

1 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2 East Lansing Field Office
3 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
4 East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

5
6 PUBLIC HEARING

7 on the

8 PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE
9 EASTERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT OF THE GRAY WOLF
10 FROM THE FEDERAL LIST OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES
11

12
13 Cisler Conference Center
14 Ontario Room
15 Lake Superior State University
16 650 West Easterday Avenue
17 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

18
19 Tuesday, September 14, 2004
20 Official Public Hearing

21 Reported by: Caryl Hyry, RPR, CSR-2630
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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Hatchery Manager
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Elmira, Michigan

MS. CHRISTIE DELORIA-SHEFFIELD
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MR. RONALD REFSNIDER, Endangered Species Biologist
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MS. LAURA RAGAN, Staff Biologist
Minneapolis, Minnesota, Twin Cities Field Office

MR. CRAIG CZARNECKI, Field Supervisor
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East Lansing, Michigan, Ecological Field Office

1 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

2 Tuesday, September 14, 2004 - 7:40 P.M.

3 MS. DELORIA-SHEFFIELD: Everybody take their
4 seats, please? For any of the folks that are sort of
5 new, that maybe weren't here for the original
6 introductions, I'll introduce myself again. My name is
7 Christie Deloria. I work in the Sub-Office in the U.P.,
8 here, out of Marquette, and deal with lots of different
9 issues throughout the U.P., including endangered
10 species.

11 I also want to introduce some of the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service Staff that's here with us tonight,
13 including Ron Refsnider and Laura Ragan, up at the head
14 table with me, who are out of our Minneapolis, Minnesota
15 office.

16 Craig Czarnecki is our Field Supervisor here
17 in Michigan. He's in the back, as well as Mike
18 DeCapita, which is just over to his left with the gray
19 shirt on. He's our Endangered Species Coordinator for
20 the Fish and Wildlife Service in Michigan.

21 Behind me is Rick Westerhof. He is the
22 Hatchery Manager for the Jordan River Fish Hatchery down
23 state. He is going to be acting as our Hearing Officer
24 tonight, and momentarily I'm going to hand the floor
25 over to him.

1 I also wanted to point out that Brian Roell,
2 the Michigan DNR Wolf Coordinator, is here tonight in
3 the back of the room; so later this evening, if you have
4 other questions, you wanted to talk with him, please
5 feel free to do that; so with that, I'm going to hand it
6 over to Rick to start the formal part of our Hearing.

7 MR. WESTERHOF: Good evening. It's not
8 actually 7:30, it's 7:41. I want to make sure we get
9 that on the record, and we are going to begin the formal
10 part of the Hearing.

11 On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, I welcome you to this Public Hearing. The
13 purpose of this Hearing is to receive comments from the
14 public on the Fish and Wildlife Service's Proposal to
15 Delist the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of the
16 Gray Wolf.

17 Caryl Hyry will be the court reporter who will
18 be preparing the written record of all statements made
19 during this Hearing. The transcript of the Hearing will
20 be posted on the website of the Midwest Region of the
21 Fish and Wildlife Service in a few weeks. The address
22 for the website is posted outside along the wall. I
23 will have no further involvement with the Proposal after
24 tonight, so I am an impartial participant in this
25 Hearing. However, as introduced earlier, there are

1 other people here who are going to be helping out.
2 Christie did that for us. Many of them will be involved
3 in reviewing the comments and helping the Service come
4 to the final decision on the Proposal.

5 This is a Public Hearing under Section Four of
6 the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. Notice of
7 the Proposal to Remove the Gray Wolf in the Eastern
8 United States from the List of Endangered, Threatened
9 Wildlife and the 120-day comment period was published in
10 the Federal Register on July 21, 2004, beginning on Page
11 43664. A Notice of the Nine Public Hearings being Held
12 in the Midwest was published in the Federal Register on
13 August 13, 2004, on Page 50147.

14 There may be additional Hearings scheduled in
15 the Northeastern United States. If so, the dates and
16 locations will be announced in the Federal Register and
17 will be posted on the Service's website. Again, the
18 address is outside on the wall.

