

9 FEBRUARY 2007

Wolves Move Off Endangered Species List

Effective March 12, 2007, the western Great Lakes population of gray wolves will be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species, according to a Federal Register published on Thursday. The threats to the gray wolf in this region have been reduced or eliminated and greatly exceed the numerical recovery criteria established in the recovery plan. The area includes all of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan as well as parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The notice is located at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-471.htm>.

Also posted in the Federal Register on Thursday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published its proposed rule to establish a distinct population segment of the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains and to remove the gray wolf in this area from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

Comments on this proposal will be considered if received on or before April 9, 2007. Six public hearing will also be held between Feb. 27 and March 8 with an open house scheduled prior to the public hearing at each location.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates in the following cities: Feb. 27 in Cheyenne, Wyo.; Feb. 28 in Salt Lake City, Utah; March 1 in Helena, Mont.; March 6 in Boise, Idaho; March 7 in Pendleton, Ore.; and March 8 in Spokane Valley, Wash.

The full register notice is located at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-487.htm>.

Both actions are being taken in recognition of the success of the gray wolf recovery efforts under the Endangered Species Act.

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