

STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2013-14 WOLF SEASONS REGULATIONS HANDBOOK

Important Dates:
Application deadline – September 5, 2013
License purchase deadlines
 Early season lottery winners – November 1, 2013
 Late season lottery winners – November 22, 2013
Unsold licenses available for purchase
 Early season applicants – November 6, 2013, anyone eligible November 8, 2013
 Late season applicants – November 27, 2013, anyone eligible November 29, 2013
Early Season (Hunting) – November 9 – 10, 2013 in East Central wolf zone
 November 9 – 24*, 2013 in series 100 deer permit areas (November 9 – 17, 2013* in series 200 deer permit areas)
Late Season Hunting – November 30, 2013 – January 31, 2014*
Late Season Trapping - November 30, 2013 – January 31, 2014*
 *Season will close earlier if harvest targets are reached

2013 Wolf Season Zone Harvest Targets

WOLF SEASON ZONE	HARVEST TARGET	Early season harvest target
East Central	10	NA*
Northeast	65	33
Northwest	145	73
Total	220	106 *

* There is not a harvest target for the East Central zone for the early season. The early season is only open for two days (Nov. 9 – 10) in the East central zone and closes at the end of legal shooting hours.

General Wolf Season Information

LICENSE - \$30.00 Resident, \$250.00 Non-resident. An individual may purchase one wolf license annually.

LICENSE	SEASON	DATES
A	Early Hunting	Nov. 9 – 24, 100 Series Deer Permit Areas
		Nov. 9 – 17, 200 Series Deer Permit Areas
		Nov. 9 – 10, East Central Wolf Zone
B	Late Hunting	Nov. 30 – Jan. 31, 2014
C	Late Trapping	Nov. 30 – Jan. 31, 2014

Who is Eligible? All applicants must present proof of a previous or current hunting license in order to apply. All applicants born after December 31, 1979 must have a valid Firearms Safety Certificate prior to purchasing a license, unless they are a Minnesota resident under age 13 or have not had their small game hunting privilege suspended pursuant to M.S. Section 97A.421. Persons born after December 31, 1989, who have not been issued a trapping license in a previous license year, may not obtain a wolf trapping license without a trapper education certificate.

WOLF LICENSE PURCHASE DEADLINES AND UNSOLD LOTTERY DRAWING LICENSES

Deadlines for wolf license purchase awarded in lottery drawing!!! LOTTERY WINNERS MUST PURCHASE THEIR WOLF LICENSE BY NOVEMBER 1 (EARLY SEASON) AND NOVEMBER 22 (LATE SEASON HUNTING AND LATE SEASON TRAPPING).

Unsold licenses will be available for sale to unsuccessful lottery applicants, beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 6 for the A season and at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 27 for the B and C seasons. An eligible person must apply individually and in person at an ELS agent location or individually through the ELS-Internet system to obtain a remaining license.

Any remaining available licenses not purchased by unsuccessful applicants may then be sold to any eligible person on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 8 for the early season and beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 29 for late season hunting and late season trapping.

Bag limit - 1 wolf per licensed wolf hunter or trapper.

Legal hunting and trapping hours – For licensed wolf hunters, hunting is allowed from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. For licensed wolf trappers, trap setting and tending is allowed from 5:00 AM until 10:00 PM.

Party Hunting and Possession of Another Hunter/Trapper's Tag - Party hunting is not allowed for wolves. A licensed wolf hunter may assist another licensed wolf hunter, but a wolf harvested by an individual must be tagged by the person who harvests the wolf. It is unlawful to possess the site tag of another wolf hunter or trapper.

Use of dogs and horses prohibited – A licensed wolf hunter or trapper may not use a dog or a horse to take a wolf while hunting or trapping.

