

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PROPOSAL TO DELIST THE GRAY WOLF
EASTERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT

Date: August 31, 2004
Time: 7:43 p.m.
Place: Bemidji State University
Beaux Arts Ballroom - Hobson Memorial Union
Bemidji, Minnesota
Reporter: Nancy M. Utke, Notary Public
Registered Professional Reporter

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 MR. CHUCK TRAXLER, Hearing Officer.

4

5 MR. DAN STINNET, Twin Cities Field
6 Office Supervisor.

7

8 MR. RON REFSNIDER, Listing Coordinator in
9 the Twin Cities Regional Office.

10

11 *****

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

	WITNESSES	Page No.
1		
2		
3	Arnie Peterson.....	4
4	Reg Emmert.....	6
5	Dale Lueck.....	10
6	Bernie Uran.....	13
7	Harlan Lussier.....	18
8	Barbara Ahlberg.....	18
9	Jim Ojanen.....	20
10	Michael Swan.....	23
11	Anton Treuer/Strong Thunderbird.....	27
12	Sarah Hayden.....	29
13	Tom Goldtooth.....	30
14	Rodney Benson.....	35
15	Lisa Robinson.....	36
16	Timothy Houger.....	37
17	Brian Daby.....	38
18	John Underecht.....	39
19	Andreas Dordrun.....	40
20	Robert Chastain.....	41
21	Robert Shimek.....	44
22	Larry Johnson.....	49
23	Deanne Fox.....	51
24	Anton Treuer.....	55

25

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings
2 were duly had: --

3
4 (At this time an opening statement was
5 given by the Hearing Officer, Chuck Traxler, and
6 then the proceedings continued as follows.)

7 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'll begin with
8 Number 1. I would ask that Speaker Number 1 come
9 to one of the microphones, state your full name,
10 spell both your first and your last name and your
11 state of residence.

12 MR. ARNIE PETERSON: Okay. I'm Arnie
13 Peterson. I live by Dora Lake. I represent the
14 Minnesota Trapper Association and I'm one of the
15 District 1 co-directors, and we come up -- the
16 Minnesota Trapper Association comes up definitely
17 for the delisting of the wolves, and we feel that
18 we could be a great part of the tools to help
19 monitor and control the population of the animal,
20 and we feel -- probably some people feel that as
21 trappers maybe you got a wrong image of us. We
22 just want to go out and kill all the animals, but
23 we're very concerned about a very controlled
24 delisting and harvest of the animals.

25 We actually like the wolves, too, and

1 right now probably a lot of wolves are being
2 harvested as nuisance animals because they want
3 their -- there really ain't got no fear of humans
4 and they are coming right into farmers' pastures,
5 into the yards, killing the animals that are
6 livestock and these farmers can't afford to lose
7 one animal, let alone ten, 12 or more with the
8 prices these days.

9 And these animals got really no fear,
10 but we feel that it is monitoring, trapping, or
11 whatever that it will solve fear of these animals
12 and this person more into the wild, and we figure
13 if we just -- right now when we are just trapping
14 them around the farms, it ain't really installing
15 that fear because it's just a certain group, but
16 if it's a widespread harvest then it probably will
17 disburse them, and we've worked a lot with the DNR
18 for the last 25, 30 years, the trappers, on four
19 different species of animals, the otter, the pine
20 marten, and the bobcats, and they've -- we've
21 proven that -- I didn't think it would work.

22 When we first started turning in
23 carcasses and tagging and all this stuff, well, I
24 thought, well, it won't work, but it has even when
25 I'm kind of old and stubborn but and this has

1 really worked and I think we can work with the DNR
2 and really help in control.

3 And there's probably going to have to be
4 some new methods to trap. A lot of the old
5 trappers are over the hill and we'll probably have
6 to have plenty of staff and this can be done I'm
7 sure, but I feel that by closely monitoring of
8 this harvest we can be like -- like say hunting
9 deer. You know, if you -- your old grandpa's deer
10 head and your old grandpa's wolf and his son and
11 his son and it can be done for years and years
12 down the road. We will still be able to hear
13 wolves howl. I enjoy that, and I think this is
14 the better thing to be done. Thank you.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

16 Speaker Number 2. And, again, I would
17 like to remind you please state and spell both
18 your first and your last name, your state of
19 residence, and speak clearly and loudly into the
20 microphone.

21 MR. REG EMMERT: My name is Reg
22 Emmert. First name is R-E-G, last name
23 E-M-M-E-R-T. I live in Koochiching County, 20
24 miles from the Canadian border. We are sheep and
25 forage farmers. The farm was started in the

1 homestead area with sheep as part of the farm
2 operation.

3 My education and background is in
4 forestry and resource management.

5 I'm not a professional lobbyist
6 experienced in public testimony; therefore, I will
7 read from my notes.

8 The science of wolf management. The
9 work of reputable biologists, using sound
10 scientific methodology that passed the criteria of
11 repeatability and peer review, has shown that the
12 gray wolf in Minnesota meets all of the delisting
13 criteria.

14 The rules of the delisting criteria have
15 changed with time and we have met all the goals
16 for the changes. Minnesota long ago achieved the
17 initial goal set forth by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service and all the additional subsequent goals
19 have been met also.

20 The gray wolf is no longer endangered.
21 What is endangered is the credibility of the
22 entire Endangered Species Act because of the
23 failure to delist a species that years ago met the
24 criteria for delisting.

25 There is no scientific basis for not

1 delisting.

2 Minnesota Wolf Management Plan.

3 Minnesota's Wolf Management Plan developed by

4 highly regarded biologists with public input.

5 This plan underwent considerable public scrutiny

6 before it was approved by elected officials and

7 put into law. The state plans have been approved

8 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9 There is no rational, political, or
10 social reason not to delist.

11 DNR. There are currently more pounds of
12 wildlife per square mile in Minnesota year-round
13 than there was prior to the arrival of the
14 Europeans. Now, this excludes the Twin Cities on
15 Friday and Saturday night. Yet it is often
16 presettlement and prelogging wildlife populations
17 that are cited as the reasons for wanting
18 artificially high wolf numbers.

19 With no wolf management and excessive
20 wolf populations in some areas of the state, the
21 wolf has suffered disease problems, namely mange.
22 Wolves suffering from mange are stressed by
23 extreme weather conditions, biting insects,
24 starvation, and eventually die as a result of the
25 disease. This is inhumane and is not management.

1 Is this the legacy of the Endangered Species Act.

2 Artificially high density in areas for
3 purely selfish and personal ideology is not wise
4 management, nor is it part of the Endangered
5 Species Act or its intent.

6 There is no proof that DNR cannot
7 sustain a wildlife population in accordance with a
8 management plan. In fact, quite the opposite.
9 Under Minnesota DNR management, wildlife
10 populations have flourished. Therefore, there is
11 no reason to not delist.

