

A Brief Progress Report on
Huron Mountain Wolf Study
August 20, 1971

On August 15, 1971, I attended the meeting of the Huron Mountain Wildlife Foundation. I presented a report on progress thus far in assessing present wolf populations in the Huron Mountain area. This included report of the sightings on Rush Lake of four animals identified by DNR pilot John Rossi as wolves on February 9, 1971, and a similar sighting of three animals by Rossi on March 9. Unfortunately, no follow-up work from the ground was done to check size of tracks. On February 21 Stuart Bennett reported tracks of two wolves on Lake Ann. David Mech conducted aerial and ground work in January, 1971, and found the only sign of wolf to be a single scat. On three trips which I made (including one with Mech) I found no wolf tracks. I pointed out the need for more information on present wolf populations. A graduate student, John Hendrickson, who is familiar with the Huron Mountain area through his study of deer in 1968-69, will attempt to gather such information in the winter of 1971-72. The Huron Mountain Wildlife Foundation has provided \$200 for Mr. Hendrickson's work.

I presented a proposal for research entitled "A Study of Populations and an Experimental Release of Wolves in Michigan". A copy of the proposal is enclosed. The Wildlife Foundation was interested in such a study and members asked several questions about the proposal. It was agreed that before funds could be committed to a release of wolves, more information on present populations is desirable. After Hendrickson's report is completed, and if no viable wolf population is found to be present, plans for the release may proceed. Some members seemed reluctant to support the release of wolves in some other part of the Upper Peninsula if a viable population is found in the Huron Mountain Area, but felt that a detailed study of wolves using their property might be a more appropriate use of their financial resources.

In general I believe the meeting was successful and feel that Northern Michigan University and the Huron Mountain Wildlife Foundation can continue an excellent relationship.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William L. Robinson".

William L. Robinson
Professor of Biology

WLR:cb
Encls.