19 Convening Public Hearings is one of the
20 methods the Fish and Wildlife Service uses to solicit
21 data and comments from the public on this Proposal. No
22 final decision has yet been made regarding the Proposal,
23 nor will any decision be made at this Hearing. Public
24 comments on the Proposal will be accepted through
25 November 18, 2004.

1 After review and consideration of the existing
2 administrative record, your comments, your
3 interpretation of existing data, and all other
4 information gathered during the comment period, the Fish
5 and Wildlife Service will make a final decision on the
6 Proposal. Information that you provide in your comments
7 this evening and other comments received during the
8 public comment period will become part of the
9 Administrative Record and will be considered by the Fish
10 and Wildlife Service in the decision-making process.

11 If we haven't covered all those who wish to
12 speak before 9:00 P.M., we will go a little bit later,
13 since we started later. We will recess the Hearing, go
14 off the record until either additional persons indicate
15 that they would like to speak, or the time management's
16 probably, let's say 9:15 for the record. At that time
17 we will reconvene the Hearing, go back on the record to
18 receive any additional comments or to officially close
19 this Hearing.

20 I want to direct your attention to the two
21 tables located outside the meeting room. One table is
22 the registration table, where you will need to take a
23 numbered note card if you wish to present oral comments
24 tonight; and I don't believe we have any elected
25 officials here, so we can just proceed right on, by I

1 will call your number, you can come up to the microphone
2 and present your comments.

3 At several points during tonight's Hearing, I
4 will again invite anyone who did not previously do so,
5 to go to the registration table and get a numbered card
6 if they wish to present oral comments tonight.

7 If you do not wish to speak tonight but would
8 like to get on our mailing list to receive future
9 information on this Proposal, please add your name and
10 mailing address or your e-mail address to the mailing
11 list sign-up sheet which is also at the registration
12 table.

13 The second table again is located outside the
14 room. It has a variety of written information about the
15 Proposal, about wolves and about the Endangered Species
16 Act. Please take a copy of anything that interests you.

17 I especially want to point out the green sheet
18 which provides details on several ways you can get more
19 information on the Proposal and explains several methods
20 you can use to submit written comments other than at
21 tonight's meeting. The green sheet also lists the dates
22 and locations of other Public Hearings.

23 There is also a light-blue comment form which
24 you can use to turn in written comments tonight or mail
25 no later than November 18, and there is another table

1 outside where you can provide written comments if you
2 would like.

3 When I call your number to present your
4 comments, please come to the microphone there in the
5 middle. When you begin your comments, state your full
6 name, spell it, identify any organization you represent,
7 and give your state of residence. If you have a written
8 copy of your comments, you may give them to the court
9 reporter, Caryl, or to me, to enter into the record as
10 written comment.

11 Oral statements we limit to five minutes so
12 that all who wish to make oral comments will have the
13 opportunity to do so. If I feel that you are becoming
14 repetitious, straying from the issue, using too much
15 time or engaging in personal insults or making other
16 inappropriate remarks, I will ask you to promptly wrap
17 up your comments.

18 If time is available after all the registered
19 speakers have had a turn at the microphone, others who
20 had not registered to speak will also be able to present
21 oral comments. At the end of the evening, there may be
22 time to provide another opportunity for speakers to
23 finish their comments if I cut them off earlier.

24 To maximize the opportunities of others to
25 express their comments, I ask that you refrain from

1 commenting on issues beyond the scope of the Fish and
2 Wildlife Service Wolf Delisting Proposal. This is an
3 informal Hearing and therefore, therefore you will not
4 be questioned or cross-examined in connection with your
5 comments. This Hearing is solely intended to obtain
6 your comments so the Fish and Wildlife Service can
7 consider them when making the final decision on the
8 Proposal. Therefore, Fish and Wildlife Service
9 officials will not respond to any questions or engage in
10 any discussion of the Proposal during the Hearing.