Wolves with Radio Collars or Ear Tags - The Minnesota DNR and other researchers use radio collars and ear tags to mark and monitor wolves. The radio-collars and ear tags help researchers gather data important to wolf conservation and management in Minnesota. The collars are government property and must be returned to the agency. Hunters and trappers are required to return any radio-collars when they bring wolves in for the mandatory wolf inspection, and to

bring any ear tags along so that information on the tags can be examined and recorded. Also, as soon as possible after taking a tagged or collared wolf, hunters and trappers are asked to report such information to the DNR wolf/furbearer research biologist at 218-999-7930, or email john.erb@state.mn.us.

Blaze Orange Requirements - Wolf hunters and trappers are required to wear blaze orange during all open firearms (including muzzleloader) deer seasons.

Hunter/Trapper Harassment Prohibited

A person may not prevent or disrupt another person from taking or preparing to take a wolf. A person may not disturb wolves with the intent to prevent or disrupt another person from hunting.

Areas Open to Wolf Hunting and Trapping

1. **Early season** is open to hunters who have been issued a license through the lottery drawing system, or that purchase an unsold lottery license, for the early season. A hunter with such a license is restricted to the **early season** for which their license is issued. **Note:** an early season wolf hunting license is only valid for taking wolves by legal firearm or bow and arrow. An early season license is valid in any open early season wolf zone.

2. **Late season** is open to hunters or trappers who have been issued a license through the lottery drawing system, or that purchase an unsold lottery license, for the late season. A hunter or trapper with such a license is restricted to the **late season** for which their license is issued. **Note:** a late season wolf hunting license is only valid for taking wolves by legal firearm or bow and arrow and a late season wolf trapping license is only valid for taking wolves by legal trap or snare. A late season license is valid in any open late season wolf zone.

Rifle - Shotgun Boundary – No wolf hunting or trapping is allowed in the area of the state defined as the shotgun zone. See Minnesota 2013 Firearms Deer Season Map.

STATE LANDS

For state lands open to hunting and trapping consult the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook pages 99 - 115. For specific questions about hunting and trapping on state managed lands contact the local land manager.

FEDERAL LANDS

National Wildlife Refuges & Waterfowl Production Areas. Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's) are open to public hunting except where prohibited. National Wildlife Refuges (NWR's) are currently closed to wolf hunting and trapping. Please consult the appropriate NWRs and Wetland Management District (WMDs) managers for seasons and other specific public use regulations.

Voyageurs National Park and St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Voyageurs National Park is closed to wolf hunting and trapping. For hunting on National Park Service lands within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway visit their website at www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/hunting.htm .

National Forest Lands in Minnesota. National forest lands in Minnesota are open to many public uses, including camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use with some restrictions.

TRIBAL LANDS

Lands of The Red Lake Chippewa Band. Lands belonging to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties are closed to hunting and trapping of wolves.

Other Tribal Lands. For specific information on hunting or trapping of wolves on tribal owned lands consult the local tribal authority.

WOLF SEASON/ZONE CLOSURE AND NOTIFICATION

All wolves harvested must be registered by 10:00 p.m. the day of harvest (SEE DETAILS BELOW) in order for the DNR to monitor zone-specific harvest levels. Areas open to wolf hunting and trapping will close at either the pre-determined dates listed in the regulations or sooner if the target harvest for the zone/season is reached. If the target harvest is reached or projected to be reached by the time harvested wolves must be registered on a given day, the zone or season will be closed the following day. Closure notification will be made prior to legal hunting or trap tending hours and will allow hunters and trappers to take wolves through the end of legal hours the day of the closure (trappers must remove all traps and wolf snares by close of legal trap tending hours that day).

Each wolf hunter and trapper is responsible for tracking season progress and season/zone closure notification by:

1. Calling **1-888-706-6367**; or
2. Checking the DNR wolf season harvest web site at mndnr.gov/hunting/wolf.

Important! Hunters and trappers may take wolves in any open zone, but it is their responsibility to check the DNR Hotline number and web site to know whether the season/zone is open.