12 Winston Churchill once said, "Of this
13 I'm quite sure, that if we open a quarrel between
14 the past and the present, we shall find that we
15 have lost the future." This may well be talking
16 about the present day Endangered Species Act.

17 If the wolf is not delisted now, the
18 whole future of the Endangered Species Act and its
19 intent will be sabotaged. Credibility and future
20 cooperation will be lost across the nation.

21 The objectives have been met, delist.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for
23 your comments. If -- I would like to remind
24 people if you do have a written copy of your
25 comments, we would appreciate receiving that and

1 those will also become part of the official
2 record.

3 Speaker Number 3, please come to the
4 microphone, state your name and state of
5 residence.

6 MR. DALE LUECK: My name is Dale Lueck,
7 D-A-L-E. Last name, L-U-E-C-K. I'm a resident of
8 Minnesota. I'm a small cow/calf producer
9 southeast of here, raise beef cattle. I also
10 stand here before you representing both the
11 Minnesota State Cattle Association and myself as a
12 private businessman. I've been involved in the
13 past five or six years in fashioning the Minnesota
14 State Wolf Management Plan through the public
15 input process the Minnesota Department of
16 Resources set up.

17 Also, the people in my business are
18 affected on a daily basis. We do have occasional
19 livestock and wolf conflicts and there's no
20 question in my mind that the current state
21 management plan that's on the books for Minnesota
22 effectively deals with those conflicts in a humane
23 manner and provides a measure of protection for
24 both the people in agriculture and the wolf itself
25 to ensure that we never again push them close to

1 extinction.

2 The -- just as a matter of reassurance,
3 the people in agriculture are about putting food
4 on the table for the people of the United States
5 and the world. We are not about persecuting
6 animals, particularly the wolf. We do have to be
7 able to manage when we do have a conflict.

8 We got to remember domestic animals by
9 definition we've taken the wildness out and they
10 are not able to protect themselves. They are no
11 match for wild animals and we have a personal
12 responsibility and we don't, you know, continue to
13 create those conflicts because, zing, man over
14 tens of thousands of years have domesticated
15 animals and we're responsible for them. So -- so
16 that's the kind of conflict that we need to be
17 able to manage.

18 We really have a success story here.
19 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Minnesota
20 Department of Natural Resources, and the citizens
21 of Minnesota have done an excellent job of
22 recovering the wolf. It's been a team effort.
23 This has taken a number of years. We achieved the
24 goals. It's just clear based on everybody's
25 measurement that I can see that, you know, we've

1 -- we've met the requirements both here in
2 Minnesota and Wisconsin and Michigan.

3 It's pretty clear we need to -- we need
4 to simply operate the Endangered Species Act as it
5 was intended. That is we listed it when we
6 thought we needed to and we recovered and now
7 we're at a point where we need to delist. If
8 we're unable to delist the wolf here in this area
9 based on the overwhelming evidence that we've
10 recovered, we truly do question the credibility of
11 the Endangered Species Act and its fundamental
12 intent.

13 So it's -- there's two success stories
14 here if we -- if we're able to delist. One is for
15 the wolf, the other is for the Endangered Species
16 Act. And as the previous speaker mentioned, if we
17 based on a science cannot delist at this point,
18 then we set the stage for a major, major potential
19 modification to the Endangered Species Act and how
20 it operates and so there's a lot at stake here.

21 Again, I can reiterate it's a success
22 story, Fish and Wildlife, Minnesota DNR, citizens,
23 everybody involved. We just simply need to take
24 credit for it, delist, and get on with whatever
25 the next species is that we need to work on. I

1 thank you for coming out and listening to us.

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your
3 comments, sir.

4 I would like to invite Speaker Number 4
5 to step up to the microphone, state and spell your
6 name, state of residence.

7 MR. BERNIE URAN: My name is Bernie
8 Uran. I'm from Northome. B-E-R-N-I-E U-R-A-N.
9 I'm a livestock producer, a beef cow/calf producer
10 from Northome. I support the goals and intent of
11 the Endangered Species Act. No matter what his
12 other failings may have been, President Richard
13 Nixon's signing of the ESA into law and also his
14 diplomatic initiatives toward better relations
15 with Communist China are two very notable
16 achievements for his presidency.

17 However, what has occurred with the gray
18 wolf saga is a story of the ESA gone wrong.

19 Mr. Bill Berg, a Minnesota DNR wildlife
20 researcher who is now retired, stated some years
21 ago that bringing back populations of the
22 timberwolf or gray wolf was easy. He said you
23 just stop killing them.

24 Gray wolves, like coyotes, are fast
25 breeding wild dogs. Just like domestic dogs, they

1 are very prolific. Research has shown that wolves
2 can easily double their numbers in one year.

3 Probably one billion tax dollars in
4 America have been spent upon endless research
5 projects and promotion of this large predator,
6 which was never truly endangered. Fifty to 70,000
7 gray wolves reside in Canada and freely migrate
8 across our shared international border.

9 Many researchers and other wolf
10 advocates have become monetarily wealthy and have
11 obtained much notoriety because of the wolf. We
12 livestock producers have struggled to earn a
13 modest income in spite of these unmanaged, fast
14 breeding timberwolves. That's a big difference.
15 That's 180-degree difference.

16 Bringing back populations of the bald
17 eagle, peregrine falcon, and other birds from the
18 brink of biological extinction was quite a
19 scientific and conservation achievement.

20 First, discovering that the insecticide
21 DDT and similar compounds were responsible for
22 eggshell and nesting failures was a fine bit of
23 scientific detective work.

24 Second, getting those compounds off the
25 market in America showed perseverance and

1 dedication by many concerned people.

2 The story of the gray wolf is
3 different. Countless millions of dollars have
4 been spent upon this animal, which was not in
5 danger to biological extinction. This decades
6 long fiasco may have been great environmentalism
7 but it is a conservation debacle. Where is the
8 victory when a billion tax dollars are squandered
9 upon the gray wolf and, in the meantime, ten or 20
10 truly endangered, but less charismatic and
11 glamorous, species of plants and animals have
12 become extinct because pseudoconservationists
13 cheated those other species out of much-needed
14 funds and attention. Shame upon those people
15 whose egos and pocketbooks were more important
16 than the true stewardship of the environment.

17 The gray wolf, according to the
18 delisting rules unilaterally instituted by wolf
19 experts, stated that the gray wolf could be
20 delisted when the wolf population reached about
21 1200 animals, which I think was in the year about
22 1978, but the rules seemed to have been ignored
23 and changed and here we are in the year 2004.

