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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Public Hearing re: Proposal to Delist the Gray Wolf  
Eastern Distinct Population Segment  
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Public Hearing on September 29, 2004 at the  
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, 29270 County  
Highway G, Ashland, Wisconsin as reported and  
transcribed by Kathleen M. Bay, Freelance Court  
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of  
Wisconsin commencing at 7:50 p.m. and concluding at  
9:35 p.m.  
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APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE  
SERVICE:  
Ms. Pamela Dryer - Ashland Office  
Mr. Ron Reshsnyder (ph) - Regional Office  
Ms. Laura Regan - Regional Office  
Ms. Janet Smith - Green Bay Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Hearing commences at 7:50 p.m.)

MS. PAMELA DRYER: Good evening.

We're now ready to start the public hearing portion of this evening so I ask you to take your seat. And on behalf of the US Fish & Wildlife Service I want to welcome you to the official public hearing.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive the comments from many of you on the Fish & Wildlife Service's proposal to delist the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of the Gray Wolf. I believe most of you were here -- I believe all of you were here so you heard the presentation about that.

I am Pam Dryer. I'm the refuge manager for (inaudible) creek national wildlife refuge for the Fish & Wildlife Service. I work here in Ashland here at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and I will be the presiding officer for the hearing and we do have a court reporter for the hearing; that's Kathy Bay, and she'll be -- she'll actually be recording the comments that you make tonight. A transcript of this hearing will be posted on the website of the Midwest Regional Fish & Wildlife Service in a few weeks. The address for that website can be found on all of that information in the back of

1 the room.

2                                 Just to let you know, I will have no  
3 further involvement in this proposal. I really have  
4 had no involvement in this proposal up to this point,  
5 so I'm trying to be as impartial as possible in this  
6 hearing, but there are other representatives which you  
7 have already heard from tonight and I just want to  
8 reintroduce three people that are sitting up front,  
9 Ron Reshsnyder (ph) from our regional office; Laura  
10 Regan from our regional office, and Janet Smith from  
11 our Green Bay office.

12                                 The purpose of this public hearing  
13 under Section Four, the Federal Endangered Species Act  
14 of 1973, the notice of the proposal to remove the Gray  
15 Wolf in the Eastern United States from the list of  
16 endangered and threatened wildlife and also provide  
17 120-day public comment period, was published in the  
18 Federal Register. It was published on July 21, 2004  
19 beginning on page 43664. I have to go through some of  
20 these details so please bare with me. A notice of the  
21 nine public hearings being held in the Midwest was  
22 published in the Federal Register on August 13, 2004  
23 on page 40145. And there will be one additional  
24 hearing that has been scheduled in Maine for October  
25 20th.

1                                Now, keep in mind this public hearing  
2 is just one of the methods that Fish & Wildlife  
3 Service uses to receive your comments to collect data  
4 from the public on this proposal and no final decision  
5 will be made at this hearing; nor will any final  
6 decision be made for a while. Public comments as you  
7 heard again will be accepted through November 18,  
8 2004. And after review and consideration of the  
9 administrative record, your comments, your  
10 interpretations of the existing data and all other  
11 information gathered during the comment period, the  
12 Fish & Wildlife Service will make a final decision on  
13 the proposal. The information that you provide in the  
14 comments this evening will be become part of the  
15 administrative record; that's why we have the court  
16 reporter. And they will be considered by the Fish &  
17 Wildlife Service in the decision making process.

18                                When you came in there was a couple  
19 of tables at the back and I just wanted to reiterate  
20 that there is opportunity for you to provide public  
21 comments in several ways, but one of the ways, if you  
22 want to provide comments tonight in writing, if you  
23 don't want to speak, you can use this blue sheet right  
24 here. You can also send this in at a later date.  
25 Also I wanted to point out to you that there is this

1 green sheet which provides other information on where  
2 to look at the proposal and how to provide additional  
3 comments. So you can either do it tonight orally, or  
4 you can do it in writing tonight, or you can do it in  
5 writing later on.

6                   At the back of the table, hopefully  
7 you all signed your name. If you are interested in  
8 providing comments tonight you should have received a  
9 white notecard with a number on it. If you did not,  
10 go out to the back and get one of those cards if you  
11 still want to provide comments. I will give the  
12 elected officials first a chance to provide their  
13 comments and then I will call you in chronological  
14 order it starting with number one.

15                   If you do not wish to speak tonight  
16 but do want to get on our mailing list to receive  
17 further information, again, there is signup sheets in  
18 the back; please add your name and address, or e-mail  
19 address and we can provide additional information.  
20 And also in the back, there's a lot of information  
21 about this proposal and about the Endangered Species  
22 Act and Gray Wolves in general.

23                   Let's see, when I call your number to  
24 come present your comments, there is a couple of  
25 things that I would like you to do, and I put up on

1 the flip chart, I want you to state your name and  
2 spell your name; that's so the court reporter gets it  
3 spelled correctly. If you are representing an  
4 organization, please state that also. If you're not,  
5 then you don't need to state that. And please tell us  
6 what State is your residence.

7                   If you have a written comment, copy  
8 of your comments, you can provide them either to me or  
9 to the court reporter and that will also be an  
10 official part of the record. We have a lot of people  
11 tonight that want to provide comments. The last I  
12 heard there was about 35, so I'm going to limit  
13 comments to four minutes each. Our hearing is  
14 supposed to be done at 9:00, but it will not be done I  
15 can almost guaranty you at this time and we are  
16 willing to stay until everyone has a chance to make  
17 their comments. That's one of the reasons why we will  
18 limit your comments to four minutes each. If you feel  
19 very strongly that you want to provide additional  
20 comments after everyone else has gotten a chance, then  
21 we will give you a chance to again come up and the  
22 court reporter will stay and you can provide  
23 additional comments afterwards.

24                   We do have to be out of here by 11:00  
25 because the alarm goes off at 11:00. And what we're

1 going to ask you to do when you come forward is to  
2 come around that side aisle and there is a microphone  
3 that works fairly well. The most important thing is  
4 that the court reporter can hear you and then speak to  
5 these three people right here.

6                   This is an informal hearing meaning  
7 that we will not be cross examining or questioning  
8 you; at the same time, we will not be responding to  
9 any questions that you might have at this point. That  
10 was provided earlier. If you want to provide -- if  
11 you have additional questions, there are still some  
12 Fish & Wildlife Service employees in the back; you can  
13 go back and talk to them afterwards; afterwards also  
14 means people will be available.

15                   Let's see. What else do I need to  
16 say here? I think that mostly does it. All right.  
17 Seems I am forgetting one thing. I guess the only  
18 other thing is I know that there is a wide variety of  
19 opinions here tonight and that's very clear and that's  
20 what we expected and that's really what we hope for  
21 and I know it's going to also be very hard sometimes  
22 not to respond to people who might have a different  
23 opinion than you, but I am going to ask you to do that  
24 because I want to make sure everyone feels very  
25 comfortable coming up and providing their comments.

1 So please be respectful of all the speakers tonight.

2 Thank you very much.

3 Then I will go onto the hearing part.

4 Are there any -- I didn't see any elected officials,

5 but are there either federal, state, or local elected

6 officials that are here? Sir, please come on up.

7 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I am fine

8 right here.

9 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Do you want to

10 provide comments, written -- or oral comments?

11 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Later.

12 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Okay. You will

13 take your turn.

14 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

15 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Okay. Any others?

16 All right, then we'll go onto number one. Commentor

17 number one, please come forward.

18 MR. JAMES GADAMUS: I feel like I am

19 back in Vietnam. We used to say "I am number one".

20 All right. My name is James Gadamus, G-A-D-A-M-U-S,

21 and my idea or organization, I represent two children

22 and a beautiful wife. Okay. Let's get the ball

23 rolling here. Some of you already know me, James

24 Gadamus. I run St. Anthony's Preserve, a 970-acre

25 preserve which I have six major streams going into

1 Lake Superior, the last large piece of land that  
2 supports wildlife in Northern Wisconsin.

3 I probably know wolves better than  
4 most of you here, I have lived in the North Slope of  
5 Alaska seven years; trapped them and now I am  
6 basically a deer farmer that struggles with them. The  
7 one thing that really struck me on this thing, and  
8 that should strike you guys, the loss of extinct  
9 animals has caused a loss of modification of habitat.  
10 That 970 acres I own is the last large parcel, four  
11 miles out of Ashland, okay. My deer preserve, I had  
12 to put \$20,000 here a few years back, screened the  
13 whole side of my eight-foot fence at my cost. I have  
14 had wolves in there since 1998, and since 1998, it  
15 took the very first wolf, correct me if I'm wrong  
16 here, it took us four months to trap that animal. We  
17 finally caught it; it was a 120 pound plus male. It  
18 died in transportation.

19 I have had wolves every single year  
20 since then. Last spring I had wolves. How many have  
21 we caught since 1998? We probably have over two,  
22 three hundred days of trapping and we caught  
23 approximately one wolf, yet we have wolves in there  
24 every single year, so that's great. This last spring,  
25 let me see what we come up with, non target animals.

1 You got Badgers, Fishers, Bear, Fawn, you name it, in  
2 leg-hold traps. I had a 300 pound or 200 pound  
3 blackie in a 150 year old white pine that we had to  
4 cut down because the drag chain on that bear was  
5 wrapped around the tree. So when you think about  
6 wolves and the numbers they are, there is a lot of  
7 other species taking a hit besides wolves. It's just  
8 too many of them.

