

WISCONSIN FEDERATED HUMANE
SOCIETIES, INC., *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Case No. 12-CV-3188

CATHY STEPP, SECRETARY,
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, *et al.*,

Classification Code: 30701

Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF EDWARD MATHWIG

State of Wisconsin)
) ss.
La Crosse County)

EDWARD MATHWIG, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Wisconsin, residing in La Crosse. I have lived in Wisconsin for 66 years, currently retired after a 40 year career in education.

2. I am an avid hunter, having hunted ruffed grouse with dogs every year since the age of 14. Even before then, I walked the woods alongside my father and his dog while he hunted grouse.

3. My primary interest in bird hunting is the dog work that accompanies it. I find it very satisfying to put in the hours and training needed to prepare my dog for his work in the field locating and retrieving the game. Over my lifetime of hunting, I have put in countless hours

training and working with my bird dogs — it has been and remains one of my most enjoyable pastimes.

4. October, November and early December, in particular, are a special time to be out in the woods in Northern Wisconsin; every year, I look forward to being out there with my dog during ruffed grouse hunting season at this time.

5. Since I was a boy, I have taken my dogs ruffed grouse hunting each year, in my younger years, near to where I grew up in northern Wisconsin and, in the last twenty years, in the Clam Lake and Black River Falls areas, which are prime ruffed grouse habitat and prime wolf habitat.

6. Never before now, have I had to worry about my dogs being placed in jeopardy while ruffed grouse hunting. However, this year, for the first time, I will not be taking my dog ruffed grouse hunting.

7. I will be opting out of the ruffed grouse hunt this year due to Wisconsin DNR's approval of rules authorizing a wolf hunting and trapping season that places my dog in jeopardy of serious injury and death.

8. An unmarked baited wolf trap, which is authorized under DNR's new rules, presents a very real danger to upland bird dogs, including those who hunt ruffed grouse, as these dogs cover a lot of ground while searching for game and have a highly refined sense of smell which will lead them to investigate traps and baits set for wolves.

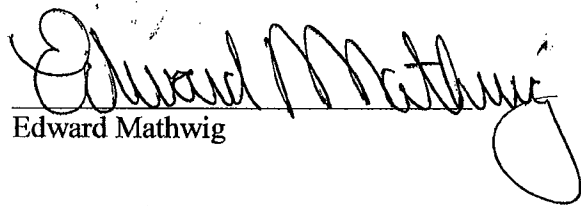
9. My bird dog, an English Cocker Spaniel, has been trained to hunt in this same manner, placing him, too, at unreasonable risk of injury given that a wolf trap's disproportionate size and force as it snapped shut on my 40 lb dog would nearly certainly break his leg, cause him extreme pain and suffering, and likely end his hunting career altogether.

10. I also cannot expose my dog to the risk of injury and death posed by packs of dogs running loose in pursuit of wolves and by wolves being pursued by packs of dogs. The use of dogs for training and hunting wolves will not only disrupt and destabilize the overall ecosystem of the area I have hunted in all my life, it could place my dog at unacceptable risk of attack — if he were caught in the path of a pursuit underway or if perceived as a threat by either wolf or other dogs.


11. In consideration of the time, money and companionship I have invested in my dog, I view these risks as unacceptable and, for this reason, I will not participate in the ruffed grouse hunting season this year.

12. In my opinion, it is unconscionable that DNR would allow this type of unleashed, unlimited training of dogs on wolves to go on for most of the year, taking us back in conduct and ethics to medieval times.

13. It is equally thoughtless that DNR has failed to place necessary limitations on baiting traps, the numbers of traps, and identification of traps, in order to provide safeguards for other hunters and their bird dogs.


Edward Mathwig

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 21 day of August, 2012.


Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission expires 12-9-2012.