

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kim and Wes Pettegrew <kw0507@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:28 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Maintain current protections for Oregon's wolves/keep wolves listed as Endangered Species

Attn: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

We are sending this email as a representation of our plea to the commission to maintain Oregon's current wolf protections.

Please, consider the facts and maintain Oregon's level headed, intelligent management of this important endangered species.

Even with the current legislation, protected wolves continue to be the target of poachers and a, "shoot, shovel, shut up" community.

There are currently an estimated 80 – 85 wolves in Oregon. Our state could fully support 1,450 wolves. Nearly half the state has been identified as having suitable habitat for wolves. Wolves currently occupy just 12 percent of the suitable habitat range. It is far too soon to remove protections in Oregon.

When considering future management of wolves, we ask Oregon to lead with a management approach that recognizes wolves as the socially structured species they are. Protected wolves, who are able to maintain healthy pack structure, are less likely to prey on unnatural food sources/livestock. Protected wolves, who are able to maintain healthy pack structure, are more likely to naturally manage their own population and the populations of competing wolf packs. Removing protections at this time would be counterproductive to the goals of the livestock industry, and wolf conservationists alike.

We believe the overwhelming evidence leads to only one sound conclusion: It is too soon to remove current protections; Oregon's wolves should continue to be protected under the state endangered species act.

Thank you,


Jon Pearson
Pam Pearson
Mick Tilton
Wes Pettegrew
Kristen Pearson
Colby Pearson
Kelsey Pearson

Roxann B Borisch

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:33 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: keep wolves listed on the OESA

- To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Subject: Please keep wolves listed on the OESA

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request that you please keep wolves listed on the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA).

The notion of delisting wolves is a very premature one, given that there are only 77 wolves currently living in the state of Oregon, and only about 12% of suitable wolf habitat is occupied.

Oregon's present wolf plan is excellent, and its non-lethal management strategy is successful. Delisting wolves would make it easier for local landowners to kill wolves instead of placing efforts on productive non-lethal measures that are currently in effect.

Wolves have simply not yet recovered in Oregon. Please do not take their protections away. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Roxann B Borisch

From: Creewolf <64hawkgirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:32 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep wolves safe!

I urge you, please, to keep wolves ON the Oregon's Endangered Species List. With only 81 wolves in Oregon, de-listing them would be a disaster and huge mistake. They would all be killed, and for what?? Politics and money. Bottom line.

Please reconsider and keep wolves safe.

Thank you,

Cree Wolf

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kim and Wes Pettegrew <kw0507@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:36 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: retain protections for Oregon's wolves under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA).

Attn: ODFW commissioners

I am contacting odfw to request that you please retain protections for Oregon's wolves under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA).

I believe delisting wolves at this time would be counterproductive considering the survival challenges that wolves face even as they are still protected under OESA.

The consideration of delisting wolves seems short-sighted given that there are only ~80 wolves currently living in the state of Oregon. The current population of wolves are utilizing only 12% of the state's suitable wolf habitat. With virtually all the packs represented in Oregon near the states' borders, it is likely several young wolves will disperse to neighboring states.

Oregon's present wolf plan is effective, and it's non-lethal management strategy is successful. As you know, delisting wolves would enable landowners to simply kill wolves instead of adopting effective, long-term, responsible, proactive non-lethal measures that are currently in effect/suggested.

Wolves have not fully recovered in Oregon. Please do not undermine the good work that has been accomplished thus far; please do not take current protections away.

Thank you for your efforts, and consideration.

Wes Pettegrew
(541)621-8628

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kelly Gaughan <kgaughan@pdx.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:21 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon Wolf Population

I would like to provide some comments on your decision to potentially remove the Oregon Wolf from the endangered species list. Wolves are essential to the ecosystem because they prevent the overpopulation of deer, rabbits, beavers and rodents, and they keep these animals from overgrazing, which ultimately protects the plant life in the area. According to Oregon Wild, a nonprofit organization that aims to maintain biodiversity and protect the environment in Oregon, wolves were delisted briefly in the region in 2011 with dire consequences. The delisting brought the wolf population from an estimated 1,700 animals to just 1,000 in only two seasons due to anthropogenic interference.

Wolves have their own intrinsic value and we, as humans, have an ethical and ecological duty to protect the biodiversity of the flora and fauna on this planet. In order to continue protecting the biodiversity of animals and habitat in eastern Oregon, we must protect the small wolf population that is currently living here. The removal of the wolf from protection would effectively remove the wolf from the state, and would be an environmental tragedy. Please do not remove the wolf from the endangered species list.

Kelly Gaughan

Roxann B Borisch

From: Eleni Findlay <efindlay@pdx.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:24 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't de-list the wolf!

Looking at the facts of this issue, I feel that though the cattle industry may fear a few losses- we can't allow our gross capitalistic priorities to dictate the exodus of an entire species. The 60 years of wolf massacres have shown that without our protection of this species, they will never be more than a sports mascot. Simply because there has been recent growth in populations is absolutely no excuse or reasoning to de-list these creatures. They may endanger cattle- but there are many other predators we allow to thrive that are a threat to cattle and elk. Wolves are an essential functioning part of our ecosystem- we have no right to play god and dictate which creatures can survive and which ones must die. Bergstrom's article siding with the wolves alerts us to the hunters fear that wolves will eradicate elk populations goes against Yellowstone's studies showing that the two populations balanced one another and even helped the ecosystem by bringing back vegetation that had been depleted from the overuse from elk. With this said, I believe there are cost efficient ways cattle ranchers can protect their herd without killing any wolf in sight, therefor- wolves need to be protected and their growth should be celebrated rather than written off as fixed.

I wrote this up in 2012. Things of course are worse now.

Wolves in the Western States

by Jeff Orr

Management of wildlife is a state function. States should have had the authority to say "We don't want wolves!" Even though the federal government owns 50% of our state, we manage the wildlife.

Ranchers should not have to deal with losses to wolves either. Carter Niemeyer in his book *Wolfers* said, "Once a pack has gotten into livestock the whole pack has to be killed, they can't be retrained."

These are large wild dogs, 70-120 pounds. Wolves hunt in packs and can run down any ungulate not just the weak, old or young. Packs of 20 wolves are reported. They kill adult elk and bison. When they kill the cows, calves, does and fawns they decrease herds.

This is real life these are not cartoons or Disney characters.

Ken Salazar, the environmentalist Federal Secretary of the Interior, in Wyoming said "Reintroduction of wolves has worked now wolves will not become extinct." Wolves have never been in danger of extinction. In Canada there are 60,000 wolves, in Alaska 7,000 wolves, in Minnesota 3,000 wolves. Before reintroduction Montana and Idaho had a few wolves along their Canadian border.

Wolves were not made extinct in the lower 48 they were extirpated, that is removed because they do not fit in with a human populated area.

Canada has 34 million people the United States has 320 million people. Alaska is a very large land area has less than 1 million people. In Canada and Alaska there are still vast unpopulated areas with large herds of caribou similar to the buffalo

herds of the Great Plains 150 years ago, this is wolf habitat. Wolves are trapped and hunted in Canada and Alaska and are still sometimes considered a problem.

In Siberia there are 50,000- 60,000 wolves. They are managed by harvesting 15,000 wolves annually.

Montana, Wyoming and Idaho each have about 1 million people. In Montana, Idaho and Wyoming the 2007 count was 1700 wolves. That is the documented count. They will readily admit there are more wolves than that. Today's population of wolves is probably 4,000-5,000 wolves in the western states. Wolves reproduce at about 25% each year.

We will have to kill 1,000 to 1,500 wolves annually to hold back their population. Even with a fair amount of interest by local and out of state hunters and trappers, only 293 wolves were killed in Idaho last year.

I would rather hunt elk.