9                               What I'm really trying to stress, the  
10 gentleman that walked out of here, we kind of laughed  
11 at him. I don't know his name. All I know, his name  
12 was Rick. He was a farmer. He was so frustrated.  
13 Just so frustrated he walked out because everybody  
14 kind of laughed. You don't understand it. When you  
15 lose habitat, and farmers who lose their cattle with  
16 no justification of repayment... I had a bill,  
17 \$50,000 the first year I lost a deer. Do you know  
18 what they paid me for it? Seven thousand. You know  
19 Joe Meyer, head of the DNR? He said, I'll write you a  
20 letter saying that -- I will identify that you lost  
21 that many deer, but you write me a letter saying you  
22 won't charge me for it. How is the farmer supposed to  
23 survive in that kind of environment?

24                               If you are going to have the wolf  
25 numbers -- which you're way low. You're way, way low.

1 They spend -- like I say, since 1998 they only seen  
2 one wolf. That was a dead one that kind of died  
3 because it was mishandled. So you're telling me your  
4 numbers? You can't even tell me how many wolves I got  
5 on my preserve. You can't tell me if the wolf that's  
6 there is a wolf track.

7 All I am trying to say is, you're  
8 playing with peoples livelihood. Mine. I have to --  
9 right now I got a developer coming out to that 970  
10 acres. It brings a tear to my eye to see that that's  
11 going to have to be subdivided because a man can't  
12 make a living. I got to take 10 percent of the herd  
13 down because the Department of Agriculture said you  
14 have to double fence that fence because of the chronic  
15 waste disease scare, or you will take 10 percent of  
16 the herd down and you will kill that 10 percent and  
17 you will make that veterinarian come over and pay him  
18 to test it. How is a farmer going to survive?

19 You know, I don't want to get angry  
20 here, but the thing is, if you are going to make laws,  
21 make just laws. Make laws that the man who works with  
22 his hands has opportunity, besides the person that  
23 works for the government. I have a family. I want to  
24 raise them in Northern Wisconsin. I should have the  
25 opportunity to do that and a fair playground. Thank

1 you and God Bless.

2 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Is  
3 number two ready to go? Okay. Number three? I hate  
4 using you as numbers, but...

5 MS. LISA YEE-LITZENBERG: Hello, my  
6 name is Lisa Yee-Litzenberg; that L-I-S-A; last name  
7 is Y-E-E-L-I-T-Z-E-N-B-E-R-G. I am the Great Lakes  
8 Wolf Project Manager for the National Wildlife  
9 Federation. We're based out of Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
10 I will be providing comments on behalf of the National  
11 Wildlife Federation at this hearing.

12 The National Wildlife Federation has  
13 long played a role in wolf restoration efforts  
14 nationwide, both in helping to tailor common sense  
15 management plans to secure wolf recovery and in  
16 educating the public concerning facts and myths  
17 surrounding the animals. In keeping with the NWF's  
18 past and present involvement in wolf conservation and  
19 recovery, and on behalf of NWF's four million members  
20 and supporters nationwide, including in all 21 states  
21 of the Eastern Distinct Population Segment, I will  
22 give oral comments for NWF, but please know that we  
23 will be providing our detailed written comments by the  
24 November 18th deadline and I do have extra copies if  
25 anyone is interested today.

1                   The gray wolf is truly a success  
2 story for the Endangered Species Act in the three  
3 Great Lakes States of Michigan, Wisconsin, and  
4 Minnesota. Wolves were nearly wiped out by humans in  
5 this region, but often under great political pressure,  
6 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the three state  
7 agencies, and the tribes stayed the course for wolf  
8 recovery and nurtured wolves back to health in the  
9 Great Lakes region. Today wolves in this region are  
10 thriving.

11                   Successful wolf recovery in the Great  
12 Lakes region is a direct result of the Endangered  
13 Species Act's protection of wolves from humans and  
14 also a positive shift in public attitudes towards  
15 wolves. This effort has been so successful that more  
16 active management of wolves in the Great Lakes region  
17 may become necessary in the future. Such active  
18 management, however, must be a carefully considered  
19 component of broader management goals. Wolf  
20 management must not be limited to "take" only. All  
21 aspects of management, including population  
22 monitoring, depredation compensation, and education to  
23 maintain positive public attitudes towards wolves will  
24 need to be continued. In addition, states and tribes  
25 must have adequate funding to carry out their wolf

1 management plans and recovery efforts.

2                   In 2000, the Fish and Wildlife  
3 proposed a rule that would have established a Western  
4 Great Lakes Wolf DPS; a Northeastern DPS, a Western  
5 DPS and a Southwestern DPS. The National Wildlife  
6 Federation, along with a majority of the conservation  
7 community, thousands of public commenters, and the  
8 peer reviewers themselves were all in support of the  
9 proposed rule in 2000.

10                   In the final rule of 2003, the Fish &  
11 Wildlife Service abandoned its proposal for a  
12 Northeast DPS, but did not retreat from any of its  
13 statements concerning the significance of the  
14 Northeast Region. Instead, the Fish & Wildlife  
15 Service abandoned further wolf recovery efforts in the  
16 Northeast on the grounds that "the area in the Western  
17 Great Lakes States where wolf currently exists  
18 represents the entire range of the species within the  
19 Eastern DPS." This justification lacks scientific  
20 support. The northeast currently shares a separate  
21 wolf population with southeastern Canada. The Fish &  
22 Wildlife Service has an obligation under the  
23 Endangered Species Act to promote recovery of this  
24 population. A population that is integral to the  
25 overall health of the gray wolf in the lower 48

1 states.

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

15                               MS. PAMELA DRYER: Are you about  
16 ready to wrap up? That's four minutes.

17                               MS. LISA YEE-LITZENBERG: Yes. Let  
18 me see. I'll wrap up by saying that the Fish &  
19 Wildlife Service has a historic opportunity to build  
20 upon its successes in the Western Great Lakes by  
21 moving forward with restoration of the wolf in the  
22 Northeastern United States. We hope to be able to  
23 work with the agency on this important endeavor.

24                               And just an important side note, that  
25 there are already two lawsuits pending that challenge

1 the legality of the Eastern DPS as established in the  
2 2003 reclassification rule. The National Wildlife  
3 Federation recommends that the Fish & Wildlife Service  
4 work to resolve the legitimate concerns raised in  
5 those lawsuits, rather than pressing forward with  
6 delisting based on unsound science.

7 Thank you very much for this  
8 opportunity to testify.

9 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Would  
10 the person with card number four please come forward?

11 MS. PAM TROXELL: Pam Troxell,  
12 T-R-O-X-E-L-L. I am with the Timber Wolf Alliance in  
13 Wisconsin. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to  
14 speak here this evening. Timber Wolf Alliance is a  
15 non-profit education program of the Sigurd Olson  
16 Environmental Institute at Northland College, an  
17 environmental/liberal arts college here in Ashland,  
18 Wisconsin.

19 TWA supports the delisting of the  
20 gray wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, but  
21 does not support the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's  
22 proposal to lump the Midwest with the Northeast  
23 portion of the United States, where efforts there are  
24 being made to embark on wolf recovery. One cannot  
25 spread the success of a region to another region far

1 removed geographically and culturally and expect  
2 adequate species protection. You cannot say that the  
3 success of the wolf population in the Upper Midwest is  
4 adequate for the success of the entire eastern  
5 segment. There are states in the northeast that  
6 provide suitable wolf habitat and where wolves could  
7 naturally return. TWA asks the U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
8 Service to rewrite the proposal to divide the regions  
9 of the Midwest and the Northeast in two separate  
10 DPS's.

11 TWA would support the proposal if the  
12 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plans to subsidize state  
13 and tribal agencies in the management of their wolf  
14 populations by financially contributing to population  
15 monitoring efforts. It is imperative that monitoring  
16 continues so we can gauge how large, or small, and how  
17 healthy the wolf populations are. Case in point, in  
18 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delisting  
19 announcement it stated, "the latest count in 1998  
20 found a minimum of 2,450 animals in Minnesota. An  
21 additional population is well established in Michigan  
22 and Wisconsin, with numbers there of 360 and 373  
23 respectively." These figures are available only  
24 because of population monitoring. Our decisions are  
25 based on information derived from that monitoring.

1 Population monitoring is critical to the health of the  
2 wolf and it will only continue if adequate funding is  
3 available.

4 TWA asks that the U.S. Fish &  
5 Wildlife Service have an adequate plan in place to  
6 ensure protection of the wolf population in case of a  
7 drastic reduction in the numbers due to disease or  
8 other unknown maladies that could be detrimental to  
9 wolves. It makes little sense to get our wolf  
10 population to this present place only to be devastated  
11 because of poor planning. The last thing anyone wants  
12 is to replace wolves back on the endangered species  
13 list.

14 As wolf populations continue to  
15 prosper, the Timber Wolf Alliance, along with wolf  
16 biologists are thinking "outside the box" and suggests  
17 that a National Large Carnivore Conservation Act be  
18 created. Similar to the Migratory Bird Act, a  
19 National Large Carnivore Conservation Act would insure  
20 population support of large carnivores across  
21 boundaries, whether the boundaries are state or  
22 country. By creating a National Large Carnivore  
23 Conservation Act, we continue to keep our lands rich  
24 with all native species including the wolf. Thank  
25 you.

1 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Would  
2 the person with card number five, please come forward?

3 MR. MARTIN C. SKAJ: Okay. My name  
4 is Martin C. Skaj; last name spelled S-K-A-J. I am  
5 from Mason, Wisconsin and I represent anybody who  
6 lives in that area and raises cattle like we do and  
7 have found out that we have to live in fear of the  
8 wolves now because we have that large pack right out  
9 our back door in the Bibon Swamp.

