

29 April 2014

**Statutory Authority:**

Wolves were removed from the federal endangered species list on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Wisconsin Act 169 (appendix XX) was signed into law. Act 169 relegates authority for some aspects of the wolf harvest season and damage abatement and claims program to the DNR, other aspects are included in law and are therefore outside the discretionary authority of the Department. It is important to understand which aspects of wolf management policy can be changed through department policy and rule making authority, and which are included in state law.

**Set in State Law:** Act 169 - Wolf Bill

Depred - 29.888  
29.014

- 1(m) "If the wolf is not listed on the federal endangered list and is not listed on the state endangered list, the department shall allow the hunting and trapping of wolves and shall regulate such hunting and trapping as provided in this section and shall implement a wolf management plan."
- ~~All~~ funds received from the issuance of wolf harvesting licenses to be used for the depredation program. *Is - additional funds for management.*
- Harvest permits shall be distributed by lottery with 50% distributed randomly to all applicants and 50% using a preference point system.
- Season dates: October 15<sup>th</sup> to the last day in February or until the quota is met.
- No area of the state may be closed to wolf hunting or trapping
- License and application fees: \$10 application, \$49 resident license, \$251 non-resident license
- Transfer allowed to anyone, except that no person may receive more than 1 wolf license for the same season.
- Single hunting and trapping season, Single hunting and trapping license.
- Mechanism by which the state may close zones to hunting, minimum 24 hour notice, posting requirements etc.
- Firearm, bow and crossbow authorized methods of take
- Shot size larger than BB
- Dogs may be used to track and trail wolves beginning the Monday after the 9-day deer season
- No more than 6 dogs in pursuit
- Bait may be used to attract wolves
- Calls including electronic calls may be used to attract wolves
- Trapping is an authorized method of take beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Cable restraints become legal beginning the Monday after the 9-day deer season
- Radio Telemetry devices must be returned to the Department
- Depredation payments may be made for livestock and dogs with the exception of dogs engaged in wolf hunting or training
- Depredation funds to come from the sale of wolf application and licenses, payments are prorated if funds do not meet claims
- Education requirements are set in state law and currently only require general hunter or trapper education. Wolf specific education courses are statutory. - Ed. Statutes

**Department rule making authority includes:**

- Harvest zone boundaries
- Harvest quotas
- Number of licenses issued

- Zone of issuance for licenses (every zone or zone specific)
- Management objectives
- Trap type and specifications (must include cable restraints)
- Zone closure criteria
- Payment amounts for various depredation types
- Depredation response and landowner permitting
- Hunting hours
- Specific Tagging and transportation requirements/restrictions.
- Dog training regulations

*application dates - lead times*