

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Wolves are dangerous to human safety.

Fact: There has never been a recorded wolf attack on a human in Michigan. Wolves are afraid of people and do all they can to avoid them. Although wolves are predators, they pose no threat to public safety. An irrational fear or hatred of wolves should not drive the trophy hunting of these majestic creatures.

Myth: Wolves attack livestock and pets and must be hunted to reduce these conflicts.

Fact: Though cases of wolves killing livestock are rare (fewer than 8% of the UP farms and ranches have experienced depredations), Michigan law gives property owners the legal authority to protect their livestock and dogs. There are lethal and non-lethal procedures already in place to deal with problem wolves. Farmers are also compensated at full market value for any livestock lost to wolf depredation. Opening the season on wolves is unnecessary and disruption of stable packs by hunting may actually cause an increase in depredations.

Myth: Wolves are eating all the deer in the UP.

Fact: Wolves are an essential part of Michigan's ecosystem. As a keystone species, wolves are vital to keeping the deer population healthy and thriving. Myriad scientific studies show that the biggest factor for deer survival is their access to adequate nutrition; human hunters, lack of habitat, and weather events are the greatest sources for deer mortality, while wolves and other native carnivores benefit deer herds by removing the sick and the weak animals that would die anyway.

Myth: Allowing the NRC to name animals (like the wolf) to the list of game species is in the interest of sound science.

Fact: The Natural Resources Commission (or NRC) is an unelected body of 7 political appointees. There is no requirement that any member of the panel have any experience with wildlife management, biology or ecology.

The NRC is not accountable to Michigan voters and has discounted detailed scientific reports debunking the justification for a wolf hunt from some of the most preeminent wolf scientists in the country: Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich –both of whom reside in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and have been studying wolves there for many years, and others. Proponents of a wolf hunt have yet to produce any scientific evidence to support it

Myth: Voting NO on Prop 2 would mean members of the military would have to pay for hunting licenses.

Fact: Michigan's military personnel are only required to pay \$1 to obtain a hunting or fishing license. It is a despicable act of politics and a smack in the face to democracy to use a manufactured benefit to service men and women as armor for a bill that bypasses voter's rights to have a say on wildlife issues.

Myth: No matter what happens in November there will be a wolf hunt next year.

Fact: The Natural Resources Commission has no legal authority to proceed with a wolf hunt in 2014. Voting NO on Proposals 1 & 2 will allow voters to send a clear message that they do not want to allow the trophy hunting of wolves this year and oppose having their rights to vote on important wildlife issues taken away. A NO vote on Proposals 1 & 2 will also pave the way for a litigation challenging the unconstitutional law passed by the MI legislature this summer which would give more power to the NRC, threatening our wolves, our wildlife and our voting rights.