



There is no scientific or biological justification to hunt or trap wolves for sport.

The facts about wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Those eager to open a trophy hunting and commercial trapping season on the U.P.'s wolves ignored scientific evidence and used scare tactics and misleading information—again—to support passage of SB 1187.

Just because we *can* kill wolves doesn't mean we *should*. Wolves play a vital role in the ecosystem, strengthen deer populations, have cultural and intrinsic value, and create jobs and support businesses through ecotourism.

Wolves pose little risk to humans.

Shy but curious, wolves venture close if drawn by human feeding of deer—but still don't threaten or harm humans. But even though wolves in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, they can still be legally killed if even *perceived* to be a human threat.

Effective livestock protection resources are readily available.

In 2016, only a handful of the U.P.'s 900 livestock farms experienced conflicts with wolves, and most occurred on one farm. The Michigan DNR provides ranchers with highly effective livestock protection resources. Livestock owners are compensated for confirmed and even suspected missing animals taken by wolves, which remain extremely low compared to other mortalities. Scientific studies have amply demonstrated, though, that indiscriminate killing of wolves by hunting is not only ineffective at mitigating livestock conflicts, but could even make those few problems worse by dispersing packs, sending inexperienced juvenile wolves out on their own.

"Growing numbers"?

Michigan DNR wolf population estimates:

In 2011: 687

In 2013: 658

In 2014: 636

In 2015: 618

...and this is over more than 16,400 sq. mi. of U.P. habitat.

Weather—not the wolf—affects U.P. deer persistence.

Recently the U.P. has had harsh winters, making deer survival difficult. But wolves strengthen, not harm, deer herds by removing the sick and weak. And the DNR has reminded deer hunters that habitat improvement yields better results than blaming predators. But despite that bad weather, the DNR's 2015 deer hunt summary said: "Hunter satisfaction was up this year across all categories measured -- number of deer seen, number of bucks seen, overall hunting experience and deer harvested." 2016 counts are expected to be even better.

Wolves provide economic and ecological benefits.

Research suggests that wolves may limit the spread of diseases like CWD. There is compelling scientific evidence of top-down trophic effects generated by wolves because they alter deer movements, allowing for forest and habitat regeneration. Wolves also provide economic benefits to communities.



For more information, contact the National Wolfwatcher Coalition at info@wolfwatcher.org