METHODS OF TAKE

A wolf hunting license authorizes hunting of wolves by any of the following methods:

1. Legal firearms or bow and arrow.
2. Predator calls, including electronic calls. Calls may not be unattended.
3. Bait that does not contain food that can attract deer. See below for additional restrictions on baiting.

Legal Firearms (Includes handguns) for wolf

- It is at least .220 caliber and has center fire ignition;
- It is loaded only with single projectile ammunition;
- The projectile used has a soft point or is an expanding bullet type;
- The muzzleloader (long gun or handgun) used cannot be loaded at the breech The smooth-bore muzzleloader used is at least .45 caliber and
- The rifled muzzleloader used is at least .40 caliber;

- Muzzleloaders with scopes are legal for taking wolves
- While muzzleloader deer hunting during the muzzleloader deer season, a licensed muzzleloader deer hunter may not be in possession of another firearm or use a muzzleloader with a scope.

Legal Bows and Arrows for wolves

- Bows must have a pull no less than 30 pounds at or before full draw.
- No person may hunt with a bow drawn, held, or released by a mechanical device, except disabled hunters who have a crossbow permit.
- A hand-held mechanical release attached to the bowstring may be used if the person's own strength draws and holds the bowstring.
 - > A person may hunt with a crossbow for wolves by special permit issued to hunters unable to hunt by archery because of a temporary or permanent disability. The disability must be verified in writing by a licensed physician or chiropractor. The permit application is available from any DNR regional office or by calling the DNR Information Center, or online at mndnr.gov/permits/enforcement.
- A wolf hunter, while archery deer hunting, may not be in possession of a firearm except a handgun under a valid permit to carry.

Bait - Bait is allowed for the purposes of attracting a wolf to take by legal firearms, bow and arrow, or trapping. **Note:** The use of bait for wolf hunting or trapping is legal this year within applicable laws. However, the deposit of carcasses not associated with legal baiting or on public lands, or on private lands without the consent of the owner, constitutes litter. Also the Minnesota Board of Animal Health requires that carcasses from domestic animals must be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within 48 to 72 hours, by burial, composting, or incineration. The disposal or placement of livestock carcasses on public land constitutes litter. Use of live bait may constitute cruelty to animals.

Wolf Trapping Regulations - A wolf trapping license authorizes the use of traps and snares for taking wolves. Wolf trappers must follow all applicable trapping laws currently listed in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook (available at DNR offices, license agents, and DNR Website). This includes, but is not limited to trap setting/tending requirements, and special Lynx Zone regulations.

Legal trapping devices include:

- Traps (consult page 43 of the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook).
- Standard snares (consult page 45-46 of the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook).
- "Wolf Snares" can also be used by licensed wolf trappers during the wolf trapping season in any open wolf season zone (including within the Lynx Zone, see page 48 of the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook). "Wolf Snares" must be designed and set according to the following specifications:
 1. Has a maximum loop diameter greater than ten inches, but less than or equal to 18 inches;
 2. Has a cable diameter of at least 7/64 inches;

3. Includes a stop affixed to the cable to ensure that the portion of the snare that makes up the noose loop may not be less than three inches in diameter when fully closed;
4. Includes a breakaway device that would cause the snare loop to break when pulled by a moose; and
5. Includes a diverter wire that extends 27 inches in both directions, measured perpendicular to and from the top of the snare loop. The diverter wires must be positioned at an angle no more than 20 degrees from the horizontal plane of the top of the snare, and the snare must be set within 20 yards of bait.
6. During the wolf season, licensed wolf trappers may use wolf snares but a wolf snare may not be set so that the bottom of the loop is more than 18 inches above the first surface beneath the bottom of the set snare loop.
7. Licensed wolf trappers shall set a wolf snare for wolves no closer than 500 feet to another wolf snare set by the same licensed wolf trapper.
8. "Wolf Snares" may not be set in deer, moose, or elk trails.

