

## RESOLUTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### Update to the Michigan Wolf Management Plan

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) has determined that the best available scientific and commercial data establish that gray wolf entities in the lower 48 United States do not meet the definitions of a threatened species or an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (“Act”); and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2020 the USFWS published a final rule that removes gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) entities in the lower 48 United States and Mexico, except for the Mexican wolf (*C. l. baileyi*), from listing under the Act; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS final rule took effect on January 4, 2021, resuming state management of wolves, including the lethal control of wolves; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (“NREPA”), 1994 PA 451, grants the Natural Resources Commission (“Commission”) exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sport fish in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, NREPA defines wolf as a game species; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021, the Department presented a series of proposed actions to the Commission, including an update to the Michigan Wolf Management Plan, government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes located within Michigan, reformation of the Wolf Management Advisory Council, which will provide the Department and Commission with nonbinding recommendations for wolf management, and a public attitude survey; and

WHEREAS, the Wolf Management Plan requires the Department to review and update the plan at five-year intervals “[t]o address ecological, social and regulatory shifts in a timely manner”; and

WHEREAS, the Wolf Management Plan was last updated in 2015; and

WHEREAS, an updated Wolf Management Plan will provide the Commission with the latest biological data necessary to inform science-based management of gray wolves in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Department’s public attitude survey, reformation of the Wolf Management Advisory Council, and consultation with tribal governments can all be conducted concurrently with the scientific review and drafting updates to the Wolf Management Plan, resulting in a timely and efficient process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Commission formally supports the Department's proposed process to update the Wolf Management Plan concurrently with citizen input and consultation with tribal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Commission requests final publication of the updated Wolf Management Plan no later than December 31, 2021, which will assist the Commission in its regulatory duties relative to gray wolf management in Michigan.

Record Vote: Adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays viva voice

Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

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Carol Rose, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Rose", written over a horizontal line.

Date: February 11, 2021