

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) and associated technical rules were first adopted by the Commission in December 2005. Initial Plan development was the result of a large public involvement process, which included Commission-sponsored workshops, multiple town hall meetings across the state, a 14-member advisory committee, and many written and verbal comments from the general public. The 2005 Plan contained objectives and strategies that were designed to meet the requirements of both the Oregon Endangered Species Act and the Oregon Wildlife Policy. The Plan calls for review every five years, similar to other conservation plans, and the first review occurred in 2010. The Plan acknowledges that any formal evaluation could result in a decision by the Commission to enter into rulemaking and amend the Plan. In 2013, the Plan and its associated technical rules were again modified as a result of lawsuit and subsequent settlement agreement. Following the delisting of wolves from the state List of Oregon Endangered Species in November, 2015, the Department initiated the current evaluation process in March of 2016.

The Plan evaluation and update is not a re-write of the original Plan. Rather, it strives to maintain the scope and intent of the original negotiations of the 2005 Wolf Advisory Committee, while adhering to the Plan's adaptive management approach by evaluating implementation of the Plan and including practical changes to improve implementation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

On March 18, 2016, the Plan evaluation began when Commission invited and heard testimony from two panels of stakeholders representing 4 wolf advocacy groups, 2 landowner/producer groups, and 2 hunter organizations. Since that Commission meeting, the Department held three meetings with representatives of some stakeholder groups to further discuss input to the Plan. In addition to stakeholder groups, Department staff initiated discussions with tribes, state, and federal agencies. The Commission was informed of the primary issues associated with stakeholder review at the October 7, 2016 meeting in La Grande.

ISSUE

FIVE-YEAR EVALUATION AND UPDATE OF THE OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANALYSIS

Many of the proposed changes in this evaluation and update of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Draft Plan) are a direct result of input received from stakeholder groups and the public. Department staff incorporated the input on key issues, looked toward the next five-year period of implementation, and adapted the Plan to address what we have learned and the challenges ahead.

Structurally, this Draft Plan maintains the style, general pattern, and organization as previous versions of the Plan. It differs from the current Plan in the following broad categories:

1. Added large amounts of new scientific information related to wolves and their management.
2. Updated with current Oregon-specific wolf data to inform better decision making.
3. Expanded some chapters, which are frequently used by the public and managers (e.g., Chapter II, III, IV, and VIII), and condensed or combined other chapters that receive less frequent use.
4. Retained appendices pertinent to present management of wolves in Oregon.

To retain historical context and documentation, earlier versions of this Plan will continue to be made publicly available on the ODFW wolf website.

Some of the proposed changes contained within this Draft Plan are general updates. Others are more substantive in nature, and include management improvements based on information gained over years of wolf management in Oregon. This Draft Plan is presented to the Commission as an initial review document—it has no associated draft rule.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

No action requested, informational item

DRAFT MOTION	N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE	N/A