Carter Niemeyer is the biologist that brought the original 65 wolves to Yellowstone and Idaho from Canada in 1995-96. He is impressed at how prolific they have been. By 2002 he states he could no longer transplant wolves within the states as all areas were full. To drop off a strange wolf into the home range of another pack would only get the newcomer killed.

Idaho was told by the Federal government they had to have 100 wolves with 10 breeding packs to begin to delist wolves from the endangered list. As of 2007 Idaho had 65 packs, 850 wolves. That's the documented count. 2011 there are over 100 packs, accurate count of individuals is unknown.

The Governor of Idaho has called wolves an Eco disaster. In the Idaho Lolo unit the elk population was 16,000 animals in the 1980's. There are now 2,000 elk in the Lolo unit. The Idaho biologists blame wolves. They estimate over 300 wolves in the Lolo unit. It is a remote rugged country. They decided they had to use helicopters to reduce the wolves their goal was 60 wolves. But after sport hunting, trapping and the helicopter they had only taken 42 wolves. Helicopter

hunting in dense forest is not that productive. The wolves have learned to avoid open ground when they hear the helicopter.

In Yellowstone in 1995 there were 19,000 elk, now there are 4,000. Yellowstone's wolf population seems to stay around 100 wolves, the increase by reproduction disperse outside the park.

The pro wolf people say "Look at the good wolves have done for Yellowstone, the vegetation along streams is better with fewer elk."

Yellowstone's problem was the deer, elk, bison and moose were not being managed either. They were starving to death in their protected compound. You won't find many comparable situations of overpopulation outside of national parks.

Idaho used to give 1400 cow tags for the elk that left Yellowstone, this year they will sell 100 cow tags for that area.

Oregon needs to learn from the experience of Idaho and not let things get out of control before we manage wolves. Oregon is ordered to have 150 wolves, 7 breeding packs in 2 areas. There are a documented 30 wolves in northeast Oregon at present. Russ Morgan the ODFW wolf coordinator admits there are more. If wolves infest the Cascade and Coast ranges of Oregon, they will devastate the deer and elk and will be very hard to manage.

The Oregon wolf plan suggests the state biologist should manage the ungulates so there will be food for wolves. Already hunters complain about the low herd populations of deer and elk. Are we supposed to eat after the wolves?

Oregon has 4 million people. There just isn't room for wolves. We do not have the space to not have conflicts and we don't have the wildlife to feed this large predator.

The small populations of Shiras moose in the Oregon are also endangered. Moose calves are being taken by wolves.

The Wyoming wolf management plan has some good ideas. Yellowstone is in the northwest corner of Wyoming. There are about 100 wolves resident there. The federal government wants Wyoming to have an extra 100 wolves outside the park. So the Wyoming plan is to get approved a wolf management area bordering Yellowstone park for that 100 wolves, to be managed at that number. Outside of the wolf management area wolves can be shot on sight. No license no tag.

Wyoming also wants a no litigation clause, so when a biologist or animal control officer says he has to remove a wolf the action cannot be taken to court. Wildlife management has to be about the science of wildlife management and stop being about politics.

Wyoming stood up to the federal government and this bill passed.

Politically I think the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and our state representatives should listen more to the hundreds of thousands of hunters that support wildlife with license and tag fees and the farmers and ranchers that are a major part of Oregon's economy, than to environmentalists that file lawsuits to protect a species that was reintroduced and is not endangered. The wolf advocates are paying for nothing.

For Oregon I propose they run the experiment in northeast Oregon for 10 years. Manage the wolf population close to the required 100 wolves. Remove as much as possible, wolves from the rest of the state before we let them get established.

If wolves prove to be too much of a problem in the northeast we will be more able to control them.

Now 2015 we already have wolves in many other parts of the state.

The pro wolf people get upset when wolves have to be removed, but it is the fault of this bad idea of reintroduction from Washington D.C. that so many of these animals will have to be killed. I agree it's a shame, but the losses to our deer and elk herds will be a bigger problem.

May 12th there was a Wolf Symposium in Albany, Oregon. Representatives of ODFW were there. Their chart indicated 3 wolves in the Imnaha unit. When a

hunter said he saw a pack of 14 wolves while hunting there, the ODFW rep said there are only 3. Kind of rude.

We need to have a program to report wolf sightings that ODFW will acknowledge. ODFW can't be everywhere, there are only 2 people assigned to wolf management. ODFW can't count unverified wolves and we need to identify the target minimum to delist the species.

This fall when thousands of us are in the woods we will surely have encounters. Have a camera handy. Check tracks. Wolves will run with coyotes if lonely- you may see an unusually large track among the coyote tracks.

If someone wants to hear a wolf howl we can arrange buses to Canada or Siberia, it will be eco friendly and cost effective.

Information is from the Idaho Fish and Game web page, from Wyoming, Montana and Yellowstone news, from the book *Wolfer* by Carter Niemeyer and the May 12th Wolf Symposium in Albany. Any inaccuracy is negligible and unintended.

Jeff Orr
P.O. Box 791
Roseburg, Oregon 9747

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nancy Eagleson <nancyeagleson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 6:39 AM
To: Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Please do NOT delist wolves at the time. They are still a small number and they are targeted by poachers as it is. Give them a chance to establish a sufficient gene pool as they are so important to every ecosystem.

Thank you

Nancy Eagleson

Roxann B Borisch

From: B J Van Camp <brendelvc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:48 AM
To: Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting of Oregon's wolves

Please do not take these wolves off the Endangered Species Act. These magnificent creatures will quickly be killed & have to be back on it. They will have to be placed right back on the lists & they are essential to the Ecosystem. Thank you for your consideration. B J Van Camp
Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Elizabeth Knox <eknoxeknox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:24 PM
To: Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Please keep wolves on the endangered species list. Lately the ides of conservation has been slaughter of wildlife. We must protect our animals.

You only have 81 wolves and by removing them from the endangered list they will be in peril to hunters. Killing of all animals must stop.

Roxann B Borisch

From: birkmaier5@eoni.com
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:54 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: Commission review of Wolf Status - PLEASE DE-LIST -

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Commission review of Wolf Status - PLEASE DE-LIST -
Date: Tue, 06 Oct 2015 11:53:53 -0700
From: <birkmaier5@eoni.com>
To: <odfw.comments@state.or.us>
Cc: "Congressman Greg Walden" <congressman.greg.walden@mail.house.gov>, <Rep.GregBarreto@state.or.us>, <Rep.WayneKrieger@state.or.us>, <Rep.BradWitt@state.or.us>

Dear ODFW Staff and Commissioners;

Once again I find myself writing to encourage you to hold firm your commitment to follow the OWMP. We on the eastern side of Oregon have endured the brunt of the effects of wolves on private property destroying our livelihoods and custom and cultural ways of life. "We" have been at the table since the beginning of this wolf 'issue'. We have suffered through meetings where unjust rules were added to the WMP, only to see the rules CHANGED a few months later as 'players' did not like the rules when they were adversely affected. All the while this has been steadily eroding the trust that rural eastern Oregon citizens once had in your agency.

I have looked through the quite extensive petitions and signatures, form letters and childrens' drawings from people FAR REMOVED from living with the detriment that is the wolf. I have seen 'signatures' from other states, many foreign countries, and a large number of what appears to be fake personas. I realize that you do not necessarily give weight or worthiness to EACH signer, however the aggregate number of people on this "sign my petition" bandwagon can be intimidating, and those numbers are being used to encourage you to appease the masses. I am hoping and encouraging you to consider those of us whom these decisions affect. I feel that to delist the wolf in Eastern Oregon, where it's numbers are stable and steadily growing, would be a sound decision which would also go far toward the credibility and trust-ability the Commission needs to re-gain.

Please De-list the wolves in eastern Oregon, it is the logical, planned and essential next step in this 'process'. It is imperative that ODFW stay ahead of this 'game of introduction'. You are charged with protecting ALL of Oregon's fauna- not just the wolf; and to not manage this apex predator is putting ALL other wildlife at risk. Please DE-LIST now!