10 In terms of delisting the wolves, I  
11 really don't know how I feel about that personally  
12 because in terms of the money available like speaker  
13 number one pointed out, there never seems to be enough  
14 money to cover the losses that have been incurred by  
15 farmers when there's depredation. What would happen  
16 if the state took it over? I don't know if there will  
17 be money available or not. It seems that when you  
18 talk about this program, you mention the word  
19 "success", but all the time you talk about success it  
20 seems to indicate you're only looking at it through  
21 the eyes of the wolf; not through the eyes of the  
22 other species that's in this room, that would be the  
23 human beings here.

24 Your presentation was good; it was  
25 informative. I learned things. But I also learned

1 something else, that the human element is missing from  
2 your presentation. It's as if, you know, you're  
3 figuring the wolf is going to be here; it's going to  
4 stay, and we're going to stay here too. We have to  
5 learn how to live together. But it seems that some of  
6 us that have been raising cattle here for years and  
7 want to continue our lifestyle, it's almost as if  
8 we're at fault for something just by being here. And  
9 now that the wolf has been reintroduced and seems to  
10 be such a successful program, it just seems to me that  
11 the people who want to continue their lifestyle, that  
12 we don't really matter any more. And it doesn't seem  
13 to matter if the state agency, or the federal agency  
14 would be controlling the program, the wolves are going  
15 to stay and they're going to be chewing up our  
16 livestock, and dogs, and maybe people who have deer on  
17 a deer farm and what not. I just don't know what's  
18 wrong with the program, but it seems to me there is  
19 something inherently wrong with the program, either  
20 from the federal level, or at the state level, in that  
21 the human element does not seem to matter that much,  
22 and that bothers me personally.

23                   And I don't know how our words is  
24 really going to matter because it seems to me that  
25 when you point out that you have so many wolves in the

1 State, and if the State of Wisconsin would say well,  
2 we don't want that many wolves; we, as a state would  
3 say no, we only want 50 wolves in the whole State,  
4 that's enough, that the federal government would step  
5 back in and say no, you have to have a minimum number  
6 whether you like it or not. And I guess I just am  
7 troubled by the fact that we gathered here; we got a  
8 good turn out, and we get our comments recorded and  
9 what not, but it seems like it doesn't really matter  
10 that much. And that's the part that bothers me the  
11 most. And in terms of losses, we haven't had any  
12 personally, but it seems like we're guilty just by  
13 being there, and that we have to prove to the  
14 government agency that would be inspecting our cattle  
15 and what not when something happens, one dies, it's  
16 like we're at fault because our farming practices are  
17 not good enough, and that we are then forced to spend  
18 a lot more money and alter our lifestyle because of  
19 one animal running across our private property. Other  
20 than that, I really don't have anything else to say,  
21 but I thank you very much for your time.

22 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Skaj. Person with card number six, please come  
24 forward?

25 MR. ADRIAN WYDEVN: I am Adrian

1 Wydevn and I am representing the Wisconsin DNR.  
2 A-D-R-I-A-N, W-Y-D-E-V-N. I am a resident of  
3 Wisconsin.

4                   The Wisconsin Department of Natural  
5 Resources is pleased that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service has begun the process to remove Gray Wolves in  
7 the Eastern Distinct Population Segment from the list  
8 of federal endangered and threatened species and  
9 return management to the State. The Wisconsin DNR  
10 supports this process and looks forward to taking the  
11 responsibility for the management of wolves in  
12 Wisconsin. The Wisconsin DNR has a long history of  
13 wolf conservation. The State of Wisconsin ended  
14 bounty payment on wolves in 1957 and listed the wolves  
15 as a protected species at that time. In 1975 the  
16 Wisconsin DNR listed the Gray Wolf as a state  
17 endangered species when wolves returned to the State  
18 after being extricated for 15 years.

19                   The Wisconsin DNR has conducted  
20 annual surveys of State wolf population every year  
21 since 1979. These surveys can provide scientifically  
22 sound information on wolf population status in the  
23 State continuously for the last 25 years. In 1989 the  
24 Wisconsin DNR approved the State recovery plan that  
25 set a goal for downlisting wolves to a threatened

1 status when the population exceeded 80. In 1999 the  
2 Wisconsin DNR approved the state wolf management plan  
3 that set a delisting goal of 250 wolves and a  
4 management goal of 350 wolves in the state outside of  
5 indian reservations. These State goals are higher  
6 than federal goals to provide assurance that wolves  
7 will not become endangered in Wisconsin again. Also  
8 in 1999 Wisconsin DNR downlisted wolves to threatened  
9 status when the population exceeded 80 animals. Since  
10 1983, the Wisconsin DNR has reimbursed all people  
11 requesting payments from verified wolf depredation.

12 Careful stewardship by Wisconsin DNR  
13 and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has allowed the  
14 wolf population in the State to go from approximately  
15 two wolves in 1975 to over 370 in 2004. We urge the  
16 US Fish & Wildlife Service to quickly complete  
17 delisting of wolves and return management to the  
18 States. Depredation on domestic animals is increasing  
19 in the State and a more flexible management system is  
20 needed. Numbers of farms suffering wolf depredation  
21 grew from eight in 2003, fourteen in 2003, to  
22 twenty-one so far in 2004. While federal downlisting  
23 to threatened status in 2003 has provided some relief  
24 for dealing with depredation, the problem has  
25 continued to grow and a more flexible management

1 system is necessary to prevent establishment of wolves  
2 in unsuitable areas.

3                   Human tolerance of wolves is  
4 declining in portions of the State. More flexible  
5 management is necessary to allow States to maintain a  
6 wolf population at levels that are acceptable by the  
7 public, and at the same time sufficient to maintain  
8 self-sustaining population. The Wisconsin DNR  
9 strongly supports the delisting of the gray wolf from  
10 the federal endangered and threatened species list.

11                   From a scientific perspective, the DNR  
12 believes the wolf population in Wisconsin is  
13 recovered. We have reached both federal goals for  
14 delisting as well as State goals for delisting. The  
15 State of Wisconsin is committed to long-term  
16 conservation of wolf population in the State. We are  
17 committed to preventing wolves from ever again  
18 becoming endangered in the State. Wisconsin DNR will  
19 work closely with it's many partners to make sure  
20 wolves never return to our list of endangered and  
21 threatened species.

22                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Adrian.  
23 Would the person with card number seven please come  
24 forward?

25                   MR. DAN ALLEN: Dan Allen, A-l-l-e-n,

1 Clam Lake. I live north of Clam Lake in the national  
2 forest, and I am only speaking for myself. I am not  
3 representing any organization, although I have got a  
4 lot of friends who use the national forest to hunt,  
5 but I don't do a lot of hunting myself; don't do much  
6 fishing, but I live in the national forest and I got a  
7 huge amount of friends in the Clam Lake area and I am  
8 glad to hear that Adrian and the State is saying that  
9 they're looking forward to taking over if there is a  
10 delisting because my opinion is that we should have  
11 been having this meeting a year ago; that we're that  
12 far behind the ball. That's my opinion; I feel  
13 strongly about that because of what I have seen. I  
14 honestly think, and you can look at me and call me  
15 crazy if you want, but I would not be surprised if  
16 there's a human casualty because of the wolf in the  
17 State of Wisconsin before something is done about it.  
18 There's -- we all -- we don't all know, but it's a  
19 fact that there's a pack of 12 wolves south on GG on  
20 the east side of the road. No hunter will go in there  
21 any more because the wolves are chasing dogs, they're  
22 catching them, they're killing them, they're eating  
23 them. They're doing what comes natural. I like the  
24 wolf, but they're doing what comes natural, and  
25 they're attacking the dogs, and killing them, and

1 they're eating them.

2 My biggest fear is some tourist,  
3 someone that comes in from the outside; that doesn't  
4 know this, is out there bowhunting, kills a deer,  
5 waits till dark to go down, stick a knife in it, open  
6 it up, and then we're going to see who's the game and  
7 who's the hunter. And I want to go on record as  
8 saying that. Thank you.

9 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Mr. Allen, thank  
10 you. Would the person with card number eight come  
11 forward?

12 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I will pass.

13 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Person with card  
14 number nine?

15 MR. MARK HOFFMAN: I am Mark Hoffman;  
16 I represent the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. I am a  
17 resident of Wisconsin. The Federation is the largest  
18 conservation organization in the State of Wisconsin  
19 and it's made up of 89 hunting, fishing, and trapping  
20 organizations throughout the State. The Wisconsin  
21 Wildlife Federation has been working for over 20 years  
22 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin  
23 Department of Natural Resources, and other  
24 conservation organizations in the State to insure the  
25 protection and proper management of the gray wolf in

1 the State of Wisconsin. Based on the information  
2 available to our members and the general public, we  
3 strongly support the proposed U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
4 delisting of the gray wolf from the Federal endangered  
5 and threatened species list.

6                   It's time to recognize the success of  
7 the Federal and State Endangered Species Laws and the  
8 efforts of the public agencies and private citizens to  
9 assure the long-term continued survival of the gray  
10 wolf in the Eastern United States. These efforts show  
11 the true principles of conservation in this State and  
12 the country. As true conservationists, hunters,  
13 anglers, and trappers were not satisfied with the  
14 depleted population of many species and their habitat  
15 that were found throughout the United States in the  
16 last century and have been active supporters in  
17 species restoration efforts, the gray wolf being just  
18 one such species.

19                   However, it's now time to recognize  
20 that the restoration goals of the gray wolf have been  
21 exceeded and that it is time to remove the now overly  
22 protective requirements of the Federal Endangered  
23 Species Act in order that the species can be  
24 professionally managed as other species are within the  
25 State of Wisconsin.