24 There has been no wolf management.
25 Wildlife services, based in Grand Rapids,

1 Minnesota, does what I term salvage trapping.
2 They are federally funded and have survived many
3 attempts by wealthy wolf advocacy groups and other
4 misguided folks who have tried to eliminate the
5 wildlife services agency. Wildlife services,
6 headed Mr. Bill Paul, are sincere people that are
7 respected by most livestock producers as our only
8 practical wolf control measure at the present
9 time. True management of wolves should be an
10 upfront, proactive program whereupon gray wolves
11 are controlled before livestock losses occur.

12 And I might say that in my dealings with
13 Bill Paul over the years he's probably the most
14 even-handed, fair-minded person to deal with this
15 issue. He deals with the livestock producers and
16 he also I think is very much interested in
17 conservation of the wolf and he's -- I don't know
18 if we could have found a better representative for
19 that job.

20 I do not know how long it will be -- how
21 long it will take for the environmental advocacy
22 groups to awaken and realize that farmers and
23 loggers are responsible for the stewardship and
24 management of countless millions of acres of
25 public and private land in America. Long-term

1 sustainable conservation achievements will be made
2 only by working with farmers and loggers, not
3 against them. You've got to find a way to work
4 together.

5 The foundation of America's success in
6 the world has been made because of private
7 enterprise. Governmental guidelines and rules are
8 definitely needed to ensure that unbounded
9 capitalism does not negate long-term conservation
10 of the nation's resources and of the world. It is
11 very difficult for people of the world or people
12 of Minnesota or people of America to be prosperous
13 if their soils and environmental surroundings are
14 not prosperous, so practical, workable
15 conservation is essential.

16 Proactive, sensible gray wolf management
17 in America is long overdue so that private
18 business people, such as livestock producers, are
19 free from this predatory menace and burden. Thank
20 you.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for
22 providing those comments, sir.

23 I would like to ask Speaker Number 5 to
24 step forward. And if you do have comments that
25 you're reading from and are willing to submit

1 those, as soon as you're done if you can bring
2 those right up to the court reporter we would
3 greatly appreciate that. Thank you.

4 Please begin by stating and spelling
5 your name and state of residence.

6 MR. HARLAN LUSSIER: My name is Harlan
7 Lussier, H-A-R-L-A-N L-U-S-S-I-E-R, and I'm a
8 member of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe. And my
9 views on the -- my views on the -- on the -- on
10 the threatened -- the wolf threatened -- the wolf
11 from the endangered species list will be read by
12 Barbara Ahlberg.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ma'am, could you
14 also state and spell your name.

15 MS. BARBARA AHLBERG: Barbara Ahlberg,
16 B-A-R-B-A-R-A A-H-L-B-E-R-G.

17 We need to be ecologically intelligent
18 and challenge the nonnative to view realistically
19 what will happen to the wolf if we don't protect
20 him by continuing to keep him, the wolf, on the
21 endangered list. We have the voice and the
22 vision, which was lost when the wolves were
23 slaughtered by hunters and trappers years ago.
24 Let's never forget how we can -- how we came to
25 declare our wolves as endangered. Let's not

1 repeat history. Our decisions today will impact
2 us for many, many years to come.

3 The Native American does not fear
4 wolves. There is great respect and admiration for
5 these creatures of the wild. The sight of a wolf
6 while walking in the woods brings great joy to
7 one's spirit. Camping out in the woods surrounded
8 by the shining eyes and the howling of the wolf is
9 a comforting feeling.

10 I have learned the ways of the wolf from
11 living on the Red Lake Reservation and also in the
12 Chippewa Forest. I have also learned about the
13 wolves from my parents and my grandparents. I was
14 taught to have great respect and humility when
15 being with the wolves.

16 In a time where suspicion and
17 superstition play a leading role in the fear of
18 the wolves, nonnative people will view the
19 delisting of wolves as validation for hunting and
20 trapping for their own personal gain and greed as
21 well. Part of human nature is to control that
22 which we fear. I believe the majority of
23 nonnative hunters will shoot every wolf they see.
24 The word threatened will have no meaning.

25 The awful truth is the wolves' kill will

1 be a loss both culturally and environmentally.
2 This loss can never be replaced by state or
3 federal dollars. I view removing wolves from the
4 endangered species as man's ignorance in
5 understanding the value of the wolf in our
6 environment and most of all in the relationship to
7 ourselves.

8 Mi-Gwitch. Thank you.

9 (Discussion, off the record.)

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: I would like to
11 invite Speaker Number 6 to approach the
12 microphone. State and spell your first and last
13 names and your state of residence. Thank you.

14 MR. JIM OJANEN: Jim Ojanen. I'm a
15 resident of Minnesota and my name is spelled J-I-M
16 O-J-A-N-E-N. I reside close to Bemidji right
17 now. I was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and I've
18 lived all my life in Minnesota. I've -- always
19 grew up in a rural area.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Sir, could you
21 stand back a little bit from the microphone.

22 MR. JIM OJANEN: I grew up on a farm.
23 Can you hear that?

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: A little bit
25 closer.

1 MR. JIM OJANEN: I grew up on a farm in
2 Minnesota and I have a farm myself right now and I
3 raise beef cattle on it. I also went to school to
4 be a natural resource manager and I work in that
5 profession right now for Clearwater County in
6 Minnesota. I also happen to be a trapper and I've
7 trapped all my life. I also hunt and I also do
8 other things like fishing and spending time out in
9 the woods.

10 During my lifetime in Minnesota, I've
11 seen the sign and also the actual observation of
12 more wolves, especially since I was about 20 years
13 old I really noticed the increase in the frequency
14 of the wolf sign and the number of wolves and I'm
15 glad to see that. I also realize as a resource
16 manager that there is times when you have
17 conflicts on how to -- how to manage a resource
18 and I'm -- I know in the wolf situation that's
19 definitely true.

20 I would like to reply to the U.S. Forest
21 -- the U.S. Fish and Wild Service and all other
22 agencies and all other resource managers that
23 helped in the recovery of the wolf in Minnesota.
24 They've done a great deal of good for not only the
25 wolves but for mankind in general because wolves

1 are part of the -- they're here and they are very
2 beautiful animals and they have a very interesting
3 family and family-type habits.

4 Speaking of family, I have family
5 myself. I have three sons. They are in their
6 teens and I'm glad to say that they have had the
7 opportunity to see wildlife sign and actually see
8 wolves in the wild, not wolves in a cage, not
9 wolves on TV but real live wolves out in the
10 woods.

11 And for that matter, I would like to say
12 I am in favor of the delisting of wolves in
13 Minnesota because that would probably be the best
14 thing that can be done. It's gotten to the point
15 where I think there's enough wolves myself that
16 that would be a good idea, and I'm glad that it's
17 gotten to that point. So like I say, I would like
18 to applaud a nice recovery and thank you.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for
20 providing your comments, sir.

21 I would like to invite Speaker Number 8
22 step up to the microphone.

23 AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about 7?

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I'm sorry.
25 Speaker Number 7. Excuse me.