Sincerely;
Gina & Jim Birkmaier
Enterprise, OR 97828

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nikki Rose <nirose@pdx.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:58 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Do Not Delist the Gray Wolf

After nearly fifty-five years of absence, the first gray wolf was sighted in Oregon in 1999 since the conclusion of the state-awarded wolf bounties in 1947. (2) This means that as of July 2015, it has taken the gray wolf over fifteen years to recovery its population to a mere total of 83 wolves. This is essentially an increase of only five wolves per year. With wolves being delisted, the chances are very likely that more than five wolves will be killed, resulting in their disappearance yet again.

Aside from the ethical obligation of rebuilding the population that we have wiped out, the gray wolf has immense ecological value. As a terrestrial predator, wolves maintain the population of herbivores. (3) Without the gray wolf, the herbivore population increases and overall vegetation decreases. Through photosynthesis, plants remove carbon dioxide (a leading greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere and assist in the issue of global warming. Essentially, wolves help to reduce the global warming that has been caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

Wolves need to remain on the list of endangered species in order to receive further protection from the Endangered Species Act. Right now, it is simply too premature to delist the gray wolf, as they are continuing to rebuilding their populations from previous extermination efforts. In the past, we have witnessed the dramatic declination of wolf populations when either state or public lethal control is permitted. For example, in nearby states, regions that were once home to approximately 1,700 wolves were reduced to 1,000 in only two seasons alone. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife argues that the gray wolf no longer meets the criteria of an endangered species. (1) However, an exception needs to me made in the case of the gray wolf, as it has documented proof of the rapid extermination of their species when not protected by law. At such an infinitesimal population of only 83 wolves, it is much too early for us to put the gray wolves' fate in our hands.

Works Cited:

(1) http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/10_october/Ex%20D_Attachment%202_Status%20Review%20for%20Gray%20Wolf.pdf

(2) <http://www.oregonwild.org/wildlife/wolves>

(3) http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Brad_Bergstrom/publication/236807105_LETTERS_I_BOOKS_I_POLICY

Roxann B Borisch

From: Shavon McKinstry <vonnivice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:04 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: On delisting the gray wolf in Oregon

To whom it may concern,

The status of the gray wolf in Oregon is one that I do not believe we should take lightly. While, throughout most of the state's modern history, we have not seen this population flourish as it did in pre-colonial times, we must seriously consider what it means to have this species back within our ecosystem and how humans and wolves can coexist before we delist them as an endangered species.

While it is true that the gray wolf is an apex predator that many Oregon citizens have not come in contact with on a large scale for several generations, wolves play an important role within the natural ecosystem. Gray wolves feed not only on deer, elk, and moose, but coyotes, skunk, and rabbits as well. While smaller animals may have many more predators to maintain their numbers, deer and coyote stand out as two populations that would benefit greatly from a reintroduction of a natural predator.

It seems that most of the opponents to keeping the gray wolf listed are ranchers and farmers who are appalled at the ability of these wolves to kill their cattle. However, coyotes are just as able to hurt and kill cattle, and deer pose a threat to resources. What's more, a letter published in Science Magazine by Bradley J. Bergstrom establishes that, "Critics' concerns about livestock are also unfounded: Confirmed cattle deaths due to wolves in Wyoming, as well as the number of wolf packs responsible for cattle deaths, have declined steadily from 2006 through mid-2011, even as Wyoming's wolf population has increased." While wolves definitely can pose a threat to farmers, they are but one of many potential threats.

Please, I urge you to keep the gray wolf listed as an endangered species. We are in a unique situation where we can make the decision to promote the health of a species that senseless recreational hunting and killing from human activities has almost eradicated. We cannot allow history to repeat itself.

Shavon L. McKinstry

--

Shavon L. McKinstry
(p) (360) 259-0067
(e) vonnivice@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Chelsea Heptig <chelseaheptig@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:05 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: RE: Oregon Wolf Delisting

To Whom it May Concern,

The big bad wolf is scratching at your door, only he's not big or bad, and he's way the hell out, roaming through public lands. State politics maintain an ingrained prejudice against wolves, a stale holdover from our pioneer predecessors. The time to set aside these unfounded fears and biases is now. Stop the delisting of grey wolves, they still need protection.

Research has shown that the reintroduction of grey wolves into areas where they were formerly established has had only beneficial results, from the control of elk populations, to renewed growth patterns in declining boreal species, to an increase in beaver populations and improved soil conditions, (Ripple, Beschta 2012). As an apex species, grey wolves are a vital component to a healthy functioning ecosystem. As a reintroduced species, grey wolves are still in great need of protection. Understandably there is reluctance and opposition towards protecting a predator, especially by ranchers, however the officially investigated and recorded instances of domestic animal loss caused by wolves from the late 1990's to 2014 stands at only 114. Once a loss has been investigated and confirmed, the owner of said animal is compensated appropriately by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

At this point in time Oregon wolves still have a tentative foothold in the wild and are still in need of protection, it is up to us, the residents of the state, and our elected officials, to make the right decision in protecting and supporting the reestablishment of a necessary species that is vital to the smooth workings of diversified and healthy Oregon ecosystems. Please seriously consider relisting the Oregon Grey Wolf as an endangered species.

Thank you,
Chelsea Heptig

Sources:

Ripple, William J., and Robert L. Beschta. "Trophic Cascades in Yellowstone: The First 15 years after Wolf Reintroduction." *Biological Conservation* 145.1 (2012): 205-13. Web.

"ODFW Frequently Asked Questions About Wolves." *ODFW Frequently Asked Questions About Wolves*. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, n.d. Web. 05 Nov. 2015. <<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves/faq.asp>>.

Suggested Reading:

Updated Biological Status Review for the Gray Wolf (Canis Lupus) in Oregon and Evaluation of Criteria to Remove the Gray Wolf from the List of Endangered Species under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. Rep. N.p.: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2009. Web.
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/10_october/Ex%20Attachment%20Status%20Review%20for%20Gray%20Wolf.pdf>

Bergstrom, Brad. "LETTERS | BOOKS | POLICY FORUM | EDUCATION FORUM | PERSPECTIVES Endangered Wolves Fall Prey to Politics." *ResearchGate*. Science Magazine, 26 Aug. 2011. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.

<http://www.researchgate.net/publication/236807105_LETTERS_|_BOOKS_|_POLICY_FORUM_|_EDUCATION_FORUM_|_PERSPECTIVES_Endangered_Wolves_Fall_Prey_to_Politics>.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Susan Fairweather <susan.fairweather007@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed removal of the gray wolf from the Oregon Endangered Species Act

I am writing to express my opposition to this proposal. In my view, and that of many scientists who have submitted comments, the estimated population of 83 wolves including 'several breeding pairs' cannot be considered recovered. Dr Michael P Nelson of Oregon State University has stated that wolves are still missing from nearly 90% of their suitable range in the State.

The Wolf Management Plan states that the presence of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years in Eastern Oregon would trigger 'consideration' of delisting. ODFW's population viability analysis should have been the subject of peer review by an independent panel of experts, as required by state law, but this has not taken place.

One scientific expert, Dr Carlos Carroll of the Klamath Centre for Conservation Research, has described the analysis as 'overly optimistic compared to data from well studied wolf populations'.

In addition, the estimated 83 wolves represents a mere 5% of the potential population that Oregon could support. Oregonians have submitted over 22000 comments in opposition to the proposed delisting.

If wolves are delisted they will be vulnerable to hunting and lethal control by ranchers. It is now understood by biologists that the death of a single wolf has a devastating effect on the pack and if the wolf is an alpha female its impact can be disastrous for the population. If this should happen it will negate the success of recent years in achieving a small established population, resulting in a situation where the wolf is once again at risk of extinction.