1                           The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2 acknowledges that an overly conservative population  
3 estimate of 373 to 410 wolves exist in the State, well  
4 over the number 250, at which the species would be  
5 considered threatened in the State. Also the combined  
6 population of the wolves in Michigan and Wisconsin  
7 exceeds 750 animals, well beyond the U.S. Fish and  
8 Wildlife Service recovery plan population criteria of  
9 200 wolves.

10                           Because of these high population  
11 levels and the overly protective requirements of the  
12 Federal Endangered Species Act, management problems  
13 involving the gray wolf are occurring including the  
14 depredation of domestic livestock and hunting dogs.  
15 The delisting of the gray wolf will allow the  
16 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to  
17 professionally manage this species consistent with  
18 sound wildlife management and conservation principals.  
19 A strong wolf management plan has been developed in  
20 the State with the input of a wide-range of interested  
21 citizens and groups. It is now time to put that plan  
22 fully into action.

23                           The Federation would strongly  
24 encourage the Fish and Wildlife Service to accomplish  
25 the delisting as quickly as possible in order that the

1 problems currently caused by the size of the gray wolf  
2 population in the State can be properly and  
3 professionally managed. Please do not take the full  
4 year that you have to make the final decision.

5                   Lastly, the Wisconsin Wildlife  
6 Federation urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to  
7 return to the agencies year 2000 proposal which  
8 separated out the Western Great Lakes and the  
9 Northeast Distinct Population Segments of wolves. We  
10 do not want to see the Western Great Lakes delisting  
11 of the gray wolf get caught up and delayed by the  
12 likely litigation relative to the Northeast wolf  
13 population. Thank you very much.

14                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Person  
15 with card number nine -- I mean number 10, please come  
16 forward?

17                   MR. ERIC KOENS: Eric Koens,  
18 K-O-E-N-S. My name is Eric Koens; I am here tonight  
19 representing the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association.  
20 The Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association wishes to go on  
21 record that we support the US Fish & Wildlife  
22 Service's proposal to delist the wolf. The population  
23 criteria for Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin has  
24 been met several years ago. The three states,  
25 Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan all have approved

1 wolf management plans. Once wolves are federally  
2 delisted that management will be taken over by the  
3 States and we hopefully hope that Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service will expedite the delisting process. Thank  
5 you very much.

6 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Koens. Person with card number 11?

8 MR. ROGER ANDERSON: Roger Anderson;  
9 I'm with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as well as  
10 the Brule River Sportsman Club and also with the U.S.  
11 Fish and Game as a volunteer. A lot of things -- I am  
12 a resident of Wisconsin, and a lot of things have been  
13 discussed here this evening already, and the thing is,  
14 that I am quite leary about a couple things, really,  
15 is that looking at the numbers in between Wisconsin  
16 and Minnesota -- or Michigan, we're running pretty  
17 much neck and neck as far as populations go, and just  
18 hearing the other concerns of the gentleman from Clam  
19 Lake and other areas, that I feel maybe possibly a  
20 zoning management would be in effect for the State of  
21 Wisconsin, where they could zone different areas.

22 I'm also leary about the State taking  
23 over the management of the wolf program due to the  
24 fact is, the amount of cuts that are happening within  
25 the State; due to the fact is that we're losing more

1 and more law enforcement, and do to the fact is that  
2 the State does not have the personnel that can manage  
3 this program.

4                   The other thing I think that we have  
5 to look at too is we're losing habitat daily with an  
6 awful lot of the clear-cuttings that we're doing in  
7 the State within the State forests, and we're losing  
8 valuable habitat and this is going to continue, there  
9 is no doubt about it. So we are forcing the wolves to  
10 seek different areas in refuge throughout their given  
11 community. So I really -- at this point, I am not in  
12 favor of delisting the wolf, the gray wolf. The thing  
13 is, I'm for zones, different zones throughout the  
14 area. I'm within the Brule River State Forest and  
15 this year I have not seen a wolf. And other gentlemen  
16 are talking about the numbers, but there again, I  
17 would definitely like to see a zoning not to -- after  
18 all, we're in their habitat. They were here well  
19 before we were. And the thing is, that we really  
20 don't have the right to manage a resource, and it  
21 seems like when we do manage a resource, especially in  
22 our forestry practices today, it's more of a disaster  
23 than anything else. And so the thing is, I wish  
24 people would really take a very close look at the  
25 delisting of the gray wolf, and like I say, with the

1 development and us encroaching in on their territory,  
2 there again, I think we have to come to a balance  
3 somewhere along the line. But I am not in favor of  
4 the State taking over management on this. Thank you  
5 very much and appreciate the time that we could have  
6 with you this evening. Thank you.

7 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Anderson. Person with card number 12? Card number 12  
9 is not here. How about number 13?

10 MR. ROB STAFSHOLT: I am going to try  
11 without a microphone. If I am not loud enough, let me  
12 know. My name is Rob Stafsholt, S-T-A-F-S-H-O-L-T; I  
13 am a resident of Wisconsin. I live down in New  
14 Richmond, which is just east of the Twin Cities,  
15 Minnesota. The place I call home is Clam Lake. I am  
16 a bear hunter. I am not, by any means, representing  
17 Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association tonight. I am a  
18 past board member, but no longer hold a position  
19 there. I am also one of the -- or was an owner of two  
20 dogs that were depredated by wolves on August 20th. I  
21 have some things to show some of you tonight. I got a  
22 whole big speech here; took me all day to write that.  
23 It's pretty good too, but thinking about it while I  
24 have been standing here listening to some of the  
25 comments, especially in the back of the room, it

1 really ain't worth it.

2                   I would like to talk a little bit  
3 more about reality today. Reality is something I  
4 think gets lost from time to time. I happen to agree  
5 with some of the folks up here that they're concerned  
6 with the Eastern timber wolves. If there is none  
7 there, how can you delist them? That makes sense to  
8 me. I am also deep at heart; I would not want timber  
9 wolves in the State of Wisconsin. Reality tells me  
10 that that's never going to happen again; that we need  
11 to learn to compromise with timber wolves.

12                   The other thing reality tells me is  
13 that the current position of the U.S. Department of  
14 Agriculture Wildlife Services, is that they cannot do  
15 any control of timber wolves that depredated our pet.  
16 We do get reimbursed; that's the process. I have not  
17 been reimbursed yet. I understand that is supposed to  
18 be coming. I really don't give a damn. You can keep  
19 all the money I got. I will give it to the farmers  
20 that are trying to make a living raising cattle. I am  
21 a farmer myself down home. I raise crop. I also work  
22 in town to help support my 1100 acre cash crop hobby  
23 farm.

24                   I would like to show you some  
25 pictures and a couple other things. People say bear

1 hunters are often a big bunch of people. Here's a  
2 little boy and a little girl. This is a family sport;  
3 it's a family occasion; kids are a part of this. I  
4 see things that make me smile that I don't see in  
5 other places when I am bear hunting as far as children  
6 go. And I know some of the people in the back,  
7 especially the gal in the blue, I heard her comment  
8 that most of us are stupid. I don't go along with  
9 that at all. This is the reality that I walked into  
10 with a child. How do I explain that? My problem is  
11 not that this happened. My problem is that until the  
12 wolves get delisted, we can't do anything about this.  
13 They can live trap wolves, euthanize wolves that  
14 depredate our livestock, but they can't do it to  
15 wolves that depredate our pets. This is the best  
16 hound I ever owned. The lady in Subway asked me how  
17 much that dog is worth? It's over \$10,000. That dog  
18 is irreplaceable. She also asked me why would you use  
19 that expensive of a dog to chase a bear with? Like I  
20 said, I spend more money on bear hunting than I ever  
21 thought about making. I am not in it for the money.  
22 Quality comes with the price. That's the best dog I  
23 have ever owned.

24                                   This dog, this was Sunday. That  
25 happened Sunday, north of Clam Lake and to the east.

1 That's Jeff Crom's dog, probably one of the best hound  
2 dogs I've ever seen in 20 years of doing this. That's  
3 another dog, August 20th, same pack killed this dog,  
4 same day, relatively short time.

5                   Again, I have a lot of questions and  
6 issues about this. My time -- it doesn't matter to me  
7 that this happened -- well, it obviously does, it  
8 matters a lot, but my problem is, that until we delist  
9 the wolves and get the management back in the States  
10 hands, we cannot do anything to avoid this. State  
11 management would allow us to manage things so this  
12 would not happen.

13                   I also understand reality that a lot  
14 of you have never spent a lot of time in the woods. I  
15 spend a lot of time in the woods. I added it up on my  
16 way up here last year, from the first of December last  
17 year until this year I spent over 41 days in the  
18 woods.

19                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Mr. Stafsholt,  
20 it's been almost five minutes, are you about ready to  
21 wrap up?

22                   MR. ROB STAFSHOLT: About ready to  
23 wrap up, yeah. I got one more thing. The reality is,  
24 a lot of you people have never even seen, other than  
25 the pictures I just showed you, what a depredation

1 looks like.

2 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I don't  
3 think that's a very good idea.

4 MR. ROB STAFSHOLT: I think it's the  
5 perfect time. It's reality.

6 MS. DEBRA DRYER: Please, I am going  
7 to ask that if you want to see this you can take it  
8 outside and show it to people.

9 MR. ROB STAFSHOLT: Okay. I think  
10 everybody should. That's reality, folks. A lot of  
11 you don't ever get out of town. I know some people go  
12 hiking in public places; that's fine. This is reality  
13 to us. I got to explain that to my kid why that  
14 happens. Please delist the wolves.

15 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Would person with  
16 card number 14? Card number 14? Card number 15? No  
17 one have card number 15? How about card number 16?