11 The previous presentation and question-answer
12 session were intended for questions and discussions, so
13 we will be devoting nearly the entire duration of this
14 Hearing to receiving your comments. If you have any
15 questions about the Proposal or about the Endangered
16 Species Act, I encourage you to take the band of
17 materials at the information table outside or visit the
18 website. You may want to read them and submit written
19 comments later. Again, remember to do it no later than
20 November 18, 2004.

21 There may be opportunities to ask questions of
22 individual Fish and Wildlife Service staff outside of
23 the Hearing, possibly after the Hearing closes or during
24 a recess, if we need to take one, but I emphasize that
25 this Hearing is intended to receive public input, not to

1 respond to it.

2 The Fish and Wildlife Service's responses to
3 the issues and the questions raised during the comment
4 period, including those that come up at this Hearing,
5 will be published as part of the final rule, as part of
6 a Re-Proposal, or withdrawn notice to this Proposal.
7 That publication will probably occur in mid or late
8 2005.

9 Let me just remind you: your comments are
10 being recorded by the court reporter to assist the Fish
11 and Wildlife Service in reviewing them and to preserve
12 them for the record. Please keep in mind, however, that
13 the reporter will only be recording statements made into
14 the microphone. Comments from the audience and other
15 statements made away from the mikes or made to the
16 audience will not be part of the record and will not be
17 considered by the Fish and Wildlife Service in making
18 the final decision on this proposal.

19 All oral comments must be made into the
20 microphone and directed in front of the room. In
21 addition to or instead of providing oral comments
22 tonight, you may submit comments in writing by e-mail or
23 by fax. Written comments, again, may be submitted to me
24 tonight or to Caryl or to the staff or the registration
25 or sent in later. Oral comments will not be accepted

1 outside of the Public Hearing. As I have mentioned,
2 written, e-mailed, or faxed messages will be again
3 accepted through November 18, and will be given the same
4 serious considerations as the oral comments presented
5 this evening.

6 All right. If you haven't had the chance
7 again and you want to grab a card, please do so.
8 Otherwise we are about ready to open the floor for your
9 comments. After I call your number, please come to the
10 microphone, state your name, spell it; identify who you
11 represent, give your state of residence, and begin your
12 comments. Remember, you are limited to five minutes,
13 please. Please speak clearly so Caryl can record your
14 comments accurately.

15 Just a last reminder before we get started:
16 tonight's Hearing is not intended to be adversarial or
17 confrontational, it's designed to gather public comment,
18 and especially additional data or information regarding
19 the Proposal in order to help the Service make the best
20 possible decision under the Endangered Species Act. To
21 better serve that purpose, I ask that you remain
22 respectful of the speakers, of other members of the
23 audience, and of the government officials, such as
24 myself and other ones here today.

25 All right. Well, I guess we will get started.

1 Number One, if you'd please come up to the microphone
2 and give your comments? If you don't want to, just let
3 me know, we will go on to the next number. Number one.
4 Going once; going twice. All right, thank you, sir.

5 (7:55 P.M.)

6 MR. SPENCER: Jim Spencer. J-i-m, S-p-e-n-c-
7 e-r, Pickford, Michigan. I support the delisting for
8 the simple reason of the farming industry and losing our
9 livestock, and I do support what we have to say about it
10 and the way it is. Thank you.

11

12 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number two,
13 please?

14 MR. EVANS: DeWayne Evans. D-e-W-a-y-n-e.
15 I'm here representing the Hiawatha Sportmen's Club. The
16 Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club is a 35-thousand-acre, 1,200-
17 member hunting and fishing club founded in 1927 and
18 located in Western Mackinaw County.

19 Over the last four years we have cooperated
20 with the Department of Natural Resources extensively to
21 help verify population numbers of the gray wolf in our
22 area. Through trapping we have collared a total of
23 eleven wolves through the Hiawatha Sportmen's Club and
24 have had up to twelve wolves in our club at one time.
25 The cooperation and tolerance of the Hiawatha

1 Sportsmen's Club and its members was based on an
2 understanding that we were part of a process that would
3 conclude with the complete delisting of the gray wolf,
4 and that prudent management would follow.

