

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mr. Podolski - Brighton Academy <podolski@brightonacademy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 6:35 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Nov. 9 commission meeting on wolf delisting

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Lance Podolski and I am the Southwestern director of the Oregon Hunters Association. I am sending this letter to encourage the Commissioners to follow the protocol developed for the management of the gray wolf and approve the removal of the species from the endangered species list.

When it became apparent that the gray wolf would become a part of the wildlife landscape in Oregon following the reintroduction efforts in the 1990's Oregon's wildlife managers wisely approved of a management plan that ensured the success of the species and contingencies that would allow wildlife managers to keep the species in balance with the entire ecosystem in this state. One of those contingencies recognized the need and the time to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list. Those criteria have more than been met. In fact, from the perspective of my wildlife management degree, the introduction has been wildly successful. From a very small introduction population and area the species has proliferated both in numbers and in area in Oregon. Few introduction or reintroduction efforts that wildlife managers have attempted have been this successful. Actually the growth of gray wolf populations in Oregon has been more reminiscent of the population growth of many invasive species into the state- uncontrolled and rapid. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the subspecies of wolf that currently occupies Oregon is not the native subspecies and is one that has been adapted to feeding on moose as well as other species.

In terms of geographic range wolves have colonized a large part of the land base of Oregon in a very short amount of time. Clearly the species has the habitat to not only avoid population declines but to increase their range in the state. In terms of numbers of wolves, again, the populations are increasing at a remarkable rate with all indications pointing to continued healthy growth. Removal of the gray wolf from the endangered species list will allow wildlife managers the flexibility to make decisions that will encourage Oregonians to not only tolerate but appreciate this species. Endangered species status is a vital tool that we have to ensure the survival and success of our native wildlife but it is also vital that we recognize its successes and unencumber our wildlife management process with unneeded and intrusive listings.

For the sake of Oregonians and for the sake of the wolf please continue the recovery efforts and remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list. Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,

Lance Podolski
Grants Pass, OR
(541)474-3325



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Judy Niedzwiecke <judynez@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 6:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: delisting gray wolves

I am a license wildlife rehabilitator in Bend, Oregon. I raise orphaned wildlife with the intention of setting them free into nature's food chain. The thought of my "babies" being killed by a predator really messes with my mind but what you propose to do is beyond wrong! Human beings have enough to do in an attempt to care for and control other human beings. Human beings do not belong in the business of controlling nature's perfect balance.

If human beings (ODFW) would shift our thought process and consider the real reasons one species might be suffering or thriving (out of nature's balance), the honest conclusion will always be **human intervention**. Human behavior needs to be changed, not the behavior of the animals.

It is wrong for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recommend removing gray wolves from the state endangered species list. Why weren't the independent biologists consulted about this? Did you make this decision for political reasons? What scientific research led to this decision?

ODFW asked for feedback from the scientific community on its updated biological review. Then, before the scientific information could be analyzed, ODFW announced its recommendation to delist gray wolves. The fact is, ODFW never intended to consider the scientific information!

The biologists have found many faults with the ODFW methodology and conclusion. In fact, 14 prominent biologists have written to the Commission opposing gray wolf delisting from the state endangered species act. These independent biologists have said it is not only premature but also that ODFW's own science undermines its recommendation. **SO WHAT IS THE REAL REASON?**

I urge the Commission to instruct ODFW to pursue an independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those findings into an updated recommendation. A vote on whether wolves should be removed from the state endangered species list should be postponed until such an update is concluded. **AND:** the public should have a chance to weigh in on an informed decision. If ODFW is basing its delisting recommendation on political pressure

Roxann B Borisch

From: Deer Trapper <deer_trapper@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 6:53 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolf delisting

To: ODFW Commission
From: Jeff Orr

I heard Russ Morgan on JPR an NPR radio program not long ago, and on a separate show a wolf advocate from an environmentalist group. They want to imply there are only about 80 wolves in Oregon, all in the NE of the state. The wolf woman actually said HWY 395 seems to be a natural barrier to wolves.

ODFW knows this is not true.

I work at a gun store and have heard of several sightings here in Douglas County. I believe they are legit. Bill Cannaday the area assistant biologist had a sighting on Medicine Creek. Another report was 3 wolves at Willow Flat. 3 sightings around Diamond Lake. One wolf Zinc Creek, Tiller. Wolves at Toketee airstrip. Wolves on North Myrtle Creek east of Myrtle Creek. All this is in the Umpqua National Forest. Other reports, wolves west of the Pueblo Mountains. Possible wolf howling heard in the Powers Unit west of Riddle Oregon.

ODFW is only counting wolves that Russ Morgan has collared and counted the pack. Citizen sightings don't count.

So how many wolves are in Oregon 100,200,300? They don't know.

I appreciate wildlife as much as anyone, but bringing this predator to our state was a bad idea. Now they must be managed.

I worked at ODFW for 13 years for DeWaine Jackson doing deer, elk and cougar studies. I have been an Oregon hunter for 38 years. We can't let wolves get out of control like they are in Idaho, we just don't have the deer and elk to support them.

Jeff Orr, P.O. Box 791, Roseburg, OR 97471 541-580-7404.

Roxann B Borisch

From: dcrtr700@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves in Oregon

I am a native Oregonian and have been in the outdoors most of my 62 years in Oregon. I am in favor of delisting wolves in Oregon. Thank You

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Roxann B Borisch

From: chris Silbernagel <chris@crispcolors.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 8:26 PM
To: Chair Michael Finley
Subject: Support wolf delisting

Dear Chair Finley,

I operate a ranch in Oregon and urge you to remove the gray wolf from the list of wildlife species that are protected under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA).

The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (aka. Wolf Plan) calls for initiating a process to delist wolves from the OESA when Oregon reaches the conservation objective of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years in eastern Oregon. This objective was met in 2014. Based on the available data, the decision to delist the wolves is scientifically sound. There is no need to continue to extend OESA protection to the gray wolf as its population continues to increase.

When the Wolf Plan was created, it represented a compromise between ranchers and environmental groups. The ranching community has honored its commitment under the plan, and I ask that the state hold the environmental community to the commitments made to producers in the Wolf Plan. Delisting is a critical part of Phase II of the Wolf Plan, which also gives producers like me the ability to manage their livestock operations to help protect against wolf depredation.

I ask you to vote to delist the gray wolf at your November 9, 2015 Commission meeting. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Silbernagel
58148 Hilgard Ln
La Grande, OR 97850

Roxann B Borisch

From: Marcia Strickland <marvymar1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 8:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon wolf still needs endangered species protections

Dear ODFW Commission Members,

ODFW has done a great deal to negotiate the re-settlement of wolves in Oregon and has enjoyed early successes. The population of gray wolves however is very small and largely exclusive to Eastern Oregon. The population is way too small and fragile to walk away now from years of hard work. I urge you to delay a ruling on this until a proper peer review of the scientific data is complete. I also urge you to delay delisting the gray wolf until it is well established in all quadrants of the state and is reproducing well.

Sincerely,
Marcia Strickland

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jason Schiele <bobcatwf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves/Cougars

Hello I'm a retired hunting guide in the state of Oregon . 15 years ago we started packing and hunting in the eagle cap wilderness . 15 years ago it wasn't uncommon to have 50 trucks and trailers at moss springs trailhead . Last year I counted 4 during the 2nd bull hunt. There is nothing left in the minam canyon. 10 years ago we could pick and stalk a bull now we are lucky to even see an elk in 7 days. We have hunted among the wolves in the canyon and have seen the destruction they impose on a wildlife unit. As a licensed guide for Cougars in the 90's it was nothing to catch 3 to 4 cats in 2 days. I can only imagine what it's like now. The majority of the game is now in the lowlands to avoid having to deal with the predators. We have now started hunting Montana and Alaska to try and have successful hunting trips. Hope to see things change in this state as do many people in my position. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Malea Miglioretto <mmig2@pdx.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf Delisting

Hello,

I wanted to voice my opinion regarding the delisting of wolves in Oregon.

I find the possible delisting of wolves from under the Oregon Endangered Species Act to be very concerning. History has shown that there tends to be great strain between the relationship of wolves and the state, including cattle ranchers. In fact, the first legislative session that was held in Oregon was partially to deal with the "problem of marauding wolves." By the 1940's, Gray wolves had completely disappeared within Oregon. But, even after seeing the devastating effects this caused, upon their reintroduction, and subsequent federal delisting, wolf killings began again. It seems that killing wolves is the immediate response to any wolf-related threat to livestock. Delisting helps to prevent this, and protect the important wolf species.

Multiple studies have shown that areas in which wolves have been reintroduced have benefited, as they are an apex predator and effect the tri-trophic ecosystem they inhabit at every level. Many animal and plant species have been shown to benefit and also restore deficits accumulated in the absence of wolves.

A no-action plan, as proposed by ODFW, that does not delist wolves will ensure that the population continues to grow, without taking the risk that applied scenarios assume will not occur. It is even a possibility to reconsider delisting at a further time, when wolf populations are greater than the 81 or so that they are currently at. But, for now, in order to allow wolf populations a bit more time to increase, and positively affect the ecosystem, I believe it is important to not remove the Gray Wolf from under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

Best Regards,

Malea Miglioretto

Roxann B Borisch

From: i»¿MVallery <mvalley@frontier.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:21 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please support wolf delisting

Dear Wildlife Commissioners,

I am asking for your support in the de-listing of wolves from the endangered species list.

The original plan was agreed upon after a lot of work and negotiations by many different groups and people from all walks of life. The plan was accepted, put into place, and has been very successful in meeting the criteria for de-listing.

Why is it all of a sudden not a good plan to follow through with?

The Oregon Wolf Management Plan criteria has been exceeded by an extremely healthy population of wolves, with an expanded range, just like the plan was designed to accomplish.

So I am asking that you please vote to continue to follow through with the de-listing the wolf from the endangered species list as proposed in the original plan.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Mike Vallery

OHA Life Member
SCI member
OOC member
RMEF member

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mcat Pub <mcatepub@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: do not delist wolf

I read that ODFW recommended delisting the wolf outside of standard policy and procedure.

If true, this indicates a political or monetary decision, not a decision made in the best interest of wolves or the environment. Good science indicates that wolves and all top predators should not be hunted, because of cascading negative effects on the whole web of life.

ODFW should keep the wolf listed and protected.

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Mathieu Federspiel

Roxann B Borisch

From: Timmethy Tran <timmethy@pdx.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Concerning the Delisting of Wolves from ODFW

It may be a bit too early to delist wolves from the Oregon Endangered Species Act. There are a few conditions set by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife that I believe are not quite met. In short, those conditions are:

- The species is not like to be in danger of extinction
- The reproduction of the species is not majorly compromised
- The lands being used by the species are not deteriorating at rapid rates
- Species is not being overly used for human gain
- There exists adequate policies to protect the species and habitat

The wolves that willingly entered Oregon have come far along this list but it's not complete.