18 MS. MARSHA MIHALEK: Marsha Mihalek,  
19 M-I-H-A-L-E-K. Hello, I am Marsha Mihalek; I am a  
20 cattle rancher with my husband Jay on Rolling Acres  
21 Ranch. We have been the victims of depredation  
22 numerous times and I am the woman who just spoke out  
23 and said don't, don't show the carcass. I am not sure  
24 what he had in there, but I don't think it's a good  
25 idea. I am totally in favor of the delisting process,

1    though at this point I am wondering if you should  
2    delink it with the Northeast to avoid the lawsuit that  
3    I am sure is going to come if we link it with the  
4    Northeast.  We need this delisting; we need it now.  
5    They are in the process of trapping wolves on my place  
6    at this moment.  I have got a cracked shoulder because  
7    of it.  But we're not going to go into that.  So I am  
8    urging the delisting as fast as possible.  Eight  
9    wolves were shot on my farm last August as probably  
10   everyone knows.  And I have had depredations that I  
11   have not been compensated for.  I have just sent in  
12   for those.  Because of a -- of the topography of our  
13   farm, it is hard to find everything that is killed.  
14   We are now going to go in with the USDA and do a  
15   scientific study on our farm and work with them by  
16   tagging -- radio tagging our calves instead of radio  
17   tagging the wolves.  So we're going to be tracking our  
18   -- you know, having daily progress reports done by  
19   graduate students.  My husband and I have just  
20   finished having a cat come into our place to make  
21   roads into the places that aren't accessible by foot  
22   -- or weren't accessible by ATV's to make it easier  
23   for us to track where our cattle were at all times.  
24   But our biggest concern is, get these things delisted.  
25   Put it back in our control.  I was able to hire a

1 hunter to shoot the coyotes that were bothering my  
2 cattle. Let me hire a hunter to take care of the  
3 wolves that are bothering me. Thank you.

4 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Person with card  
5 number 17, please?

6 MR. ROLLY FOX: Rolly Fox, F-O-X. I  
7 am Rolly Lee Fox; I am the Bayfield County Chairman of  
8 the Wisconsin Conservation (inaudible). I have been  
9 involved in this recovery program since way, way back.  
10 Most everything that I had in mind has been said  
11 already. I just want to emphasize, we shouldn't be  
12 talking about should we delist here, we should be  
13 talking about when. The sooner the better. I have  
14 talked with Adrian on a number of occasions and what  
15 is happening is what I feared. We're going to lose  
16 the support base we had for wolves if we don't manage  
17 them. We can't manage them until the State of  
18 Wisconsin has the authority. So I am pleading with  
19 you people, speed this up. It's been years. We've  
20 been told next year; maybe the year after. It's been  
21 one delay after another. One presidential election  
22 set it back; now we're going into another one, so this  
23 is how slow this process is. and I guess it's  
24 government bureacracy, but the bottom line is, this  
25 has to be addressed; if it doesn't, it's going to get

1 worse. It's going to get much more nasty than it is  
2 right now. Thank you.

3 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Person with card  
4 number 18, please? Pass? Okay. How about card  
5 number 19?

6 MR. RICK JOMARRON: I am Rick  
7 Jomarron, J-O-M-A-R-R-O-N; I'm with Habitat Education  
8 Center and I would like to thank Janet, Ron, and Laura  
9 for their presentation and their patience spending a  
10 good extra long workday here, and I also want to thank  
11 everybody here because I think public input is what  
12 makes public resource management public. I also  
13 personally feel for everyones losses here. My family  
14 owned a ranch in Cuba for over five generations and  
15 Fidel Castro came along and took it away without a  
16 penny of compensation. We raised cattle on this land  
17 and I saw what that loss did to my parents and my  
18 grandparents, it was hard to watch growing up, so I  
19 feel for them. At the same time, I think we need to  
20 look at things in perspective. I mean this is a  
21 system of recovery; it's not perfect; it doesn't work  
22 for everybody. The automobile is the same thing.  
23 Forty-three thousand people a year are killed by  
24 automobiles. We're not talking about eliminating  
25 cars; we're not talking about eliminating wolves, but

1 it's a system that evolves and hopefully we get better  
2 and better with that.

3                   Habitat Education Centers position at  
4 this point is that delisting is premature. We feel  
5 that compensation needs to be strengthened, that the  
6 "D" rules for lethal management need to be more  
7 flexible to deal with nuisance animals that are  
8 causing these problems. At the same time, the wolf  
9 population has only recently reached the population of  
10 where it's at here in Wisconsin. In 1993, just 10  
11 years, 11 years ago it was much lower. We feel that  
12 we don't know enough about disease effects on wolves,  
13 whether or not West Nile Virus is going to effect the  
14 wolf population.

15                   Habitat is another issue; a gentleman  
16 here earlier brought that up. The roadless areas of  
17 our National Forests which have the most consistent  
18 wolf activity which is where these dogs were killed, I  
19 was just out there recently myself, those might become  
20 roadless as the roadless conservation rule may get  
21 repealed. Also roadless areas not covered in the  
22 rule, are there plans to road those areas creating  
23 more human and wolf conflict? So there is that  
24 habitat issue that needs to be looked at. The other  
25 question is, what happens if gray wolves do appear in

1 the northeast? What are we going to do about that if  
2 we delist them across the board?

3                   So again, we feel that the  
4 compensation should be strengthened for losses to  
5 landowners; the four "D" rules should be more flexible  
6 for lethal management of nuisance animals, but at the  
7 same time, this population has just come back and that  
8 they should remain listed for another five to ten more  
9 years.

10                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Please, again, I  
11 am going to ask you not to comment on other peoples  
12 comments.

13                   MR. RICK JOMARRON: And with that,  
14 again, I feel for your losses and I hope the system  
15 can work for everybody and the wolves. Thank you.

16                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Before  
17 I go on to number 20, I hope that you respect and  
18 understand the need for being respectful of one  
19 anothers comments. Just like you expect us to  
20 consider every ones comments, we want you to do the  
21 same. And the reason for this is that I want people  
22 to feel comfortable coming forward no matter what  
23 their view is, so thank you very much for doing that.  
24 Person with card number 20 please?

25                   MR. NICK DOBRIK: Nick Dobric,

1 D-O-B-R-I-C. I would like to address the issue of the  
2 two DPS's, if they're called. Maybe I would have been  
3 in support of it in 2000, but this is not the right  
4 way to do it. We have wolves here; they do not in the  
5 northeast. If we delist now, no one is going to --  
6 there is going to be no money for the program here and  
7 there is going to be no money for the program in the  
8 New England states. So maybe in 2000 it was a good  
9 idea, but that plan, I would like them to relook at  
10 that because I don't think -- I don't know why it's  
11 got to be like that, but I don't think it's a good  
12 idea. And like I said, I think if they do delist,  
13 that there still should be federal money here.  
14 Someone addressed the point earlier that how are we  
15 going to manage and watch the population with no  
16 money, and that's a big issue. I think that's it, but  
17 for the Federal thing, I just want to say that I think  
18 wolves are good to everyone here and that wolves are  
19 good, they have a place in our north woods because  
20 just looking at like Chronic Waste Disease, the wolves  
21 will pray on the sick ones and most hunters, you know,  
22 we don't want to play on the sick ones, we want to get  
23 the trophy deer and by having the wolves, that will  
24 keep the deer population healthy. It's not really a  
25 Federal point, but I just want to address that for the

1 crowd. Thank you.

2 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Person  
3 with card number 22? Number 22? I'm sorry, did I  
4 miss 21? Twenty-one, sorry.

5 MR. CHARLES WHEELLOCK: My name is  
6 Charles F. Wheelock, W-H-E-E-L-O-C-K. I represent my  
7 wife and children, we're from the Wolf Clan. They  
8 sent me here to share some things with you. I am from  
9 the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. And I forgot my notes  
10 over here. One of the points they wanted to share was  
11 that they're glad that this went from endangered back  
12 to -- not going to extinct, but going the other way,  
13 the delisting. It's a sign of understanding that we  
14 -- that they feel is very important. That we all  
15 really, really understand that there is a whole  
16 relationship and that it's important that you  
17 understand where the wolf fits into that.

18 As the gentleman mentioned the loss  
19 he has for his animals, there is also a loss if you  
20 have a whole species go extinct. We need to pay  
21 attention to that. They also mention that it's very  
22 important in the analysis that you get behind the  
23 science. I think one of the points in the analysis  
24 was that there was going to be science, and facts,  
25 information, but it's also important to look at the

1 other part of that and that's something else that you  
2 can't explain sometimes that happens in an analysis  
3 and that is fate. I mean about some things. It also  
4 could be seen as being a little more comprehensive in  
5 the value of things. The gentleman mentioned with his  
6 loss and those farmers as well that there is a loss of  
7 that animal not being there. And those that have a  
8 pet, they said there is a loss when you lose a pet.  
9 It's hard to explain, but it should be factored into  
10 that feeling in the analysis somehow.

11                   They also mention one other point  
12 that I was to share with you about, there is a circle  
13 -- there is an understanding of how parts fit  
14 together, and sometimes we don't get it, and we need  
15 to get it. The last point they wanted to share was  
16 that human beings aren't exempt from that listing.  
17 You need to be very careful on what we do; how we  
18 relate to each other; and also how we relate to the  
19 animals. And I hope I did them well. Thank you.

20                   MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Now  
21 the person with card 22? How about card 23?

