

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Chapters:**

**Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:**

**6234**

**2012 WOLF SEASON**

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**EXPIRES 02-01-2013**

**Please see enclosure for text of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to the 2012 wolf season. Please note that there is a good cause exemption rules package relating to the restitution value for wolves, wolf snares, and snares that should be adopted in the next few weeks.**

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2012 Wolf Season**

1.3 **6234.2105 TAKING WOLF.**

1.4 Subpart 1. Licenses. Three types of licenses shall be offered for taking wolf  
1.5 according to items A to C. Licenses are valid in any open wolf zone.

1.6 A. The early season wolf hunting license is valid only for hunting in the early  
1.7 season.

1.8 B. The late season wolf hunting license is valid only for hunting in the late  
1.9 season.

1.10 C. The late season wolf trapping license is valid only for trapping in the late  
1.11 season.

1.12 Subp. 2. Early season.

1.13 A. During the early season, wolves may be taken in any open wolf zone.

1.14 B. Wolves may be taken for a 16-day period beginning the Saturday nearest  
1.15 November 6 in 100 series deer permit areas unless otherwise closed by the commissioner.

1.16 C. Wolves may be taken for a nine-day period beginning the Saturday nearest  
1.17 November 6 in 200 series deer permit areas unless otherwise closed by the commissioner.

1.18 Subp. 3. Late season. Wolves may be taken in any open wolf zone from the  
1.19 first Saturday following Thanksgiving to January 31 unless otherwise closed by the  
1.20 commissioner.

1.21 Subp. 4. Application procedures for wolf license.

1.22 A. A person may not apply for more than one type of wolf license, whether as  
1.23 an individual or as a member of a group.

2.1 B. If the number of valid applications exceeds the number of available licenses,  
2.2 the commissioner shall conduct a drawing to determine those eligible to purchase a wolf  
2.3 hunting or trapping license.

2.4 C. The application deadline is the first Thursday following Labor Day.  
2.5 Applications may be made to an electronic licensing system agent, by telephone or  
2.6 Internet, or at the Department of Natural Resources License Center.

2.7 D. A person may apply individually or as part of a group totaling no more  
2.8 than four persons. Those who wish to apply as a group must submit their applications at  
2.9 the same time. All applications in a group must be for the same license type. Either all  
2.10 members of the group or none shall be drawn. An improperly completed application shall  
2.11 be rejected but does not disqualify other members of the group.

2.12 E. The commissioner shall notify successful applicants with instructions  
2.13 authorizing them to obtain a license. The commissioner shall disqualify a successful  
2.14 applicant who does not purchase a license according to the instructions or who does not  
2.15 provide all of the requested information.

2.16 F. A person selected through the wolf permit drawing must purchase the license  
2.17 no later than the day prior to the start of the season for which the applicant is selected.

2.18 G. All applicants must furnish proof of a current or previous year hunting  
2.19 license as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.647, subdivision 6, and as specified  
2.20 in the application instructions.

2.21 **Subp. 5. Season closure; status notification.**

2.22 A. When each wolf zone target harvest is reached or projected to be reached  
2.23 based on harvest trends, the commissioner shall close the season for that zone.

2.24 B. The season closes at the end of legal shooting hours for the day that the  
2.25 closure is declared.

3.1 C. The commissioner shall make harvest and season status available via a  
3.2 toll-free telephone number and on the department Web site. The status notification shall  
3.3 indicate the tally for the number of wolves taken during the season and zone and whether  
3.4 the season is open or closed in each wolf zone.

3.5 Subp. 6. **Wolf harvest registration.** A person tagging a wolf must register the wolf  
3.6 at a designated wolf harvest registration station or agent of the commissioner and obtain  
3.7 a wolf harvest registration confirmation number or connect to the online or telephone  
3.8 department harvest registration system and follow the instructions to obtain a wolf harvest  
3.9 registration confirmation number. A person must obtain a wolf harvest registration  
3.10 confirmation number before the wolf is skinned and no later than 10:00 p.m. the day  
3.11 of the harvest.

3.12 Subp. 7. **Tagging and license validation for wolves.**

3.13 A. A person taking a wolf must affix a tag and validate the person's license at  
3.14 the site of kill according to this subpart.

3.15 B. A person taking a wolf must affix to the carcass the site tag provided with  
3.16 the person's wolf hunting or trapping license. The tag must be fastened through an ear  
3.17 or around a leg bone or tendon so that the tag cannot be readily removed. A hunter or  
3.18 trapper may not possess or use the site tag of another licensee.

3.19 C. At the time a wolf is tagged at the site of kill, the license of the person whose  
3.20 tag is affixed to the wolf must be validated. Validation consists of using a knife or similar  
3.21 sharp object to cut out or a pen to indelibly mark the appropriate notches on the site tag  
3.22 indicating the date of kill and the wolf zone where the wolf was taken.

3.23 Subp. 8. **Wolf zone target harvests.**

3.24 A. The target harvest established for the 2012 wolf season in the Northwest  
3.25 Wolf Zone is 265 wolves, divided as follows:

4.1 (1) the early season target harvest is 132 wolves; and

4.2 (2) the late season target harvest is 265 less the number of wolves taken  
4.3 during the early season.

4.4 B. The target harvest established for the 2012 wolf season in the Northeast Wolf  
4.5 Zone is 117 wolves, divided as follows:

4.6 (1) the early season target harvest is 58 wolves; and

4.7 (2) the late season target harvest is 117 less the number of wolves taken  
4.8 during the early season.