The public is well aware now that political pressure and intolerance of wolves by ranchers and hunters results in policies and decisions which are not in the best interests of species conservation. Oregon has a great opportunity here to demonstrate sufficient integrity to adhere to the true intent of the ESA which is to protect the wolves and ensure that decisions are based on science and not politics.

Professor Robert Beschta has described the beneficial consequences of the return of wolves to Yellowstone Park: improved plant communities, increased habitat for birds and the return of beavers. Furthermore, the presence of wolves in Yellowstone is a considerable tourist attraction with an estimated contribution to local economies of \$3.5 million dollars. I urge the Commission to adhere to the principles of the ESA and maintain protection for wolves. Future generations will undoubtedly regard this as a decision Oregonians can be proud of.

Thank you for your attention.

Susan Fairweather.

Roxann B Borisch

From: sammarye <sammarye@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:21 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Keep Oregon Gray Wolves on the Endangered Species List

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I'm writing the Commission today to request that the ODFW Commission keeps gray wolves listed on Oregon's Endangered Species List.

The wolf delisting proposal is purely political; the recommendation appears to not consider any scientific data collected from independent biologists (who do not agree with the delisting proposal).

Oregon's fragile population of a mere 81 wolves cannot currently withstand delisting. It would be disastrous to prematurely yank gray wolves off Oregon's Endangered Species List.

I'm urging the Commission to conduct a solid, peer-reviewed scientific analysis on the gray wolf population in Oregon before it makes its final decision on the gray wolf delisting. Until such thorough analysis is provided, I'm asking the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners to keep Oregon wolves protected.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt request.

Sincerely,

Sam M. Lewis

San Jose, CA

Roxann B Borisch

From: sammarye <sammarye@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:21 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Keep Oregon Gray Wolves on the Endangered Species List

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

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The wolf delisting proposal is purely political; the recommendation appears to not consider any scientific data collected from independent biologists (who do not agree with the delisting proposal).

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I'm urging the Commission to conduct a solid, peer-reviewed scientific analysis on the gray wolf population in Oregon before it makes its final decision on the gray wolf delisting. Until such thorough analysis is provided, I'm asking the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners to keep Oregon wolves protected.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt request.

Sincerely,

Sam M. Lewis

San Jose, CA

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gordon McCurry <gnmccurry@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:50 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf Protections

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act.

I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation because Oregon's wolves are too low in number (less than 90) to not be considered endangered, and because the Oregon ESA requires that delisting decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue.

I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of the great state of Oregon to keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

Gordon McCurry
1200 Albion Road
Boulder, CO 80305
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Rudin <dbrudin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:00 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Science not fearmongering! Keep Oregon's Wolves Protected!

Dear Commissioners,

Wolves are key players in all ecosystems in which they live. As we have seen from the rejuvenation of Yellowstone, returning wolves creates healthier ecosystems.

That is why I am writing in support of maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act. Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

-- Oregon's wolves are nowhere near recovered. Scientists indicate Oregon could support up to 1,450 wolves, and yet there are only an estimated 83 wolves in the state today.

-- Most published studies on species viability indicate there needs to be a population in the range of several thousand animals -- not a mere 83 -- to be able to withstand catastrophic events like disease outbreaks.

-- The state wildlife agency's report notes that if the number of wolves killed each year increases from 7 or 8 wolves up to 11 or 12 wolves, the chance of Oregon's wolf population failing increases to a staggering 50 percent probability. That's a huge increase in risk to Oregon's wolves -- we must apply the precautionary principle of science and wait until the state's wolf population is larger before wolves are delisted.

-- The Oregon ESA requires that delisting decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue. If the commission will be basing its delisting decision on the state wildlife agency's gray wolf status review and population-viability analysis, the commission must first get these reports peer-reviewed by independent, outside scientists.

-- Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.

-- Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. Delisting would result in a big step backwards.

-- Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.

In sum, I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

David Rudin
3620 St. Charles Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecomunications@defenders.org> on behalf of D. Deloff
<defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: Don't delist Oregon wolves!

Nov 5, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

As someone who cares deeply about wolves, I am writing to urge you to maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

As the "war" against wolves has raged elsewhere, I've been proud that at least Oregon has its own protections in place. Please, don't follow other states and endanger Oregon's wolves.

I would request that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission maintain state ESA protection for wolves and place a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. D. Deloff
4430 SW 202nd Ave
Beaverton, OR 97078-2254
darfd@aol.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecommunications@defenders.org> on behalf of Christie Bradley <defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: Please don't delist Oregon wolves!

Nov 5, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

I am a native Oregonian and have live in many parts of the state, including Eastern Oregon. I fully support the presence of wolves in the ecosystem - they are a critical part of our ecosystem and the natural order. In addition, as a Defenders of Wildlife supporter and someone who cares deeply about wolves, I am writing to urge you to maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

While the overall trajectory is steady growth of the population, the wolf population is still very small and tenuous in comparison to the more than 6,000 mountain lions, 25,000 black bears, 40,000 coyotes,

70,000 elk and 200,000 deer statewide. While these common species are not threatened or endangered, also consider that there are thousands of Washington Ground Squirrels in Oregon, which are listed currently as endangered. No other species has been removed from the state's endangered species list with a population of fewer than 100 individuals statewide or when they are absent from a significant portion of their range. Today, wolves in the state are almost exclusively confined to the northeast portion, making this population still highly vulnerable.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Much of the recent success of wolf dispersal to the south and west regions of the state has been directly due to Oregon's emphasis on nonlethal wolf and livestock management. If wolves are delisted and this emphasis reduced, it will impact the wolf's ability to disperse to these significant portions of range. As seen, improperly managed conflicts with livestock represent the single greatest challenge to wolf conservation. And if wolf and livestock conflicts are not well managed, as frequently seen elsewhere, wolves pay a heavy toll through lethal control and illegal killing.

I am concerned that delisting could stop or dramatically slow wolf recovery in Oregon if certain vital protections are not maintained.

These protections specifically include primary nonlethal approaches to managing wolves and livestock on public lands, working with landowners to reduce attractants on private lands, and promoting awareness of the tools and methods that allow wolves and people to coexist. The Commission has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Moving too quickly to eliminate Oregon Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection could reverse the positive trends in restoration and recolonization underway in Oregon.

The Commission's hand is not forced on an all-or-nothing, black-or-white "delist now." The more prudent alternative is to consider downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. This would enable wolves to continue to have the vital state protections they need, while simultaneously recognizing the progress the state has made to recover wolves. And, it would leave wolves fully protected in the western part of Oregon, where they are just starting to expand, while allowing for greater management flexibility in the eastern part of the state.

In closing, I would request that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission maintain state ESA protection for wolves and a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Christie Bradley
1383 Tucker Rd
Hood River, OR 97031-8608
(541) 541-5415
sbradley02@bradleyaudio.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Marilyn Abend <abendlaughter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:37 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf delisting decision

Dear Sir/Madam: wolf delisting is premature, unwarranted and leave the few wolves living in Oregon a poor prognosis of healthy genetic sharing. Please do not agree to delist our precious natural resource, thank you. With deep respect for the work you do and the many challenges that confront your department.

Marilyn Abend
45 Eagle Crest Dr
#315
Lake Oswego, OR
97035

Roxann B Borisch

From: louise kane <louise@kaneproductions.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: don't delist wolves Louise Kane

Subject: ODFW: Please consider keeping Oregon wolves listed

Message: Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I'm writing the Commission today to request that the ODFW Commission keeps gray wolves listed on Oregon's Endangered Species List.

I'M having a very busy month and trying to respond to every threat against grey wolves is daunting. But the greatest threat to wolves is purely political.

If you consider the level of antipathy and anger toward those that kill wildlife in Africa, wolves certainly deserve the same. African lions number the tens of thousands, continental wolves number less than 5000. Several species like the Mexican and Red wolf are less than 100. The Alexander archipelago wolf is under 200 yet it is still hunted.