5 Countless times I have urged restraint to an
6 upset member that had his hunting disrupted by a pack of
7 wolves that roamed our property, and explained to him
8 that we needed to be patient and keep our focus on the
9 light at the end of the tunnel. You should try
10 explaining to a member that has five wolves lay down in
11 front of his blind that the wolf is an endangered
12 species and that his dues are being spent to cooperate
13 with the recovery.

14 Fortunately I still believe that HSC is part
15 of a process and that the end of this process is close
16 at hand. If this process was derailed and the wolf was
17 retained on a, on the Endangered Species List, we as a
18 club would be forced to re-evaluate our position
19 concerning the entire wolf recovery effort.

20 Typically endangered species are held in such
21 high regard that when a recovery is made, some people
22 cannot adjust to it, the idea that this species is no
23 more valuable than the others that are already present.
24 The gray wolf is little more than a larger cousin of the
25 coyote, and management is just as necessary and as

1 prudent with one as it is with the other. Any species
2 that is protected inappropriately or excessively will
3 become a problem.

4 The wolf has no predator but man, and with a
5 recruitment rate nearing fifteen percent, it is only a
6 matter of time before serious problems arise. The DNR
7 has stated that the biggest obstacle for the
8 re-establishment of the wolves in Michigan was
9 overcoming public opinion. For the wolf to continue to
10 thrive in Northern Michigan, the public opinion must
11 remain tolerant. Let's not let the wolf become the next
12 double-crested cormorant.

13 To summarize our position, we believe that the
14 population information gathered by the DNR clearly shows
15 that the gray wolf is in full recovery and a sustainable
16 population is currently present in the entire recovery
17 area. Thus we fully support the delisting of the gray
18 wolf as proposed and strongly encourage the DNR to adopt
19 management rules and regulations that maintain
20 population levels that are within the social limits of
21 sustainability.

22 I would also like to strongly suggest that
23 additional methods of population management be used.
24 Hunting and trapping have been proven to be very
25 effective and also provide a revenue stream to offset

1 the management costs. Thank you.

2 MR. WESTERHOF: Could you state your
3 residence, please?

4 MR. EVANS: Michigan, Engadine, Michigan.

5

6 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you very much. Number
7 Three?

8 NUMBER THREE: Pass.

9

10 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Four,
11 please? Does anybody have Number Four? Going once.
12 Going twice, and now we will come back to you if you
13 figure it out later, but Number Four? We will move on.
14 Number Five, please?

15

16 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Steve Nelson; S-t-e-
17 v-e, N-e-l-s-o-n. I live by Epoufette in Michigan, and
18 my concern is mostly with I'm kind of critical of the
19 Michigan DNR. I'm concerned that enough is not going to
20 be continued to help the gray wolf survive. I have seen
21 instances where I don't think enforcement has been
22 handled correctly and I'm kind of getting concerned with
23 the way some of the dairy farmers don't bury or burn
24 their carcasses, they use them for bait, and then when
25 the wolves come in they complain about them, so I think

1 there are some more issues that need to be addressed,
2 and I don't think the public is -- if it's being
3 handled, I don't think the public is being let know
4 about it.

5 Basically I just want to say I'm pro-wolf and I
6 think so far things have gone pretty good. That's it.

7
8 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you very much. Number
9 Six? Six or nine? (Turning card upside down.) Check
10 your cards if you can't tell. Thank you, sir. Number
11 Six. Go ahead, please.

12 MR. DEMOS: Pete Demos, D-e-m-o-s, from, I
13 live down in Posen and we are also, I'm Regional Vice
14 President of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and
15 in addition I'm the Winter Survival Chairman for the
16 National Wild Turkey Federation for the State of
17 Michigan; and of course survival of the turkeys and our
18 wild life is a key issue.