22                   MR. GUS SMITH: My name is Gus Smith  
23 G-U-S, S-M-I-T-H, and I'm here to represent the  
24 Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. On behalf  
25 of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society, I

1 present these comments on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
2 Service proposal to begin the Federal process of  
3 delisting or removing from the Federal endangered and  
4 threatened species list Gray Wolves in the Eastern  
5 Distinct Population Segment. The Wisconsin Chapter of  
6 the Wildlife Society is a state organization comprised  
7 of professional wildlife biologists, researchers, and  
8 educators. The Wisconsin Chapter strongly supports  
9 the federal delisting process beginning with the gray  
10 wolves in the Great Lakes State of Minnesota,  
11 Wisconsin, and Michigan.

12                   Since the gray wolf was first listed  
13 under the Endangered Species Act of 1974, recovery  
14 programs have helped population to recover. 2003 the  
15 Service designated three gray wolf distinct population  
16 segments in the lower 48 states. The eastern, the  
17 western, and the southwestern. Wolves in the eastern  
18 and western DPS's were reclassified from endangered to  
19 threatened, while those in the southwest remained  
20 endangered. The Service operates three separate  
21 recovery programs for the gray wolf, each with its own  
22 recovery plans and goals based on the unique  
23 characteristics and limitations of geographic area.

24                   The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife  
25 Society supports the proposal to delist wolves in the

1 Great Lakes States of Michigan, Minnesota, and  
2 Wisconsin as gray wolves have met the Federal  
3 delisting criteria and the current scientific evidence  
4 shows the gray wolf population in the Great Lakes are  
5 no longer endangered or threatened. Wolf conservation  
6 management plans in the Great Lakes state will ensure  
7 our robust population to the future.

8                                 However, the Wisconsin Chapter of the  
9 Wildlife Society does not support delisting of the  
10 gray wolf throughout the eastern DPS. In the 2000  
11 federal wolf reclassification effort, the initial  
12 federal proposal designated a Western Great Lakes  
13 distinct population segment which was restricted to  
14 the Great Lakes of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin  
15 and the surrounding states of North Dakota, South  
16 Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. When  
17 federal gray wolf reclassification was finalized in  
18 2003, these States were placed into an Eastern  
19 Distinct Population Segment which included a much  
20 broader in depth scale than the Eastern United States.

21                                 The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife  
22 Society recommends the Service return to designating  
23 gray wolves into two distinct populations, the Western  
24 Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment and the  
25 Eastern one. The WCTWS recommends the distinct

1 population separation for the following reasons:

2                   First, current federal delisting  
3 proposals place the Great Lakes with the Northeast  
4 states and assumes that these two geographic areas are  
5 connected in terms of wolf populations. This ignores  
6 the biological reality of wolf distribution, habitat,  
7 and other natural and human caused threats and  
8 inadequacy of non-existence, or non-existence of  
9 protective federal laws or regulations. There are  
10 vast areas of New England that may support wolves, but  
11 human population and development may render  
12 interchangeable populations between the Great Lakes  
13 and New England unlikely. It may be necessary to  
14 physically move gray wolves into the Northeastern  
15 states. Without federal support or protection, this  
16 is unlikely to occur.

17                   The current federal Eastern DPS  
18 delisting proposal, in effect, reduces the potential  
19 for federal role in gray wolf recovery in the  
20 Northeastern United States, and places that  
21 responsibility within the cooperative actions of the  
22 New England states.

23                   Number three, the service evaluated  
24 current and future threats to gray wolves in the  
25 Eastern DPS, and without this federal protection,

1 states and tribes are reasonable for their management.

2 Four, there are no gray wolf  
3 management plans in the Northeastern United States.  
4 And five, there are no monitoring plans for gray  
5 wolves in the New England states. This is a  
6 fundamental issue for the WCTWS. What has been  
7 accomplished in the Great Lakes states is very good  
8 and should be a model in the Northern New England  
9 states. This should be the responsibility of the  
10 Service; not the individual Northeastern states.

11 MS. PAMELA DRYER: It's been four  
12 minutes, are you about ready to wrap up?

13 MS. GUS SMITH: Yep. Lastly, we  
14 support -- lastly, we are concerned about the ability  
15 to monitor populations given the reduced federal  
16 support to states that will accompany this delisting  
17 effort. Ongoing population monitoring will enable  
18 states to detect downward population trends, and that  
19 needs to continue. Thank you for the opportunity to  
20 comment.

21 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Smith. Person that has card number 24?

23 MR. JERRY LARSON: My name is Jerry  
24 Larson and I am a Wisconsin resident -- L-A-R-S-O-N --  
25 and I represent me. I have heard some of these

1 comments here tonight and I am very much in favor of  
2 delisting. It just, to me, makes sense. I think it  
3 allows the farmer to shoot a wolf that's praying on  
4 his cattle without having any legal problem with it.  
5 I'm not so sure I feel a kind leave towards people who  
6 are running dogs through wolf country. I think that  
7 should be at their risk; not the publics.

8                               But anyways, with that being said, I  
9 have heard people worrying about the fact that this  
10 delisting here would effect all the states all the way  
11 to the Atlantic Ocean. I would like to point out  
12 that, suppose this thing is hitting us pretty good and  
13 all of a sudden wolves start showing up in New  
14 Hampshire. There is nothing to keep New Hampshire  
15 from doing what the Federal Government is doing now  
16 with their Endangered Species Act they could do that.  
17 So we're not shutting these people off from doing  
18 whatever they want to do.

19                               I have a friend of mine who owns 1000  
20 acres just west and south of Ino. Winter before last  
21 he had 36 deer kills by wolves on his land. Now,  
22 that's amazing. On just 1000 acres, 36 wolf kills.  
23 And this past winter he had none. They must have  
24 been, perhaps, yarding up in this area and the wolves  
25 were taking advantage of that fact.

1                               We have a tremendous deer herd. A  
2 deer herd that is so big that it's having an adverse  
3 effect on our forests. If you are a hemlock, or a  
4 cedar seedling who sprouted in the spring and has  
5 grown all summer and is in pretty good shape in the  
6 fall, I will guaranty you, the following spring you  
7 won't be there; the deer would have gotten you. They  
8 have a tough effect. I transplanted some pine  
9 seedlings in my yard from out there and the ends of  
10 these white pine seedlings were nipped off and I'll  
11 tell you something, deer don't nip those off unless  
12 they're starting to starve. That is not their  
13 favorite food. I realize that perhaps what we really  
14 need is a long tough winter to do something about that  
15 deer herd. It would do better than anything, but  
16 wolves help. I'm afraid I am a bit pro wolf. Go  
17 wolves.

18                               MS. PAMELA DRYER: Would the person  
19 with card number 25 please come forward?

20                               MR. FRED JANZ: Fred Janz, J-A-N-Z,  
21 resident of Wisconsin, Bayfield County. I think it's  
22 time to cut down on the number of wolves. First  
23 thing, I don't think their count is very accurate. If  
24 it's as accurate of the deer, it's way off, I will  
25 tell you that. Last week I was raking hay on a field

1 and a wolf came across. He didn't just run across the  
2 field, he stayed out there and watched me going back  
3 and forth across the field. If something happens to  
4 the tractor, would you get off that tractor and walk  
5 up to the buildings a quarter of a mile? Would you?  
6 Would you do that?

7 MR. RON SNYDER: This is a comment  
8 period.

9 MR. FRED JANZ: Okay.

10 MR. RON RESHSNYDER (ph): My answer  
11 is yes.

12 MR. FRED JANZ: Okay. I wouldn't.  
13 And I will tell you why... They habitat people before  
14 too, and I think it's time we got to carry a rifle on  
15 the tractor if we're going to see them on the hay  
16 field in the daytime. As far as shooting them at  
17 night when they're getting your cattle, who can stay  
18 awake every night watching the cattle. There is no  
19 farmer can do that. So it's time to delist them and  
20 get rid of some of them.

21 I have got friends that have cattle  
22 loss; I don't know if they got paid yet or not. The  
23 DNR, if the deer do damage on your crops, well, if we  
24 got money you'll get some; if we haven't, you won't.  
25 That's the way they operate. But a farmer's light

1 bill comes every month. They don't ask you if you got  
2 money. Pay it, or we'll pull the lights. But the  
3 DNR, they're successful with every program they got  
4 because there's pasture for deer on the farmer's  
5 fields; the wolves are running eating cattle or deer,  
6 successful program. I think it's time we start  
7 checking some of these programs they got. A lot of  
8 good jobs with the DNR. I think that's maybe where  
9 they want everybody to work. I don't think they want  
10 farmers right now. They're pushing them down; making  
11 it hard for them. And these people don't raise cattle  
12 to lose to the wolves. They want to sell them.  
13 That's their living. That's what they are interested  
14 in. Not feeding them to the wolves. I think it's  
15 time to cut down on the wolf numbers. Thank you.

16 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Would  
17 the person with card number 26 please come forward?  
18 Is there a card number 26? How about 27?

19 MS. SUE NEWHOUSER: I'm Sue Newhouser  
20 and I am representing the bear interest group  
21 otherwise known as BIG, B-I-G. And I think I'd like to  
22 start off by mentioning that this year I was in this  
23 very room; I was watching a presentation about the  
24 wolves of Isle Royale and they have had this balance  
25 going on between the moose and the wolves on Isle

1 Royale, and I think one year, I think it was 1998, the  
2 wolf must have contracted mange for the first time on  
3 Isle Royale and when they came back and counted the  
4 wolves, there were 30 of them at the beginning of that  
5 winter, and when they came back and counted them there  
6 were 10 at the end of the winter. So when I hear  
7 people freaking out because, you know, there is more  
8 than 200, or more than 300, or whatever, I think two  
9 things, first of all, when you look at a population, a  
10 virus that can go through a population and wipe out  
11 two-thirds of the population of that area, keep that  
12 in mind because that can happen at any time.

