

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band



October 5, 2026

GLIFWC objects to the recent culling of Ma'iinganag (Wolves) in Price County

Calls on State of Wisconsin and USDA to include GLIFWC and Tribes in Ceded Territory Management



(Pictured: Wolf pup in Ely, MN on August 2014.)

In mid-September 2026, GLIFWC and its member Tribes were notified by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that action had been taken to euthanize an entire pack of nine wolves consisting of four pups, three yearlings, and two adults in Price County, located between the Lac du Flambeau, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Bad River reservations within the 1842 Ceded Territories.

The WDNR claimed that the animals had repeatedly posed threats to human health and safety. State and Federal agency representatives reportedly met on multiple occasions dating back to 2025 and ultimately made the decision to trap and euthanize the entire pack. At no time during that period did WDNR or Federal representatives contact GLIFWC staff to inform them of reported threats, share data, or provide decision-making criteria, bypassing consultation with GLIFWC and its member tribes.

Under the *LCO v. Voigt* ruling, the State of Wisconsin and GLIFWC member tribes are required to co-manage resources within the Ceded Territories, which equates to present-day northern Wisconsin. GLIFWC Executive Administrator Jason Schlender condemned the lack of communication.

“This action damages existing relationships and fractures trust. We remind the WDNR and USDA Wildlife Services to involve GLIFWC and its member tribes in the decision-making processes. Simply handing us the remains of our relatives after killing them does not constitute meaningful consultation.”

Furthermore, in 2019 Governor Evers signed Executive Order #18 which reaffirms the intergovernmental relationships between the State of Wisconsin and Tribes. Specifically, order #18 addresses consultation and “directs each state agency to consult tribal governments on matters that may directly or indirectly impact tribal nations.” Neither GLIFWC nor its member tribes were meaningfully consulted on this area of significant tribal concern.

GLIFWC and its member tribes have advocated for gray wolf protections for decades. Ma’iingan, a clan relative of the Lake Superior Ojibwe, and a key figure in community culture and dialogue has a long-standing history of being misunderstood and mistreated. St. Croix Tribal Chairman and Voigt Intertribal Task Force Chair Conrad St. John echoes this sentiment, “People are often afraid of wolves, and wolves are too often mischaracterized. Our elders relay that our communities have co-existed with Ma’iingan since the very beginning and we still don’t have any documented cases of attacks on humans in Wisconsin.”

Removing members of a keystone species from a complex ecosystem can have long-term impacts on the health of the environment. GLIFWC Biological Services Director Alex Bohman noted the crucial role that Ma’iingan plays in the environment. “Wolves strengthen deer populations through predation of sick, weak, and old animals. Tribes have coexisted with wolves for hundreds of years and can bring traditional ecological knowledge, as well as western science and data to these discussions.” She continued, “State and Federal agencies should engage with GLIFWC and its member Tribes in a consensus approach to wolf management, in which the parties review all relevant information and can participate in a comprehensive discussion. Ideally, this will lead to agreement on the most appropriate course of action.”

To learn more about ma’iingan visit <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/maiingan-brother-wolf/>

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is an intertribal treaty organization comprised of eleven Ojibwe tribes located in present day Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan who reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in the 1836, 1842, and 1854 Treaties with the United States government. To learn more about GLIFWC visit <https://glifwc.org>

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