1 MR. MICHAEL SWAN: I just want to --

2 Mike Swan, M-I-C-H-A-E-L S-W-A-N.

3 (Discussion, off the record.)

4 (At this time Mr. Michael Swan spoke in
5 his native language and then the proceedings
6 continued as follow.)

7 MR. MICHAEL SWAN: What I said was Mike
8 Swan is my name. Shining Bear is my Indian name,
9 and I am the director of natural resources for the
10 White Earth Indian Reservation. What I have here
11 is a letter from our chairperson, Erma Vizenor,
12 asked me to bring this up and read it to you.

13 (Discussion, off the record.)

14 MR. MICHAEL SWAN: I speak English too.

15 It's addressed to the United States
16 Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife
17 Service.

18 This letter concerns the removal of the
19 eastern district population segment of the gray
20 wolf from the Endangered and Threatened Species
21 List.

22 Dear Sirs:

23 The White Earth Reservation, Natural
24 Resources Department, has reviewed the State of
25 Minnesota's Wolf Management Plan. The White Earth

1 Reservation Tribal Council present position is
2 against taking the gray wolf off the endangered
3 and threatened species list for the following
4 reasons.

5 Management. Although the White Earth
6 Reservation is located in Zone B, on the edge of
7 the known territory of gray wolves, there are five
8 known wolf packs located within the reservation
9 boundaries. The known packs that are located on
10 the eastern one-third of the reservation and is --
11 are located on the eastern third of the
12 reservation and is not a threat to farmers or
13 livestock.

14 For culture. The wolf has a great
15 significance to the Anishinaabeg/Chippewa/Ojibwe
16 people, however you want to refer to us. The wolf
17 is in our oral history, is in our myths and in our
18 legends in teaching our children of our past. The
19 wolf was a companion to the Ojibwe people and we
20 as people do respect and honor the wolf.

21 For culture. The wolf is part of our
22 clan system. People who are members of this clan
23 cannot even touch a wolf. It is forbidden and
24 taboo for them or anyone to even hurt a wolf.

25 On management. The DNR or the U.S. Fish

1 and Wildlife Service has not stated why they are
2 proposing in taking the gray wolf off the
3 endangered and threatened species list. Is this a
4 state -- is the statewide winter population of
5 1,600 currently met? Have the recovery of the
6 wolf been met? There has been no explanation. If
7 the wolf is still not stable, maybe the wolf
8 should be placed on the threatened species list
9 for now, similar to the management of the bald
10 eagle.

11 The management. The state management
12 plan for wolves is very incomplete for long-term
13 management. Is the state proposing a hunting
14 season for the wolf? Is the state proposing to
15 have limits on controlling nuisance wolves versus
16 the wolf population in general?

17 Some questions need to be answered for
18 the general public on why the State of Minnesota
19 wants to take the gray wolf off the Endangered and
20 Threatened Species List. The state needs to fully
21 explain these questions before we stop protecting
22 the gray wolf and before they become extinct.

23 The management plan the state -- the
24 plan goal states after delisting most legal
25 responsibility for management will reside with the

1 state and tribal authorities. The White Earth
2 Reservation, Natural Resources Department, is
3 willing to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
4 Service and Minnesota Department of Natural
5 Resources in managing and protect the wolf
6 population on our reservation, as long as the
7 management is in the best interest of our people,
8 our culture, and the wolf.

9 I will give this letter signed by Erma
10 Vizenor to you.

11 When I first heard about this, we didn't
12 really hear an explanation why the state was
13 proposing to take this wolf off the list. At
14 least when I came here, I heard some information
15 being passed on why you're doing it and so the
16 question that was asked before.

17 For us it's really hard to understand
18 why -- as the gentleman earlier mentioned that the
19 last survey that we seen so far was taken back in
20 1998. I would still like to see that information
21 and that data before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service considers taking that into consideration
23 in delisting the timberwolf, the gray wolf.

24 Mi-Gwitch.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for

1 providing those comments, sir.

2 I would like to invite Speaker Number 8
3 to step up to the first microphone, state your
4 name, please spell your first and last name and
5 your state of residence.

6 Could you please come up to the first
7 microphone, gentlemen? Can you please come up to
8 the first microphone? We're having a little
9 trouble with that one back. Thank you.

10 MR. ANTON TREUER: Hello. I'm Anton
11 Treuer. First name is spelled A-N-T-O-N, last
12 name is spelled T-R-E-U-E-R. I'm a resident of
13 Minnesota and I will be translating the comments.

14 (At this time Mr. Strong Thunderbird
15 spoke in his native language and then the
16 translation was as follows.)

17 MR. ANTON TREUER: We have record of
18 word-by-word translation. He said my name is
19 White Eagle. I'm from the White Earth
20 Reservation.

21 (Discussion, off the record.)

22 MR. ANTON TREUER: Oh, Strong
23 Thunderbird from the White Earth Reservation and
24 he's a spiritual leader and for the Ojibwe
25 people.

1 He said one of the most important things
2 to remember with what we are doing here today,
3 what's being considered, is to leave the wolf
4 alone, not to bother him. That the wolf is one of
5 our clans. In Ojibwe culture this is of great
6 importance; that the wolf should be allowed to
7 exist without any further hunting or trapping or
8 interference from anyone else and that this is
9 what the wishes of our elders and people in our
10 native communities are.

11 MR. STRONG THUNDERBIRD: Mi-Qwitch.

12 MR. ANTON TREUER: Thank you.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Sir, I would like
14 to thank you for providing your comments.

15 Sir, I would like to thank you for
16 providing the interpretation. If you would be
17 willing to provide a written copy, either in your
18 native language or in English of your comments, it
19 would help us ensure that we have what you stated
20 as part of the official record.

21 MR. ANTON TREUER: We have a recording.
22 We'll transcribe by translation --

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
24 gentlemen.

25 I would like to invite Speaker Number 9

1 up to the first microphone.

2 MS. SARAH HAYDEN: Hello. My name is
3 Sarah Hayden, S-A-R-A-H H-A-Y-D-E-N, and I don't
4 represent any organization, but I do feel like I'm
5 here to represent the wolves, who obviously can't
6 be here to represent themselves, and I just have a
7 couple of brief comments.

8 I'm not going to have a long speech, but
9 I just find it ironic that over the last year,
10 probably longer, we have been hearing lots about
11 the deer population presenting problems of
12 property damage, road hazards, and many of them
13 are dying of wasting diseases and problems like
14 that, and I find it really ironic that in this
15 light we're talking about reducing protections on
16 a predator of them that could help this much more
17 significant problem of deer population than wolf
18 overpopulation. And but that's just kind of a
19 side note.