So far, the first bullet point can be determined objectively, depending on who gathered data and who told it. 85 wolves is a solid number to keep going, without any major complications that are unforeseeable. The problem however is that the wolves only occupy 3% of the potential western Wolf Management Zone and 9.4% in the east. That means the entire population is concentrated very close together because they tend to live in packs. Any major event such as disaster, disease, or forest fire threatens a major portion of the population. One wrong event and they are close to extinction once again. Also being in such a small area decreases the chance for human interaction. Once the wolves reach the ranchers for example, they could be in danger of being hunted as pests. We have yet to see how humans will react to wolves in the wild.

Already, the first condition is compromised in a few ways that make it difficult to comfortably say wolves are no longer in danger of going extinct. In 2009, Wolves were delisted from the North Rocky Mountain region and it faced huge challenges and debates for 3 years, causing re listing and delisting over and over again. Let's not make the same mistake by delisting too early and cause long unnecessary debate and play this one on the safe side. Do not delist wolves from the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,
A lowly college student required to do this work and research.
Timmethy Tran

Thank you for your time.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Meyer, Howard <howard.h.meyer@oregonstate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 11:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: De-listing of wolves

Dear Commissioners,

I am a long-time hunter, a member of the inaugural Master Hunter program, an ODFW volunteer and Hunter Ed instructor, President of the Benton Bowmen, and member of at least eight other Oregon and/or national outdoor conservation groups.

I watched with interest (and some trepidation) as the Oregon Wolf Management Plan went through the various stages of formulation, discussion and, finally, acceptance. I remember attending a meeting at the Benton County fairgrounds when the semi-final plan was presented for 'discussion'. About 80 people were present, only three of whom were concerned about the future management of wolves from a population control standpoint – myself, a lady rancher from Bellfountain, and a hunter who pursued deer and elk in eastern Oregon. The remainder of the attendees just wanted to hear all they could about these wonderful animals that they hoped would populate much of the state including western Oregon. When I raised a question about the likelihood of eventual de-listing and possible hunting of wolves, the reaction was akin to my suggesting selling children into slavery.

Ranchers and hunters, the ones most negatively impacted by wolves, made a lot of concessions in reluctant acceptance of the ODFW Wolf Management Plan. This was in the face of the many deceptions and mistruths surrounding the federal introduction and release of wolves into Yellowstone. The conditions for de-listing of wolves, as spelled out in the Management Plan, have been met, and it is important for the Commission to show good faith and take the next step. Wolf management belongs in the hands of our capable ODFW biologists who can keep it in perspective with other species. Please prevent a repeat of the fiasco that ballot measure 18 did to management of bears and cougars in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Howard Meyer

Corvallis, OR 97333

Roxann B Borisch

From: Meyer, Howard <howard.h.meyer@oregonstate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 11:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
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Respectfully,

Howard Meyer

Corvallis, OR 97333

Roxann B Borisch

From: sam094@centurytel.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

I wish to add my support for the delisting of wolves as a threatened and endangered species.

I am a long time member of the Oregon Hunters Association, and I believe that the criteria developed for the Oregon Wolf Management Plan, through a long and strenuous process, has been fulfilled.

I believe that the wolf has a place in our state, and by following the specific and cautious conservation measures spelled out in the Plan, we can strike a balance acceptable to all sides.

Please support the delisting of wolves and support the science behind the recommendations in the Plan.

Thank you,

Sam Saunders
P O Box 733
Aurora, OR. 97002

Roxann B Borisch

From: Sharron Schmidt <sharron.schmidt615@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:33 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: grey wolves

Please do not delist grey wolves from ESA in the state of Oregon.

Sharron Schmidt
sharron.schmidt615@yahoo.com
Bandon, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Sharon Livingston <bar96@otcwb.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 8:48 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: FW: Urgent: Don't Let Oregon Betray Its Wolves

This e-mail is full of inaccurate statements. There will be no indiscriminate killings of wolves as Suckling describes it. He is way off base and using the usual scare tactics to get his message across and obtain funds from those that don't have any understanding of the Oregon Wolf Management Plan.

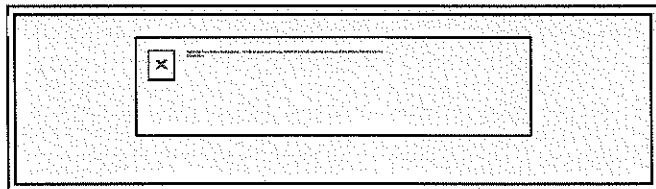
Sharon Livingston

From: "Kierán Suckling, Center for Biological Diversity"
<TheCenter@biologicaldiversity.org>
Date: November 3, 2015 8:39:29 AM PST
To: cj@rangemagazine.com
Subject: **Urgent: Don't Let Oregon Betray Its Wolves**
Reply-To: TheCenter@biologicaldiversity.org



Dear C.j.,

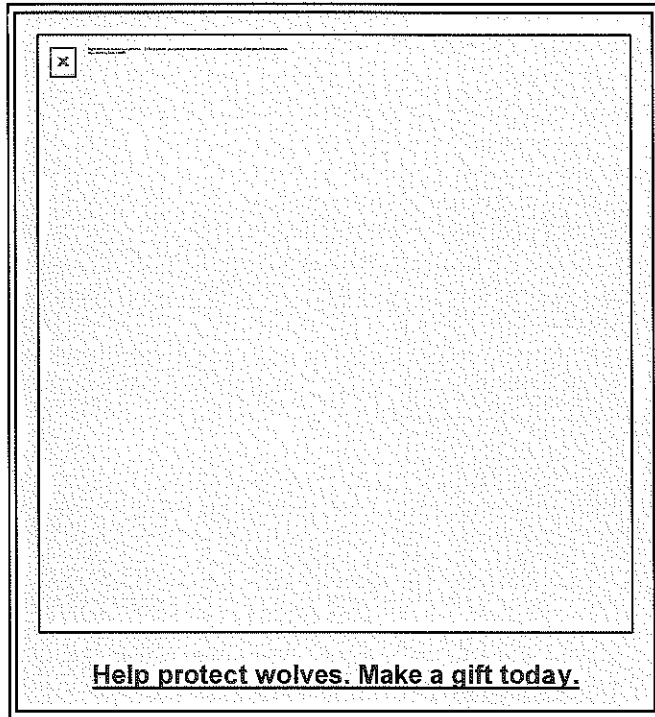
Bad news out of Oregon: The West Coast's endangered wolves are about to be betrayed by the people who are supposed to protect them.



There are only around 80 wolves in Oregon, and they'll soon lose crucial protections if the state's Fish and Wildlife Commission follows through on a plan to kick wolves off the endangered species list. Wolves like OR-7, the long-distance wanderer who has settled down in the Cascades with his new pack, could soon find themselves in the crosshairs, shot down, poisoned or trapped out of existence.

We need your help to fight back for Oregon's wolves. **Please make a donation today to the Center for Biological Diversity's Predator Defense Fund, and we'll dedicate your gift to this fight.**

By moving to strip protection from its wolves, Oregon's commission will be flouting the recommendations of top wolf biologists and worldwide experts who say the state's delisting strategy is illogical, unsupported by evidence and fundamentally flawed. Oregon Fish and Wildlife even announced its wolf delisting proposal while the comment period was still open for scientists to weigh in on the issue -- proving the decision is being driven by politics, not what scientists think is best for wolves.

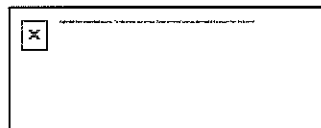
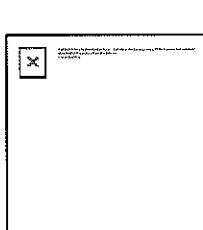


The Center will fight in and out of court to make sure that wolves are protected -- **but we need your support to make sure we win.**

And it's not just Oregon's wolves that are at stake. As wolf families disperse and return to their native habitat, they cross borders without regard to their legal status. Wolves just now making inroads into California, including the state's first family in a century, the Shasta pack, have passed through Oregon. If it's open season on wolves in even one state, it could curtail the return of this critically important species across millions of acres of the West.

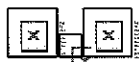
The Center has a 25-year history of winning protections for wolves across America. Our lawyers, scientists and activists are ready to protect Oregon's wolves and help them return to their ancient homes on the West Coast. **We need your support, though, so please, add your contribution to this crucial work with a donation to the Predator Defense Fund today.**

For the wolves,



Kieran Suckling
Executive Director
Center for Biological Diversity
[@KieranSuckling](#)

Please share this message with your social networks:



This message was sent to cj@rangemagazine.com.

Photo of gray wolf courtesy Flickr/[Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#).

The Center for Biological Diversity sends out newsletters and action alerts through [SalsaLabs.com](#). [Let us know](#) if you'd like to stop receiving action alerts and newsletters from us.

Center for Biological Diversity

P.O. Box 710

Tucson, AZ 85702

1-866-357-3349

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: WOLF DELIST

From: Bill & cathy [mailto:hdnhollo@gawlowski.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Roxann B Borisch <roxann.b.borisch@state.or.us>
Subject: this should work! thank you!!

Dear Commission Members: 11-9-15

“Now is not the time to delist the wolf.”

My name is Bill Gawlowski, from Bend. I will testify at the November 9 meeting, but wish to provide you with a brief summary to review first.

I was a member of the Wolf Advisory Committee that drafted the wolf plan in a citizen-at-large capacity, and feel it is important to “weigh in” at this time.

Summary:

Although it is allowable to delist, why it is not prudent to do so

- illegal poaching already. why it would increase.
- up to state to protect, as federal govt. listing not assured for western Oregon.
- what livestock producers, pushing for the delisting, hope to gain.
- where wolf plan falls short in potential relisting criteria. from page 30:

“If one or more of the presumed breeding pairs does not breed, it is critical to understand why they did not. For example, if illegal poaching or lethal control actions were the causes, relisting may not be necessary. Instead, a reduction in lethal control actions and employment of methods to halt illegal poaching would be initiated. These actions could include increased public education and law enforcement efforts, and impose higher penalties for illegal take.²⁴

If breeding pairs are poached, species could fall below minimum standards and relisting would not be automatic.

- - the western section of the state has less than 15 known wolves. in 2/3 of the state! how is that population considered “ok to delist?”
- finally, let us review your agency’s mission: “...to protect and enhance Oregon’s fish and wildlife...” that is your moral compass. you must ask yourself if less than 80 animals of any species deserves protection under your mission statement.
- you do not “have” to delist at this time. like we teach our children--”you don’t have to do something just because you can.”

