

## Supplementary Material 1: Survey instrument

### Adverse Hound Hunting Related Incidents

The Protecting Native Forests and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter is conducting a survey to determine the frequency and severity of hounding-related experiences you may have encountered where you reside. The survey is anonymous: no identifying information is being requested. A comments section is provided at the end of this form. Completed surveys may be returned to Elizabeth Huntley before conference close, or mailed to: Elizabeth Huntley c/o Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter, 754 Williamson St, Madison, WI 53703

What county do you reside in? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Frequency of Events and observations made

1. Have you ever observed hunting hounds on your property? YES / NO

2. Do you recall how many hounds you saw?

\_\_\_ 1-4

\_\_\_ 5-8

\_\_\_ More than 8

3. How often have you observed hunting hounds on your property? Once/2-5 times/More than 5 occurrences/Too many times to count

If YES, were you also able to observe what animal(s) the hounds were pursuing? YES/NO

List species if YES

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4. If you have observed hunting hounds on your property, were they accompanied by (a) handler(s)? YES / NO

5. Have hounds on your property attacked your pets and/or livestock? YES / NO

6. Are you personally aware of incidents of hounds attacking others' pets and/or livestock? YES / NO. If "YES", please describe in comment space below.

7. Have you ever found abandoned/lost hound(s) in or around your property? YES / NO.

8. If "YES", what action did you take if any? Contacted law enforcement/Contacted game warden/ Contacted local humane society or animal control/Took animal in to\_\_\_\_\_ /Other

Trespassing on private land

9. Were you ever asked by a hound handler for permission to be on your property for the purposes of hunting? YES / NO

10. If you were asked, and you replied "No," did the hound handler trespass on your property anyway? YES / NO

11. If YES, what action did you take? Nothing-fear retribution/Contacted local law enforcement/Contacted local Warden/Contacted WI DNR/Contacted WI Humane Society/Other

Threats to self, property, pets, livestock by hunting hound handlers

12. Have you ever experienced damage to your property that you know or suspected was due to hounding activities? YES / NO If YES, please describe in comments below.

13. Have you ever experienced injury to (a) pet(s) or livestock that you know or suspected was due to hounding activities? YES / NO. If "YES", please describe (text box provided for explanation).

14. Have you ever been chased and/or injured by (a) hound dog(s)? YES / NO. If "YES", please describe with approximate date in comments below.

15. Have you ever been directly confronted by (a) hound handler(s) and threatened with bodily harm? YES / NO If YES, please describe in comments below.

16. Have you ever been left an anonymous note that you suspected to be left by hound handlers that threatened you and/or your pets/livestock with harm? YES / NO

17. Do you personally know of anyone who has experienced real or perceived threats/persecution by hound handlers? YES/NO If YES please describe in comments below.

18. Do you feel intimidated by hound handlers? YES / NO

19. Do you fear retribution from hound handlers if you report incidents involving their activity to local law enforcement? YES / NO

Law enforcement / Game Warden response to complaints, and conflicts of interest

20. Have you ever contacted local law enforcement, the local game warden, and/or the WDNR about any problem(s) you have experienced with hound handlers? YES / NO

21. If "YES," what kind of response did you receive?

\_\_\_Warden or Officer responded, but nothing was done.

\_\_\_The Warden/Officer followed up by contacting the suspected hound handler(s), and followed up with you.

\_\_\_The Warden/Officer never responded.

\_\_\_Other.

22. Do you ever see any local game wardens in the vicinity of your property? Never/On-occasion/All the time

If YES, is there any particular time of the year when you see them most often? Circle all that are applicable: Deer season/Bear season/Wolf season/Turkey season/Bobcat sea-son/Other

23. Are you aware of any law enforcement officer and/or game warden who also participates in hounding activities? YES / NO

24. If "YES," have these been the same individuals who have responded to your complaint(s) about hounding? YES / NO

25. Are you aware of law enforcement officers / game wardens who have personal relationships with hound handlers? YES/NO

If "YES," do you suspect a possible conflict of interest in performing their duties? YES / NO

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. Please add any additional comments below. You may share your contact information if you wish. The Sierra Club, Wisconsin Chapter will not share your contact information without your permission.