13                   And the second thing I think of is,  
14 you know, how many dogs do we have in this state? How  
15 many thousands of dogs do we have in this state, and  
16 how many more dogs do we want. One of the things I  
17 would like to mention is that we are, as a group we're  
18 very concerned about the current feeling in Madison  
19 with the legislature that we have currently elected  
20 there and we feel that there is a hostility going on  
21 toward wildlife in general in this state. People that  
22 live here often don't know how lucky they are. I have  
23 friends in Kansas, Oklahoma, Georgia, who wonder and  
24 marvel when they come up here to visit me, that I have  
25 fox running across my property. This is unbelievable

1 to them. Okay. This is precious. These animals are  
2 precious. They can be a nuisance, and I certainly  
3 don't support, you know, having animals around that  
4 are killing our livestock, or invading on our  
5 livelihood in any way, but I certainly support their  
6 right to exist in the small amount of habitat that we  
7 have allowed them left on this earth.

8                   This year to support our contention  
9 that we feel there is hostility in the legislature,  
10 several bills were passed that we feel were really bad  
11 for wildlife. One in particular is Assembly Bill 197  
12 and I have copies of it here. It passed very quietly.  
13 It was tacked on with a list of wetland restoration  
14 bills. This bill reads, "a hound dog training license  
15 authorizes the holder of the license to purchase,  
16 possess, and release into the wild and hunt any of the  
17 following wild animals for the purpose of teaching  
18 hound dogs to track game. Live captive fox, live  
19 captive coyote, live captive bobcat, live captive  
20 black bear of the species *Ursus Americanus*, may be  
21 released into the wild and used for training for any  
22 organized competitive field event or training that a  
23 sanctioned, licensed, or recognized by a local, state,  
24 regional, or national dog organization."

25                   So to train our dogs for capturing

1 our wildlife, we're using them as live bait. Okay.  
2 That's what's going on in the legislature. Some  
3 people are for this; other people are against it, but  
4 one of our problems is that not enough people know  
5 that these kind of bills are being passed in the  
6 current legislature to make an informed decision and  
7 to let our representatives know how we feel about it.  
8 Thank you.

9 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Person  
10 with card number 28?

11 MR. GEORGE KOVAL: George Koval,  
12 K-O-V-A-L. My name is George A. Koval; I am one  
13 person here to raise my hand as an elected official.  
14 I have been an elected official in the Town of  
15 Keystone for 28 years. A lot of these people here are  
16 my neighbors and I have been around long enough now to  
17 see the deer come so that you can see them any time of  
18 the day or night. We used to go out and hunt all day  
19 long and never see a deer; now I can go out in my  
20 field and count 150 any night of the week. We never  
21 used to see coyotes. I see one around once in awhile.  
22 There was a great bunch of coyotes and then the mange  
23 hit them and they disappeared. Red fox did the same  
24 thing. The rabbit did the same thing. Now we have  
25 got wolves. Never seen wolves cross the field in

1 front of me, like one guy commented just here a while  
2 back, crossed with him cutting hay. Now I have had  
3 three of them cross in front of me. They don't care  
4 that you are there. They'll challenge you, they don't  
5 care. No, I'm not going to get off. You want to get  
6 off and walk home a quarter mile with that wolf  
7 standing there, you go ahead. But I have gotten to  
8 where I carry a weapon with me. And when I go out and  
9 check fence lines, I carry a weapon with me. Never  
10 used to.

11 I have got 200 acres of pasture that  
12 I could have rented, but I couldn't. Why? Because I  
13 got three wolves right behind my barn. I don't have  
14 any cattle, any dairy cattle any more. But I do have  
15 some beef cattle and I was going to put them in this  
16 pasture behind the barn; I couldn't. I am not there  
17 to watch them all the time. I'm not going to lose  
18 these cattle. So I got to put them by my house where  
19 I can watch them. So I got 200 acres of pasture. I  
20 am on limited income. I don't have -- I don't have my  
21 dairy industry any more because I had knee surgery and  
22 I had to quit doing that, so this is what I relied on.  
23 It's what my neighbors rely on. But when I can't even  
24 utilize my pasture, or lease out my pasture any more  
25 because of the wolves, I think it's time for delisting

1 and I think it's time to cut the numbers.

2 I don't care what they're doing in  
3 Maine; I don't care what they're doing in Vermont; I  
4 don't care what they're doing in Illinois. Michigan  
5 passed laws and Wisconsin adopted them. Minnesota  
6 passed laws over the years and Wisconsin jumped on the  
7 boat. And now all of a sudden, you know, Wisconsin  
8 can't lead any more. We got to be the last ones to  
9 jump in. We don't need to do that. We have got a  
10 problem here now. I'm not saying you have to  
11 eliminate them all because I have seen wolves for a  
12 good number of years. It isn't new that I have seen  
13 wolves in the State of Wisconsin. I have seen them 20  
14 years ago they crossed our farm, but never to the  
15 point where cattle were lost.

16 As far as losing deer, deer on that  
17 corner of the field and the wolf was in that corner of  
18 the field, neither one went to chase the other one. I  
19 haven't seen any deer lost on my farm to wolves, but  
20 I've seen cattle lost to the next door neighbors. So  
21 I think it's time that we start delisting and do it  
22 now. Not next week; not next month; not next year,  
23 now. Thank you.

24 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Person  
25 with card number 29, please come forward? Card number

1 29. Card number 30? Card number 30? Okay. Person  
2 with card number 31? Person with card number 32?

3 MR. NANCY PECK: I will stand back  
4 here because I am somewhat vertically challenged,  
5 especially on something like that. My name is Nancy  
6 Peck and I am a resident of Ashland County, State of  
7 Wisconsin. I am also one of those four million  
8 members of the National Wildlife Association, but when  
9 I get that magazine and the center has all their  
10 propoganda about saving a lot of species, I rip that  
11 out, along with those little cards that fall out of  
12 all your magazines. I am listed as a member of it and  
13 unfortunately I get to get information on wildlife  
14 because I love wolves just as much as anything else.

15 We had several Northland College  
16 students working for us when we were milking cows and  
17 one day one of them said Mrs. Peck, you hate wolves,  
18 don't you? I said no, I don't hate wolves. I like  
19 wolves just as well and probably better than Sigurd  
20 Olson, but I am faced with making a living with the  
21 wolves and the wolves just are not compatible with  
22 farming and ranching. There has to be a way to  
23 control them. I saw the first -- my first timber wolf  
24 in 1974. We didn't have any problem with wolves until  
25 about 1994. It took that many years.

1                   We also had a problem with bears.  
2 Bears took over 30 calves on our farm one year in the  
3 spring when the calves are newborn. Well, they came  
4 out and trapped one bear and took it to Iron County.  
5 I suspect it was back the next day, but between my  
6 husband and hunters, a lot of bears disappeared that  
7 year. And you know, we still saw an occasional bear,  
8 but we didn't have -- they didn't pray on our cattle  
9 because there was enough room for the bears. The  
10 bears could find other food besides our cattle.

11                   It's time to delist and thank you. I  
12 think it's too late, or at least very late, but at  
13 least it looks like it will be done, and so record  
14 that first, that I am really in favor of the  
15 delisting.

16                   I read something in the paper just  
17 yesterday, I believe, and it's about a group of people  
18 living in a city in the eastern seaboard and their  
19 town has decided that they want to take, through  
20 eminent domain, their houses and small businesses,  
21 and, of course, tear them down, and they're going to  
22 build a better development so they can get more taxes.  
23 This is going to the Supreme Court now.

24                   This is how this connects with the  
25 wolf population: The farmers and ranchers here are

1 under eminent domain by the government because they  
2 have had their land taken for the wolf. They didn't  
3 agree to this, but private land, just as well as all  
4 the national forest we have is being taken in the form  
5 of eminent domain.

6                               Now, here's a simple example:  
7 Sometimes we get -- our average farmer around here  
8 that raises beef cattle; probably has 50 calves that  
9 they plan to sell in a year. Those calves, when they  
10 hit the ground and then are eaten by the wolf  
11 immediately are worth \$100. The only reason that cow  
12 stays on that farm, all she does is produce a calf a  
13 year. They don't raise that calf to be sold for \$100.  
14 They raise that calf to be sold for using in an  
15 approximate market, probably \$500 as a feeder in the  
16 fall. At \$100, say they're reimbursed \$100; that's  
17 \$5000. At 500 it's \$25,000. Not neat math here, but  
18 that farmer has just lost \$20,000. That \$20,000 is  
19 what a lot of families live on around here. It's the  
20 economics and it's getting paid. Like my husband said  
21 one time, if they want me to raise calves for the  
22 wolves and pay me \$500 a piece, I'll raise them all  
23 the calves they want; we can have all kinds of wolves.  
24 So it comes down to a way of life and the threatened  
25 species here are the farmers and ranchers of northern

1 Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

2                           It's not a happy thing to go out and  
3 see an animal torn apart by a wolf, but that's the way  
4 they kill, and I have stood as close as across this  
5 room watching wolves. I wasn't particularly afraid,  
6 but I know people who are sensible fellows who don't  
7 make up a story who have been in the woods and have  
8 had wolves circling and they were scared. And they  
9 aren't the guys to be scared of anything. So I would  
10 just like to say thank you, and a couple people here,  
11 I thank you for mentioning getting some more prompt  
12 payment and more equitable payment for the depredation  
13 of these wolves. And thank you for having this  
14 hearing.