A person with a wolf trapping license may not take a wolf by firearms or archery hunting. However, a firearm may be used to dispatch a wolf already taken in a trap or snare.

Incidental catch - Every effort should be made to avoid catching protected species in wolf traps and snares if not in season, or if a wolf trapper does not have the required trapping license. If possible a trapper should release accidentally captured protected species back into the wild. If a fully protected species is caught out of season or possession limit for wolves has been reached and the animal is dead or otherwise cannot be released, you must notify a DNR conservation officer, wildlife manager, or by calling (888) 646-6367.

Reporting Incidental Catches – A person may not possess a wolf that was accidentally killed, or was lawfully killed while causing or threatening injury, until the person notifies the local conservation officer or other authorized employee and receives authorization to possess, transport, or skin the animal. (See page 52 of the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Handbook.)

Note: Best Management Practices for trapping in the United States are available online at: www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer_resources.html

Wolf Trapping License Requirements

- A wolf trapping license awarded in the wolf lottery drawing is required for taking wolves with traps or snares
- A small game license is not required for taking wolves with traps or snares
- A Minnesota trapping license is not required for taking wolves with traps or snares
- A person 13 and under must be awarded a wolf trapping license in the wolf lottery drawing and purchase a license in order to trap wolves
- No nonresident wolf trapping is allowed

Note: Persons born after December 31, 1989, including persons age 13 or under, who have not been issued a trapping license in a previous license year may not obtain a wolf trapping license without a trapper education certificate. The Minnesota Trappers Association will conduct trapper education courses statewide, free of charge to the participants, and issue certificates that satisfy this trapping license requirement. Contact the MTA at www.mntrappers.org for class information. These courses include a mandatory field training portion that must be completed before certification. Please plan to take certification courses well in advance of the wolf trapping season.

Important! Other outdoor enthusiasts are afield with dogs during trapping seasons. Although accidental captures of dogs by trappers are rare, the occasional accidents that occur lead to calls for increased regulation of trapping activities. Trappers must be aware of their responsibility to set and tend traps in strict adherence to all trapping and trespass regulations, and take great care to avoid areas and sets that may accidentally capture dogs. Trap site selection is extremely important in avoiding capture of dogs. It is recommended that trappers avoid areas of high use by other recreational users.

Mange - Sarcoptic mange is not uncommon in wild canids including wolves. This condition is caused by small mites that result in poor fur quality. If you harvest an animal with mange you must still register this animal and there is no refund.

General Trapping Information

For General trapping information consult the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook. files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/hunting/2013/full_regs.pdf

WOLF TAGGING, HARVEST REGISTRATION, AND MANDATORY WOLF CARCASS INSPECTION

Tagging and Site Validation – It is unlawful to possess the site tag of another wolf hunter or trapper.

Your Wolf License and Site Tag comes as a 2-part form. The upper half is the Site Tag for tagging the wolf in the field. The lower half is the Wolf License and Registration Slip.

1. At the kill site you must:

- a. Detach the Site Tag from the Wolf License/Registration Slip.
- b. Before moving the wolf from the kill site, validate the tag by using a knife or similar sharp object to cut out the appropriate notches indicating:
 - Month the wolf was killed,
 - Date it was killed, and
 - Zone the wolf was killed.
 - Mark carefully - if more than one month, date, or zone is cut out or marked, the tag becomes invalid.

2. **The validated site tag must be attached to the wolf before the wolf is moved from the kill site.**
3. To apply the tag to the wolf:
 - Tie or attach a 10 to 12-inch twine or wire securely to the wolf through a slit cut in either ear, around a leg bone, or between the tendon and bone of a leg, leaving the two long ends of the string or wire free. Note that this will require you to bring a cable tie, piece of wire or string into the field with you.
 - Pull one end of the twine or wire through one of the pre-cut holes on the Site Tag and tie it together. Note that tags do not fold and are not adhesive.
 - The tag must remain attached to the wolf until skinned and must remain in possession until inspected by a state wildlife manager or designee.