Thank you!

Bill Gawlowski
18752 Choctaw Rd.
Bend, Oregon 97702

5451-382-3470

ps- just some general info for the hunting interests that protest the presence of the wolf is harming hunting opportunities. this quote is from the ODFW Wolf Status report this spring. seems the elk and deer are not severely impacted as some have claimed.

Analysis of prey selection and kill rates by wolves in Oregon has not been completed, but anecdotal observations in the northeastern Oregon indicated that elk are commonly killed by wolves. Oregon maintains a robust and widely distributed elk population numbering an estimated 128,000 elk across 151,500 km² (ODFW data). Between 2009 and 2014, all Wildlife Management Units (WMU’s) of northeastern Oregon with established wolf packs for at least four years (Imnaha, Snake River, Walla Walla, Wenaha) had increasing elk populations, and two of the four (Imnaha and Snake River) were above the established management objectives for elk since wolves became established (ODFW data).

Other important wolf prey species include mule deer – estimated at 229,000 in eastern Oregon (ODFW data), black-tailed deer (western Oregon) and white-tailed deer (esp. northeastern Oregon).

Roxann B Borisch

From: Sharon Livingston <bar96@otcwb.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 8:48 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf delisting comments

Importance: High

From: Sharon Livingston [<mailto:bar96@otcwb.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2015 5:56 PM
To: russ.1.morgan@state.or.us
Subject:

I sat through all of the original sessions on the formulation of the Wolf Management Plan. Those desiring to have a wolf population in Oregon were definitely in attendance, heard throughout, and involved in the formulation of the plan. Wolves have met the population threshold for delisting, (4 breeding pairs/3 consecutive years). It is time for the Plan to be fully implemented and wolves to be delisted. They have dispersed throughout Oregon. The state has an obligation to follow through with the adopted plan. I will be attending the hearing in Salem although it is a difficult time for those of us in Eastern Oregon that have to deal with the wolves, and try to gather our cattle before winter. Thank you.

Sharon Livingston
541-421-5276
bar96@otcwb.com



Roxann B Borisch

From: Stephanie Snyder <aloaflowr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:16 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Gray Wolves

To ODFW;

Your criteria for gray wolves being delisted from the Endangered Species list needs to be modified. It seems clear that gray wolves are still in danger from their most formidable predator, humans. This is an ongoing battle and will continue to be so. Our arrogance is what made the need for an Endangered Species list to begin with. Wishing or hoping that things will change regarding threatened species will never change without educating everyone in how it isn't right to use animals as target practice. Education that would instill a sense of wonder, respect, and change the hate perspective that is currently par for the course for these beautiful animals.

Stephanie Snyder

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gerry Bush <Gerry@twinrp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves in Oregon

To ODFW,

After speaking with several of my friends that went hunting in the NE regions of Oregon, I personally agree the wolf should be declassified in Oregon. It is clear that the wolf population, at least in the NE area of Oregon is very numerous and has thinned the elk and deer populations to nearly none existence in some areas. This same process took place in and around Salmon Idaho about a decade back and there still isn't a fraction of the elk and deer there was before the wolves were reintroduced.

Please declassify the work in Oregon.

Thank you,

Gerald S. Bush

Roxann B Borisch

From: ken mccall <kenemccall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:12 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf delisting vote 11-9-2015
Attachments: ODFW testimony 11-4.docx

Please accept the comments attached. Thank You all.

Ken McCall
Field Director
Oregon Hunters Association
541-602-1819
Ken@oregonhunters.org

To: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Subject: Comments on Wolf delisting

From: Ken McCall, Field Director Oregon Hunters Association

Chair Finley and Commissioners,

Please consider and add these comments to the record for your upcoming November 9th ODFW Commission meeting in consideration of wolf delisting under the provisions of the Oregon Endangered Species Act and the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

- ODFW Staff have been very diligent and successful in both documenting the population of wolves and presenting factual scientific information to the public and the commission regarding the successful implementation of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. All criteria set forth in consideration of delisting in the Oregon ESA have been met. ODFW staff deserves recognition for their professional response on a very difficult and divisive issue.
- The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan development process included a diverse group of interested parties and well recognized groups. The plan was agreed to and should be honored by all who were part of the process and accepted by those who did not come to the table to participate. This is not the time for plan development parties to change their minds on implementation. Proceed with the plan, delist and move forward with considerations of plan revisions after the delisting, not before.
- Consider a wider look at the wolf populations and biology across the larger recovery area including the portions of Oregon this species has occupied. The Wolf population numbers are growing and the expansion of this species into available habitat in Oregon will not stop or in any way be threatened by delisting. These animals do not respect or understand artificial boundaries of states, counties or major obstacles to movement across the landscape such as the Snake River dividing part of Oregon from Idaho. Of course the two prime examples in popular media are OR7 and OR3, solid documented evidence of their travels cannot be refuted, these predators are dedicated to filling available habitat.
- Oregon's big game species such as elk and deer are experiencing a multitude of issues related to habitat at the local and landscape level, increases in predator population from cougar and overall weather related changes in available forage. Not giving the ODFW staff additional tools to manage both game species and predators will further the decline in hunting opportunity along with economic dividends from hunter investment in food, lodging, equipment and returns to ODFW from tag and license sales. Hunters are conservationists who put their boots on the ground and their dollars into habitat projects, support for game enforcement and local economies.
- Please vote to delist and continue with the agreed upon plan.

Thank you for your consideration, Ken McCall

Roxann B Borisch

From: judyh.outdrs.9@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:46 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delist the Wolves!

Please, this is serious and scary
Thank you
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hatton
378 Raccoon Dr.
Oakland, Or. 97462
Sent from Windows Mail

Roxann B Borisch

From: Scott Jensen <smj@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:13 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Gray Wolves

In response to the upcoming review of wolves in Oregon, and the consideration to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list --

With post-industrial technology, and advancements made, people have more time to consider the condition of the world we live in. Consequently, more time is spent considering key factors affecting the environment. For ecosystems to function in an optimal and productive way, it is necessary that we have all the components of that system present and accounted for. This would include the predators that are that are indeed necessary for the condition, and overall health of our forests.

In efforts to reintroduce gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park, Oregon State University researchers have found – in a cause and effect relationship - multifaceted improvements due to the reintroduction into the area. The top-down effects of wolf predation has resulted in a healthy, natural, reduction of the areas' local elk populations. Elk in Yellowstone National Park have been known to over browse, resulting in a negative effect on numerous plant and animal species. The interaction of wolves, elk, and the woody plants in the area (e.g., aspen, willows and cottonwoods), the researchers concluded, have resulted in a rebound in several animal species that contribute to the condition of the YNP forests. This can be considered the ripple effects of the intentional reintroduction of wolves, a keystone predator, into an area where wolves had not existed in 70 years. It is critical to recognize that there are very significant implications that are directly related to the absence (or presence) of predators in a forest biome. The balance of that ecosystem is significantly compromised without predator/prey interactions.

I would very much hope that the public does not lose more of their support for the very sensitive issue of The Wolf Plan. And I sincerely hope, also, that the point of those efforts to improve the condition of our forests' ecology is in no way wasted. For public support to decline, and if progress made were to backslide, then what is to be said of the efforts of the plan to begin with? So, my thinking on the matter is to sustain public support, and the public's interest, by keeping gray wolves on the endangered species list, as a means of advocating environmental awareness.

Thank you for your time,

Scott Michael Jensen

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ken Day <s21ken@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:21 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves in Oregon

To whom it may concern,

I believe wolves should be taken off the Oregon endangered Species List. I am truly concerned about how they are currently negatively impacting Eastern Oregon deer and elk populations but I am more concerned about what they will do in the future if left unchecked (as in unmanaged).

Please utilize YOUR data in making this decision and not be influenced by a hunter's lobby or an environmentalist's lobby.

I will support your decision whichever way you go,

Ken Day
Independence, OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: diball <diball@frontier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:24 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delist wolf
Attachments: ODFW.Wolf.Letter.docx

Please enter the attached letter into comments for the upcoming Commission meeting to consider delisting the wolf in Eastern OR. Thank you

Dale Ballard

Dale Ballard
2244 SW McGinnis Ave.
Troutdale, OR 97060

November 3, 2015

ODFW Commission:

I am writing to you, as a member of OHA and Oregon Outdoor Council, requesting that you accept ODFW staff recommendation to remove the grey wolf from the ESA in Eastern Oregon. The required population status has been attained per the OR Wolf Plan and to refuse to follow the plan would cast doubt and suspicion as it relates to sound wildlife management principals. Oregon's ungulate populations are being decimated by wolves and cougars and removing the stringent protections now afforded wolves would be a step in the right direction.

As a lifelong Oregonian and hunter, I can assure you, I did not vote for the protections given the wolves when the OR Wolf Plan was adopted, and I still feel they were extirpated for a reason. That being they are predators that know little bounds. While they take prey to sustain themselves, there are many documented thrill kills as well. Bite marks to bring an animal down, but little actual consumption have been documented in several instances.

Predation upon livestock is a real problem. And taxpayers of Oregon are being asked to fund a program to reimburse ranchers for livestock losses, which is great for the ranchers, but not well spent tax money. And funding a wolf program from dollars contributed by hunters is absolutely wrong. I know this hunter does not agree with that as do my fellow hunter friends. I realize wolves are here to stay, especially since there is so much support from the non-hunting folks that think their re-establishment is good for the ecosystem. But in all fairness, allow our game biologists the tools to effectively manage their existence, just as they do other species. I ask that you remember that the agency's mission is to "protect and enhance...Oregon's wildlife for present and future generations". A Wolf Program with little regard for ungulate populations does not fit. Any person witnessing an attack on domestic animals should be allowed to take whatever action necessary to thwart the attack immediately.

Sincerely,
Dale Ballard

Roxann B Borisch

From: Bill & cathy <hdnhollo@gawlowski.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:38 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: wolf delisting meeting November 9
Attachments: wolf delisting letter.pages

Hello,
Attached please find a summary of my upcoming testimony regarding the delisting of the wolf. I have also sent a hard copy to you, but in the event it does not get there in time to give to commission members I have sent it also in this manner.

If you could please see that the commission members receive this I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you.
Bill Gawlowski

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nick Nott <nicknotthouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 12:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting
Attachments: Wolf delisting.docx

Dear commissioners,

Attached is a brief letter for your consideration at the upcoming Commission meeting. Thank you for your work.

Nick Nott, Sweet Home, Oregon

November 4, 2015

Re: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, Monday, November 9, 2015

Dear commissioners,

I know that the delisting of wolves in Oregon is a polarizing and emotionally charged issue. I appreciate your willingness to hear all sides, and to make a decision.

