBERG: Hello,  
3 my name is Lisa Yee-Litzenberg. I'm the  
4 Great Lakes Wolves Project Manager for the  
5 National Wildlife Federation based out of  
6 Ann Arbor, Michigan.

20:37:03 7 MR. RUWALDT: Spell your  
8 name, please.

20:37:04 9 MS. YEE-LITZENBERG: That's  
10 not a very easy name, I guess.

20:37:10 11 Lisa, L-I-S-A, last name Y-E-E-  
12 L-I-T-Z-E-N-B-E-R-G.

20:37:16 13 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you.

20:37:16 14 MS. YEE-LITZENBERG: Again,  
15 I'm the Great Lakes Wolf Project Manager  
16 for the National Wildlife Federation and I  
17 will be providing comments on behalf of  
18 the NWF at this hearing.

20:37:26 19 The National Wildlife Federation has  
20 long played a role in wolf restoration  
21 efforts nationwide both in helping to  
22 tailor commonsense management plans to  
23 secure wolf recovery and in educating the  
24 public concerning facts and myth  
25 surrounding the animals.

20:37:42 1 In keeping with NWF's past and present  
2 involvement in wolf conservation and  
3 recovery and on behalf of NWF's 4 million  
4 members and supporters nationwide,  
5 including in all 21 states of the Eastern  
6 Distinct Population Segment, I will give  
7 oral comments for NWF but we will be  
8 submitting our detailed written comments  
9 by November 18.

20:37:48 10 The gray wolf is truly a success story  
11 for the Endangered Species Act in the  
12 three Great Lakes States of Michigan,  
13 Wisconsin and Minnesota. Wolves were  
14 nearly wiped out by humans in this region.  
15 Often under great political pressure, the  
16 US Fish and Wildlife Service, the three  
17 state agencies, and tribes stayed the  
18 course for wolf recovery and nurtured  
19 wolves back to health in the Great Lakes  
20 region. Today, wolves in this region are  
21 thriving. Population estimates in March  
22 2004 indicate there are approximately 360  
23 wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 373  
24 in Wisconsin and 2450 in Minnesota, with  
25 the last survey being in 1997-1998.

20:38:42 1           Successful wolf recovery in the Great  
2           Lakes region is a direct result of the  
3           Endangered Species Act's protection of  
4           wolves from humans and a positive shift in  
5           public attitudes towards wolves.

20:38:53 6           This effort has been so successful that  
7           the more active management of wolves in  
8           the Great Lakes states and region may  
9           become necessary in the future. Such  
10          active management, however, must be a  
11          carefully considered component of broader  
12          management goals. Wolf management must  
13          not be limited to take. All aspects of  
14          management, including population  
15          monitoring, depredation compensation, and  
16          most importantly education to maintain  
17          positive public attitudes towards wolves  
18          will need to be continued. In addition,  
19          states and tribes must have adequate  
20          funding to carry out their wolf management  
21          plans and recovery efforts.

20:39:32 22          In 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
23          proposed a rule that would have  
24          established a Western Great Lakes Wolf  
25          Distinct Population Segment, a

1 Northeastern Gray Wolf DPS, a Western Gray  
2 Wolf DPS and a Southwestern DPS. The  
3 National Wildlife Federation, along with a  
4 majority of the conservation community,  
5 thousands of public commenters and peer  
6 reviewers themselves were all in support  
7 of the proposed rule in 2000.

20:40:00

8 In the final rule of 2003, the Fish  
9 and Wildlife Service abandoned its  
10 proposal for a Northeast DPS, yet the Fish  
11 and Wildlife Service did not retreat from  
12 any of its statements concerning the  
13 significance of the Northeast region.  
14 Instead, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
15 abandoned further wolf recovery efforts in  
16 the Northeast on the grounds that "the  
17 area in the western Great Lakes States  
18 where wolf currently exists represents the  
19 entire range of the species within the  
20 Eastern DPS."

20:40:29

21 This justification lacks scientific  
22 support. The Northeast currently shares a  
23 separate wolf population with southeastern  
24 Canada. The Fish and Wildlife Service has  
25 an obligation under the Endangered Species

1 Act to promote recovery of this population  
2 -- a population that is integral to the  
3 overall health of the gray wolf in the  
4 lower 48 states.

20:40:49 5 This proposed delisting rule will  
6 remove protection for wolves far beyond  
7 the states where wolf recovery has  
8 actually taken place. It is truly  
9 unfortunate, for if the Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service had finalized the 2000 proposed  
11 rule, the Great Lakes population of wolves  
12 in all likelihood would be on its way to  
13 being delisted. As a result of the Fish  
14 and Wildlife Service changing its original  
15 proposal so that Western Great Lakes and  
16 Northeast Wolf Distinct Population  
17 Segments were now combined into one  
18 Eastern DPS, the Great Lakes population  
19 will be unnecessarily swept into the  
20 litigation concerning the Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service's failure to pursue  
22 recovery outside of the Great Lakes.

20:41:31 23 There are already two lawsuits pending  
24 that challenge the legality of the Eastern  
25 DPS as established in the 2003

1 reclassification rule. NWF recommends  
2 that the Fish and Wildlife Service work to  
3 resolve the legitimate concerns raised in  
4 those lawsuits rather than pressing  
5 forward with delisting based on unsound  
6 science.

20:41:50 7 Under the Endangered Species Act, a  
8 species remains threatened so long as it  
9 is at risk in a significant portion of its  
10 range. The wolf remains extirpated in  
11 roughly 95 percent of its range and yet  
12 the Fish and Wildlife Service has never  
13 addressed whether this is a significant  
14 portion. Until it prepares a national  
15 wolf recovery plan addressing what is the  
16 significant portion of the range that must  
17 be restored, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
18 cannot legitimately conclude that the  
19 Northeast is not needed to achieve  
20 recovery and delisting.