Wolf Harvest Registration

All wolves harvested must be registered **no later than 10:00 p.m.** the day of harvest by wolf hunters and trappers and before the wolf is skinned. There are three registration options:

1. **Walk-in big game registration stations.** Registration stations display large, orange “Big Game Registration” signs. The person whose tag is on the wolf must personally present the wolf at an official harvest registration station and receive a “2013 MN possession tag”. The tag must be attached to a leg or ear. You can find a complete list of all stations at any DNR wildlife office or on the DNR website.
2. **Telephone.** This is typically called Interactive Voice Response (IVR). The system will accept either key punch or voice (e.g., press or say 1). You will be asked to record a confirmation number so you must have a pen to complete the registration process. To register your wolf using the IVR system, following the steps below. These steps are also printed on your wolf license.
 - a. Dial 1-888-706-6367 to get into the system
 - b. Enter the Harvest Registration Number that appears on the license. It’s a 9-digit number that links back to the person and license type. This is the large and bold number printed on your wolf license and is NOT your MDNR number.
 - c. Enter zone where the wolf was killed.
 - d. Enter the date the wolf was killed.
 - e. The system will then give you a confirmation number that must be written on the license/registration slip portion of your wolf license in the appropriate area.
3. **Internet.** Go to mndnr.gov/buyalicense using a smartphone or desktop web browser and click the harvest registration button on the bottom of the page to register your wolf. The questions will be identical to phone registration. You will be given a confirmation number, which must be recorded on the license/registration slip portion of your wolf license in the appropriate area.

Specific information for telephone and internet wolf harvest registration

- Persons who register by phone or internet do not receive a separate wolf possession tag
- A harvest registration number can only be used once. The system will not accept multiple wolf harvest registrations using the same number.

Mandatory Wolf Carcass Inspection - For the purposes of receiving a wolf fur registration tag (required in addition to wolf harvest registration) and for the DNR to collect biological samples (teeth, hair, muscle, organs etc.) and information on wolves harvested during the season, wolves must be brought in for carcass inspection (necropsy) by a DNR Wildlife Manager or designee. Contact a DNR Wildlife office to schedule an appointment and receive confirmation of your appointment before arriving or submit wolf for inspection at one of the scheduled dates.

- The pelt of each wolf must be removed from the carcass and presented for inspection by the person taking it. Evidence of sex should be left attached to the pelt for data collection and population monitoring. The entire wolf carcass must also be presented.
- The animal should not be “gutted” and must not be frozen at the time of the inspection/necropsy. Proper care for fur handling should be determined prior to harvesting a wolf so that preservation of fur and samples are not damaged prior to inspection.
- **Early Season wolf carcass inspection** - Pelts and carcasses must be presented for inspection on: 1) Tuesday, November 12th, 19th or Monday, November 25th, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at one of the DNR Offices listed below; or 2) by advance appointment at any DNR Wildlife Office (a complete list of DNR Wildlife offices is available at mndnr.gov). Carcass inspection must occur before the pelt is sold or removed from the state and in no event later than 5:00 p.m. the first business day following the last legal day wolves can be harvested. Care should be taken, if weather is warm, to prevent carcasses from spoiling.
- **Late Season wolf carcass inspection** – Pelts and carcasses must be presented for inspection at; 1) a scheduled furbearer registration event (see p.50 of the Minnesota Hunter and Trapping Handbook); or 2) by advance appointment at any DNR Wildlife Office (a complete list of DNR Wildlife office is available at mndnr.gov) Carcass inspection must occur before the pelt is sold or removed from the state and in no event later than 5:00 p.m. the first business day following the last legal day wolves can be harvested.
- If any season or zone closes early as a result of reaching target harvests and a person has not surrendered a registered wolf for the mandatory wolf carcass inspection, and if there are none scheduled by 5:00 p.m. the first business day following the last legal day wolves can be harvested, they must contact a DNR Wildlife Office (a complete list of DNR Wildlife office is available at mndnr.gov), by 5:00 p.m. the first business day following the legal day wolves can be harvested, and schedule an appointment for carcass inspection. If you do not reach a Wildlife Manager or their designee you must leave a message with your name, MN DNR #, phone number, and wolf harvest registration number at the DNR Wildlife Office so that they can contact you to schedule an appointment when they return to the office.
- To speed up wolf inspection, frozen animals must be adequately thawed to allow for biological inspection and collection of internal organs, please bring the following written information for the wolf harvested to be registered: sex, method of take, date harvested

