



The Vermont Legislative Research Shop

Introduction of Wolves to Vermont

What are Other States Doing?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it planned to study potential wolf restoration in the Northeast's Great North Woods. As a result of this, New Hampshire introduced a bill much like the one proposed in Vermont's House by Representative Helm. The introduction study was to be done in Maine and New York since they contain the core of potential wolf habitats (ENN News Monday, May 10). The Bill was passed on June 01, 1999 in New Hampshire (HB 240) that said that it was fine for wolves to naturally return to New Hampshire, but they should not be introduced (New Hampshire House Bill 240).

How Would Wolves Impact Vermont and Vermonters?

Wolves Effects on the Economy

In a recent study conducted by the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Minnesota, they found that the reintroduction of wolves could promote more tourism adding approximately \$3 million annually to the state's economy. However, maintaining wolf populations also incur costs. Examining one proposed plan by Minnesota Wolf Management Round Table, it was estimated that as the wolf population expands it will need to be controlled by hunting or by management by the state. They estimate that by 2005, the wolf population will have to be cut by 28-53% per year. There are other possible costs such as agricultural damages, and damages to livestock. They estimated that each wolf would cost about \$146 by the year 2005 (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center 1999).

References

Northern Prairie Research Center. 1999.

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/wpop/results.htm>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999.

<http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf/learn/quandas.htr>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. December 18, 1997 News Release: "Management Laws Regarding Gray Wolves Remain". <http://www.r6.fws.gov/pressrel/97-49.htr>.

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