15                           MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Person  
16 who has card number 33, please come forward? Is card  
17 33 here? How about the person with card 34? Card 34?  
18 Person with card 35?

19                           MR. JOHN SMITH: Hello, ladies and  
20 gentlemen. I don't know if you can hear me very good,  
21 but I will try and get this over. First of all, I'm  
22 from the great state of Michigan. At least I thought  
23 it was a great state until the DNR --

24                           MS. PAMELA DRYER: Please say your  
25 name.

1                                   MR. JOHN SMITH: Oh, I'm John Smith,  
2 John H. Smith, from Michigan. I thought it was a  
3 great state until they brought their wolf packs in and  
4 I am not so sure any more because they won't reimburse  
5 me for nothing. In the first place, I was assured by  
6 the DNR over here that I could get this over with.  
7 And this is a poem that I wrote for my grandson -- or  
8 for all my grandkids because my dog was raised with  
9 these kids and my oldest grandson is home right now.  
10 He was running my video camera, which I have a tape  
11 right here of a wolf under my house killing my dog  
12 that was raised by these kids. And this is very hard  
13 for me. I made this poem; I hope you people will  
14 listen to it.

15                                   It says: It has been eight weeks now  
16 -- it's actually nine now because another week went by  
17 -- since they took old Chewy away. I haven't heard a  
18 word from the DNR since that fatal day. My grandson's  
19 head just bows down in tears every time he hears her  
20 name. I tell you folks what the DNR brought into  
21 Michigan is an awful shame. What are we going to do  
22 my friend, I'll ask you over and over. Are we going  
23 to stand around till the wolf tear down our doors?  
24 Three little pigs once said to the wolf, oh, no, you  
25 can't come in, but the wolf said, I'll huff and puff

1 till the DNR makes you let me in. (Inaudible) I'll  
2 holler all day long until our government and our state  
3 sings a different song.

4                   Now, I have got some write ups here  
5 that I put into the Ironwood Daily Globe. They run  
6 some of these. This is some that I was going to put  
7 in there and it says, To The Editor, August 28th, '04:  
8 I read the article "Wolves Under Attack" by your  
9 newspaper. The paper that only prints the news.

10 (Inaudible) it says "attack wolves", but on the same  
11 page on page 12 you carry the story of the seventh  
12 bear dog to be killed in Wisconsin and those officials  
13 are asking the bear hunters to train their dogs in the  
14 backyard or field because the wolf packs are on the  
15 move and will kill their dogs. So why does the bear  
16 hunter want to buy a license to have his dog killed by  
17 a wolf that should not be there in the first place.

18                   The state tells the hunter, well, the  
19 hunter, the dog stay -- take your dogs and stay out of  
20 the woods because the killer packs will kill your  
21 dogs. So that's all they -- so is that all the wolves  
22 kill?

23                   This was a day after my wife -- the  
24 same day as my wife went to get my daughter out of her  
25 house after they killed my pet dog. And it says,

1 "Silence was broken again by the earie sound of the  
2 wolf pack on the run among the calves and cows in John  
3 Koski's field". My wife can hear them as she stepped  
4 out of the door of our house. She had to wake up my  
5 daughter for work as a nurse in the Ontonagon  
6 Hospital. My wife Sandra was awful scared and I had  
7 to tell her that they would not come up this far in  
8 that little time it took her to run over to my  
9 daughter's house.

10                               The pack has been quiet for about a  
11 week. The last -- but last night after a hard rain it  
12 let up around 11:30 p.m. and the moon came out bright  
13 through the broken white clouds and the pack was on  
14 the move again. I do not know what they were hunting,  
15 cows, calves, deer, or something else, but there is  
16 nothing as earie sounding as a wolf pack before and  
17 after a kill. It can chill you right to your toes.

18                               It is very dark and (inaudible), and  
19 after having your pet killed by a wolf, it makes you  
20 wonder, can I make it, and why did the state bring  
21 these killers in? Do not blame the wolf. It is their  
22 way of life. It has been since time began. Blame the  
23 government for bringing them in the state.

24                               My grandson had to walk quite a ways  
25 to the school bus and they're scared everyday after

1 the wolves start howling. You can't blame them. It  
2 is dark out at that time of the morning. And it does  
3 no good to tell them the -- it does no good to take  
4 them off the list when they can keep right on  
5 breeding. They must be shot or removed from the  
6 state.

7 I have given this matter a lot of  
8 thought since my dog was killed and part of her was  
9 eaten by a wolf under my house. Let me tell you,  
10 people, that no one can blame the wolf. It is their  
11 way of life; has been for thousands of years. No, it  
12 is not his fault. It is the sole responsibility of  
13 the people that brought him back into the state, our  
14 state and yours. These people, when it happens,  
15 should be charged with murder, because it is only a  
16 matter of time before some child, or person is killed  
17 by a wolf. If our dog kills someone, we would be  
18 charged. The wolf was fine where it came from. It  
19 was their way of life. They are no good in our world  
20 of people and domesticated livestock and house pets.  
21 The DNR will not pay one cent for their mistake in  
22 bringing them in to run and kill at their leisure.

23 Now, I ask you, what is the plan now  
24 of the DNR? What are they going to do with these  
25 wolves they brought in to Michigan and other states?

1 Put a bounty on them? Or a special season for the man  
2 with money to buy a license? Because it will be a  
3 huge sum and a big thrill to kill one. There is no  
4 way the DNR can live trap all the wolves they got.  
5 The only way is to put an open season on them with a  
6 bounty to be paid by the people that brought them in  
7 to the state; not the taxpayer's money.

8 Now, the State of Wisconsin will pay  
9 so much for a hunter's bear dog if it's killed by a  
10 wolf. Where does the state get off paying for a bear  
11 dog with taxpayer's money when most of the taxpayers  
12 don't hunt or have bear dogs. I believe the people  
13 that brought these wolves into the state, the DNR,  
14 should be made to pay for these dogs out of their own  
15 pocket. People of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin,  
16 what these idiots brought into us is a dirty and  
17 tragic shame. Thank you for this time. John Smith.

18 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Smith. Person with card number 36? Is there anyone  
20 with card 36?

21 MR. DAVID WITHERS: Name is David  
22 Withers, W-i-t-h-e-r-s. I live in the State of  
23 Wisconsin. Representing myself and some three  
24 thousand members of the Wisconsin Bear Hunters  
25 Association and my position as board member and

1 Chairman of the WBHA Wolf Committee.

2                               This is a federal hearing about  
3 federal delisting. Many of the issues, and concerns,  
4 and complaints, and pleas, and cries tonight we're  
5 going to have to work out with the state, with the  
6 State DNR; not with the Feds. As far as you folks are  
7 concerned, our message; our request; our please are  
8 pretty simple. Delist. Do it as quickly as possible.  
9 It's long overdue. You know that; we know that. The  
10 numbers have been far exceeded for far too long. The  
11 depredation on livestock, and hunting dogs, and other  
12 pets, and horses and what have you has been far too  
13 much for far too long. It is high time to change from  
14 recovery by protection, to management by harvest.  
15 Several people tonight have mentioned a concern about  
16 how you're going to manage if you don't have the  
17 money. Well, I think I have an answer for that.  
18 There are a lot -- at least in the State of Wisconsin,  
19 there are a lot of qualified people ready and willing  
20 and I believe able to hunt and trap the wolves to cut  
21 the numbers down which will also cut down the  
22 depredations; will cut down the need for money to pay  
23 for depredation, and they're willing to do it without  
24 charge. In fact they're willing to pay for the  
25 privilege. So you don't need money to manage wolves,

1 you just need the program.

2 I grew up on a farm; my heart goes  
3 out and sympathize fully with all the livestock  
4 people here who have lost livestock. I haven't  
5 personally lost a bear dog, but many of my friends  
6 have, and more than one. Saw pictures of them  
7 tonight. Those animals -- I don't understand people  
8 not thinking that our bear dogs are valuable property  
9 worth money same as the farmer's cattle, although I  
10 fully appreciate the farmer's problems. We need to  
11 work with the state and we are ready, and willing, and  
12 anxious to -- our organization to partner up with  
13 other organizations to work with the state to continue  
14 a program that will maintain enough wolves to satisfy  
15 your published requirements. Watch us if you must,  
16 five years or whatever, just please delist and don't  
17 get too much in our way. Thank you.

18 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Card  
19 number 37? Is there a card 37? Anyone with card 37?  
20 And I believe that was the last card taken; so that's  
21 the last registered card, but is there anyone else  
22 that would like to speak? Please come forward and  
23 identify yourself.

24 MR. BILL LAVASSEUR: Bill Lavasseur,  
25 L-a-v-a-s-s-e-u-r. I guess my main thing is, I see

1 what you are doing; you're involving the east with the  
2 central, and if that's some way of saying well, we  
3 don't have none out there, so let's put some up there,  
4 just to screw us up. Just like anything else being  
5 voted in, we got four good points and we throw a  
6 shitty point in so we vote it completely out. So I  
7 would like to see it split, the East Coast be on their  
8 own again like it probably should have been, but if  
9 that's going to throw more red tape in the ballgame  
10 and deny it a few more years, well, then it ain't  
11 worth it, but they have no business being in with us  
12 and I guess that's really all I have to say.

13 MS. PAMELA DRYER: Thank you. Anyone  
14 else that would like to speak? All right. I want to  
15 thank you very much for your time for coming tonight.  
16 I will officially close the hearing and again, people  
17 with the Fish and Wildlife Service will remain after  
18 to continue to answer questions up till -- well, for  
19 the next 15 minutes. Thank you very much.

20 (Whereupon the hearing adjourned at  
21 9:35 p.m.)  
22  
23  
24  
25



