

U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Introduces new bill to delist gray wolves in upper Midwest

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) introduced the *Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act*, new legislation to develop a regional-specific plan based in science to delist the gray wolf population in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The legislation would create an advisory committee comprised of members representing agriculture, Native and Tribal communities, heads of impacted-state agencies, and wolf management experts and scientists to create the final delisting rule for the region.

"I have long supported commonsense efforts to delist the gray wolf in Wisconsin because the science shows that the population has recovered in the Great Lakes region. While other parts of the country have different wolf populations and management needs, this legislation will allow our agriculture, Tribal, scientific, and impacted communities to come together to create a solution that works for Wisconsin," **said Senator Baldwin.** "The *Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act* is a deliberate approach that follows the science and gives impacted communities a seat at the table as we work together to be responsible stewards of Wisconsin's gray wolf population."

The region the legislation outlines includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where the wolf population has been [determined](#) to have rebounded to the point where state management is appropriate.

The advisory committee would also be involved in the five-year post-delisting monitoring period, which ensures that the status of the species does not decline or, if an increase in threats or decline in the population do occur, there are plans and

measures in place to halt the decline so that relisting is not necessary.

The *Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act* would require the following:

- **Define the Northern Great Lakes Region:** Expand the Minnesota population segment currently listed as “threatened,” which has remained in place since 1978 except for periods of complete delisting, to statutorily include Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
- **Create a Northern Great Lakes Region Gray Wolf Advisory Committee:** Require the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish the Northern Great Lakes Region Gray Wolf Advisory Committee, which will include membership from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service, federally recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, heads of impacted-state agencies, and experts of wolf biology, management, and predation.
- **Re-Draft Gray Wolf Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan (PDMP):** Require the USFWS to redraft the outdated 2008 PDMP for the gray wolf as it applies to the Northern Great Lakes Region population, in consultation with the Committee both during the drafting process and during the 5-year period post delisting.
- **Issue a Gray Wolf Delisting Rule:** Require the issuance of a delisting rule for gray wolves in the Northern Great Lakes Region, which shall be drafted in consultation with the Committee, in order to successfully, and in the long term, return the species to state management in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The *Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act* is supported by the Wisconsin Farmers Union, Whitetails of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Game Preserve Association, Wisconsin Cattleman’s Association, and Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.

“Wolf populations are no longer endangered, and in fact exceed the national delisting criteria in the Midwest. All these wolves represent a vibrant and dramatic tribute to the success of the Endangered Species Act. Wisconsin Farmers Union supports the delisting of wolves as an endangered species and supports return to state control of wolf management,” **said Michelle Ramirez-White, Policy Coordinator at the Wisconsin Farmers Union.**

“As with any regulation of wild animal species, proper management not only ensures the proliferation of healthy populations of that species but assists in the appropriate balance of other species that share Wisconsin’s waters and woods with

them. The wolf population in the Northern Great Lake region additionally affects livestock and deprivation by wolves is a daily issue that many farmers in the state of Wisconsin deal with,” **said Tim Zindl, President of the Wisconsin Game Preserve Association.** “The delisting of Wolves is long overdue and will be a monumental step in the proper management of the resources we so cherish.”

“Wisconsin Corn Growers support reforms to the Endangered Species Act which would result in the responsible management of our state’s grey wolf population,” **said Mark Hoffmann, President of Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.** “We support Senator Baldwin’s approach to wolf management that will work for Wisconsin’s agricultural community because the livestock damages related to the wolf population affect our industry outputs.”

A one-pager on this legislation is available [here](#). Full text of this legislation is available [here](#).

An online version of this release is available [here](#).