19 MUCC's position is going to be directed in
20 strongly supporting the delisting, and will be presented
21 by Jason Dinsmore tomorrow down in Lansing, so I will be
22 speaking primarily as an individual; and one of the
23 things that we're very much concerned about is last year
24 when I was out in Alberta hunting for elk, one of my
25 guides had to leave to make a presentation at a world-

1 wide wolf conference in Banff, Alberta. His name is
2 Glenn Brown, and he is now the Past President of the
3 Alberta Professional Guides -- I'm sorry, the
4 Professional Outfitters Society. He made a presentation
5 and then with the hands-on-type background that he has,
6 showing where the wolves increased, that where the
7 wolves increased, elk and deer populations go down
8 drastically.

9 What we have done to try and update his
10 presentation, I have a copy of it I'm going to give to
11 our DNR Officers here, and I have asked Glenn Brown, who
12 made this presentation, if he would be willing to
13 present another presentation like he did make in Banff.
14 The first of April of next year he will be in Alpena as
15 part of a Safari Club International Program, and he has
16 consented to do that, so I'm setting that meeting up
17 either March 31 or April 1 of next year in Alpena, so
18 you can get -- it will help, I think, for the U.S. Fish
19 and Wildlife as well as the Michigan DNR to see the
20 exposure to some of the other people that have been in
21 North America and have encountered -- and particularly
22 with Glenn Brown, since he is an absolutely hands-on-
23 type person -- I thought it would be well worthwhile for
24 us to set it up for that meeting, and certainly anyone
25 here that is interested is going to be invited.

1 Besides, I know that there won't be any costs involved,
2 it would just a matter of coming into Alpena for part of
3 a day and attending his presentation. Thank you.

4

5 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Seven,
6 please?

7 MR. ANDREWS: I'm Tim Andrews, T-i-m, A-n-d-r-
8 e-w-s, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and the Michigan
9 Cattlemen's Association. We are for the delisting of
10 the wolf, and we hope that it's better-managed now
11 that -- after, after it gets delisted than what it has
12 been. The burden shouldn't be on the property owner or
13 livestock owner to handle the problems of the wolves
14 brought to them, brought to us, so that's why the
15 Michigan Cattlemen are for the delisting.

16

17 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Eight?

18 MR. ANDERSON: Hugh Anderson, H-u-g-h, A-n-d-
19 e-r-s-o-n. I live in the Rudyard-Pickford area. Well,
20 just a couple of comments. Where we live in the Eastern
21 U.P., that might be a little different in that we cannot
22 get rid of these wolves or we cannot keep them in that
23 they travel the ice back and forth to Canada. I have
24 seen signs of timberwolves most of my life where I have
25 lived out there off and on, I think, long before this

1 here was started, and I do feel that the minimum is the
2 better way to go, and there's a, in our day with other
3 population interests, deer hunters, that's a lot of
4 conflict to what it was way back. The early settlers
5 didn't want them around because of their livelihood,
6 and, but I think that, you know, they are here and they
7 can, we can have them, but to, you know, I can't, don't
8 think we need great numbers of them; and just a short
9 time ago I read a piece in the paper that it said that
10 just the fact that you have seen a wolf in the sheep
11 pasture and a few days later find bones, that you
12 couldn't blame that on the wolf; but in that case,
13 that's, it's kind of isolated, but -- and if a farmer
14 could keep his sheep in his pasture or his cows out of
15 other people's property and off the highway so they're
16 not endangered, I don't think anything else belongs in
17 that pasture. I feel like it, it should be removed and
18 we should do it right and turn it in to the DNR. Thank
19 you.

20

21 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Nine,
22 please?

23 MR. LOVE: Robert Love, R-o-b-e-r-t, L-o-v-e,
24 Rudyard, Michigan. I'm in support of the delisting. I
25 hope that the Michigan plan will give the Michigan DNR

1 enough latitude to help the farmers and ranchers with
2 their predation problems that they have. Thank you.

3

4 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Ten,
5 please?

6 MR. GALLOWAY: Gary Galloway, G-a-r-y, G-a-l-
7 l-o-w-a-y, Pickford, Michigan, and I do support the
8 delisting just to give the State Government more
9 latitude in controlling problem wolves. Thank you.

10

11 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Eleven,
12 please?

