

Endangered Species Report  
December 2007

Wolves are removed from the Endangered Species list. 1545 wolves roam Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. By reclassifying wolves as "big game" they would become regularly hunted predators, controlled by scientific management of the species, by state game departments. Some environmentalists say that wolves are just creating a natural balance in the ecosystem. State biologists argue that when wolves overpopulate they don't just starve to death and thereby complete the natural predator-prey cycle; instead, they move to other areas and deplete herds there or prey on livestock and pets. Wolves kill domestic dogs on sight. Hunters are needed to keep wolf populations stable. Human lives are even at stake: when un hunted wolves become habituated to people they are more likely to attack.

Early in November(5<sup>th</sup>) I attended a DNR meeting in Green Bay presented by Jeff Pritzel of the WDNR as part of the environmental assessment process on the Double Crested Cormorant.

In 1997 there were 8870 nesting pairs on G.B. islands.

In 2005 " " 12882 nesting pairs on G.B. islands. Plus other birds are also present, Pelicans, Terns, Gulls, etc. On Green Bay islands there is a 45% increase in nesting cormorants. The impact on the islands is devastating. Trees are killed, birds now are nesting on the ground. Under WI. Act. 287, spring of 2006, DNR management of Dbl. Crested Cormorants, if public resources are being damaged the DNR will take action. They will implement a depredation order. Oiling of eggs at nesting season the preferred method.

USFWS fish biologist Paul Peters also presented information.

Cormorant diet is almost 100% fish. They are opportunistic feeders. Whatever fish are abundant and available they will eat! Cormorants are not totally responsible for the drop in the yellow perch population. Mr. Peters has found Brown trout, frequent along our shorelines, one year old fish--Cormorants love'em! Cormorants eat about 1 lb. of fish a day. At 12882 nesting pairs, cormorants in our region do have an impact on fish populations, whether it is perch, gobes, brown trout, or any other species.

Three Endangered Species are also affected. The Caspian Tern (state endangered 1989), the Common Tern (endangered 1989), and the Forster's Tern (endangered 1979). Competition for nesting sites, habitat loss, predation, human disturbance near colonies during nesting season should be prevented or limited. No consensus could be reached at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Matyska, chair.