4.9 C. The target harvest established for the 2012 wolf season in the East-Central  
4.10 Wolf Zone is 18 wolves, divided as follows:

4.11 (1) the early season target harvest is nine wolves; and

4.12 (2) the late season target harvest is 18 less the number of wolves taken  
4.13 during the early season.

4.14 Subp. 9. Target harvest adjustments. The commissioner may reduce target harvest  
4.15 numbers for the Northeast and East-Central Wolf Zones before the beginning of the early  
4.16 season to accommodate tribal declarations for wolf harvest in the 1837 Ceded Territory  
4.17 and the 1854 Ceded Territory.

4.18 Subp. 10. License availability.

4.19 A. The number of available licenses for the 2012 wolf seasons is 6,000, divided  
4.20 as follows:

4.21 (1) early season: 3,600 licenses; and

4.22 (2) late season: 2,400, with a minimum of 600 licenses awarded by lottery  
4.23 to valid applicants for a wolf trapping license, or if less than 600 valid trapping license  
4.24 applications are received, then the number of licenses equal to the number of valid

5.1 trapping license applications. If the number of applicants for trapping licenses exceeds  
5.2 600, the number of trapping licenses to be issued may be adjusted proportionally upward  
5.3 based on the number of trapping applications versus the number of hunting applications.

5.4 B. No more than five percent of the early season hunting and late season hunting  
5.5 licenses shall be awarded to nonresidents.

5.6 C. The commissioner shall adjust the number of available licenses for the  
5.7 early or late season at the time the computerized drawing is conducted if the number of  
5.8 licenses available exceeds the number of applicants for either season. The total licenses  
5.9 shall not exceed 6,000.

5.10 D. In seasons with fewer applicants than available licenses, the remaining  
5.11 available licenses shall be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

5.12 Subp. 11. **Wolf zones.**

5.13 A. The Northwest Wolf Zone is that portion of the state lying outside of the  
5.14 Northeast and East-Central Wolf Zones, except for that area of the state defined as the  
5.15 shotgun use area under Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.318, subdivision 1.

5.16 B. The Northeast Wolf Zone is that portion of the state lying within the  
5.17 following described boundary:

5.18 Beginning at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 65 and STH 27 in Aitkin  
5.19 County; thence along STH 65 to the intersection of STH 65 and STH 200; thence  
5.20 along STH 200 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to the intersection  
5.21 of U.S. Highway 2 and STH 73; thence along STH 73 to the intersection of STH 73  
5.22 and County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 133; thence east along CSAH 133 to the  
5.23 intersection of CSAH 133 and CSAH 5; thence along CSAH 5 to the intersection of  
5.24 CSAH 5 and U.S. Highway 169; thence along U.S. Highway 169 and the intersection  
5.25 of U.S. Highway 169 and STH 73; thence along STH 73 to the intersection of STH  
5.26 73 and U.S. Highway 53; thence along U.S. Highway 53 to the intersection of U.S.

6.1 Highway 53 and CSAH 23; thence along CSAH 23 to the east bank of the Vermilion  
6.2 River; thence along the east bank of the Vermilion River to the northern boundary  
6.3 of the state; thence along the northern boundary of the state to the shore of Lake  
6.4 Superior; thence southwesterly along the shore of Lake Superior; thence from the  
6.5 shore of Lake Superior due south to the east boundary of the state; thence along the  
6.6 east boundary of the state to CSAH 8, Carlton County; thence along CSAH 8 to the  
6.7 point intersecting U.S. Interstate Highway 35, at which point CSAH 8 becomes STH  
6.8 27; thence along STH 27 to the point of beginning.

6.9 C. The East-Central Wolf Zone is that portion of the state lying within the  
6.10 following described boundary:

6.11 Beginning at the intersection of the east boundary of the state and County State-Aid  
6.12 Highway (CSAH) 8, Carlton County; thence along the east boundary of the state  
6.13 to U.S. Highway 8; thence along U.S. Highway 8 to State Trunk Highway (STH)  
6.14 95; thence along STH 95 to STH 23; thence along STH 23 to the east bank of  
6.15 the Mississippi River; thence along the east bank of the Mississippi River to the  
6.16 intersection of the Mississippi River and STH 210 in Brainerd; thence along STH 210  
6.17 to STH 25; thence along STH 25 to STH 18; thence along STH 18 to its junction with  
6.18 STH 47; thence along STH 47 to Aitkin County Road (CR) 2; thence along CR 2 to  
6.19 STH 65; thence along STH 65 to STH 27; thence along STH 27 to the intersection of  
6.20 STH 27 and U.S. Interstate Highway 35, where STH 27 becomes CSAH 8; thence  
6.21 along CSAH 8 to the point of beginning.

6.22 Subp. 12. **Bag limit.** A person may not take more than one wolf per license.

6.23 Subp. 13. **Wolf carcass submission.** The pelt of each wolf and the whole carcass of  
6.24 each wolf must be presented, by the person taking it to a state wildlife manager designee  
6.25 for data collection, before the pelt is sold and before the pelt is transported out of the state,  
6.26 but in no event later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the closure of the

- 7.1 season in which the wolf was taken. The entire carcass of the wolf must be surrendered to
- 7.2 the state wildlife manager designee. The pelt must have been removed from the carcass,
- 7.3 but the site tag must remain in possession of the person taking the wolf.
- 7.4 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** Minnesota Rules, part 6234.2105, expires February 1, 2013.