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Policy Briefing Event: Creating a Shared Vision for Wolves in Wisconsin — Wisconsin's Green Fire Releases *Opportunities Now* Report on Wolves

Rhineland, WI— In light of the 2021 planned removal of federal Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves, Wisconsin needs a new wolf conservation plan, new policies, and legislation to provide appropriate conservation for this iconic species. Currently, Gray wolf conservation and management is informed by an outdated Wolf Management Plan from 1999. In their new *Opportunities Now* Report, Wisconsin's Green Fire lays out a clear set of recommendations to tackle these issues and set Wisconsin's management of the gray wolf up for success. Key recommendations include:

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) should proceed conservatively by maintaining the population within 2016-20 levels (around 866-1034 wolves) until a new wolf conservation plan is developed and approved by the Natural Resources Board.
- Wisconsin needs legislation that returns authority for determining need and specifics of a wolf harvest to the WDNR and Tribes with strong public input.
- Ensure that Wisconsin's diverse American Indian Nations and their rights and interests are recognized and respected in any management decisions or new management plans. Wolves are culturally significant to their people and way of life.

"Gray wolves serve a critical role maintaining healthy forests and landscape biodiversity," says Adrian Wydeven, co-chair of Wisconsin's Green Fire Wildlife Work Group. "We have the tools and the knowledge to manage Wisconsin's wolf population in a way that reflects our state's conservation tradition, but to do that we need a management framework that reflects the best available biological and social science. We are providing guidance for that framework in this report."

The full document will be available December 1 at <https://wigreenfire.org>

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