My concern is that Oregon not experience what has happened in the Rocky Mountain States in recent years—the population explosion of wolves, which very quickly lead to a dramatic decline in big game numbers, livestock being killed, etc. The problems grew too quickly without good plans in place to address them.

I am a member of Oregon Hunters Association and Traditional Archers of Oregon, and, I think, a reasonable fellow. My bias is to see that big game populations remain healthy and stable, so that we can continue to have good hunting opportunities. I believe that by delisting wolves now, and letting the Oregon wolf Management Plan work as it is designed to do, we will avoid (or least be better prepared to respond to) the problems experienced in other states in recent years. The criteria for delisting has been met, and the responsible thing to do is to move to the next step.

Thank you,

Nick Nott, Sweet Home, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Alice Phass <alicephass@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 4:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves

To Whom This May Concern,

With well under 100 wolves in Oregon (approximately 83), I believe the wolves need continued protection under the state ESA. Decreasing protection will effectively undo the progress that has been made, and shut down recovery for wolves who still barely have a foothold in the state.

It is my understanding that a group of leading independent scientists voiced their opposition to this ill conceived plan to remove state protections from Oregon's wolves, saying the estimated, and small population of only 83 wolves cannot be considered recovered. The scientists identified significant flaws in a "population viability analysis" conducted by ODFW. Wolves, in Oregon, are **not** at low risk of extinction.

"It is logically indefensible, and contrary to the notion of recovery under the Endangered Species Act, to suggest that wolves are in some way recovered when they're still missing from nearly 90 percent of their suitable range in Oregon," said Dr. Michael P. Nelson, the Ruth H. Spaniol chair of renewable resources and a professor of environmental ethics and philosophy at Oregon State University. "Dropping state protections for wolves right now would suggest that politics, rather than science and law, are guiding wildlife management decisions in Oregon."

It is quite evident that Oregon would prefer to kowtow to ranchers, farmers and those who "crafted" the Wolf Plan, which was originally formulated in 2005 by "a broad group of stakeholders balancing competing interests". Science not stakeholders should guide the decisions of endangered species!

The very fact that ODFW recommends delisting the gray wolf from the state ESA throughout Oregon is prime example why this country so desperately needs ESA protections for imperiled species.

Nothing other than Science should guide this decision. I oppose delisting Oregon's wolves, and, frankly I find it disgraceful that this action is being considered at this time.

Thankyou for your time and consideration of this extremely important matter,

Alice Phass

Roxann B Borisch

From: T. DUANE & MARJORIE <dpotter@centurylink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 5:09 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

Members of the commission,

I appreciate this opportunity to address each of you with regard to this very important subject.

My name is Thomas D. Potter and I am a life member of the Oregon Hunters Association.

It goes without saying that the Wolf has made its entry into the wildlife community with little problem for it. However it certainly has stirred up the hunting community with the quickness with which it has multiplied, and continues to grow in the size of the packs that have become well established.

In fact the elk herds and the deer herds have suffered along with our domestic cattle herds and have felt the effect of this new neighbor in their areas. Therefore it is time to delist wolves in Oregon. They have met and exceeded the criteria identified in the Oregon Wolf Management Plan.

With the above in mind It is my hope that you find it necessary to Find In Favor of Delisting The Wolf in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Potter

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mark Ramp <rampranch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 5:32 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

ODFW Commission,

I recently was helping my father pack in for his elk hunt in the Minam area. We were actually in the Minam Lake area for the time period October 8 through November 1. We came across 2 different herds of elk with about 5 to 7 elk in each herd. In their tracks and along side them were wolf tracks. One herd was traveling down towards trail creek area from Minam lake and two days later the next herd of elk was traveling from Blue lake towards Copper Creek area. Each of these elk herds had about 5 to 7 wolves tracking them. They in the elk tracks and on both sides of the tracks. We never saw an elk during this time because every time we came across the elk tracks there were wolf tracks in them. The elk appeared to always be running. I have archery hunted in this area for the last 12 years off and on and the last 4 years the wolf sign has increased greatly. This year during two weeks of elk hunting, we came across several what appeared to be wolf kill's in the Minam river area around Lowery Gulch and Granite Creek trail. After living in Alaska for 30 years and seeing how the wolf kills for sport vs the need for food, they need to be taken off the protected list. I have no problem with them being reintroduced to Oregon but we need to keep their numbers reduced so they aren't reducing the game numbers to the point hunters won't be hunting in these areas.

Mark Ramp
rampranch@gmail.com
907-351-9971

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gwen Barrow <gingerline@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 6:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep Wolves Listed State-Wide

To the Commissioners of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, I do not agree with your current course of action, delisting the gray wolf from Oregon Endangered Species protection. Although the recovery of wolves is a remarkable story of resilience in our state, they still face perilous threats to their full recovery. The role that this species will have in our future intact ecosystems is critical.

Please consider comments from Bark and other partnering organizations before recommending delisting for the gray wolf.

Thank you,
Gwen Barrow

Gwen Barrow
125 NW 20th Place
Apt 7
Portland, OR 97209

Roxann B Borisch

From: Charles Batey <charlesabatey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 6:11 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: comment regarding grey wolf delisting

My name is Charles Batey and I am a student at Portland State University and an Oregon resident. The following is my stance on the de-listing of the grey wolf from the Oregon Endangered Species Act:

The grey wolf has met the initially established criteria for potential de-listing. I advocate that the most prudent course of action would be to follow option 2 and de-list the wolves only in the east where their population has met the standards of the commission. These management zones were developed for a reason and ought to be honored accordingly. The wolves should be allowed the opportunity to meet the delisting criteria in the west while we see the effects of de-listing in the east. In this fashion any of the low-probability downsides to de-listing will be inherently limited in their geographical extent and allow for a quicker management response in a worst-case scenario.

That said, I worry about the capacity for trigger happy self-interested types to set the population back years in an instant once some of the protections are lifted. My impression is that it will still not be possible to kill wolves without a permit and my hope is that these permits will remain rare. To those who might think to subvert this process I say to you, taxpayer money has already been spent on this project and I'd be happy to personally collect my share of it from anyone who thinks to go out and kill the wolves of their own accord. Your cattle have value, so be it, these animals now have a monetary value and your right to do business does not override my right to see my investment grow.

In closing, I would encourage decision makers to be rational and not give into the effects of base fears with regard to their opinion of wolves. Wolves have shown that they are not interested inhabiting areas close to humans, and while they may take the occasional domestic animal, those are not a preferred food source. The health of range and forest ecosystems as a whole benefit from grazer population controls exerted by predators such as wolves, and frankly wolves do a better and cheaper job of this than human imposed population controls in the past. Look to studies such as *Trophic cascades in Yellowstone: The first 15 years after wolf reintroduction* (Ripple, Beschta, 2011) for proof that wolves are beneficial for the continued health of Oregon's range and forest lands, and let Oregon be the site for future studies so we can understand these complex interactions better, advance the science and practice of apex predator management, and continue to make informed decisions in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roxann B Borisch

From: llarson@eoni.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 6:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf Delisting

Committee Members - I am writing to encourage a vote to delist the Wolf in Eastern Oregon. A plan for wolf population survival and management was prepared and adopted by the state. The goals/benchmarks listed in the plan have been achieved and it is time to delist the wolf. This move will place the state in the position to have a chance for cooperation and management that will serve both the people most impacted by the wolf and encourage the survival of a viable wolf population. Failure to delist would be catastrophic with the commission appearing to have had no intention to follow the plan and that political concerns trump management. Thank you for considering my concerns. Larry Larson, LaGrande Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jacob Argueta <argueta@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Neither humans nor wolves are ready for de-listing

To whom it may concern,

The hearing concerning the de-listing of the grey wolf in Oregon is premature at best. Not enough time has passed both for the wolves and the people who live around them. Recovering populations is only part of the successful reintroduction of the grey wolf. Other important things to consider are ecosystem services and impacts, wolf habitat range, current protected areas, and most importantly human interaction. There must be a shift in thinking about wolves and their roles within our ecosystems before we can safely de-list the species. There have been recent studies suggesting the important roles wolves play within their ecosystem, most notably the idea of trophic cascades (Ripple et al. 'Trophic Cascades in Yellowstone'). While the impacts the wolves have on these systems can be seen relatively quickly, it takes much longer for an equilibrium to be found. It also takes time for people to find some kind of balance between their activities and that of the wolves.

It is evident that through the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA) grey wolves have seen a significant recovery in their historic populations. While their numbers continue to grow it is of no surprise that their interactions with human activities have also increased. Many ranchers are worried for their livestock. The immediate reaction is to kill the wolves in order to protect their livelihoods but for now the grey wolf is still protected under the OESA. If the grey wolf were to be de-listed, people in rural communities will not hesitate to kill any wolves that threaten their animals. Much of the progress that has been made towards the recovery of the species could be lost much quicker than it was achieved. Since 2000, upwards of 80% (ODFW) of wolf deaths have been at the hands of people. I believe that this is evidence that de-listing needs to wait until we have a better understanding of ways in which wolves and people can co-inhabit areas without it being severely detrimental to either species.

Sincerely,
Jacob Argueta

Roxann B Borisch

From: Richard & Tina Bowen <rideon2@frontier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:17 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting

Hello my name is Rick Bowen.

I have lived in La Grande since I was 4 years old. In 1964 my parents relocated here from Nyssa Or, my place of birth. I have been roaming these mountains since I was old enough that my Dad thought it was ok to take me along with my big brothers.

I graduated from La Grande high school in 1976 and at that time all I could wait for every year was Deer & Elk season. Just out of school I hired on with the Union Pacific Railroad. I'm in the Transportation field & I have been traversing the Blue Mtns pretty much on a daily basis ever since.

I love these mountains, I have always in some shape or form recreated in the Blue Mtns, My backyard from the town of La Grande..

I have seen how the State's big game population has slowly dwindled down, either from a foot, motorcycle, ATV, pickup, bicycle, or a Locomotive.

Since 1979 I have been fortunate enough to hold a position with the U.P. where I ride the lead locomotive from La Grande to Hinkle rail yard, and to this day I still do the same.

Very very rarely have I closed an eye day or night account, I might miss some big buck or a bull elk or bear or a cougar that ran across the tracks in front of us.

Every trip west and return trip back east to home, I look out the locomotive windows because I am gonna see something sooner or later.

I'm still looking out those windows, as I will for the next 2.5 years. until I reach 60 years of age. With a total of 41.5 years worked for the U.P.

Yes I'm still looking out those windows and I very rarely see deer or elk, but I do see bears, a total of 30 bear sightings this year, and I do see cougars, a total of 3 since June 1st.

