

UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the action of (describe action):

Issuance of a subpermit to Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the rest of 2005 to intentionally kill up to 20 gray wolves (5 percent of the preliminary estimated late winter population) involved in verified depredations on domestic animals.

X is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 8 [8.5.A(1), 8.5.B(2), and 8.5.C(1) apply] and 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. No further documentation will therefore be made.

is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

is found to have significant effects, and therefore further consideration of this action will require a notice of intent to be published in the Federal Register announcing the decision to prepare an EIS.

is not approved because of unacceptable environmental damage, or violation of Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, policy, regulations, or procedures.

is an emergency action within the context of 40 CFR 1506.11. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting documents (list):

Memorandum of April 14, 2005, from Ron Refsnider to TJ Miller

- Summary of Relevant Points supporting a conclusion of negligible adverse impact
- Biological Opinion, dated April 14, 2005

<u>Ronald L. Refsnider</u> (1) Initiator	<u>4/14/05</u> Date	<u>[Signature]</u> (2) RHPO	<u>4-14-05</u> Date
<u>Jeffrey C. Gorn</u> (3) REC	<u>4-14-05</u> Date	<u>[Signature]</u> (4) ARD	<u>[Signature]</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> (5) RD	<u>[Signature]</u> Date		

Attachment to Environmental Action Memo for Issuance of Wolf Subpermit to Michigan DNR, April 2005

Summary of Relevant Points Supporting a Conclusion of Negligible Adverse Impact

- This action will allow the resumption of depredation control actions that were previously carried out in a near-identical fashion, but under the authority of a different section of the Endangered Species Act. Thus, this action is a continuation of previous activities representing an administrative change, rather than a substantive or environmental change, and the impacts of the actions are unchanged.
- The wolf population in Michigan and Wisconsin greatly exceeds the federal recovery goal, and has exceeded that goal since 1999.
- The wolf population in Michigan has continued to increase during the first year of lethal depredation control, and preliminary data indicate that it increased during the second year, providing evidence that this continuation of such actions will not impede the continued viability of the wolf population in the state.
- This permit will be reviewed annually by the Service prior to renewal, and the conditions and limitations can be adjusted as necessary to ensure continuation of wolf recovery in Michigan.
- This permit requires that all wolf mortalities be reported to the Service within 5 days, ensuring the ability to promptly rescind the permit or modify its provisions if unanticipated impacts occur from the permitted activities.