



TRAINING HOUND DOGS ON WOLVES

- As of 07/10/2014, hound dog training on wolves is taking place in Wisconsin 24 hours/day; 365 days/year with unlimited & unleashed GPS-collared dogs, no licenses required on all public lands.
- Historically, the use of dogs to train and hunt wolves is associated with a dark period in Wisconsin history leading up to their extermination from Wisconsin.
- To date, there is no peer-reviewed research on the impact of injuries and mortalities to adult wolves, breeding females, yearlings or pups where hound dogs are trained on wolves.
- The practice could potentially disrupt pack structure and lead to a total breakdown of a pack unit, possibly cause them to leave their home territory or even abandon their pups.
- There are no regulations in place to protect wolves, breeding females, yearlings, or pups under NR 17.04, DNR's "Dog training rules".
- The lack of enforceable regulations on the number of hounds or hours to restrict access to the woods during training puts pups as young as 3 months old at high risk of being killed by hounds.
- The constant day and night harassment by hound hunters will disrupt the adults' ability to feed those pups.
- Hound dogs are known to run their quarry for hours or more to exhaustion; if outnumbered, hound dogs will kill yearlings and pups.
- At a time when young wildlife (wolf pups, bear cubs, coyote pups & even fawns) are most vulnerable, an unlimited and unsupervised number of hound dogs can be released into the woods.
- On the 2011 bear hunter survey, approximately 12,700 bear hound dogs were on the landscape in July & August during bear dog training. Extreme disturbances such as hound dog training could cause "abandonment of preferred rendezvous sites and perhaps displace wolves to less suitable areas."
- Since dog-wolf fights would be difficult to stop in deadly encounters during hound dog training, it is suggested that poaching could be considerable during hound dog training.
- Mortality of pups may be significant due to potential increase in poaching during hound dog training; WI data shows wolf pup mortality @ 70%.
- Training dogs on wolves in January & February would limit ability to monitor wolves for mid-winter survey counts; This tracking method has been the gold-standard for population monitoring in Wisconsin for the last 30+ years.
- If permanent regulations are put in place in 2015, hound hunters can train their hound dogs on wolves thru wolf breeding season ending 2/28.
- With approximately 12,700 unleashed hound dogs on Wisconsin's landscape, trespassing on private property by unleashed hound dogs and owners will continue.
- USF&WS (2011) ranked Wisconsin 2nd in bird watching across the United States; hound dogs training on the landscape has the potential to negatively affect this economic boost to the state due to the disruption and safety concerns.
- Deer hunters, bird hunters and recreational users such as hikers, wildlife photographers, birdwatchers and campers object to hound hunting of wolves owing both to its disruptive impacts and safety concerns.
- This extreme bloodsport of training hound dogs jeopardizes traditional ethical hunting.
- "To satisfy a few, the state risks losing the participation and economic contributions of the majority of Wisconsin's wildlife recreational users." - Jodi Habush Sinykin

