



Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

3901 Joppa Ave. South, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 – Phone & Fax: (952) 920-9512

March 17, 2010

Mr. Tony Sullins
Twin Cities Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services Ltr of Request dated March 17, 2010

Dear Mr. Sullins,

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association urges the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to immediately approve the USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services request to allow removal of wolves that pose a threat to public safety in Minnesota Wolf Management Zone 1.

We offer our experience in dealing with problem animals. We work on a daily basis with animals that have the potential to cause serious injury. We accept that "work place" risk and employ management practices to maintain an acceptable level of safety. Domestic livestock that pose a serious safety risk are not tolerated. When warranted they are culled from the herd.

The situation in rural Minnesota with wolves is complicated by federal protection of the wolves. Citizens that might take forceful preventative action that even accidentally injures a wolf are in jeopardy of being charged with a federal felony. The current standard of "only in direct defense of human life" is unrealistic, stymies preventative measures and seriously compromises public safety.

The threshold for removal should include wolves that by their frequent presence near residences are considered habituated. Those animals present a general threat to public safety and should be authorized for immediate removal by all practical means.

We hope it will not take a tragedy such as occurred just a week ago near the small village of Chignik Lake, Alaska. It appears that a young woman was ran down and savagely killed by wolves while jogging just outside that village. We urge you to quickly act on the Wildlife Service request to remove the wolves in the Ely area that are clearly a risk to public safety.

Sincerely Yours,

Ted Reichmann

Ted Reichmann, President
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association