## Supplementary Information 2: Qualitative data

**Received from respondents reporting incidents, anonymized, and edited for clarity.**

*Hounding should not be allowed all over the state. It's a free-for-all in the national forests, and it's wrong. Oconto, WI*

*Please end this cruel sport. Bayfield, WI*

*I do not support running animals with hounds as a hunter. Florence, WI*

*Living in the North woods at this time of year is uncomfortable. Hounders are everywhere, running dogs on bear, blocking roads. Washburn, WI*

*Bear hounds have a negative impact upon wildlife and forest users. I believe hunting bears and wolves with hounds is one of the cruelest "sports" imaginable and separates bear families. Macon, GA*

*I live in the UP and am sick of bear hunters' lack of respect for land owners and care for their dogs. This is definitely a sport that should be stopped. Houghton, MI*

*I respect the Native cultural relationship with the wolf. We have had a gutted bear (left) on our property. Douglas, WI*

*I have found at least 5 lost hounds along the highway. One had foot injuries.*

*Ontonagon, MI*

*Huge conflict of interest, but we are afraid. Dane, WI*

*I believe about ten years ago, Rep. Frank Boyle attempted to pass an ordinance to protect property owners from uncontrolled hounds. Ashland, WI*

*Bear hunting with hounds promotes unsafe situations for residents in bear country. Burnett, WI*

*Why run hounds in July when wolves have pups and in areas known to be inhabited by packs? Tax payers should not be paying for this. It is a scam. Bayfield, WI*

*Hound hunting is cruel to the hounds and animals being hunted. Gogebic, MI*

*Bear hunters with hounds seem to feel they can trespass. They have a strong enough lobby to pre-vent any repercussions. Chippewa, WI*

*Men standing with trucks and ATVs and radios blocked me on a road on Federal public land. Three cubs ran in front of me. Location withheld*

*People have a right to protect their pets and livestock and not be afraid in their own homes. Fond du Lac, WI*

*Coyote hunters argued with me when we denied permission to hunt on our land. We do not support hounding at all. Manitowoc, WI*

*I'm dismayed this form of cruelty is considered a legal form of "hunting" in Wisconsin. It's dread-ful and causes harm to a variety of wildlife species, not just the "target." St Croix, WI*

*I do not approve of hound hunting and believe it should not be practiced. Grant, WI*

*I don't believe in hound hunting for any animal. Price, WI*

*No animal should be taught to attack another animal and kill it. Location withheld*

*My experience during my 28 years as a municipal clerk is that hound hunting does cause problems. Eau Claire, WI*

*Hound hunting should be stopped. Under no circumstances should those dogs be paid for by tax payers after fights with wolves. Hunters are well aware what will happen to these dogs. Mara-thon, WI*

*The few times I've called law enforcement for trespassing, they tell me there's not much they can do. They've told me the hounders have a right to park in front of my driveway and run their dogs on my property. Polk, WI*

*I am very distressed that my state allows hunting of wolves and that the legislature circumvented the necessary period for monitoring. Hunting wolves and bears with hounds is despicable. Dane, WI*

*I hate hunting of any kind with dogs. I don't understand why it is ok for bear dogs to "train" in our national forests in the summer, harassing wildlife. Price, WI*

*Please, please, let's do something to stop this! Langlade, WI*

*Hounders lack of respect for private property, and just the peace and quiet of my area are being totally disrupted when they run a bear or wolf through the area.*

*Burnett, WI*



*There's no reason for hound hunting period. Even when they know (wolves have killed) a dog in the area, they still let them go and the hunter gets repaid. I won't go outside if I see them. Oconto, WI*

*I do not agree with letting dogs chase wild animals for "sport." It's disgusting.*

*Wood, WI*

*(They have) no regard for trespassing on private land. Milwaukee, WI*

*Thank you for investigating this problem with wildlife management. Cuyahoga, OH*

*Hounding is unethical. Hounders train their dogs to destroy other animals. Hounders trade, sell, or dump their dogs once they stop performing. Bayfield, WI*

*I am a member of the NRA and Sierra Club. I believe hunting is a right, but the use of dogs to harass, maim, kill other animals is murder. Douglas, WI*

*I live next to hunting hounds and they are very noisy. There have been a lot of complaints, because we have no noise ordinance. I live in the country for nature, not barking dogs. Polk, WI*

*This problem is WAY bigger than me bugging [local law enforcement]...We have a very large dangerous problem with armed gangs of armed criminals breaking laws and terrorizing people. Some people find the level of lawlessness downright frightening. Town of draper has elderly residents that are afraid for their safety.*

*Sawyer, WI*

*They threatened to burn a cabin down not far from my place if the property owner called the war-den. They stole the property owner's trail cam[era] which had proof of them trespassing with their hounds. County withheld, WI*