Delisting wolves under the arcane and outdated management plans always leads to hunting and that is what I most strongly object to. Wolves are social animals, as you know they depend on one another. Trophy hunting of wolves and for that matter most large mammals is widely disparaged and unpopular globally. We may not have lions and tigers but Americans do enjoy cougar, wolves and bear. These animals face numerous threats from shrinking habitats, overhunting and over zealous livestock producers and trophy hunters whose positions on wildlife management are more in line with the 18th century settlers than with mainstream America.

The ODFW recommendation, like many state proposals to delist wolves, does not consider any scientific data collected from independent biologists (who do not agree with the delisting proposal) and appears to ignore public opinion.

It is a sad joke to consider Oregon's population of a mere 81 wolves as robust and these wolves should not be delisted to satisfy ranchers and livestock producers who continuously exaggerate claims of wolf depredation and are also compensated for losses and enjoy subsidies by grazing their livestock on public lands at great discounts. Even when depredations do occur, livestock deaths by predators are a cost of doing business that should not be favored over healthy ecosystems and scientific data by independent scientists that recommend more precautionary approaches to wildlife management.

I'm urging the Commission to conduct a solid, peer-reviewed scientific analysis on the gray wolf population in Oregon before it makes its final decision on the gray wolf delisting. Until such thorough analysis is provided, I'm asking the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners to keep Oregon wolves protected.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt request.

Sincerely,

Louise Kane

Louise Kane
louise@kaneproductions.net
508-237-8326



Roxann B Borisch

From: Melissa Bergemann <cathy_santone@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:05 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hello

Dear Commissioners,

First off, thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter. I know that you have a very busy schedule, so I really do appreciate your time.

I am writing you today in support of maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act. Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to please reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

- Oregon's wolves are nowhere near recovered. Scientists indicate Oregon could support up to 1,450 wolves, yet there are only an estimated 83 wolves in the state today. EIGHTY THREE is way too little.
- Published studies on species viability indicate there needs to be a population in the range of several thousand animals -- not a mere 83 -- to withstand catastrophic events like disease outbreaks.
- The state wildlife agency's report notes that if the number of wolves killed each year increases from 7 or 8 wolves up to 11 or 12 wolves, Oregon's wolf population fails increases to a staggering 50 percent probability.

That's a huge risk to Oregon's wolves -- we must apply the precautionary principle of science and wait until the state's wolf population is larger before wolves are delisted.

- The Oregon ESA requires that delisting decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue. If the commission will be basing its delisting decision on the state wildlife agency's gray wolf status review and population-viability analysis, the commission must first get these reports peer-reviewed by independent, outside scientists.
- Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.
- Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. Delisting would result in a big step backwards.
- Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.

In sum, I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Bergemann
2302 Pacific Ave
California, CA 90291
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Schlegel <mws1941@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: De-listing the Gray Wolf
Attachments: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.docx

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners;

Attached are my comments on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposal to remove the gray wolf from classification under Oregon's Endangered Species Act.

Thank you,

Mike Schlegel
506 So State Street
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-630-3001 (h/c)
mws1941@gmail.com

COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO DELIST THE GRAY WOLF IN OREGON

ATTN: OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

I applaud the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for proposing to remove the gray wolf, statewide, from Oregon's Endangered Species classification. In addition to delisting, when delisted I recommend classifying the gray wolf as a big game animal to provide the department management options

Wolf populations, like those of black bear and mountain lion, must be managed in number and distribution. Unregulated, wolf predation can, and will, result in significant reductions in elk populations and harvest. For example in Idaho's Clearwater Region there are 16 game management units, 13 of which provide an over-the-counter, general elk season. Harvest statistics for these 13 game management units for the five year period 1992-96, were compared to 2010-2014. Specifically, harvest is down 47%, hunter numbers down 38% and hunter days afield down 46%. Statewide elk harvest has declined 28%

The economic consequences of these data are devastating, both to the department and local businesses. In response to a legislative request, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game calculated the value of a harvested elk to be \$8,000 and \$127.40 for each hunter day. Applying the comparison data from the previously mentioned 13 game management units, the impact of the 47% decline in elk harvest equates to an economic loss of \$13,500,000 per year. The 46% drop in hunter days afield represents an economic loss of \$8,900,000 per year; significant to local businesses.

Admittedly, this area experienced a major winter event during 1996-97. However after 20 years the data show a continued decline in harvest statistics.

The presence of wolves on the landscape represents a new challenge to western state wildlife management agencies; they illicit strong emotional responses in both the non-hunting and hunting communities. Consequently, management decisions involving the wolf must be based on sound, science-based rationale.

For your information, I am a retired wildlife biologist, 26 years with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. During my tenure I represented IDFG on the US Fish and Wildlife Service wolf recovery team.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Mike Schlegel
506 S State Street
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-630-3001
Mws1941@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle MacKenzie <michellehmackenzie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:51 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Please keep wolves protected

Please do not proceed with the scientifically unjustified plan of delisting wolves in Oregon. The state only has 85 wolves occupying just 12% of suitable range. This is far from recovered and these animals need protection so that they can continue to disperse through out appropriate habitat.

Please keep wolves listed.

Sincerely

Michelle MacKenzie
California

Roxann B Borisch

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Please Keep Wolves Listed

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle MacKenzie [mailto:michellehmackenzie@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:50 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Please Keep Wolves Listed

I live in California where we are delighted to have wolves again for the first time in a century. That would not have happened if Oregon had not appropriately protected its wolf population. Even so, only 12% of suitable habitat is occupied right now by wolves and the population is comprised of a few fragile breeding pairs. Please keep these wolves protected as wolves are critical keystone species which positively impact the biodiversity in their areas.

Sincerely

Michelle MacKenzie
California

Roxann B Borisch

From: Joey Lewis <joeylewis1987@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: protect the wolves

What would happen if we let every animal disappear? what would happen with no predators? we would be left in a quiet state full of chipmunks and bugs. to never know the sound of a wolf's howl in the distance is a stark and dismal future for our children if we don't continue to protect this beautiful creature. they are as much a symbol of american resilience as the bald eagle or bison, both of which we as a nation almost wiped out. these majestic creatures are finally showing up in our state again, now is not the time to deregulate. i hope you will think long and hard about the welfare of an entire species, and not let mass animal genocide take over. with no voice to stand up for themselves, we must speak for them. Please keep the grey wolf on the endangered species list. for nature and for our children. Sincerely, Joey Lewis, a concerned Oregonian born and raised.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Greg Vaughn <Greg@GregVaughn.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 1:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon Wolves

I am strongly opposed to the ODFW recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list.

A total population of 81 wolves spread across all of Oregon is not enough to guarantee survival of these incredible animals in our state.

I have seen wolves in the wild, I have heard them howl. They deserve every bit of protection we can give them.

Thank you, and please do not strip these important members of Oregon's history and ecology of endangered species status.

Greg Vaughn
Greg@GregVaughn.com
Eugene, Oregon

Greg Vaughn
3850 Kincaid St
Eugene, OR 97405

Roxann B Borisch

From: Liz Nordeen <elfridabeetle@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 1:04 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: don't delist Oregon wolves

Dear Commission members,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed and entirely premature de-listing of wolves as an endangered species in Oregon. The current population of approximately 83 wolves living in this state is not by any means sufficient to ensure their continued survival. If the wolves are delisted at this time, the combination of declining wolf populations in neighboring states plus the absence of strong protection within Oregon will not allow for sufficient genetic diversity and connectivity within the local population. And when you add to this the rates of mortality likely from illegal poaching and other causes, it's clear that wolves in Oregon are still in real danger of extinction.

The re-introduction of wolf populations in various locations throughout the west has already proved that wolves are a vital part of our western ecosystem, and that their presence ultimately helps to control the overgrazing by ungulates that results in damage to our streams and rivers. It has also been proven that wolf depredations on livestock can be greatly minimized by ranchers who take full advantage of non-lethal measures of control—and further, that the damage to wolf-pack structure caused by killing individual wolves is more likely to result in *more* depredations of wolves against livestock rather than less.