and county, township and range where harvested. Include your MDNR number, as shown on your license. Forms are available at wildlife offices and online.

- Plastic tags supplied by the wildlife manager or designee must remain affixed to the raw pelt until the pelt is tanned or mounted.
- Tanning a wolf pelt does not eliminate the need for carcass inspection of a wolf.
- It is the responsibility of the hunter or trapper to dispose of the wolf carcass following inspection.

Locations for early season wolf carcass inspection on scheduled Tuesdays (November 12th and 19th) or Monday, November 25th.

Baudette	DNR Wildlife Office	218-634-1705
Bemidji	DNR Area Fish & Wildlife Office	218-308-2348
Brainerd	DNR Area Wildlife Office (1601 Minnesota Drive)	218-828-2550
Cambridge	DNR Wildlife Office	763-689-7100
Cloquet	DNR Wildlife Office	218-879-0880 Ext225
Forest Lake	DNR Carlos Avery Game Farm Office	651-296-5200
Grand Rapids	DNR Regional Headquarters	218-999-7939
International Falls	DNR Wildlife Office	218-286-5434
Little Falls	DNR Wildlife Office	320-616-2450
Middle River	DNR Thief Lake Wildlife Office	218-222-3747
New London	DNR Wildlife Office (398 Sibley Park Rd NE)	320-354-2154
Nicollet	DNR Wildlife Office	507-225-3572
Onamia	DNR Mille Lacs Wildlife Area Office	320-532-3537
Park Rapids	DNR Wildlife Office	218-732-8452
Roseau	DNR Roseau River WMA	218-463-1130
Roosevelt	DNR Red Lake WMA Office	218-783-6861
Sauk Rapids	DNR Office (940 Industrial Drive, Suite 103, Sauk Rapids, MN)	320-223-7840
Thief River Falls	DNR Wildlife Office	218-681-0946
Tower	DNR Wildlife Office	218-753-2580 Ext221
Two Harbors	DNR Wildlife Office	218-834-1452 or 1453