20 The main reason that I am up here
21 opposed to the delisting of the gray wolf is that
22 I believe that turning over the management of the
23 gray wolf to the states is unacceptable. When you
24 -- when you're looking at each individual state
25 coming up with a plan to protect the wolves,

1 states have to compete with each other. And if
2 you're competing with each other, then at your own
3 costs each state is going to want to do the best
4 for their own -- their own farmers and people in
5 their state so they are not going to want to
6 conserve at a level that should be conserving at
7 and it's much more fair and it's much more
8 reasonable if all the conservation is equally
9 spread and the costs that are equally spread
10 around.

11 It should be -- it should be a federal
12 decision. Whether they remain on the enlisted --
13 on the enlisted list or not, they should stay on
14 there until we have a better system of managing
15 them once they would get delisted. So I hope
16 that -- I guess that's all I have to say, is that
17 I am opposed to the delisting of the gray wolves.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, ma'am,
19 for providing those comments.

20 I would like to -- excuse me -- ask
21 Speaker Number 10 to step to the first
22 microphone. Please state your first and last
23 name, spell it and your state of residence.

24 MR. TOM GOLDTOOTH: Hello. My name is
25 Tom Goldtooth. That's spelled T-O-M

1 G-O-L-D-T-O-O-T-H and I'm a resident of
2 Minnesota.

3 I would like to make a couple comments,
4 but I would also like to reserve my option to
5 submit written comment at a later time. This is
6 the oral testimony on my part.

7 I'm here speaking on behalf of the
8 Indigenous Environmental Network. It's a
9 nonprofit organization chartered here in the State
10 of Minnesota, and we represent many native people
11 and many of the states that are involved in this
12 delisting plan from the Dakotas to Kansas to
13 Nebraska, the Great Lake states as well as Maine.
14 We have native people in these communities that
15 are very concerned about the inadequacies in the
16 delisting plan.

17 Our organization opposes the delisting
18 and we have a couple concerns that we feel must be
19 addressed in your process here and that's the
20 process for public hearings within Native American
21 reservations. We noticed that there's a trend in
22 a lot of your hearings, not only within this
23 consideration that's on the table but other
24 hearings, of where there's been lack of
25 participation from Native American community

1 members as well as tribal officials.

2 We need to remind you that there's a
3 government-to-government relationship that this
4 United States has established through policy
5 through a number of years with Native American
6 tribes and that there's been a failure of
7 consultation on the government-to-government level
8 with the tribes that are implicated in this
9 delisting proposal.

10 One thing that we stress also in your
11 hearings is making provisions of translation. We
12 commend some of the efforts here, and I would like
13 to mention that if it wasn't for the effort of our
14 staff within our organization to make sure that
15 there's some translation that this would not have
16 been done.

17 We also would like to mention the
18 importance of cultural and spiritual values in
19 your decision making and how you incorporate it in
20 your risk assessment and in your decision making
21 to qualify and quantify those cultural and
22 spiritual values that are very important to the
23 Native American population. We feel that you fail
24 to demonstrate some process that recognizes our
25 culture's spiritual values.

1 Another point I want to mention is that
2 I don't -- our organization feels it's not a
3 question about integrity of the Endangered Species
4 Act that's on the table here but it's integrity of
5 the efforts of states to develop management plans
6 around the protection of wolves.

7 I need to mention that our staff and our
8 organization has been involved here in Minnesota
9 for over seven years on this issue. We were
10 involved in the early years since 1998 in sitting
11 down with other stakeholders on the development of
12 the Minnesota State Wolf Management Plan, and
13 after months of hard work and commitment from a
14 lot of different stakeholders -- some of them are
15 here -- we recognize that there came -- there came
16 to a point to where they accepted some measurable
17 levels of allowable levels of wolf population as
18 one of their issues, but we feel that the state
19 legislature trumped this whole effort and
20 developed their own wolf plan.

21 And this puts into serious questions the
22 role that politics plays at the local level and a
23 very divisive issue that has separated a lot of
24 people in our communities, both native and
25 nonnative, and we feel that there's still a lot of

1 work that needs to be done throughout all the
2 different states that are involved with this
3 delisting plan.

4 That's not just Minnesota. That a lot
5 of other states are not ready. They're not on the
6 same page where Minnesota is at on this issue.
7 There's been failure with consultation with
8 tribes, especially most important those
9 traditional practitioners, those community members
10 of our tribes, our spiritual leaders, our grass
11 roots communities, those people that have that
12 close relationship, which is a spiritual -- which
13 is a profound spiritual relationship with the
14 wolf, and we are -- I make the comment that those
15 need to be addressed.

16 That concludes my comments at this
17 time. Thank you.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
19 for providing those comments and I would like to
20 clarify to make sure everyone understands you can
21 provide verbal comments at this hearing but you
22 can also submit written comments anytime through
23 November 18th.

24 I would like to call Speaker Number 11
25 to the first microphone. Sir, could you come up

1 to the front microphone? We're having a little
2 problem with that. Thank you, sir.

3 MR. RODNEY BENSON: Yeah. My name is
4 Rodney Benson, R-O-D-N-E-Y B-E-N-S-O-N. I would
5 like to say that I'm 100 percent in favor of
6 delisting. I think it should have been done years
7 ago. I wish the state would have come up with a
8 plan and I hope they come up with a plan now and I
9 hope that they can get that number down because
10 they keep on increasing.

11 Another problem we've had is we've been
12 fortunate to the fact that we've had a good
13 federal man in Bill Paul. The problem he's had at
14 times he's funded by the federal -- or the
15 Department of Agricultural and at times there
16 hasn't been enough funding and so it's kind of
17 hurt.

18 Another thing I wanted the people to
19 know that a lot of these kills they aren't being
20 paid for. It's simply because you don't find them
21 or if you don't find them right away the farmers
22 are just -- they are out and I don't know why they
23 should keep on subsidizing when kills -- when they
24 haven't -- when there's no reason to. So I hope
25 this plan goes through and I don't know if --

1 there's still going to be a safeguard for the
2 people that want the wolves is the state has a
3 plan to watch -- watched by the federal
4 government. Thank you.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
6 for providing those comments.

7 I would like to invite Speaker Number 12
8 to come up to the first microphone.

9 AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pass on that
10 one. Pass on that.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Speaker Number 12,
12 if you do not want to make a comment I will go on
13 to Speaker Number 13. Please step to the first
14 microphone.

15 MS. LISA ROBINSON: Hi. I'm Lisa
16 Robinson, L-I-S-A R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N, and I'm a
17 resident of Minnesota. I'm against delisting.
18 Wolves are an exceptional animal and to not delist
19 them would it be sabotaging the Endangered Species
20 Act? Because of the exceptional history that
21 surrounds them, many questions and ideas from
22 people against delisting need to be answered
23 before this move is made. Alternatives for
24 farmers with livestock need to be explored before
25 going to extremes.