20:42:23 21 The Fish and Wildlife Service has  
22 itself acknowledged and its proposed  
23 rulemaking that the historic range of the  
24 wolf would have "extensive and significant  
25 gaps" without wolf recovery in the

1 Northeast; that a Northeast population is  
2 "significant and will contribute to the  
3 overall restoration of the species" and  
4 that the wolf that historically occupied  
5 the Northeastern United States and  
6 adjacent Canada is likely a "separate  
7 form" of the gray wolf.

20:42:51 8 It is the consensus view of scientific  
9 peer reviewers that establishing a  
10 separate Northeast DPS would be an  
11 important step toward gray wolf recovery.

20:43:03 12 All of the strongly suggests that the gray  
13 wolf will remain at risk in a significant  
14 portion of its range so long as the  
15 Northeast wolf restoration remains  
16 incomplete.

20:43:12 17 The Fish and Wildlife Service's  
18 approach is inconsistent with the letter  
19 an spirit of the Endangered Species Act.  
20 The mere fact that the Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service may have demonstrated the  
22 survivability of a gray wolf population in  
23 three states in the Great Lakes does not  
24 relieve it from the responsibility to  
25 analyze the significance of the Northeast

1 region to overall gray wolf recovery.

20:43:35

2 The Fish and Wildlife Service has a duty  
3 to address the endangerment of a species  
4 throughout "major geographical areas" of  
5 its historic range, even where those areas  
6 are no longer occupied with viable  
7 populations. It also has the duty to  
8 consider all relevant listing and  
9 delisting factors, such as the vulner  
10 ability of the species to disease  
11 outbreaks when there is an insufficient  
12 distribution of populations.

20:44:01

13 Finally, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
14 has a duty to apply its Vertebrate  
15 Population Policy in a fair and consistent  
16 fashion. This policy calls for  
17 establishment of Distinct Population  
18 Segments only for a "discrete" population.  
19 By lumping Western Great Lakes wolves and  
20 Northeastern wolves together in a single  
21 Eastern DPS, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
22 failed to satisfy the requirement that it  
23 a discrete population be the subject of a  
24 DPS.

20:44:28

25 The Fish and Wildlife Service's

1 decision to create an Eastern DPS was done  
2 for the wrong reasons. Rather than  
3 promoting conservation, the Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service has taken this step for  
5 the clear purpose of terminating recovery  
6 efforts in the Northeast. The Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service's own vertebrate  
8 population policy makes clear that the DPS  
9 tool is designed to prevent the need for  
10 listing an entire species when some  
11 populations are healthy; but it is  
12 improper to use it to avoid recovery  
13 efforts in important habitat areas where  
14 populations are not yet viable.

20:45:03 15 The Fish and Wildlife Service has an  
16 historic opportunity to build upon its  
17 successes in the Western Great Lakes by  
18 moving forward with the restoration of the  
19 wolf in the Northeastern US. We sincerely  
20 hope to be able to work with the agency on  
21 this important endeavor.

20:45:19 22 Thank you for the opportunity to  
23 testify before you today.

20:45:25 24 MR. RUWALDT: Thank you,  
25 Lisa.

20:45:33 1 Number 15? Do we have a number 15?

2 16? Is that all of the --

20:45:43 3 Would anyone else wish to comment now

4 if you have not -- sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

20:45:50 5 I would ask you to sign up in the back

6 after you are done with your --

20:45:53 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I

8 sign up already I didn't take a number.

20:45:57 9 MR. RUWALDT: Go right

10 ahead, then.

20:46:01 11 MR. DEMES: My name is John

12 Demes, last name D-E-M-E-S. A resident of

13 Janesville, Wisconsin. Prior to that

14 before June of 2003 I was a resident of

15 Bayfield County in the Town of Barksdale.

16 And I was land use committee co-chair

17 there.

20:46:23 18 I guess my main concern is with WDNR's

19 proposal for delisting that they allow

20 ranchers and farmers to euthanize animals

21 at their own discretion if they feel their

22 animals or themselves are threatened. I

23 think this should only be done by a WDNR

24 agent or an agent of US Fish and Wildlife

25 Service.

20:46:47 1           And everything else that was taken in  
2           today has pretty much been covered. Thank  
3           you very much.

20:46:51 4                       MR. RUWALDT: Thank you.

20:46:54 5           Do we have anyone else that would like  
6           to comment at this time? Would anyone  
7           like to add to the comments they have  
8           already made?

20:47:05 9           We will go off the record now until  
10          9 o'clock, at which time we will go back  
11          on the record. If anyone would like to  
12          make comments at that time, you will be  
13          given an opportunity to do so. Otherwise,  
14          I thank you all that did present comments  
15          and we will take about a 15 minute -- 10-  
16          or 15-minute break.

20:47:18 17                       (Brief recess)

21:00:13 18                       MR. RUWALDT: It's now 9  
19          o'clock. Are there any other comments?  
20          If not, we will close the hearing.

21:00:21 21                       (Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)

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21:00:21 1 STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
21:00:21 2 COUNTY OF DANE )

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21:00:21 4 I, JEANETTE M. SUNDSTROM, a Certified  
5 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public duly  
6 commissioned and qualified in and for the  
7 State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that  
8 I have carefully compared the foregoing  
9 pages with my stenographic notes, and that  
10 the same is a true and correct transcript.

21:00:21 11

21:00:21 12 Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 5th  
13 day of October, 2004.

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Certified Shorthand Reporter  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

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