



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service

Wildlife Services

34912 U.S. Hwy. 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-3350
(218) 326-7039 (fax)

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

March 17, 2010

Dear Mr. Sullins:

The USDA, Wildlife Services is requesting authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take wolves posing a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety under certain conditions in Minnesota wolf management zone 1. There have been two verified dog depredations by wolves in the Ely, Minnesota area in 2010 (see attached photo of 2-9-10 St. Bernard dog and 2-22-10 WIRF report) as well as one additional reported instance of a wolf stalking a dog in the yard of a occupied residence. One of the confirmed dog depredations occurred in close proximity to human occupied dwellings. A review of one of the most comprehensive reports dealing with wolf-human encounters published by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Technical Bulletin 13, *A Case History of Wolf-Human Encounters in Alaska and Canada*, Mark E. McNay, 2002, documented people being bitten by wolves in 2 of 6 human-wolf encounters examined when dogs were present. Based on this information and our extensive experience with wolves in Minnesota, we believe that depredations of domestic dogs by wolves that occur in close proximity to human occupied dwellings constitute a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety.

As a result, we are asking that Wildlife Services (WS) personnel be authorized to lethally remove wolves for up to 30 days, within 1 mile of sites when it has been confirmed by WS or a DNR Conservation Officer that a domestic animal has been killed or seriously injured by a wolf or wolves within wolf management zone 1 under the following conditions:

- 1) The depredation occurred within 150' of a human occupied building
- 2) The depredation occurred within 1 mile of the city limits of any incorporated town or city in wolf management zone 1.

If you have any questions about this request or need additional information please contact me by telephone at (218) 327-3350 or by e-mail at john.p.hart@aphis.usda.gov Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John P. Hart

John P. Hart, District Supervisor
USDA, Wildlife Services

Cc: Gary Nohrenberg, WS MN State Director