1 The history of what mankind has done to
2 the wolves is horrific and speaks for itself.
3 Some of the attitudes and myths are still severe
4 and we cannot trust people to honor the matters of
5 wolves nor pending policies at this point.

6 I strongly believe that the genocide of
7 native people and the near extermination of wolves
8 is closely linked. Because of that and
9 understanding the importance of wolves in native
10 people's culture and religion, we owe it to them
11 to hear their voices and let them lead this
12 discussion. We need to hear the long-term
13 knowledge and research from these people. I urge
14 you to do this. Thank you.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, ma'am,
16 for providing those comments.

17 I would like to invite Speaker Number 15
18 to come up to the first microphone.

19 AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fourteen.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Fourteen. I
21 apologize. Speaker Number 14.

22 MR. TIMOTHY HOUGER: I'm Timothy Houger,
23 T-I-M-O-T-H-Y H-O-U-G-A-R. I've been hunting
24 bears for about ten years now, largely on private
25 land. I've noticed kind of a trend whenever

1 I was born and raised in Koochiching County,
2 Minnesota, and we raise beef cattle, and in my
3 opinion the wolf never has been extinct in our
4 area. They've always been around and I can
5 remember them since I was a little kid, but they
6 never bothered us in our raising cattle until the
7 last 30 years or so. They've kind of been a
8 nightmare and trying to cope with the wolves and
9 where we don't want extinction of them I do think
10 we need a better management of them and I'm in
11 favor of delisting. Thank you.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
13 for providing comments.

14 I would like to invite Speaker Number 17
15 to come up to the first microphone. Please state
16 and spell your first and last name and state your
17 residence.

18 MR. ANDREAS DORDRUN: Hello. I'm
19 Andreas, S-N-D-R-E-S. Uhm, I'm sorry about all
20 that. I got my name all mixed up. It's
21 A-N-D-R-E-N-A-S. My last name is Dordrun,
22 D-O-R-D-R-U-N. I'm from Laporte and I don't want
23 nobody shooting these wolves because they are
24 mostly my brothers. That's all I have to say.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

1 And I would like to invite Speaker
2 Number 18 to step to the microphone.

3 MR. ROBERT CHASTAIN: If I'm too fast or
4 too loud, okay? Here we go.

5 My name is Robert Chastain. I'm a
6 resident of Minnesota. R-O-B-E-R-T
7 C-H-A-S-T-A-I-N.

8 First, get it on the table, I think I'm
9 adamantly against the delisting of the gray wolf
10 population from the endangered species list and
11 for a number of reasons, which I would like to
12 kind of explain.

13 I think we're right now at a
14 crossroads. This is typical of American policy
15 decisions. We're dealing with precautionary
16 policy versus reactionary policy. We have taken a
17 precautionary policy in the last however many
18 years the wolves has been listed as an endangered
19 species, but what we are about to enter is a
20 situation where instead of guaranteeing that the
21 wolf will maintain its numbers, will maintain a
22 thriving community in Minnesota if it gets
23 threatened, then we can throw it back on the
24 list.

25 I'm a little disturbed about the fact

1 that there isn't a constant and like my question
2 from before dealing with Wisconsin, they have an
3 annual number count, an annual population count,
4 so that we would be able to -- I think we need
5 that before we can even consider delisting. We
6 need to think about how can we implement an annual
7 number count so that during this process and
8 moderate we are on top of it at every moment. I
9 also think that we need to ensure that that
10 monitoring is during the period of protection
11 instead of after.

12 And that's where I get into this
13 precautionary versus reactionary. If we are
14 conscious before we delist and guarantee that the
15 wolf is not threatened, then we can make sure it's
16 delisted.

17 There's a couple of other things. I'm a
18 little apprehensive of some of the comments by
19 certain individuals in this room in dealing with
20 personal gain. I think that it -- you need to
21 take into account the context of where those
22 comments are coming from. If someone is gaining
23 profit from the delisting, I don't -- that's just
24 my own personal opinion, but I would also like to
25 address this myth that's kind of been carried over

1 on the boats from Europe that wolves are this
2 great potential threat to livestock and farming
3 and agricultural.

4 This is carried -- I mean we can all go
5 into the history of this, but I would venture to
6 say that hunting mishaps and domestic pets,
7 including cats and dogs, are far, far more greater
8 of a threat to livestock in this state than the
9 wolf population can ever be and we need to
10 consider that when making these decisions. I've
11 yet to see any stats, any particular numbers,
12 saying okay. What have been the livestock kills
13 by wolf populations and what is in comparison to
14 an accident by, say, a cow getting caught in a
15 fence or a domestic dog attacking a chicken or
16 those kind of dangers. What are the comparisons?

17 We can't just say -- operate out of fear
18 and say, "Look, it's a predator." We got to
19 remember that we are predators, too, and just
20 because we are predators we don't need to compete
21 with the wolf. We can live in harmony with the
22 wolf as well as other predators such as eagles and
23 falcons and the sort.

24 I would like to also reiterate the
25 comment that was made earlier about the deer

1 population, and the wolves are the natural
2 predator of the deer population as well as some of
3 the other larger non-predacious mammals in this
4 area. And if we're having such an issue with
5 those, maybe we need to reconsider that we are not
6 the only predator out there. With that, I would
7 like to thank you and I hope you guys make a good
8 decision. Thank you.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your
10 comments, sir.

11 I would like to invite Speaker Number 19
12 come up to the microphone.

13 (At this time Mr. Robert Shimik spoke
14 in his native language and then the proceedings
15 continued as follows.)

16 MR. ROBERT SHIMIK: Robert Shimek.

17 (At this time again Mr. Robert Shimek
18 spoke in his native language and then the
19 proceedings continued as follows.)

20 MR. ROBERT SHIMIK: That was my
21 introduction.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: He provided
23 written comment.

24 MR. ROBERT SHIMIK: White Earth. I
25 claim my nationality is White Earth. R-O-B-E-R-T

1 S-H-I-M-E-K. And what I told you was hello all my
2 relatives. My name is Robert Shimek. The spirits
3 also know me as Thundercloud. The kingfisher
4 oversees the clan of which I am a member and that
5 I'm from the White Earth Reservation, but I would
6 like to put an addendum on that.

7 According to the U.S. Department of
8 Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, I am
9 officially a member of the Red Lake Reservation.
10 So when I come to you with my comments, I'm kind
11 of like sometimes I almost feel like I'm a man
12 without a home because although I live somewhere,
13 I don't have any official or legal standing as a
14 Native American in most respects.

15 But, anyway, I want to talk a little bit
16 about how -- about how we got here. Why am I
17 here? First of all, I went to my first wolf
18 hearing here in Bemidji -- I think it was put on
19 by the state -- back in 1994, and that is where I
20 first proposed that, you know, if -- you know,
21 because there was all this -- the issue was the
22 cost of the -- you know, the livestock
23 preservation program and that's where I first
24 proposed that we should have a timber tax in
25 Minnesota.