13 MR. WALLIS: Eric Wallis, E-r-i-c, W-a-l-l-i-
14 s. I'm from Rudyard and I'm here just representing
15 myself. I'm in favor of the delisting of the wolf, and
16 I would like to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17 kind of come to an agreement, like Bob said, in that I'd
18 like to see them support them and give them the ability
19 to give the farmer and rancher the ability to take care
20 of a problem predator. If we have something in our
21 livestock taking our livelihood away from us, we have
22 got to have every right to take care of the problem. I
23 guess that's about all. I could go on about that; I
24 think I will stop with that. Thank you.

25

1 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Twelve,
2 please?

3 MR. COLEGROVE: Alfred Colegrove, A-l-f-r-e-d,
4 C-o-l-e-g-r-o-v-e. I'm here representing the Straits
5 Area Sportsmen's Club, and we encourage the delisting of
6 it to where we have better deer management and better
7 feed for deer and stuff to help incur an increase in the
8 deer herds and stuff, so there is enough food out there
9 to go around and stuff; so I think the DNR should have
10 the ability to manage these animals. Thank you.

11
12 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Thirteen,
13 please?

14 NUMBER THIRTEEN: No comment.

15
16 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Fourteen?

17 MR. MILLER: My name is Mike Miller, M-i-k-e,
18 M-i-l-l-e-r, Pickford, Michigan, and I think the
19 Wildlife Service has done a remarkable job in
20 re-establishing the wolves, but I am in favor of the
21 delisting. Thank you.

22
23 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Fifteen?

24 MR. NELSON: Tim Nelson, T-i-m, N-e-l-s-o-n.
25 Where do I start on this? I have an issue on the

1 delisting, and the problem I have with that delisting is
2 that I hope the guy from the DNR here who is going to
3 take over that from Fisheries and Wildlife will be able
4 to handle that. I have concerns that I don't want the
5 people that handle it to be a majority of the people
6 like a selection of the officers that have taken a civil
7 service exam and the highest individual on that exam is,
8 despite their intelligence on other issues, might not be
9 the person to handle dealing with the wolves.

10 I thought it was a very good idea to re-
11 establish the wolves, and I, because of our deer herd,
12 to thin out some of the herd, some of the junk out of
13 our herd. My concern of having the DNR control the
14 actual herd is that I don't -- or the actual wolves --
15 is that the DNR, I don't feel, did a very good job
16 taking care of our deer herd as a whole in Michigan. I
17 mean we have a lot of deer, correct, but the quality of
18 our deer is questionable, and people can say that I, I
19 might not know what I'm talking about, but I have
20 debated this issue with some very respectable gentlemen,
21 some even being here; but I have spent a lot of time
22 with a backpack on in Canada, Minnesota, and Wisconsin,
23 and our deer herd -- their deer herds there compared to
24 our deer herd in Michigan, there is not even a question
25 of, of the quality of the poorness of our herd if you

1 have ever spent any time anywhere else.

2 As far as the Tribe managing any of the
3 wolves, I don't actually see that the Tribe manages any
4 game in our area at all, so I don't see where that will
5 be of benefit.

6 I know there is a problem with the relationship
7 with wolves and the farmers, and maybe with delisting
8 that can solve some of that problem; but I do feel that
9 they are a part of our environment and it will be quite
10 a challenge to Mr. such-and-such from the DNR back here
11 to maintain that because I don't want to see it turn
12 into a free-for-all like it was before on wolves, mostly
13 from mis-education of wolves in an area, because the
14 wolf is a part of the environment and he does serve a
15 purpose. Thank you very much.

16

17 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Number Sixteen,
18 please?

19 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Nicholas Morgan,
20 Lansing, Michigan. My concern is: will there be a
21 liaison position between the Tribal community as a
22 sovereign nation and with the governmental institutions
23 such as the DNR so that they do not counter-inflict upon
24 one another in their efforts to properly maintain the
25 wolf populations after delisting. Thank you.