But I don't see any more Deer & Elk, I see less & less Deer & Elk than I have ever seen. I do see elk that come down to the railroad tracks near a siding called Bonifer in the dead of winter foraging for food. Until the Umatilla Indians drive up along side of them with guns blazing out of the windows and just kill everything in sight.

And I have seen wolves. And so have my coworkers. The one I saw was chasing elk, it was between Huron & Camp, (railroad sidings) and one was seen killing a cow elk just west of Duncan.

And I saw a black one about 1 mile east of the Mt Emily exit on the interstate next to the right of way fence on the pipeline. We have trailcam pictures of a black one on Black Mtn, last year my Daughter had the Mt Emily branch bull tag and while scouting my son took a picture of two black wolves east of the Shimmehorn road.

These NON NATIVE canadian gray wolves NEED to be delisted and removed from our forests. And we need to have the ability to control the Bear & Cougar population with hounds if so need be.

I have personally harvested 3 cougars with my Foxpro electronic call. 3 lions in 5 years. and I'm still calling to this day. It's just a matter of time before I get another.

Its a sad state of affairs. Its sad because I have paid my way just like all of the other licensed hunters in this state and this state has not provided us with more animals to harvest, but the price to call myself a hunter in Oregon has increased to the point that I as an Oregon resident are about to call it quits, I can go out of state and save money with more chances of harvesting an animal.

PLEASE do the right thing and delist these killing machines.

Thankyou.

Rick Bowen
1100 22nd street
la Grande, Or. 97850
rideon2@frontier.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: mdannelet@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolf delisting

Greetings,

This email is to express my support for the continued listing of gray wolves. Their populations are much to small and fragile to be delisted which science supports. Please do not bend to narrow interests who believe wolves are threats and want to hunt them!

Thank you,

Melissa Dannelet

Roxann B Borisch

From: mickey t <tappendorfmickey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Mickey Tappendorf

11/3/15

345U

Delisting of Wolves

The grey wolf has been on the endangered list in Oregon for quite some time now ever since 1974 under federal law. For the past few decades however, the grey wolf has made a strong recovery back in to Oregon but only a small fraction from what the total population used to be before they were pretty much all wiped out. I believe that the grey wolf should not be delisted for many reasons. For starters, livestock owners already have the right to shoot a wolf trying to eat their stock once they receive a permit from the state. The wolves have nothing to offer us humans and don't really pose a threat to us humans. Considered a predator, the grey wolf was bounty hunted so the state would actually pay you to go out at kill wolves. Delisting the grey wolf would only lead to their extinction. All life is precious and deserves to live and die naturally. Don't we owe it to our future generations to preserve as much as we can? How much harm are these wolves actually causing? Although money is required to help preserve endangered species it's a much better place for our money that many of the things we throw millions towards.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Daryl Schmidlin <daryl.schmidy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

Thier are more breeding pairs of wolfes than the ODFW knows about. I've seen thier tracks more than 6 years ago where thier was'nt supose to be any. It's also wrong to protect one species at the expence of another, our meger moose population. Time to delist.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Young <miyoung@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 8:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting the Oregon Gray Wolf

Dear Members of the Commission,

After more than a century of annihilation, to the point of extirpation, wolves have returned to Oregon. The road back was a painful one, for wolves and humans alike. As Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife decides whether the Gray Wolf should be delisted as an endangered species, I only make a simple plea. Continue protections of what has found to be a keystone species in certain ecosystems from humans that wish them nothing but harm (3). While proponents of delisting would argue that continued protection would allow exponential growth, this has proven, thus far thru the ODFW's management over the last decade not to be the case at all (2,1).

A healthy population of wolves is needed in Oregon. Maybe it is time that livestock ranchers take more responsibility for protecting their stocks without the senseless killing of a predator animal that is merely trying to survive. Wolves are not evil, that is an attribute that humans bestowed upon them. I cannot yet support delisting of the Gray Wolf from the endangered species act. Through further efforts that include careful monitoring, their place on the list continues to insure they will thrive. If the current recovery plan has done it's job, I believe through education and support from the ODFW, the Gray Wolf cannot only call Oregon home once again, but take it's place near the top of the trophic hierarchy, where it belongs. Let us first insure that its survival is within its own control before we remove the protections that were necessary for it's survival in the first place.

Thank you for your time,
Michael Young
Portland, Oregon

(1) Assessment of population viability of wolves in Oregon (2015) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Retrieved from http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/10_october/Ex%20D_Attachment%202_Status%20Review%20for%20Gray%20Wolf.pdf on 4 November 2015

(2) Bergstrom BJ (2011) Endangered wolves fall prey to politics. *Science*. 333:1092. Web.

(3) Ripple WJ, RL Beschta (2012) Trophic Cascades in Yellowstone: The first 15 years after wolf reintroduction. *Biological Conservation* 145:205-213. Web.

Roxann B Borisch

From: ddaltonelk@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 8:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Delist the wolves .You are slowly but surely ruining the big game hunting in Oregon.No carefully managed big game herd can survive unlimited and unmanaged predation .

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dennis Eickhoff Jr <edennis@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon Gray Wolves

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Letter to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the proposed decision to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list

There are a number of reasons that I believe the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife should not delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) as an endangered species, at this time. To start, I do not believe that the gray wolf has met the necessary criteria required in Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This criteria is set forth to ensure the survival of these species after delisting them from the endangered species list. With the ODFW's own report stating that the exact number of gray wolves is unknown (although conveniently approximated towards a higher number), I feel that more science and research is necessary to make an educated decision. Especially when considering that the ESA would require monitoring of this species for an additional 5 years after being removed from the endangered species list.

The benefits of wolves being present in an ecosystem have been widely studied in Yellowstone National Park after the reintroduction of the species in the mid-90s. The trophic cascade that followed this reintroduction has resulted in an increased species diversity and a more sustainable ecosystem and landscape, as well as restoring the inherent beauty of the area with the presence of this animal. Recent wolf populations are still new to Oregon and there is much to learn about the impact this animal can have in Oregon.

It is obvious that much of the tension involving gray wolves in Oregon stems around their interaction with those whose livelihoods consist of raising livestock. This could potentially be remedied through education programs and further work with the communities to protect their assets. In a 2014 study, conducted by Washington State University and funded by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 25 years of data was studied to reveal that killing wolves actually led to increases in the number of livestock deaths (Wielgus et al. 2014). There have also already been numerous tragic incidents of poaching of the gray wolf in Oregon, and without the protection of the ESA, and the consequential jail time and \$6,250 fine for violators, the number of killings could very well increase, which as this study shows, would be counter productive. It is also suggested that wolves are not even responsible for the majority of livestock deaths, as coyotes, bears, and cougars have numbers far exceeding that of Oregon's wolf population.

In addition to the scientific facts that can be brought to this discussion, there is another argument that should not be overlooked: Oregonians are proud of their wolves. From news reports to viral posts on social media to the overwhelming resistance that has come up in response to the ODFW's proposal, shows how much we love our wolves and the fact that they are back. Oregon needs to take pride in this animal and what we have to offer it, as an example for other regions faced with predicaments similar to ours. Please don't hurt their chances of survival.

Sincerely,

Dennis John Eickhoff Jr.

Student of Environmental Science

Portland State University

Works Cited

Wielgus RB, Peebles KA (2014) Effects of Wolf Mortality on Livestock Depredations. PLoS ONE 9(12): e113505. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0113505

Roxann B Borisch

From: nat96@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:05 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Grey Wolf Delisting

Less than seventy years ago, grey wolves were being picked off for the prize of money. After more than half a century without any documented sightings of these creatures, wolves have finally begun to make Oregon their home once more. A beautiful experience of the re-introduction of a species, takes time and patience. Even with the mark in history being made, some are not so fond of the idea of wolves slowly making their way back into Oregon. With every case of wolf population increasing, there are cases of them being killed or illegally shot. Along with the illegal hunting of wolves, comes anti-wildlife and similar groups pushing for laws that will make the killing of the wolves easier. In 2010, when the grey wolf recovery program was focused on its goal again, the wolf killing efforts were put on hold; at this time, the wolf population was seen to increase from 29 to 46 wolves. With the grey wolves being brought back into Oregon, biodiversity within the state, would be brought back in as well. The wolves would balance the local ecosystems, and bring them back to what they once were. Recovery is still in it's early stages and the wolves require more time to build to a sustainable population. The first pups to be documented in Oregon in over sixty was only seven years ago. Now, in 2015, out of the 46 wolves that call Oregon home, many of them are only pups that are not yet at the age to reproduce and in turn, add to the wolf population. Taking the grey wolves off of the list would hinder their growth, and also make it less of a priority. This chance that has presented itself to us, the chance to revitalize the wolf population in Oregon, has presented itself only after over half a century since the wolf population was diminished last. If we don't take advantage of the opportunity that has been given to us, when is the next time it will come up?

Sincerely,

Natalie Hugo

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeffery Anderson <jma7@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:41 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Gray Wolf endangered species protection

I would like to provide some comments to the discussion of whether or not the Gray Wolf should be delisted from the Oregon Endangered Species Act. My recommendation is that it remains on the List of Endangered Species. Indeed we have seen the population trend upward since the first Oregon-born wolf pups were witnessed in 2008 but the population is still a fraction of what it could be as it was known to be at 85 wolves in July 2015. Oregon State University professor William Ripple estimates that Oregon could sustain 1,400 wolves. It didn't take long for hunters to eradicate wolves entirely in the 20th century and delisting them will surely allow for the wolf population to be decimated once again. The knee jerk reaction is put them down when even small numbers of livestock are lost. There were more than 1.28 million cattle in Oregon in 2013 and only a small number, about 30 in total since wolves returned to Oregon, were lost to wolves. As Robert Klavins of Oregon Wild states, a much greater number of cattle are lost each year to weather, illness, and other predators like cougars and bears. Historically, mankind has made numerous attempts to improve ecosystems only to watch our actions reveal unintended consequences. When possible the best remedy is to let the altered ecosystem return to its natural equilibrium. A clear example of this was witnessed when wolves were reintegrated back into Yellowstone National Forest in 1995. William Ripple indicates that many parts of the ecosystem of Yellowstone were improved through what is known as a trophic cascade. It can then be inferred that Oregon's ecosystems have much to gain as well if we would let the Gray Wolf population increase back to a value that is close what it was prior to human intervention.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Pouncil <mpouncil@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Consideration of wolf delisting

Delisting of Oregon wolves at this time is weakening basic protection for wolves. Do not delist the gray wolf in Oregon! The state has full jurisdiction of protecting the wolves in parts of the state where the packs are established and where wolves are found the most in Oregon, the northeast corner. However, there is "no" federal protection of wolves in the northeast corner as there is in Central Oregon and the western two-thirds of Oregon. The fear from ranchers is unfounded; the largest predation on cattle and other livestock is disease, not wolves.