1 There should be a tax imposed on every
2 cord of wood that goes into the large mills that
3 can go back into a fund that reimburses farmers
4 and management in oversight and monitoring of the
5 wolf populations because if you look at why there
6 are so wolves, you know, it is in large part due
7 to the industrial clear-cutting of the northern
8 two-thirds of our state. So that's how I got
9 introduced to this and that was -- I didn't know
10 if I was going to get out of that parking lot
11 alive that day.

12 But, anyway, lots of high-dollar
13 research has gone into the economics, the social
14 impacts, all these different aspects of having
15 wolves as our neighbors here in Minnesota. It's
16 been cross-referenced. It's been peer reviewed.
17 It's been -- you know, some of it's been in
18 court. I mean there's -- you know, there's been
19 careful scrutiny, you know, by the cattlemen's --
20 the cattlemen's industry, you know, various
21 livestock groups, the Minnesota Deer Hunters, et
22 cetera.

23 I think that by and large the U.S. Fish
24 and Wildlife Service has ignored the voice of the
25 indigenous people in this conversation. I don't

1 know -- I mean if you've been to White Earth or
2 Red Lake or Leech Lake to ask the indigenous
3 people what they think about this thing, I have as
4 of yet to hear about that type of a meeting, and
5 it goes back to the nature of the trust
6 relationship that the U.S. Department of Interior,
7 Bureau of Indian Affairs, has to native people and
8 also remembering that, you know, Fish and Wildlife
9 Service is a member of that same agency.

10 So there's, you know, with a -- my
11 understanding is what you're proposing here is to
12 gut the heart and the soul of the social, the
13 cultural, and the spiritual fabric of indigenous
14 people here in the northern part of our state by
15 creating this proposal to take the wolf off the
16 endangered and threatened species list.

17 I think the last time we did all this or
18 the last time the state had a management of the
19 wolf, you know, that's when we got here and, you
20 know, going back to a question I asked earlier.
21 What is the nature of the trust relationship? I
22 think that it's absolutely ludicrous to proceed
23 one step further with this proposal until all this
24 stuff between the states and the tribes is ironed
25 out, because as I see it, you know, you're

1 probably going to end up with a -- you know, a lot
2 more years in court as soon as the state says to
3 the tribe, oh, no. No. We're going to come on
4 your reservation and trap wolf because so-and-so
5 over here lost one.

6 I think there's just, you know, way too
7 many legal and political issues that have as of
8 yet not been clarified and I, you know -- this --
9 I was a member of the Minnesota wolf roundtable.
10 I was an advisor, you know. We worked our butt
11 off through that whole miserable process for
12 months. You know, I asked Mike Don Carlos right
13 off the bat if we could put one of our spiritual
14 and cultural people on that roundtable. He said,
15 "No." So we went there and we did the best we
16 could, but I must say that I'm glad we didn't
17 because it would have been absolutely shaming to a
18 person of that nature to have to go through that
19 kind of a process.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Sir, I meant to
21 say about one more minute.

22 MR. ROBERT SHIMEK: Well, that's fine.

23 So I guess my last comment is: Where is
24 the signs? You know, I've sat in rooms full of
25 wolf biologists, wildlife biologists. I feel like

1 climate change. You know, I brought this up over
2 and over. Climate change is having a profound
3 impact on a lot of species in Minnesota, including
4 the wolf, and so when you say that, you know, it's
5 all based on science, I'm going to say, "No, wait
6 a minute." You know, you're missing some
7 important components of this.

8 So thank you and I'll give you some
9 written comments as well.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
11 for providing those comments.

12 And I would like to invite Speaker
13 Number 20 if they would come to the first
14 microphone.

15 MR. LARRY JOHNSON: My name is Larry
16 Johnson from Blackduck, Minnesota. L-A-R-R-Y
17 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

18 Can everybody hear me?

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

20 MR. LARRY JOHNSON: Okay. I'll pretty
21 much reiterate what Rodney Benson said earlier
22 that the numbers of wolves are -- in our area are
23 way too high and if we can get any relief from
24 these proposals it would be much appreciated. The
25 last couple of years have almost been a nightmare

1 up there trying to raise livestock, so anything
2 can be done in that regard would be useful. Thank
3 you.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
5 for providing those comments.

6 And I would like to invite Speaker
7 Number 21 to come to the first microphone.

8 AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He just
9 said --

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: There is no
11 Speaker Number 21.

12 I would move on to Speaker Number 22.

13 MS. KIM MITCHELL: He left. He gave
14 written comments and so did 24.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Twenty-three is
16 also not here, so I would like to invite Speaker
17 Number 24 please come to the first microphone.

18 MS. KIM MITCHELL: Twenty-two.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I'm sorry. I
20 thought you said 23 was gone. Speaker Number 23.

21 There is no Speaker Number 23. Is
22 Speaker Number 24 still with us?

23 AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. They
24 left.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. There

1 are no additional registered speakers. We do have
2 a couple minutes. Is there anyone else who would
3 like to provide additional comments at this time?
4 If so --

5 MS. DEANNE FOX: I'm 25.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

7 MS. DEANNE FOX: I waited this long. I
8 might as well do it.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Please
10 state and spell your first and last name and your
11 state of residence.

12 MS. DEANNE FOX: Hello. My name is
13 Deanne Fox, D-E-A-N-N-E F-O-X. My Anishinaabeg
14 name is Anugeguay, A-N-U-G-E-G-U-A-Y.

15 My father is white and my mother is
16 native, so I've had the opportunity to understand
17 and live in both worlds. To -- I just want to
18 speak a little bit tonight about the world of the
19 wolf because they are not here to speak for
20 themselves, but this is the second time today I've
21 told my story, and if any way I can help the wolf
22 I'm willing to.

23 I have a son who is six-years-old who
24 was raped and he was withdrawn and there was no
25 way that we could get him to pull outside of

1 himself. He wouldn't let anybody touch him.
2 Man -- he wouldn't let man touch him. He wouldn't
3 even let me, his own mother, touch him. I
4 couldn't change his clothes, couldn't take a
5 shower. It was just he was quiet and withdrawn
6 and isolated to himself and I had asked him, you
7 know, is there anything, a toy or anything, you
8 want that could help make you happy and he
9 wanted -- he asked for a puppy.

10 And so out on some gravel road out in
11 the middle of nowhere there were puppies for sale,
12 and when we had drove up to the place, we found
13 the puppies but they were half wolf. And at first
14 I really wasn't sure but he got into the pen and
15 got into the cage and chose a puppy that he
16 wanted. We asked him what he wanted to name it
17 and he named him "Cage," because he found him in
18 the cage and they grew. He grew with this puppy
19 and they slept together. They were constant
20 companions and he stayed by his side.

