

*Introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)*

## **The Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act**

*Legislation would delist the gray wolf in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan*

### **Recognizing the achievements of the Endangered Species Act**

The gray wolf was near extinction when it was originally granted protection status under the Endangered Species Act after its creation in 1974. As a result of the law's success, wolves have rebounded in certain portions of its original territory, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. That is why the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the agency responsible for executing the responsibilities of the Endangered Species Act, has issued multiple rules to down list wolves or delist wolves entirely from the Endangered Species Act over the past two decades.

### **Following the science under the Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act**

Multiple attempts by the federal government to delist wolves in Great Lakes states and around the country have failed. The Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act will overcome these hurdles by requiring engagement from all impacted stakeholders, including those representing the interests of farmers and rural communities, tribes and tribal communities, as well as input from wolf management experts and scientists. This expert knowledge will be harnessed to create a final delisting rule for wolves in the Northern Great Lakes Region, the contiguous wolf population segment that has been determined to have rebounded to the point where state management is appropriate. These stakeholders would also be involved in the five-year period 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:**

1. 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.
2. Northern Great Lakes Region Gray Wolf Advisory Committee: Require the USFWS to establish the Northern Great Lakes Region Gray Wolf Advisory Committee, which shall 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.
3. Gray Wolf Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan (PDMP): Require the USFWS to redraft the 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 process post delisting.
4. 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.

**Endorsing Organizations:** Wisconsin Cattleman's Association, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Game Preserve Association, Whitetails of Wisconsin