A majority of Oregonians have consistently expressed their approval for the restoration of our wolf population, and for the policy decisions that will keep that population viable. I ask you not to weaken and quite possibly undo all of the good work that has already been done toward that end.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Nordeen

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ovina Feldman <omfeldman@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 12:07 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Protect Oregon's Wolves

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act.

Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

-- Oregon's wolves are nowhere near recovered. Scientists indicate Oregon could support up to 1,450 wolves, and yet there are only an estimated 83 wolves in the state today.

-- Most published studies on species viability indicate there needs to be a population in the range of several thousand animals -- not a mere 83 -- to be able to withstand catastrophic events like disease outbreaks.

-- The state wildlife agency's report notes that if the number of wolves killed each year increases from 7 or 8 wolves up to 11 or 12 wolves, the chance of Oregon's wolf population failing increases to a staggering 50 percent probability. That's a huge increase in risk to Oregon's wolves -- we must apply the precautionary principle of science and wait until the state's wolf population is larger before wolves are de-listed.

-- The Oregon ESA requires that de-listing decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue. If the commission will be basing its de-listing decision on the state wildlife agency's gray wolf status review and population-viability analysis, the commission must first get these reports peer-reviewed by independent, outside scientists.

-- Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.

-- Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. De-listing would result in a big step backwards.

-- Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.

In sum, I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

Ovina Feldman
13021 127th DR NE
Kirkland, WA 98034
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecomunications@defenders.org> on behalf of Sally Needham <defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: Maintain protection for Oregon wolves!

Nov 5, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

As a Defenders of Wildlife supporter and someone who cares deeply about wolves, I am writing to urge you to maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

While the overall trajectory is steady growth of the population, the wolf population is still very small and tenuous in comparison to the more than 6,000 mountain lions, 25,000 black bears, 40,000 coyotes,

70,000 elk and 200,000 deer statewide. While these common species are not threatened or endangered, also consider that there are thousands of Washington Ground Squirrels in Oregon, which are listed currently as endangered. No other species has been removed from the state's endangered species list with a population of fewer than 100 individuals statewide or when they are absent from a significant portion of their range. Today, wolves in the state are almost exclusively confined to the northeast portion, making this population still highly vulnerable.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

The Commission's hand is not forced on an all-or-nothing, black-or-white "delist now." The more prudent alternative is to consider downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. This would enable wolves to continue to have the vital state protections they need, while simultaneously recognizing the progress the state has made to recover wolves. And, it would leave wolves fully protected in the western part of Oregon, where they are just starting to expand, while allowing for greater management flexibility in the eastern part of the state.

In closing, I would request that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission maintain state ESA protection for wolves and a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Sally Needham
14791 SW 80th Ave
Tigard, OR 97224-7540
sneedham@outlook.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeannie Deibel <jnnmd711@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Continue Protections for Oregon's Wolves

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act. Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

-- Oregon's wolves are nowhere near recovered. Scientists indicate Oregon could support up to 1,450 wolves, and yet there are only an estimated 83 wolves in the state today.

-- Most published studies on species viability indicate there needs to be a population in the range of several thousand animals -- not a mere 83 -- to be able to withstand catastrophic events like disease outbreaks.

-- The state wildlife agency's report notes that if the number of wolves killed each year increases from 7 or 8 wolves up to 11 or 12 wolves, the chance of Oregon's wolf population failing increases to a staggering 50 percent probability. That's a huge increase in risk to Oregon's wolves -- we must apply the precautionary principle of science and wait until the state's wolf population is larger before wolves are delisted.

-- The Oregon ESA requires that delisting decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue. If the commission will be basing its delisting decision on the state wildlife agency's gray wolf status review and population-viability analysis, the commission must first get these reports peer-reviewed by independent, outside scientists.

-- Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.

-- Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. Delisting would result in a big step backwards.

-- Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.

In sum, I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Deibel
3990 Sells Mill Rd.
MD, MD 21787
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: Blair Campbell <blairtcampbell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf Plan - oppose delisting of gray wolf

To the commissioners,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to express my objection to the staff proposal to delist the gray wolf.

I oppose delisting for the following reasons:

1. I have significant doubts about the Wolf Plan's threshold for delisting: At seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years, it is too low. With so few animals, their numbers are inevitably fragile and low enough to drop the population below the targets with the loss of a mere handful of animals. To ensure a viable ongoing population, I encourage the ODFW to allow the wolf population to grow considerably and their range to expand far beyond their current habits before delisting.
2. I believe that Oregon will enjoy further benefits to its environment from the existence of apex predators such as the gray wolf. Streams and forests will benefit as overbrowsing by deer and elk are reduced. Deer and elk herds may also benefit from a move to a different, presumably lower equilibrium population as depredation by wolves removes the sick and injured from their numbers, thereby raising the overall health of the prey animals.
3. While depredation by wolves can be difficult and emotional for the handful of ranchers who experience it each year, depredation occurs infrequently and the system adequately compensates them financially. Adequate controls already exist to allow intervention to remove "problem animals" when they are identified.
4. Farmers and ranchers in Michigan seem to be successfully living with thousands of wolves in a much smaller area. I understand that implementing measures to reduce depredation by wolves involves some additional expense for farmers and ranchers in Oregon. I believe that this is an acceptable cost for the moment; that said, I encourage the Oregon legislature to consider programs to support the deterrence efforts of farmers and ranchers.

Wolves are a magnificent addition to Oregon. I welcome the day when they have recovered to the point that we find wolves not just in the wildest and most remote areas of the state, but also near the borders of our urban areas. Let them join the predators that have returned to these areas -- cougars, coyotes and bears, as well as hawks, falcons and eagles. Each of these predators have generally found ways to live alongside people, as they have encroached into areas dominated by people. When exceptions have occurred, ODFW has masterfully addressed them by teaching people how to minimize conflicts, and removing problem animals when it is absolutely necessary.

Best wishes to you as you make this difficult decision. Thank you for your service to the people, wildlife and environment of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Blair T. Campbell
2320 SE Martins St.
Portland OR 97202

Roxann B Borisch

From: cjdcarl@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 4:12 PM
To: ODFW.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Stick to the plan

Delist the wolfs so there will be a way to manage them. Tag sales would be a way to keep them in check and generate some new revenue.

We do not want a situation like we have now with the Sea Lions where there is no way to manage them.

Thanks for the good work you do.

Carl DePaolo
Sherwood & South Beach, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Steve Mamoyac <salmonberries@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 4:16 PM
To: odfw.commission
Subject: Wolf delisting comment

Dear Commissioners:

As a long-time ODFW retiree (33 years, the last 21 as the District Fish Biologist in the Mid-Willamette Fish District) I feel compelled to weigh in on the highly controversial subject of wolf delisting.

As a former ODFW District Biologist I can certainly appreciate the exceedingly difficult and challenging situation confronting ODFW staff and yourselves. Arguments on both sides of the issue are sincere and compelling, each in their own way.

I have spent considerable time reviewing the publicly available information and come to the decisive conclusion that delisting now would be, at best, premature and very likely illegal.

The tsunami of opposition to delisting from highly regarded conservation groups (including two key supporters of the Wolf Plan: Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands), independent expert scientists, and the public at large must be seriously considered and appropriately acted upon. To do otherwise will invite the obvious and inevitable legal repercussions, not to mention the well-deserved ire of wolf supporters throughout Oregon and beyond.

Of particular concern is the fact that the commission has yet to conduct a formal peer review of the department's analysis by an independent panel of experts, *as required by state law*. Additionally, it appears the department went public with its recommendation to delist prior to its own established deadline for receiving comment from the scientific and/or conservation communities. This perplexing action only adds to existing perceptions that politics is trumping science and thus sound management of a critically important wildlife resource.