21 However, as he got bigger, he never
22 barked like a dog. He howled like a wolf and he
23 was much like a wolf.

24 Now, we lived in -- in the native way,
25 too, and our clan is bear and we understand and

1 respect and cleanse and what it means to respect
2 animals that are just as much a part of nature as
3 the human and they were like brothers. They were
4 -- they were like siblings and a lot of people
5 liked the dog, wanted the dog for their own, but
6 you couldn't separate the two.

7 We moved and the place we moved to they
8 weren't -- we weren't allowed to have animals, so
9 I wanted to find Cage the best possible setting
10 home we wanted because nothing was good enough,
11 and we did find him a nice safe home where there
12 were other dogs of his kind and like he was not
13 ever caged up or chained or he didn't need to be.
14 He was harmless. But I personally as -- you know,
15 as his mother felt helpless that I couldn't help
16 my son heal; that I couldn't bring him out of it
17 but this brush wolf did.

18 And when we had dropped him off, the new
19 owners had called and said he had left and it's
20 their nature. He figured it would be about two
21 months before he would make his way back to my
22 son. So my son cried. He was afraid that, one,
23 he would either get shot, get hit by a car, that
24 he might die. So each evening we did everything
25 we could. We went out within a two-mile radius of

1 his new home out on back roads, gravel roads.
2 We'd stop. He'd talk to the cows. "If you see
3 Cage, tell him to get back home." When he saw the
4 horses, he said, "If you see Cage, tell him to get
5 back home." Porcupines, any little birds,
6 anything, any of the other dogs that run out when
7 we were hollering for Cage out on the road --

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ma'am, I
9 apologize.

10 MS. DEANNE FOX: The last thing was an
11 eagle and I said, "Put your tobacco down," I said,
12 "because that's a good sign." So my friends knew
13 we were looking for him halfway between our new
14 home and his new owner's home. Cage showed up.
15 He showed up at a sweat lodge where they were
16 praying for him. He made his way back, but he now
17 has a new name. His new name is Spirit. Wolf --
18 and if there's anything that I can do to protect
19 those wolves for what they did to help my son.
20 Well, when that wolf came back, he was injured,
21 and my son slept with him and kept his wounds
22 clean and kept him dressed and the medicine that
23 the vet gave us to give him my son was the only
24 one who could reach his little hands down his
25 throat and make him eat that medicine.

1 And I think that if he and Cage were to
2 come into this room tonight and any man wanted to
3 harm that dog, they would have a little boy
4 wanting to beat them up.

5 I've -- I'm a resident of Minnesota. I
6 grew up in the White Earth Reservation. I didn't
7 grow up seeing the wolf out in the wild. I grew
8 up seeing cattle. And I hope that it's -- they
9 continue to be protected for what they can do for
10 man. That's it.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your
12 comments, ma'am.

13 I'd like to ask if there are any other
14 individuals who would like to provide comments
15 tonight.

16 MR. ANTON TREUER: Hello. I'm Anton
17 Treuer. I guess I'll spell my name again,
18 A-N-T-O-N. Last name is T-R-E-U-E-R. I'm a
19 resident of Minnesota. I'm not here representing
20 any organization. I just wanted to point out in
21 reading all of the literature that's been
22 presented by the organization it's clear to me
23 that the Endangered Species Act, which is designed
24 to prevent the extinction or threatened status of
25 any animal, needs to be examined very carefully.

1 In this case where the wolf, we're
2 looking at it by prejudice, and it appears to be
3 the position of this agency to look at the status
4 of the wolf in this particular region and consider
5 delisting in this region but not certain other
6 regions. But one of the problems with the policy,
7 which shows really the need for federal oversight
8 of the wolf situation and that wolf populations
9 are connected, and if you look at the Wisconsin
10 plan, in particular it provides a plan for the
11 maintenance of, quote, isolated wolf population.

12 The state governments are in their plans
13 hoping to preserve a small token wolf population
14 so that they cannot be blamed for the extinction
15 of the wolf in their native states but really do
16 not consider the health or survivability of wolves
17 beyond their own token wolf populations. In
18 looking at your literature, it's clear that the
19 wolf populations of North Dakota, South Dakota,
20 and Iowa are currently extinct.

21 If you remove federal protection of the
22 wolf, you will guarantee that the wolf populations
23 in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa remain
24 extinct. That will be one of the effects of
25 delisting the wolf.

1 Whereas, if as a federal agency
2 responsive to issues that cross state boundaries,
3 instead of just being responsive to the
4 constituents of Minnesota you look at the larger
5 picture for the wolf. You could see the
6 importance of allowing the wolf population to
7 rebound, which it still is not rebounded to levels
8 that they were at prior to settlement by
9 Europeans. Allow the population to continue to
10 rebound and spill over into other areas and indeed
11 it would no longer have to be extinct throughout
12 most of the original region, and certainly one of
13 the effects of delisting would be maintaining the
14 extinction of the species in most of the area.

15 State organizations, departments of
16 natural resources, will be responsive to state
17 constituencies and lobbying efforts and it's
18 important that if you really seriously consider
19 delisting the wolf that there be some other
20 federal oversight protection or plan for insuring
21 that the wolf is not extinct in all these other
22 areas.

23 And it's also important that this agency
24 make all efforts to include in dialogue with other
25 states, maybe Iowa or South Dakota would have

1 something to say about this plan and its potential
2 affect on them, and also with tribal governments
3 instead of making the decisions, important
4 decisions, in a vacuum as they certainly do affect
5 lots of people beyond the lobbying efforts that
6 are represented here today. Thank you.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir,
8 for providing those comments. It's now 9:11,
9 about 11 minutes after the published closing time
10 of this public hearing. I would like to offer one
11 last opportunity if there are any other
12 individuals who would like to provide verbal
13 comments this evening.

14 If there is no one else, I would like to
15 remind people that have written copies of their
16 verbal comments to please provide those to the
17 court reporter this evening before you leave.

18 On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service, I would like to thank you for the time
20 and effort that it took for you to come to this
21 public hearing and present your comments. I would
22 also like to say that everyone's comments will be
23 considered in coming to a final decision. On
24 behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
25 thank you again for coming. This public hearing

1 is now closed and we are off the record.

2 (At this time Exhibit Number 1 was
3 marked for identification by the court reporter.)

4 (Whereupon at 9:12 p.m. this proceeding
5 was concluded.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

CERTIFIED that the foregoing fifty-nine
(59) pages constitutes a true and correct record
from my original stenograph notes of all
proceedings which it purports to contain.

Nancy M. Utke
Registered Professional Reporter
Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470

My Commission expires 1/31/2005.

Dated this 21st day of September, 2004.

Distribution of Copies:

Original & 1 Copy - Phil Delphey