Numbering at 77-85 wolves in Oregon, this is a fragile recovery, and 70-78 of those are located in the northeast corner that is unprotected federally or by the state. How does this constitute a viable population? Do not delist the Oregon gray wolf! Wolves have finally become to be recognized as a part of the ecosystem after many decades of westward expansion and extermination through bounty placed on wolves by state and federal government. It seems only fair that they should have at least half of that amount of time to recover!

Current research as taught us that (Ripple, William J., and Robert L. Beschta. "Trophic cascades in Yellowstone: The first 15 years after wolf reintroduction.") wolves have initiated a restructuring of northern Yellowstone's ecosystems through passive restoration and that 15 years following wolf recovery there has been a very clear tri-trophic cascade involving wolves- elk-plants has been reestablished in Yellowstone and this relationship maintains a resiliency of wildland ecosystems, especially with a rapidly changing climate. Do not delist the Oregon gray wolf!

We must be mature about our relationship with apex predators and not allow old conflicts to be reignited by political pressure and unfounded fears. Let Oregon set the example of how to create resilient ecosystems, Oregon can be a leader in taking a stand and protect the gray wolves in our state. We should not subvert the whole purpose of past wolf recovery efforts and then allow wolves to be instituted or planned for recreational hunting and trapping seasons.

We as Oregonians can do better! We have to share the planet (our bioregion in particular) for the betterment of all who live here. We cannot keep putting our needs before other species and not expect serious consequences to follow. Do not delist the gray wolf in Oregon!

Regards,
Michael Pouncil
7008 N Fiske Ave.
Portland, OR 97203

Roxann B Borisch

From: Elizabeth Knox <eknoxeknox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:32 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Please consider keeping wolves on the endangered species list. Lately conservation had been killing of wildlife because you believe there's too many. It's disappointing that the only solution is killing.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jered Cramblett <jered4@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 12:45 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting of Oregons grey Wolf

Delisting of Oregon's Grey Wolf

When it comes to Endangered Species I'm torn between two different feelings about them. On one side I feel we should not worry about them whatsoever because Mother Nature has had no problem with having animals become extinct since organisms have come into existence, so this is a natural occurrence and wastes too much time and money. On the other had when it comes to a species that is becoming extinct by our own hands, I do feel we should step in and find out other ways to deal with the problem, instead of watching a species die off because we do not see it fit for our living conditions. In this case Oregon is wanting to de list the grey Wolf from the endangered species list because of its rise back in ranks within the east and central areas of Oregon. I feel that since times are different and we are not hunting them as bounties anymore, it would make sense for it to be de listed and for the grey wolf to go about its business as being one of the top species of a trophic scale within an ecosystem. The issue I see that most people have is that if given a larger number of ranks, it will start to drop elk and deer populations to the point of being endangered. This is where I feel that humans need to step aside and just let nature work in the way that she has always done. A great example for this is with the Spotted and Bared Owls. The spotted owl has been put on the endangered list because it is being out competed by the bared owl which is from the east coast. So to mitigate this problem, people are payed to trap these bared owls and kill them so that the spotted owl may rise in ranks, but who are we to pick and choose what animal lives and dies? I feel if another animal is the direct cause of another being extinct, then we should let it be. Let Mother Nature continue what she has been doing for millions of years and let the Grey Wolf once again graze Oregon with its ranks.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Todd Ward <wardsfour@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 12:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please support wolf delisting

As a life long hunter in Oregon I have seen hunting game opportunities diminish and license cost increase. Therefore, I now hunt big game in Colorado. Wolves have met the breeding pairs criteria in Oregon. I want to spend more of my money on hunting opportunity in Oregon. If wolves are not delisted they will continue to prosper, unchecked. Big game management will be harder and more people like me will hunt in other states. Please delist!

Todd Ward
OHA member and Oregon resident

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Martha S. Bibb <pdcomley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:04 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolf protection needed

Dear Members,

Please review the biologists' research regarding delisting wolves. Our current numbers are still inadequate to insure viability of our wolf population. Note that Alaska has realized that killing wolves has not led to a rebound of their caribou population. Killing apex predators does not result in population growth of deer and elk, either. And corporate cattle producers can afford to use some of the reduced fees for grazing to protect their product.

And there is an ethical duty of the ODFW to "...protect and to enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." Killing wolves, therefore, is in direct opposition to the mission statement. I do not see that choosing and following recommendations by biologists is being done by this agency. There are far more quiet, unarmed recreationists than there are cattle owners, hunters or other groups that you include on your committees that review scientific data on this issue.

Martha S. Bibb, DMD

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Warren <warren8@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep Wolves Endangered: Benefits Outweigh Costs

To Whom it May Concern:

Scientific research on the advantages of formal protection mechanisms benefiting wolves has now had enough time to assess the advantages wolves present to both plant and animal populations in the regions they are allowed to thrive. The studies surrounding plant and animal life in Yellowstone and the land around it should serve as a basis for prediction on what the future holds for states like Oregon if wolves remain protected under the Endangered Species Act.

In Oregon and Idaho wolves share habitat with Elk. As apex predators in these habitats, wolves rely on Elk as a food source. It has been shown through scientific research conducted in Yellowstone National Park that the reintroduction of wolves to the region has resulted in an Elk population that has been brought under control. In short, more wolves means fewer elk. Since elk are herbivores, their decreased population has resulted in increased biomass in common elk grazing areas including many riparian habitats. The resulting new recruitment of woody vegetation species in these elk grazing areas continues beyond these plant communities through ecosystems by likely changing abiotic processes as well as biotic functions such as habitat and food web support for many vertebrates and invertebrates. This trophic cascade presents a likely opportunity for increased biodiversity in areas where wolves remain protected. Delisting wolves as an endangered species now would very likely inhibit ecosystems from experiencing this upward trend in biodiversity in Yellowstone and other regions where wolves have been reintroduced.

The initial ecosystem surveys initially just showed higher recruitment in trees like aspen and cottonwoods. However, now environmental scientists are recording positive effects on animal species as well. The trophic cascade triggered by the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone has allowed populations of both beavers and bison to recover and begin stabilizing.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David Warren

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dewey France <dewemfrance@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

**I strongly urge you, the Commission, to follow
the Oregon State Biologists recommendation to
REMOVE WOLVES FROM THE OREGON
Endangered Species list!**

Respectfully,
Dewey E. France
November 4, 2015

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dewey France <dewemfrance@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Comment on Delisting Wolves in Oregon

**I strongly urge you, the Commission, to follow
the Oregon State Biologists recommendation to
REMOVE WOLVES FROM THE OREGON
Endangered Species list!**

Respectfully,
Emma R France
November 4, 2015

Roxann B Borisch

From: Terra Weigelt <weigelt@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 3:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delistment of Oregon's Grey Wolves

The wolf population is slowly but surely growing, and this is only because they're protected by the law. If the wolves are delisted, there will be people who won't hesitate to hunt them down and dwindle down the numbers again. These predators are necessary for biodiversity. Wolves keep the elk population in check, which then saves the amount of flora from being consumed or destroyed. Aspen in the Yellowstone Park area has been growing larger due to less elk browsing. Other browsing plants such as willow were also more abundant after the reintroduction of wolves. The benefits of wolf restoration in the state greatly outweigh any costs it may bring to ranchers or herders.

According to ODFW, 85% of wolf deaths between the years 2000-present were caused by humans in open, public areas—either by illegal take, control action, vehicle collisions, or capture related complications. This percentage is sure to rise if wolves are no longer protected. While completed surveys show that there are enough wolves in Oregon to qualify for delistment, it can't be guaranteed that those numbers will stay that way until the next review in five years.

Wolves deserve to be on the land that they once inhabited. They usually stay in areas away from humans and don't cause much of a threat to anyone. After decades, wolves are finally reappearing. It would be a shame for them to disappear again due to humans' selfish and greedy actions if wolves are removed from the government's protection.

Sincerely,

Terra Weigelt

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tyler Thompson <tthomp2@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 3:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: De-listing of Wolves from the OESA

To Whom It May Concern,

While it is true that wolves in Oregon are making a steady comeback, one that is necessary to restore a long-lost ecological equilibrium, it would be premature to de-list the grey wolf from the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA) at this time.

It is without question that the human efforts to help nurture and encourage the growth of wolf populations in the Pacific Northwest have seen promising results. It has also been supposed (and supported through scientific research by William J. Ripple and Robert L. Beschta of Oregon State University, 2011) that the reintroduction of this animal has actually been a benefit to local beaver, songbird, and buffalo populations as well as increased the density and robustness of local fauna, suffering from long decades of when elk and deer have run rampant.

The current (and quite thorough) analysis conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife leads one to the conclusions that current systems support the de-listing criteria. Yet this report makes assumptions, based on current growth patterns in the environment's current state, that we must be unwilling to accept as accurate forecasts if by which the "rules of the game" were to be changed to those less favorable. It is unlikely that future populations are to continue with current growth (and thus stabilization) trends if the protections in place are removed or relaxed before an ecological equilibrium is reached. For example, in Yellowstone National Park, since the reintroduction of wolves in 1997, the wolf population has peaked around 100 but has declined to around 40 (Ripple and Beschta 2011) and has remained at or near that number as the natural balance has begun to establish itself.

By de-listing the wolf now, at this crucial juncture, we very well may find ourselves culling excessive numbers of wolves in the name of livestock depredation and thus, sending current populations into regressive numbers, numbers that may require the re-introduction of wolves into another area: that of an endangered species. Again, I would like to see another period of continual observation of the growth patterns of the Oregon grey wolf, to be re-evaluated in 2020. Near such time, I would see another report carried out by the ODFW to assess the population strength and spread and compare to that of 2015. If the report continues to point to the de-listing of the wolf, with population number having increased or, at minimum, remained the same, I would be far more open to the de-listing recommendation. I would urge the patience of those decision makers whose duty it is to finally be able to remove an animal from the OESA list. While it is an accomplishment for us as a society to celebrate, it is one that must be done with prudence as well as eagerness.

Respectfully,

Tyler Thompson

Roxann B Borisch

From: Robert Welsh <pnb57.welsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 3:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Consideration for De-Listing of the Gray Wolf from Oregon ESA List

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Robert Welsh and I reside in Bend OR. I am a member and officer in the Oregon Chapter of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. My note to you for your consideration in your deliberations for the potential subject de-listing will be brief:

Simply, STICK TO THE PLAN. I am sure I am speaking for other members of OR-FNAWS, RMEF and OHA who support the delisting at this time. The plan was developed using a very collaborative process that included stakeholders with many different view points and, in my view and the view of others, there is no justifiable reason to deviate from the protocols it established.