This is truly a "watershed moment" in the history of wolf recovery in Oregon and the country. The choices on where we go from here are clear: Oregon can maintain vital ESA protections and continue to be a leader in wolf recovery and progressively build on the accomplishments of the Wolf Plan.

Or not.

I urge you to reject the latter.

Steve Mamoyac
Corvallis, Oregon
ODFW District Fish Biologist (retired)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jane Heltebrake <jheltebrake@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 4:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon wolves.. delisting

All of our wolves desperately need all of the protection, which we gave give to them.....
Removing the protection; i.e, will spell disaster for these magnificent creatures.
There are too many short-sighted; gun happy; ignorant people out there, who will not hesitate to kill, just for the thrill of it.

Thank you,
Jane Heltebrake
Perrysburg, Ohio.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecomunications@defenders.org> on behalf of Julianne Ramaker <defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:10 PM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: Come Clean! Which special interests want ORWC to delist Oregon wolves?

Nov 5, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

The state's wolf management plan hasn't said anything about Oregon wolves being recovered to the point that de-listing is recommended.

That being the case, the proposal you are considering to do so seems nefarious to me. Since you are a state agency and I am one of the citizens who pays your salaries, I want to know who is behind this.

They certainly aren't wildlife scientists who are the ones you should defer to.

As a Defenders of Wildlife supporter and someone who cares deeply about wolves, I am writing to urge you to maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

While the overall trajectory is steady growth of the population, the wolf population is still very small and tenuous in comparison to the more than 6,000 mountain lions, 25,000 black bears, 40,000 coyotes,

70,000 elk and 200,000 deer statewide. While these common species are not threatened or endangered, also consider that there are thousands of Washington Ground Squirrels in Oregon, which are listed currently as endangered. No other species has been removed from the state's endangered species list with a population of fewer than 100 individuals statewide or when they are absent from a significant portion of their range. Today, wolves in the state are almost exclusively confined to the northeast portion, making this population still highly vulnerable.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Much of the recent success of wolf dispersal to the south and west regions of the state has been directly due to Oregon's emphasis on nonlethal wolf and livestock management. If wolves are delisted and this emphasis reduced, it will impact the wolf's ability to disperse to these significant portions of range. As seen, improperly managed conflicts with livestock represent the single greatest challenge to wolf conservation. And if wolf and livestock conflicts are not well managed, as frequently seen elsewhere, wolves pay a heavy toll through lethal control and illegal killing.

I am concerned that delisting could stop or dramatically slow wolf recovery in Oregon if certain vital protections are not maintained.

These protections specifically include primary nonlethal approaches to managing wolves and livestock on public lands, working with landowners to reduce attractants on private lands, and promoting awareness of the tools and methods that allow wolves and people to coexist. The

Commission has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Moving too quickly to eliminate Oregon Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection could reverse the positive trends in restoration and recolonization underway in Oregon.

The Commission's hand is not forced on an all-or-nothing, black-or-white "delist now." The more prudent alternative is to consider downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. This would enable wolves to continue to have the vital state protections they need, while simultaneously recognizing the progress the state has made to recover wolves. And, it would leave wolves fully protected in the western part of Oregon, where they are just starting to expand, while allowing for greater management flexibility in the eastern part of the state.

In closing, I would request that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission maintain state ESA protection for wolves and a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Julianne Ramaker
1375 NE Elk Ct
Bend, OR 97701-5365
(541) 383-3514
ramaker@coinet.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: JANE UNDERHILL <cougarjane@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Oregon's Wolf Population

Hello,

We are writing to ODFW today to object to the department's plans to delist Oregon's small (81) wolf population.

WE also object to ODFW's open violation of their public comment "deadline" regarding delisting wolves. WE also strongly object to ODFW's disregard of current, reliable scientific interest regarding proper predator management which is at odds with ODFW.

May we also add, please, that we are persuaded ODFW is under the control of hunters. Perhaps, more importantly, we strongly object to the ODFW's submission to land owners who refuse to take their responsibility -- including the expense --of managing their own livestock and land diligently.

More than all the above, the ODFW continues to violate its mission to "preserve, protect, and enhance" wildlife in our state. We have previously had to contend with ODFW's egregious "management" of Oregon's cougars. Please change the mission if it cannot be honored.

Thank you for seriously considering our heartfelt objections to the ODFW's cavalier attitude toward "management" of wildlife in Oregon. We would like to mention, in case it is being forgotten, the wildlife of Oregon belongs to the people of Oregon, not The ODFW.

Thank you,

With heartfelt sincerity,

The Underhill Family and Friends

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gary Tarver <gary_tarver@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 6:04 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: 'Kevin Thompson'; gary_tarver@comcast.net
Subject: Wolf Delisting

To: The ODFW Commission

Re: Wolf Delisting

Dear Sirs:

At the end of 2014 there were 11 confirmed and documented Wolf packs with 9 breeding pairs in addition to 5 pairs of wolves (see ref 1.). This totaled over 81 wolves documented at the end of 2014. None of these packs were seen around the Strawberry Mountains. However, when the Canyon Creek Complex fire pushed animals out of its 87,000 burnt acres a picture was taken at the Whitaker ranch that showed approximately 42 wolves in one place. We don't know how many wolves were pushed out to the other sides of the fire (e.g South, West, or East of the fire). In this one small part of Oregon we have 42 wolves as recorded in the picture. There are definitely more than 4 breeding pairs in the 42 wolves. How many more wolves were actually in this area that got pushed out in different directions we will never know. We will also not know how many wolves are in the rest of the entire state that the wolf auditor missed. The Wolf Auditor says that there are 81 wolves in Oregon; however in a remote part that no one ever documented a single wolf (Strawberry Mountains) we see that a fire pushed out 42 more wolves. That means that there are a lot of wolves than our wolf auditor has missed! They are breeding rapidly and increasing in number dramatically. They are not endangered at all. There is plenty of habitat and food for them and they are increasing rapidly. They are not in danger of extinction. Their population is increasing, not decreasing. There are many wolf packs in the designated Wilderness Areas of Oregon. So that habitat is not going to be removed for buildings or roads.

The elk and deer populations have declined rapidly during the last 10 years as the wolf population grows. We need to stem the tide of this predator. We do not need to completely wipe the Gray wolf out of Oregon, just control their prolific, unabated pro-generation. Wolves have few (if any) predators other than MAN. Currently in Oregon, we cannot hunt or trap the wolves so they go about proliferating rapidly, killing thousands of fawns and calves every year. This trend has continued for the last decade making the deer and elk populations decrease.

We beg you to delist the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species List and set up a regulated hunting season for them similar to the regulations and seasons set in place in Idaho.

Sincerely,

Gary Tarver

Life Member of the Tradition Archers of Oregon

References

1. The Oregonian, Aug 29th, http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2015/08/prairie_city_put_on_evacuation.html
2. ODFW : <http://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/population.asp>

Roxann B Borisch

From: cj victor <cjv978@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:09 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: De-list wolves

Wolves should be de-listed NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

They are out of control and are killing all of the game in the west,

James Mack

Roxann B Borisch

From: Lance Olivieri <lance@ykw.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Opposed to delisting the gray wolf

I am strongly opposed to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list. It appears that this recommendation was a forgone conclusion made with limited input from independent biologists. It is clearly based on politics, not science.

ODFW solicited feedback from the scientific community on its updated biological review. However, before this feedback could be analyzed (in fact, even the deadline to receive it), the agency announced its recommendation to delist gray wolves. It appears that ODFW never intended to analyze or incorporate any meaningful independent scientific review into its recommendation to the Commission.

Biologists analyzing ODFW's biological opinion on gray wolves have found many faults with its 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.

Thank you,
Lance Joseph Olivieri
65580 Sisemore Road
Bend, Oregon 97703

Roxann B Borisch

From: Irene Hardwicke Olivieri <irene@yellowknifewireless.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:39 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: PROTECT OREGON'S WOLVES- please do the right thing!