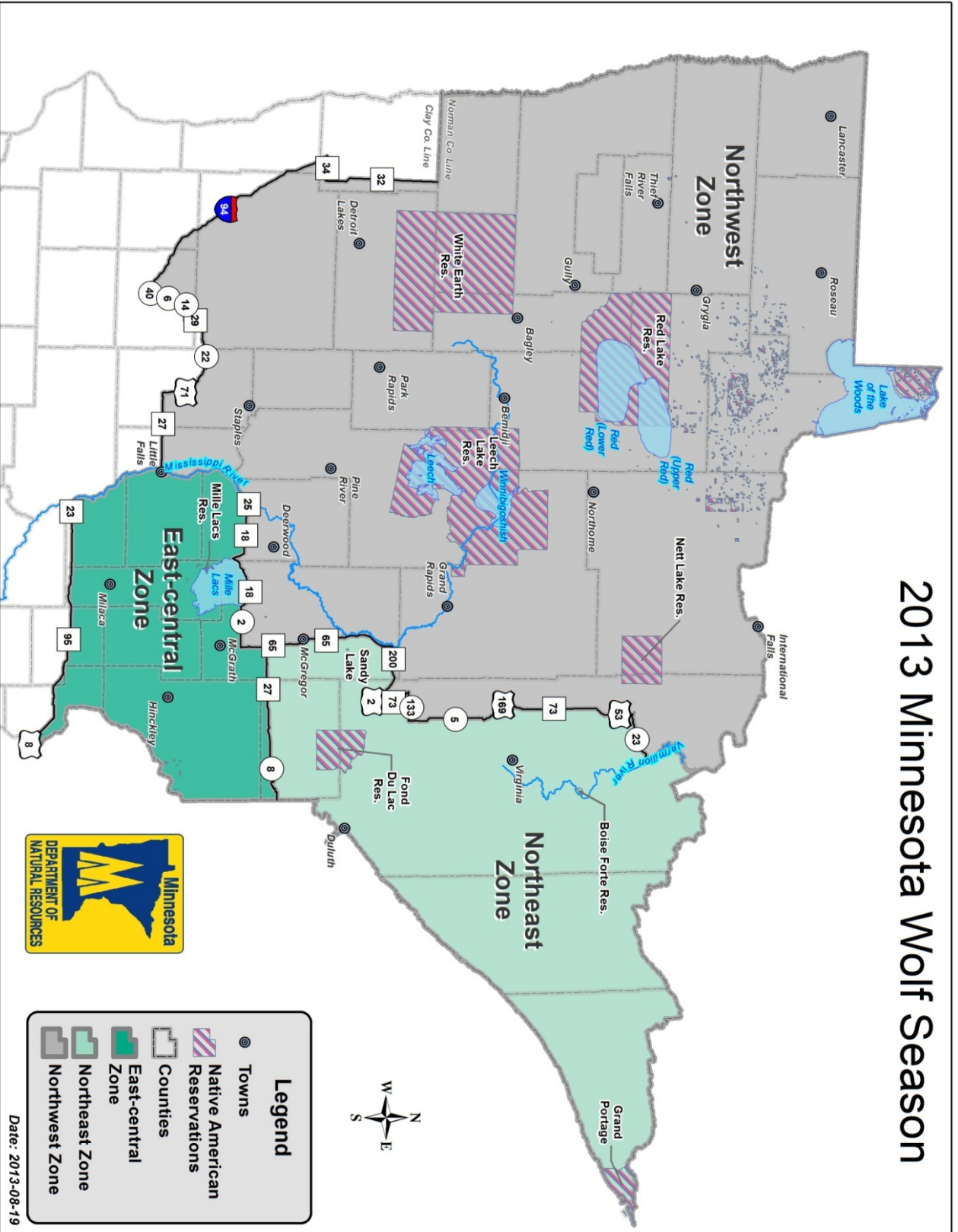
Additional Wolf Season Information

A hunter or trapper may sell the pelts of lawfully taken furbearers (including wolves) only to a licensed fur buyer. A person may not buy raw furs without a fur buyer's license, except a fur manufacturer or licensed taxidermist may buy raw furs from a licensed fur buyer.

Exporting a wolf pelt - The DNR does not have authority to issue a CITES tag for wolves (like DNR has for bobcat and otter). If a hunter or trapper harvests a wolf in Minnesota and wishes to export it out of the country, they will have to apply for a CITES export permit directly from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority or sell the wolf pelt to a licensed fur buyer who may export with the appropriate permits. A link to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife DMA website is provided here: www.fws.gov/international/permits/how-to-apply.html

If you witness a violation in progress or need to contact a conservation officer immediately, call Turn in Poachers (TIP) or the nearest state patrol dispatch center. **Turn in Poachers: 1-800-652-9093 24-Hour Hotline.** Verizon users can report violations by typing #TIP.

2013 Minnesota Wolf Season



Legend

- Towns
- ▨ Native American Reservations
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ East-central Zone
- ▭ Northeast Zone
- ▭ Northwest Zone



Date: 2013-08-19