Thank you for your consideration of this message and for the good work you do in support of the fish and wildlife resources in Oregon.

Robert H Welsh,
Bend, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Amanda Bjorvik <mandajean78@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 4:23 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Gray Wolf Delisting

As an Oregon sportsman with a vested interest in wildlife management in our state I urge the Commission to vote to remove gray wolves from Oregon ESA protections. It is imperative that science based information be used in this decision and the Commission must not bow to the pressures placed on it by groups that are opposed to delisting based solely on emotion. Wolves ARE NOT ENDANGERED in North America! Please use science and common sense in this decision to protect Oregon's big game populations and livestock producers. Do not let what happened in Idaho happen in Oregon.

Sent from my iPad

October 31, 2015

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97301



Subject: Wolf Delisting

Please DO NOT remove the wolf from Endangered Species Act protection.

Your news release indicates that 4 breeding pairs that are successful for 3 consecutive years is a criteria in your decision. I don't know how many wolves are in Oregon but 4 breeding pairs is not many at all.

In fact, they should have more protection. Look at how everyone loves OR-7! He and other wolves need more protection not less. Please protect our wolves. It would be a real tragedy if something happened. A "couple" years ago I was in Yellowstone NP and saw a wolf that was quite close and it was the thrill of my life!

As you know it is critical that the wolves have prey to eat. Are there lots of deer or elk or rabbits etc. where the wolves are? Is a healthy population of prey animals maintained to provide food for the wolves?

Ranchers should be required to do other things to protect their cattle or other livestock. If there is a wolf in the area move the cattle, that's common sense. They could use llamas or those special guard dogs to protect their animals. Another thing they could do is bring their cattle off the grazing area to their barn at the ranch. (They'd also save on grazing fees!) Doesn't the state also pay them when they lose stock?

I get so sick of ranchers always wanting to kill the wolves. This is the 21st century and people live with wild animals they don't kill them. There is a whole new outlook on wildlife which is protecting and living with them and the ranchers have to get on board with this new way of thinking and acting.

In other states after protection of the wolf was removed they allowed hunting! **Do not ever allow this whether it is regular hunting or trophy hunting.** It's not like hunting for deer or elk where people can eat the meat. Also, do not allow trapping, poisoning or anything else that will kill or injure wolves.

The wolf is a top predator and helps keep the natural balance of animals as Nature intended. In Yellowstone, they found that bringing the wolf back improved the **whole ecology of the area.**

According to the ESA the wolf is protected in most places in the lower 48 except for some states including parts of Oregon. Apparently there is no federal protection of the wolf already in parts of the state and now you're considering removing it from the state ESA. Why is there such an inconsistent policy?

Thank you to taking the time to read this letter and consider my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A.J. Vaughan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

A.J. Vaughan
3691 D St. NE #104
Salem, OR 97301

PETER A. DEFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING MEMBER



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

- PLEASE RESPOND TO:
- 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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1-800-944-9603
 - 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
CODD BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2809
 - 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
 - defazio.house.gov

November 5, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Chairman Finley and Commissioners,

I understand you are considering a recent recommendation by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to delist the gray wolf from the state Endangered Species Act. Wolves have just begun to recover in Oregon and still only inhabit small portions of their historical range. I believe the Department's recommendation is premature and not supported by the best available science and I urge you to reject it.

The entire nation has been riveted by the journey of OR-7 and the ongoing establishment of wolves in areas such as western Oregon where they have not been present in sixty-eight years. I'm proud of the work that Oregon has done to get to this point. Despite the success we have had in Oregon, wolf recovery is still at a very fragile, early stage in recovery. Wolves have just moved out of the first recovery phase in the state's eastern recovery zone, and have populated just 11 percent of suitable habitat in the state. Population numbers are simply not high enough and distribution not wide enough to warrant a state delisting. The reintroduction of wolves in the northern Rockies started with 66 wolves, just 11 less than Oregon currently has.

With my extensive experience with federal wolf delisting efforts, I know it is critically important that wildlife management, especially management of an iconic predator species like the gray wolf, is based upon sound scientific findings and analysis. The fact that the Department decided not to conduct a thorough scientific review is alarming, especially since the pending federal proposal to delist the gray wolf has been mired in controversy over both the science used to justify the delisting as well as improper influence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the independent peer-review panel. It is critical that the Department and Commission take a precautionous approach and avoid risks to species recovery. While I am encouraged by the hard work the Department put into the wolf status review, the Department should conduct an external, independent peer-review panel of its proposal to ensure a scientifically defensible path forward that is consistent with Oregon's Endangered Species Act.

Caution needs to be exercised and delisting could signal to some that it is "open season" on wolves. The experiences of other states such as Idaho and Wyoming provide evidence of this. It is critical we avoid any increases in wolf mortality during this early recovery period. We cannot

simply hunt wolves back down to their lowest sustainable population levels. Just last month the alpha pair of the Sled Springs pack was mysteriously found dead near Enterprise. This should not be tolerable in Oregon.

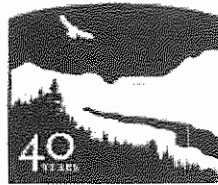
The extensive non-lethal efforts and stakeholder outreach by the Department have made Oregon the model for wolf conservation in the nation. Delisting will signal a sharp departure from these efforts that have made wolf recovery a success so far in our state. Conducting an external scientific peer review on the Department's proposal to ensure it can move forward with legal and scientific confidence is the right path forward. I urge you to reject this premature delisting decision that could harm wolf recovery efforts in Oregon. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter DeFazio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Peter DeFazio

November 5, 2015



Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission
Attn: Chair Michael Finley
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

OREGON WILD

Dear Chair Finley & Commission Members,

On behalf of Oregon Wild's more than 16,000 members and supporters across the state, we want to again express our serious concern with prematurely delisting wolves from the state Endangered Species Act. Delisting at this time and under these circumstances is not supported by science, the law, or the public.

You've heard from Oregon Wild several times throughout this process. You've heard us urge you to conduct an independent review of the science – something that is clearly called for according to our state's endangered species act. You've heard us ask that any final decision on wolf status not preempt the five-year review of the wolf management plan that is legally obligated to occur in 2015. You have also received nine separate scientific critiques signed by more than a dozen independent biologists, all of which have said that the ODFW staff science report is seriously flawed.

But perhaps most importantly, you've heard from the public that you serve.

Of the more than 10,000 public comments submitted to and published by the ODFW Commission, 96% of them have been in favor of maintaining protections for gray wolves. On top of that already overwhelming majority, Oregon Wild and partner groups have submitted an additional 25,000+ public comments to this Commission, the Governor's office, the Oregon Legislature, and federal representatives – all opposing delisting at this time.

As a public interest organization, we have regularly told our members that the ODFW Commission needs to hear from you. We've told them that they have a voice, that they will be heard, and that they matter. We have told them the science matters. And we have told them the law matters.

Over the past six months, they have attended meetings all over the state. They've traveled from every corner of Oregon. They represent business owners, rural Oregonians, liberals, teachers, republicans, veterans, parents, biologists, and even former ODFW staff. Despite the diversity of their backgrounds, they have spoken overwhelmingly in opposition to delisting wolves. Thousands more have written in their opposition.

We have submitted testimony, expert analysis, substantive questions, and legal perspectives. Independent experts have questioned the state's science. And attorneys have cautioned that the state

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16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend, OR 97701

is violating numerous laws. Despite all of this, the agency seems determined to move forward with prematurely delisting gray wolves from the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

Over the last few years, Oregon's wolf management plan has been a model across the country for balancing science-based management, conservation values, and legitimate concerns against old prejudice and the fear of the big bad wolf. Since the 2013 settlement, we've seen the wolf population increase, while livestock depredations went down. In a state that values its conservation ethic, the extermination of wolves in the last century was a tragedy. We have a rare opportunity to right a historic wrong. But it's too soon to declare "Mission Accomplished."

With overwhelming public opposition, considerable criticism from independent scientists, and legitimate lingering legal questions, if this Commission chooses to delist wolves, it will have made a powerful statement on who - and what - they believe they serve.

I'd also like to add that in recent Commission hearings, Oregon Wild's position has been mischaracterized by anti-wolf voices. We very much look forward to the day when we can all agree that Oregon's gray wolf population has recovered to the point where it no longer needs protections from the state endangered species act. But with fewer than 100 wolves inhabiting a mere 12% of their suitable habitat - and a public which overwhelmingly opposes delisting - that time has not yet come.

I urge you to honor your duty to represent *all* Oregonians, your mission to protect and restore native wildlife and their habitats, and to listen to the public you serve. I urge you to honor our state's highest values.

Sincerely,



Jonathan L. Jelen

Development Director

(503) 283-6343 ext 224

jj@oregonwild.org



November 6, 2015

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
ATTN: ODFW Commissioners
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

SUBJECT: ODFW WOLF DELISTING PROPOSAL

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

Please accept these comments on proposed wolf delisting on behalf of myself and Predator Defense.

Having carefully reviewed the science, the public sentiment, and the facts on the ground, we do not support delisting of wolves from Oregon's Endangered Species List at this time. Instead, we support the ODFW proposal's "no action alternative"—leaving wolves on the state endangered species list for at least another five years to give wolves more time to occupy their historic habitat in Oregon. We also find that, under current management prescriptions, ODFW has enough flexibility to deal with any livestock conflicts, and there is no evidence that wolves are causing any decline in prey numbers across their range. Thus, there is no reason to delist.

Here is why we have come to this conclusion.

According to Table 2 in your delisting proposal, Oregon has a minimum of 85 known wolves. While there are an estimated 13 breeding pairs of wolves in the state, we feel this is still a relatively low number to base delisting upon. Not only could non-random stochastic events drop the wolf population considerably, but using the likelihood of extinction as the measure of whether delisting is suitable at this time, does not make sense to us.

We agree with ODFW that wolves are not likely to go extinct in Oregon, and as the state suggests, even if this were to occur, wolf recolonization from adjacent states like Idaho is likely. But this does not necessarily mean protection for wolves should be eliminated.

We disagree with the definition of "conservation failure" used by the department. By ODFW definition failure is the near extinction of wolves in Oregon (five or less wolves). We do not believe this should be a basis for analysis. Rather in our view, a conservation failure would be any reversal in wolf population, and failure to achieve widespread distribution across the state in suitable habitat. By such a measure, the current population, and even population projections are far below what is necessary to ensure a conservation success.

Would ODFW call restoration of 100 elk across the entire state of Oregon a "conservation success?" Hardly. If we were discussing elk, the department would want to ensure that elk were found throughout its historic range and in much greater numbers than currently accepted for wolves—even acknowledging that wolves will always exist at lower densities than elk.

