

May 20th, 2021

Dear WGF Supporter,

We want to share with you the reasons why your support for Wisconsin's Green Fire is as important today as ever.

Wisconsin Hunters Kill Over 200 Wolves in Less Than 3 Days

The gray wolf lost Endangered Species Act protections last year, prompting a recent hunt that killed at least 216 wolves — far exceeding a quota set by state wildlife officials.

On January 22nd, under pressure from state legislators and outside interest groups, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) held a special meeting to consider a proposal to order the WDNR to conduct a wolf hunt that would be planned and completed in less than five weeks, without significant stakeholder input, without a biological assessment, and without consultation with Wisconsin Tribes. Wisconsin's Green Fire member and career wolf biologist Adrian Wydeven testified and answered questions for the NRB that day, making the science-based case for waiting until fall to hold a hunt. After a long debate the members of the NRB voted 4-3 against the proposal.

Unfortunately, a Jefferson County Circuit Court judge issued a ruling less than three weeks later ordering the WDNR to hold the hunt anyway.

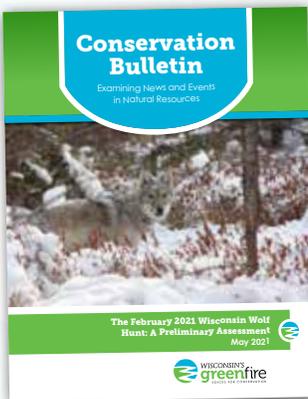
As the chaotic events around the February wolf hunt unfolded, WGF's wolf team got to work evaluating the results and the impacts. Our report, **The February 2021 Wisconsin Wolf Hunt: A Preliminary Assessment** provided a deep analysis of all the things that went wrong in February and mapped out next steps in sustaining the recovery of one of our state's most iconic species.

Our report on the wolf hunt has established the terms of discussion for wolf conservation in Wisconsin and strengthened WGF's reputation as a conservation leader with deep experience.

I think you'll agree that work like this is needed now more than ever and your support is what makes it all possible.

Together, Wisconsin's Green Fire members' collective experience is the foundation of our work and we need you to help us continue to reach new levels of impact.

Will you make a contribution to support our work this Spring?



Wisconsin's Green Fire has been more active and more influential in 2021 than at any point since our founding. Here are just a few highlights from our 2021 work to date.

OUR WORK IN 2021 - MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR SUPPORT

Opportunities Now Series Grows to Address Key Issues

We've released three new papers in our Opportunities Now series providing a long view on complex conservation policy issues facing Wisconsin.

- ▶ [PFAS - Forever Chemicals in Wisconsin](#)
- ▶ [The Future is Now - Creating a 21st Century Energy Policy](#)
- ▶ [Wetlands and Waterways in Wisconsin – Navigating Changes to the Federal Waters of the United States Rule](#)



Federal and State Conservation Advocacy

WGF's Policy Liaison Paul Heinen has coordinated WGF's leadership with our partners in advocating for renewal of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program in the state budget, and in passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act at the federal level.



Protecting Habitat on Northern Lakes

WGF's Mike Meyer is leading our Northern Highlands Lake Assessment Toolbox project, creating assessment and habitat improvement guidance for lakeshore property owners who want to do more to protect water quality and lake health.

Photo Credit: Doug Killian



Bringing Climate Science to Affected Communities

WGF has just launched the **Monroe County Climate Readiness and Rural Economic Opportunity Assessment** in one of the regions of Wisconsin hit hardest by recent flood events. WGF staff and our member Nancy Turyk are leading this first of its kind effort in Wisconsin with a partner team that includes WDNR staff, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Land and Water, and others. Wisconsin Public Radio covered the kickoff meeting in a story on May 10th. <https://www.wpr.org/new-monroe-county-project-aims-reduce-impacts-climate-change-make-conservation-profitable>



Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

In 2021 our Student and Young Professional (S&YP) Work Group formed, bringing together students in conservation programs throughout Wisconsin as well as recent graduates. The S&YP group is rapidly growing a statewide network, and collaborating with WGF members and work groups while developing their own unique voice through a dedicated newsletter.



"Thank you Wisconsin's Green Fire for producing the preliminary assessment of the 2021 wolf hunt. I do not believe that any other group could apply the necessary science or has the professional expertise to do the analysis of what happened during this year's wolf season and produce this report. Keep me on your mailing list for future reports"

– Representative Nick Milroy,
South Range



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As you can see on the insert pages, we are accomplishing a lot of good as a small organization with the help of WGF member experts like Adrian Wydeven, Nancy Turyk, Mike Meyer, and so many other volunteer members who are the heart and soul of Wisconsin's Green Fire. It should be no surprise however that creating these impacts also requires financial support.

Your contributions today will allow us to:

- ▶ Continue our work assessing the 2021 wolf hunt and maintain our member's voice in future plans for wolf management.
- ▶ Continue creating WGF Conservation Bulletins and Opportunities Now publications that address complex, high impact conservation issues in Wisconsin.
- ▶ Expand our critical work in climate change beyond Monroe County, with a focus on community-based projects in both rural and urban communities.
- ▶ Continue to be an expert source and a voice for sustainable, science-based management on contentious natural resource issues including white-tailed deer, forests and natural areas, fisheries, and Wisconsin's energy future.
- ▶ Build our *Wisconsin's Green Fire Action Fund* to prepare us to quickly address critical policy issues with the goal of maintaining at least \$25,000 in reserves.

Your support of Wisconsin's Green Fire can take many forms including:

- Individual unrestricted gifts
- Sponsorship of one of our programs
- Including WGF in your estate plans
- Other forms of planned giving
- Gifts of appreciated securities

Can You Make a Contribution to Support our Work Today?

Contributions can be made:

Electronically: <https://wigreenfire.org/make-a-difference/make-a-donation/>

By mail: To Wisconsin's Green Fire, PO Box 5411, Madison, WI 53705

Please contact either of us with your questions or ideas.

You Are Helping Secure Wisconsin's Conservation Future – Thank You for Supporting Our Work Together



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