1 MR. WESTERHOF: Could you spell your name,
2 please?

3 MR. MORGAN: All right. M-o-r-g-a-n.
4

5 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. All right. I'll
6 see, is Number Seventeen out there? I think it's still
7 out on the table, so I have called all the names of the
8 registered speakers. If there is anyone else that would
9 like to make oral comments tonight, please go out and
10 grab a card. Anybody else right now, I will ask, who
11 would like to make comments, let me know. Otherwise
12 what we are going to do is, if all the comments have
13 been provided by the registered speakers, we will be
14 here until 9:15, the published closing time for the
15 Hearing, in case anybody else wants to make comments
16 later.

17 However, there is no one else at this time, so
18 we are going to do a temporary recess, go off the record
19 until someone else indicates they want to make comments,
20 and then we will go back on the record to close, if no
21 one else has comments, around 9:15, so we are officially
22 off the record. Thank you.

23

24 (Recess from 8:15 P.M. until 8:42 P.M.)

25

1 MR. WESTERHOF: We will be back on the record
2 as soon as everybody sits down.

3 All right, we have one more additional speaker
4 at this time, so I'm going to reconvene the Hearing and
5 reopen the public record in order to receive the
6 comments. Again, I remind everyone to be respectful of
7 our speaker, people in the audience and the officials
8 here tonight, including myself; so Number Seventeen,
9 please come forward; state your name, spell it, the
10 organization you represent, and state of residence,
11 please?

12
13 MR. BERKOMPAS: Bruce Berkompas, B-e-r-k-o-m-
14 p-a-s, from Rudyard, Michigan. I represent myself as a
15 farmer and I also represent the Chippewa County Farm
16 Bureau, and the comments from that, I would like to
17 throw my support to, my Farm Bureau support, to the
18 delisting. That has been a policy of ours not only from
19 the County level but from the State level, supporting
20 the delisting, and we thank the Fish and Wildlife for
21 providing us the numbers through the Michigan DNR, and
22 as it has worked as it was supposed to work. The
23 numbers have come up. We obviously have some problems
24 with some livestock in our area, but I believe with the
25 delisting when it comes back to the State control that's

1 a little more easier to take care of on a State-level
2 basis than it is through the Federal level, and so we
3 continue to support the delisting and we will continue
4 to work with the DNR through their efforts on the State
5 level. Thank you.

6

7 MR. WESTERHOF: Thank you. Do we have any
8 additional comments anybody wants to make at this time?
9 If not, we will remain here until 9:15, the published
10 closing time for the Hearing, in case anybody else
11 changes their mind.

12 At this time, we are going to go off the
13 record, and if anybody else would like to make comments,
14 let me know; but right now we are recessed again. Thank
15 you very much.

16

17 (Recess from 8:47 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.)

18

19 MR. WESTERHOF: All right, if I could have
20 your attention, please? I guess as a Hearing Officer, I
21 can change the time. I said 9:15, but there are no
22 other comments that people want to make. I have checked
23 individually with most people here, so we will reconvene
24 the meeting to close it; so again, it's about nine
25 o'clock right now, which was the published closing time

1 for the Hearing, and again we appreciate the time and
2 effort that everybody took this evening to attend the
3 Hearing, present your comments. They have been very
4 informative. They will be considered in the final
5 decision along with the written comments and the faxed
6 comments and the e-mail comments; so on behalf of the
7 Fish and Wildlife Service and personally myself, I thank
8 you for attending and for your patience and
9 understanding and being really polite to me; so the
10 Hearing is now closed, and we are off the record. Thank
11 you very much.

12 * * * * *

13 (Official Public Hearing concluded at
14 9:03 P.M.)

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1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS.
2 COUNTY OF MARQUETTE)

3 I certify that this transcript, consisting of 27
4 pages, to the best of my ability is a complete, true
5 and correct transcript of the proceedings and testimony
6 taken in this case on Tuesday, August 14, 2004, before
7 Rick Westerhof, Hearing Officer for the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service, at the Official Public Hearing held at
9 Lake Superior State University, Cisler Center, Ontario Room,
10 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, 49783.

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