According to ODFW statistics as well as the experience in other states, human-caused mortality is the biggest factor in wolf population decreases. In Oregon, even with protection, some 85% of all known mortalities are due to humans.

In addition, due to the low population numbers, random events like disease could significantly set back wolf recovery in the state. For instance, on Isle Royal in Michigan, wolf numbers declined from a high of over 50 to 3 animals due to disease and interbreeding depression effects.³

While the likelihood that Oregon's wolves would see such a precipitous decline in numbers is remote, it is not beyond imagination to think you might see the population cut in half in a relatively short time. In Yellowstone wolves went from 150 to around 75 animals in a matter of a few years. In both cases, we are talking about wolves that live in protected National Park sanctuaries—which is not the case in Oregon. The safest way to ensure this does not happen is to permit the wolf population to grow significantly.

Back in 1990s I published a paper on the potential for wolf recovery in Oregon whereby I estimated the state could sustain 2,000 plus animals.¹ Tad Larson, using GIS methods, came to a similar conclusion.²

Under most definitions of wildlife recovery, the goal ought to be to reestablish and sustain an endangered species over a "significant" portion of its range. Yet much of Oregon remains wolf-less. Currently ODFW estimates that wolves occur in 31.6% of the available habitat in eastern Oregon and only slightly more than 2.7% of the habitat in western Oregon. Most wolf pack activity is concentrated in the northeast corner of the state, with a few packs in the southern Cascades near Klamath Falls. Given these studies, and in the absence of any other studies by ODFW, it would suggest that Oregon could easily sustain significantly more wolves.

We wish to note that ODFW notes that elk are the preferred prey of wolves in Oregon and that "between 2009 and 2014, all Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) of northeastern Oregon with established wolf packs for at least four years (Imnaha, Snake River, Walla Walla, Wenaha) had increasing elk populations, and two of the four (Imnaha and Snake River) were above the established management objectives for elk since wolves became established (ODFW data)."

This suggests that wolves are actually favorably impacting elk numbers. A similar situation exists in Montana where elk numbers grew from an estimated 89,000 animals in 1992 (Montana Elk Plan) to 167,000 elk today (2015). Though a correlation, this suggests that the presence of wolves tends to improve elk hunting opportunities.

Nevertheless, we are concerned that if wolves are delisted that ODFW will authorize hunting and trapping of animals to increase populations of elk and deer or merely to appease hunters/ranchers. According to the document this could occur as early as 2017. Giving priority to elk and deer that hunters seek is an abrogation of the department's public trust to manage wildlife for all of Oregon's citizens.

ODFW is obligated to manage wildlife "to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state." **The 2009 change in status of the wolf "special status game mammal" greatly concerns us, as there is no biological reason to kill wolves.** And it is our contention that most wolf killing that does occur in western states is of a vindictive nature, especially since wolves are not consumed for food.

We are worried that ODFW will emphasize the "recreational benefits" as defined as maximizing hunter opportunities for hunting game animals at the expense of aesthetic benefits for present and future generations. The fact that ODFW has and continues to do this with other predator species like cougar is one indication of the department's bias against predators.

Furthermore, the assumption that having a hunting season will increase public acceptance of wolves is not borne out by research. In Wisconsin support for wolf recovery declined after a hunting season was initiated.⁴

As Treves et al⁵ have argued, state wildlife agencies have a public trust to manage predators for all citizens, not just primarily the interests of hunters and ranchers, which appears to be the main constituency ODFW is attempting to placate. They state that most Fish and Game agencies portray predators as a liability instead of an asset, which is counter to their responsibilities to the public trust. **Certainly the general tenor of the ODFW delisting review contains language that suggests that there could be "too many wolves."** Very little space in the document articulates the many values of predators to ecosystem health and overall public support for predators.

ODFW concludes that "a delisting decision by the Commission is not expected to affect the management of wolves within the eastern WMZ." So that raises the question:

Why prematurely delist at all? Why not wait another five years and then reevaluate? If predictions in ODFW's wolf document are accurate, there will be a larger population, and more robust changes for the wolf to occupy more of Oregon at that time. Why the rush to delist?

Sincerely,



George Wuerthner, M.S.
Box 8359
Bend, OR 97708

References:

¹ Wuerthner, G. 1996. Potential for wolf recovery in Oregon. in N. Fascione, and M. Cecil, editor. Defenders of Wildlife's Wolves of America Conference

² Modeling Gray Wolf Habitat in Oregon Using a Geographic Information System

³ <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/04/17/isle-royale-wolf-wolves-population-decline-moose-superior/25950511/>

⁴ Public Attitudes towards Wolves in Wisconsin: 2013 Survey Report Hogberg, J., Treves., A., Shaw, B., Naughton, L. Public Attitudes towards Wolves in Wisconsin: 2013 Survey Report. Carnivore Coexistence Lab. Madison, WI. October 2013. <http://faculty.nelson.wisc.edu/treves/wolves/wolfhuman.php>

⁵ Treves et al *Biological Reviews* 2015

Roxann B Borisch

From: Lidet Viravong <viravong@pdx.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:09 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Gray Wolf delisting

Sabaidii to whom this may concern,

Please allow and read the following message in regards to Gray Wolf delisting.

The opposition of wolves from the likes of farmers and ranchers is understandable. I can sympathize for their stance against the presence of wolves and the potential threat they have on livestock. It can hamper and put a lot of stress on their livelihood. If I was in the farmer or rancher's shoes I'm sure I would have different, stronger feeling towards wolves. One thing I do know is that wolves are not the only predators that pose a threat to livestock but I can understand its one less thing to worry about.

While growing up and even up until now wolves have always been these mystical, risky, wild animals in my eyes. I would only hear or see them on PBS showing untamed ravaging animals or movies talking about the big bad wolf. However, PBS did show wolf cubs and the relationship with their parents which in fact was not scary at all. Some of the filming showed wolf families or packs mingling and just hanging out. The wolves show a good sense of camaraderie and displayed great power working as a pack during hunting.

Since the extirpation of wolves to the later recovery programs, wolves have been an ongoing controversy. Studies show the reintroduction of wolves have an impact on the ecosystem making a positive difference. Overgrazing from prey like deer, elk, and moose are pressured by wolves keeping the grazing animals on the move which help restore vegetation. The re-vegetation brings back other animals such as birds and beavers. Wolves can also help with ecotourism restoring the natural environments. It is also known for other animals such as bears, coyotes and predatory birds to follow wolves because the wolves provide food from their kill.

Wolves have been removed, controlled and tested but now it has reached a moment where time has revealed the significant impact wolves have on the ecosystem. If anything, I believe more time should be allowed for further examination before delisting wolves due to the fact that they have shown positive impacts since their reintroduction.

Yours Truly,

Lidet Viravong

Sheri Rabago <sheri7361@msn.com>
Thursday, November 05, 2015 6:14 AM
odfw.commission@state.or.us
Keep Wolves Listed State-Wide

Subject:

To the Commissioners of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, I do not agree with your current course of action, delisting the gray wolf from Oregon Endangered Species protection. Although the recovery of wolves is a remarkable story of resilience in our state, they still face perilous threats to their full recovery. The role that this species will have in our future intact ecosystems is critical.

Please consider comments from Bark and other partnering organizations before recommending delisting for the gray wolf.

Thank you,

Sheri Rabago
1010 NE 118th Ave
Portland, OR 97220
360-241-9754

Roxann B Borisch

From: Paul Askew <mcharlied93@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:52 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delist the Wolves

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you to delist the wolves. The wolves have a negative impact on my lifestyle and numerous rural livelihoods,

Regards,

Paul Askew

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Victor kosmatka <vkosmatka@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

I am a member of OHA and I have a sincere interest in seeing that proper management of a new predator to our forests be implemented. The balance of our deer and elk herds and other species, has always been top priority for ODFW. What concerns me is the politics and law suits that seem to fallow the wolf reintroduction, in other states, and the unwillingness to adhere to the original agreements. The cougar and bear populations have already greatly increased because of new hunting regulations, in our state, making it much more difficult to control their population numbers, and now having one more threat being the wolf, so it is critical to our prey populations that we not let the wolf population grow out of control.

Please honor the management agreements made when wolves wandered back into our state and protect our recreational hunting interests, as well as our ranch owners, from an out of control wolf population.

Thank you letting me have input to this important issue.

Victor Kosmatka

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Letendre <mlet2@pdx.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:26 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep wolves listed

To whom it may concern;

I believe that wolves need to stay on Oregon's Endangered Species list. In a 2014 article from Oregon Wild, the position was of the writers was the wolves while even while now under current protections, many wolves are still being killed and legislatures are perusing efforts in an attempt to pass additional anti-wolves bills. When the wolves were removed from the federal list their numbers declined dramatically from 1,700 to 1,000 (OR Wild). If wolves are delisted right now it could do more harm than good for the ecosystem because the 46 wolves that would be vulnerable are still cubs and are not capable of reproducing at this time. Oregon has invested a substantial amount of effort and resources into efforts to restore the natural populations of wild wolves without the help of any other states? Many studies have been conducted about predator, prey, and plant life as well as their inter-dependence won each other. If you take the predator out, dramatic consequences can be seen in a wide range of similar cases in the past. In the case about removing wolves in Yellowstone, there were more elk but in return the plants couldn't produce enough seeds in the spring (Ripple 2012). Farmers and other interested groups have suggested that livestock is at risk but that is unfounded (Bergstrom 2011). Even with the perceived benefit that would likely be gained by reducing losses to wolf related deaths in the livestock sector, the potential risk for unforeseen negative impact for such a limited benefit outweighs this potential for a mostly commercial gain. Plus, there has been proof that protecting wolves has had a positive effect for the ecosystem (Bergstrom 2011). Oregon Wild said it best, "For a state that prides itself on its green reputation, the extermination of wolves is one of our greatest environmental tragedies. Their return represents an opportunity at redemption."

Thanks for your time,

Michelle Letendre

References:

Bergstrom, Bradley J. "Endangered wolves fall prey to politics." *Spore* 1098 (2011): 1106.
http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Brad_Bergstrom/publication/236807105_LETTERS_I_BOOKS_I_POLICY_FORUM_I_EDUCATION_FORUM_I_PERSPECTIVES_Endangered_Wolves_Fall_Prey_to_Politics/links/0c9605193c9ceb326d000000.pdf

Oregon Wild. Wolves come home to Oregon. <http://www.oregonwild.org/wildlife/wolves>

Ripple, William J., and Robert L. Beschta. "Trophic Cascades in Yellowstone: The first 15 years after wolf reintroduction." *Biological Conservation* 145.1 (2012): 205-213.