

Dear John Doe,

The U.S. House of Representatives today approved a bill (HR 6784) that returns wolf management to states and is a step toward fixing flaws in the Endangered Species Act – something Safari Club International (SCI), on behalf of all hunters, has championed for years.

Passage of the Manage Our Wolves Act will return management of the Western Great Lakes gray wolf population to the states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The bill will also ensure that Wyoming's gray wolf management remains under state authority and will direct the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to delist the remaining gray wolves of the lower 48 states, with the exception of Mexican wolves. SCI President Paul Babaz said, "... this is a tremendous victory for hunters, wildlife conservation in general, and State wildlife managers."

While wolf recovery successes have been continually thwarted or ignored by courts acting on the many ambiguities or flaws in the wording of the ESA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service states on its website: "the gray wolf has rebounded from the brink of extinction to exceed population targets by as much as 300 percent. Today, there are estimated to be 5,691 gray wolves in the contiguous United States. Wolf numbers continue to be robust, stable and self-sustaining."

I don't know if this is as exciting to you as it is to me, but the fact that congress passed HR 6784 is huge for me. I live in Eastern WA and we were never a part of the wolf recovery plan, yet we have hundreds of wolves in the state now. Worst of all, WA is dominated by those on the west side of the state who tend to frown on hunting and ultimately on managing our wildlife unless it directly impacts them and their way of life.

So we have been in a position where the western WA was using the endangered species act to limit Fish and Wildlife's ability to manage the wolves. They have only been able to manage problem packs to date. These are packs that have been killing domestic livestock. But they had not means or opportunity to manage any of the packs that are decimating our wildlife. The area I grew up hunting was so severely impacted by the wolves two years ago that they cut our archery cow season down to 5 days. Growing up we were able to hunt any elk starting Aug 30 - Sept 30, but in the name of management we have had our season reduced to 10-12 days in most units on the East Side of the state. If the wolves are left unchecked I guarantee you would see our elk hunting reduced to draw only which I believe would wipeout future generations of hunters.

Best,  
Jane Doe  
Hunting Consultant

## Questions

- This letter is written by a hunting consultant, a prominent voice for hunters in WA. From this perspective, how are hunters interpreting the passage of HR 6784? What benefits do they perceive?
- As a scientist, do you believe the passage of HR 6784 is a sound decision? Why?
- If you were a manager in western WA, how would you interpret your new assigned job managing wolf populations? How might you successfully manage populations for continued recovery given what you've learned in this class so far?