

Great Lake Wolf Seasons Get Off to a Fast Start

“... out of species recovery mode and into species management mode.”

The first public hunting and trapping season for wolves in the Upper Great Lakes got off to a fast start in Wisconsin, with hunters registering 106 wolves by the second week of December. The season was scheduled to run through February. But with only 95 left from a statewide quota of 201 wolves, and 85 of those reserved for Native hunters in the ceded territories, officials anticipated an early close.

“We are successfully out of species recovery mode and into species management mode,” a release quoted Wisconsin DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp.

Minnesota hunters registered 147 wolves during their two-week early hunting-only season. Before the hunt, Minnesota DNR large carnivore specialist Dan Stark “guesstimated” that only 70 wolves would be taken.

Minnesota opened a late combined hunting and trapping season a week after the hunting-only season closed, and another 69 wolves were taken during the first two weeks of that hunt.

Minnesota officials believe most of the wolves registered during the first season were taken by resident deer hunters who purchased a wolf tag so they would be able to take a shot of opportunity. With the combined hunting and trapping season scheduled through the end of January, officials predicted more wolves now would be taken by trappers. In Wisconsin, where both hunting and trapping were allowed from the get-go, more wolves were taken by trappers.

“We know that trappers are likely to be more successful than hunters, so we expect to see a fair number of wolves taken,” a release quoted Steve Merchant, Minnesota DNR wildlife population and regulation program manager.

Minnesota sold 3,600 permits for



Photo by Ryan Vince

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the early hunting season and 2,400 for the later trapping and hunting season. Residents paid \$30 for permits and a few nonresidents paid \$250. In Wisconsin, 881 residents purchased \$100 wolf tags and 6 nonresidents paid \$500 for their tags. In all, the two states took in \$270,000 selling wolf permits.

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ND Hunter Ed Sign Up

Most of the 2013 North Dakota hunter education classes will be offered early in the calendar year. State law requires anyone born after 1961 to pass a certified hunter education course to hunt in the state. For more information, phone (701) 328-6615 or go online: www.gf.nd.gov. Other states have similar requirements. Contact your state DNR for local information.

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WY Hunter Ed Academy

Anyone certified as a Wyoming hunter education instructor in the last

three years is invited to the annual Wyoming Hunter Education Instructor Academy July 19-21, at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, Dubois.

Instructors are required to attend a workshop within two years of being certified. There is no fee for the training, meals or lodging. Participation is limited and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Phone Margaret James (307) 777-4538. Applications, forms, and a checklist of certification steps are online at: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>

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Deer Ticks Infest Ohio

The blacklegged deer tick that transmits Lyme disease was once rare in Ohio. However, it has recently spread across 26 counties, mostly in the wooded eastern half of the state.

To prevent tick attachment, spray outer clothing with a permethrin-based repellent and allow it to air dry. Once dry, treated clothing has no odor. Shirts should be tucked into pants and pants into boots to help keep ticks out.