

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4496

To provide for the reintroduction of the Eastern Timber Wolf in the Catskill Mountains, New York, and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands through the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate that reintroduction.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2000

Mr. SIMPSON (for himself, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. CANNON, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HERGER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for the reintroduction of the Eastern Timber Wolf in the Catskill Mountains, New York, and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands through the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate that reintroduction.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting America’s  
5 Wolves Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Throughout history, wolves have been mis-  
4 understood and feared. Wolves have been subjected  
5 to widespread persecution and targeted by large  
6 scale predator eradication programs sponsored by  
7 private, State, and Federal entities. The Endangered  
8 Species Act of 1973 finally protected wolves as en-  
9 dangered species, but by that time wolves had been  
10 almost completely exterminated from the lower 48  
11 States, except for a few hundred wolves that inhab-  
12 ited extreme northeastern Minnesota.

13 (2) The subspecies commonly known as the  
14 Eastern Timber Wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) once had  
15 an extensive range covering most of the Eastern  
16 United States, including the Catskill Mountains of  
17 New York.

18 (3) Reintroduction of the Eastern Timber Wolf  
19 into the State of New York would serve the public  
20 interest, by—

21 (A) helping to ensure the survival of that  
22 subspecies;

23 (B) enhancing the biological diversity of  
24 the ecosystems of the State of New York and  
25 bringing them into a more natural balance;

1 (C) beginning to redress some of the mis-  
2 takes of the past, such as the Government-spon-  
3 sored extermination of the Eastern Timber  
4 Wolf; and

5 (D) enhancing our understanding of wolves  
6 and of the environment.

7 (4) The public debate surrounding wolf reintro-  
8 duction in the Northeastern United States would  
9 foster a deeper understanding within the general  
10 public about the complex interactions among species  
11 in their natural environments.

12 **SEC. 3. EASTERN TIMBER WOLF REINTRODUCTION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
15 Interior shall prepare and publish a recovery plan for the  
16 Eastern Timber Wolf in the Northeastern United States  
17 under section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973  
18 (16 U.S.C. 1533(f)), including a plan for releasing East-  
19 ern Timber Wolves in the Catskill Mountain area of New  
20 York under section 10(j) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(j)).

21 (b) PLAN CONTENTS.—The Plan shall include the  
22 following:

23 (1) Goals for the biological recovery of the  
24 Eastern Timber Wolf, including wolf population  
25 goals that must be achieved as a condition for re-

1 moving that subspecies from lists under section 4(c)  
2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
3 1533(c)).

4 (2) A process and method for obtaining Eastern  
5 Timber Wolves from Canada for release under the  
6 plan.

7 (3) An outline of how releases under the Plan  
8 will proceed, including proposals for cooperative  
9 agreements that may be pursued with State and  
10 local government agencies to facilitate those releases.

11 (4) A determination of the number of Eastern  
12 Timber Wolves that should be released under the  
13 Plan to ensure a self-sustaining population of that  
14 species in the Catskill Mountain area of New York.

15 (5) A process for compensating New York resi-  
16 dents for depredation of livestock by Eastern Timber  
17 Wolves, including—

18 (A) an estimate of the number and value  
19 of livestock in New York expected to be lost to  
20 depredation by that species;

21 (B) criteria for determining in individual  
22 cases whether livestock depredation by that spe-  
23 cies has actually occurred;

24 (C) procedures for providing compensation;

1 (D) establishment of a separate account  
2 for the receipt and disbursement of donations of  
3 money for use to pay compensation, that shall  
4 be known as the “Protecting Eastern Timber  
5 Wolf Restoration Mitigation Fund”; and

6 (E) an estimate of the amount of money  
7 that would be needed in that account to ensure  
8 in perpetuity the availability of amounts for  
9 paying such compensation.

10 (6) A study of—

11 (A) the feasibility of releasing Eastern  
12 Timber Wolves in other parts of New York; and

13 (B) the feasibility of reducing road den-  
14 sities in certain areas of New York to provide  
15 for wolf dispersal corridors.

16 (c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept  
18 and use donations of funds for compensating New  
19 York residents for depredation of livestock by East-  
20 ern Timber Wolves under the Plan.

21 (2) DEPOSIT INTO PET WOLF FUND.—Amounts  
22 received as donations under this subsection—

23 (A) shall be deposited into the PET Wolf  
24 Fund; and

1 (B) shall be available, subject to appropria-  
2 tions, for paying compensation in accordance  
3 with the Plan.

4 **SEC. 4. EASTERN TIMBER WOLF RELEASES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accord-  
6 ance with the Plan, begin releasing Eastern Timber  
7 Wolves on land in the Catskill Mountain area of New York  
8 acquired under section 5 by the latest of—

9 (1) the date that is 3 years after the date of the  
10 enactment of this Act;

11 (2) the date on which the Secretary has ob-  
12 tained Eastern Timber Wolves for release; or

13 (3) the date on which the Secretary has ob-  
14 tained land under section 5 for that release.

15 (b) ACQUISITION OF ANIMALS FOR RELEASE.—The  
16 Secretary shall seek to acquire Eastern Timber Wolves for  
17 release under the Plan by not later than the date referred  
18 to in subsection (a)(1).

19 (c) STATUS OF RELEASED WOLVES.—Section  
20 10(j)(2)(C) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
21 U.S.C. 1539(j)(2)(C)) shall not apply to any population  
22 of Eastern Timber Wolves released under this section.

23 **SEC. 5. LAND ACQUISITION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
25 propriations, the Secretary, through the Bureau of Land

1 Management, may acquire land and interests in land with-  
2 in the Catskill Mountain area of New York for use as sites  
3 for releases of Eastern Timber Wolves under this Act.

4 (b) MANAGEMENT.—Lands and interests acquired  
5 under this section shall be under the administrative juris-  
6 diction of the Bureau of Land Management.

7 **SEC. 6. DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT.**

8 Not later than 6 months after the date of the first  
9 release of Eastern Timber Wolves under this Act, the Sec-  
10 retary shall designate areas in New York that as critical  
11 habitat of the Eastern Timber Wolf for purposes of the  
12 Endangered Species Act of 1973.

13 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

14 For purposes of this Act:

15 (1) The term “Eastern Timber Wolf” means  
16 members of the subspecies *Canis lupus lycaon*, as  
17 described by Ronald M. Nowak in the article “An-  
18 other Look at Wolf Taxonomy” in the journal *Ecol-  
19 ogy and Conservation in a Changing World* (Cana-  
20 dian and Circumpolar Institute, Occasional Publica-  
21 tions; no. 35, pages 375–398).

22 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
23 of the Interior.

1           (3) The term “Plan” means the recovery plan  
2           for the Eastern Timber Wolf prepared by the Sec-  
3           retary under section 3.

4           (4) The term “PET Wolf Fund” means the  
5           separate account known as the Protecting Eastern  
6           Timber Wolf Restoration Mitigation Fund, estab-  
7           lished by the Secretary under the Plan.

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