



31 January 2022

Re: 2015 Wolf Management Plan

To Whom it May Concern:

Safari Club International (SCI), the country's leader in advocacy to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation through sustainable use, thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Michigan Wolf Management Plan (updated 2015). SCI strongly supports science-based management of wolves and encourages the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to revise the plan to maintain the viability of Michigan's wolf population and reduce human-wolf conflicts, including through implementation of a regulated wolf hunting season.

The conservation success story of gray wolves in Michigan is well known. SCI strongly supports the Michigan DNR's conclusion that wolves have long "met and exceeded biological recovery goals that would have necessitated protection" under the federal Endangered Species Act. The state's gray wolf population has exceeded the recovery goal identified in the prior plan for more than twenty years. SCI strongly supports adoption of revisions to the management plan which recognize this success and incorporate regulated hunting to manage the wolf population and ensure an appropriate balance between predators and prey species. SCI Foundation, along with the SCI Michigan Involvement Committee and in-state Chapters, is one of the largest financial contributors to wolf related wildlife research in Michigan, having invested more than \$1 million combined into the Michigan Predator-Prey Project in the Upper Peninsula.

SCI acknowledges that research reported in the 2015 management plan shows that the majority of survey respondents supported regulated hunting and appropriate management to address wolf-related conflicts. At the same time, SCI encourages the DNR to adopt revisions to the management plan based on science, and not public opinion. Appropriate wolf management actions may not always be popular, but they are necessary to ensure wolves are tolerated by the people most affected by their conservation success.

In sum, SCI encourages the DNR to adopt revisions to the management plan which incorporate regulated hunting as a management and conflict-reduction strategy based on the best available science. Hunters are the original conservationists and, through the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, have long paid the way for conservation, both of game and non-game.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on revisions to the 2015 Wolf Management Plan. SCI, with over 50,000 members and advocates, is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the partnership and work of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sven K. Lindquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'S' at the beginning.

Sven Lindquist
President
Safari Club International

CC: Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Director Daniel Eichinger
Natural Resources Commission Members