



Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

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MSCA Supports DNR's Wolf Delisting Petition

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) strongly supports the Minnesota DNR's action to petition for immediate removal of wolves from Endangered Species Act protection. The DNR filed the petition on March 16, 2010. The petition starts a formal process that should culminate with the US Fish & Wildlife Service making a decision to either grant or deny the petition.

Dale Lueck, Chair of MSCA's Wolf Delisting Committee said, "DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten has shown real leadership by standing up for Minnesota's livestock owners, deer hunters, and pet owners." He added, "The wolf remains the darling of the animal rights folks, but I am cautiously optimistic the petition coupled with other measures MSCA and private citizens are working on will ultimately get them delisted."

Under the petition process, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has to issue a preliminary finding within 90 days of receipt of the petition. That preliminary finding must indicate whether the action is not warranted or may be warranted. If the 90 day finding is "may be warranted," then FWS has an additional 9 months to reach a final determination on the requested action.

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association has been battling to get the wolves delisted for decades. MSCA played a major role in getting the state wolf management plan passed into law. Minnesota's plan worked well during the 18 months wolves were delisted back in 2007-2008. They went back under federal protection after animal rights groups took FWS to court on process issues and eventually forced the FWS to relist them.

Lueck said, "There are now well over 3,000 wolves in Minnesota and another 1,200 spread across Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan." He added, "That's about three times the number required by the federal recovery plan to reclassify wolves as recovered."

Wolf recovery has been so successful that wolves are frequently involved in killing cattle, sheep and family pets. In Minnesota over 3,000 wolves have had to be trapped and euthanized on farms because they were killing livestock or family pets. Today, pet owners in some northern Minnesota cities simply can not allow their dogs out for even a few minutes for fear of a wolf attack.

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association mission is to provide services to its membership that will help create and maintain the economic and political climate that will provide individual members the opportunity to attain optimum return on their investments within the free enterprise system. Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is a growing organization of 1,000 dues paying members. For more information on the association go to www.mnsca.org or you can contact the Executive Director, Steve May at 612-850-5027.