5 November 2015

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

I have been coming to ODFW Commission meetings for many years, listening to people speak for our wild animals and speaking myself. I have been continually disappointed seeing how little our input affects your decisions and how often your decisions are not based on caring for the wildlife in Oregon. All too often it seems like the decisions made are based on politics, not science- usually to the detriment of the animals.

I am passionately opposed to delisting wolves in Oregon. In our beautiful state totally 98,381 square miles, our current population of 81 wolves is extremely small and it is highly premature to delist them. I hope you will startle us this time by making a decision that is based on science and the knowledge that our eyes are wide open watching you and once you delist there will be no way to exonerate what you have done.

We intrust you to care for to manage our wild animals. Your decision to delist will follow the unfortunate path of the other western states which have killed over 3,600 gray wolves as of April 2015. I have been so proud of our state and they way the ODFW has handled the majestic wolves that have finally returned . You have the power to protect them, to be bold and robust in your decision of keeping them on the state Endangered Species Act.

We need all other animals with which we share this earth. There is something that happens when we are in the wilderness, that doesn't happen on a screen or a phone, something you cannot find on google. Our experiences with wilderness and watching wild animals are what gives us our reason for being alive, what inspires us, motivates us to care for our precious environment.

Do you want your children to live in a state without wolves? Do you want to be responsible for the decline of our current small population of wolves? Let our wolves run free through the forest, court their mates, tend to their young, howl at the glowing moon.

Oregon is so fortunate to have the gray wolf here again and we must protect them. Let us be the state where people come to see wolves, not to shoot and trap them.

Thank you,

Irene Hardwicke Olivieri

65580 Sisemore Road

Bend, Oregon 97703

Roxann B Borisch

From: Aboregional <aboregional@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:40 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf de-listing comment

Dear ODFW,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed de-listing of the wolf from endangered species protections in Oregon. I'm a Portland resident and advocate of environmental stewardship and appropriate protections where they are needed. I regularly venture into the back country and through my work in environmental restoration interact with people from all walks of life. As I see it, the re-introduction of the wolf to Oregon ecosystems has been a great step in the right direction. As you are probably aware, the presence of top predators in our ecosystems is of vital importance to overall ecosystem health. If you have not already, I suggest that you view the many ecosystem benefits in Yellowstone due in big part to the wolf being re-introduced. I understand that similar results are probable in Oregon's ecosystems with a healthy population of wolves. As it currently stands, the few that exist in Oregon are far from optimal numbers to be effective in their role within ecosystem health. I also understand the ranching lobby's influence in decisions around the presence of predators in our state and nationally. I feel that as a concerned and informed citizen, I must state my enthusiastic support for continued protections for wolves in Oregon. This can be seen as a representational balance to those voices who have vested interests in limiting wolf numbers to a very few. Environmentally and ethically speaking, the wolf should be allowed to populate further our state's ecosystems. I encourage you to keep all protections for wolves and hope that you will keep in mind the vast number of Oregon residents who feel the same when making your decision. Thank you.

Regards,
Jeffrey Mocniak

Roxann B Borisch

From: KlockFarm <klockfarm@cascadeaccess.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Gray Wolf Delisting
Attachments: Wolf delisting.docx

Commissioners and Director Melcher,
attached is my comments regarding the Gray Wolf delisting issue.
Thank you for your attention

Clair Klock
Klock Farm
Corbett, OR 97019

Date: November 9, 2015

To: ODFW Commission members

From: Clair Klock – Klock Farm – Corbett, OR

RE: Wolf Delisting in Oregon

Commissioners, Members, and Director Melcher:

I am opposed to the delisting of the Gray Wolf in Oregon at this time. Doing so would give the livestock industry an excuse to kill every wolf they see.

I am skeptical of the report by ODFW staff especially if authors of this report live in areas that are ranching country. In my experience, agency staff may be unduly influenced by social pressures toward themselves (their jobs) and their family (children in school) if they were to oppose delisting. Yes, those biologists in the room will express indignation at the suggestion – but it is true. I've been there, seen it, felt it and it is real. I have seen public agencies act as mouthpieces for industry at the expense of the public.

For those livestock people who are thinking "he is another environmentalist" I would point out that I am a biologist and natural resource trained professional; I have seen other examples of "zero tolerance" for one issue or another which springs from greed. Industries of all kinds have the notion that they can live outside the laws of nature. In the short term we can, but in the long term this kind of business management model will kill the planet. In all agriculture, there needs to be tolerance for some loss. Zero tolerance is based mainly on greed.

Offending wolves need to be eliminated, as do bear, cougar or other wildlife that are inflicting heavy losses on crops and livestock. I understand predation from bird and elk damage after 35 years of berry farming. Berry farms, as well as vineyards, have predation problems with birds, deer and elk; grass seed farmers have geese and the commercial and sports fishing industries have sea lions. However, I don't see stories of these problems on the front page of Capitol Press every week for months at a time – articles which remind me of the ancient hysteria and fairy tales about "THE WOLF!" This mentality harks back to an age when man was afraid of every other creature and in his ignorance, killed everything.

Please do not de-list the Gray wolf in Oregon.

Thank you for listening.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Larry Blankenship <blankenshiplw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:25 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: November 9th 2015 Commission Meeting re De-Listing the Canadian Grey Wolf in Oregon

Dear Commission Members and ODF & W Management:

I have been a resident in Oregon since 1982 and hunted in Oregon for over 32 years. During that time I have seen personally the damage that predators have had on our big game herds, especially in NE Oregon. Ever since Measure 18 was passed into law, the growth in Mountain Lion and bear populations is staggering, as it is widely known that the main effective management tool is hunting with dogs. I purposely used the term " Mtn Lion" over Cougar. They are lions, and if anyone has seen a really mature big one up close, they could be mistaken for a lion in the Oregon Zoo, not a cat! Recently at the outskirts of Joseph, an expensive thoroughbred fowl on the Tamarack Ranch was attacked in broad daylight by a large male lion- it survived but the damage was done in a pasture alongside a well traveled highway near residential houses. Luckily thus far no humans have been attacked Yet! In NE Oregon, ranchers and other ag based groups are being pressured economically by the deer and elk herds that are run out of the high country by these predators.

Currently I am on the board of an Oregon Hunters Association Chapter in the Portland metro area, with over **900 members**. The Wolf management plan took a very long time to create with all parties involved, signing on the dotted line they would adhere to it's provisions. Now here we are at the decision point where the breeding re-production and survival numbers, as well as the incidence of livestock deprivation and reduction in our big game herds by wolves in Oregon a matter of record, some coalition members now want to wait longer and allow more wolves to be produced or they threaten suing as a recourse.

The hunting fraternity is united in believing the time is now to begin the next phase of wolf management, per the terms of the wolf plan. Hunting and culling troublesome animals is really a sensible and only viable recourse for predator control. **The Canadian Grey Wolf is an Apex predator** and without an adequate management process in place, will continue to be a destructive force in Oregon. I urge the Commission not to succumb to threats, but use sensible management thinking and follow the original agreed-to wolf management plan. **Please vote YES to De-List the Canadian Grey Wolf in Oregon.**

I will be in attendance Monday in Salem to see and witness the Commission's actions.

Respectfully,

Larry W. Blankenship
Hillsboro, OR.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecommunications@defenders.org> on behalf of Sierra Laverty <defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:10 PM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: DO NOT delist Oregon wolves! That would be a mistake!

Nov 6, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

I urge you, as a young person (age 23), to maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

While the overall trajectory is steady growth of the population, the wolf population is still very small and tenuous in comparison to the more than 6,000 mountain lions, 25,000 black bears, 40,000 coyotes,

70,000 elk and 200,000 deer statewide. While these common species are not threatened or endangered, also consider that there are thousands of Washington Ground Squirrels in Oregon, which are listed currently as endangered. No other species has been removed from the state's endangered species list with a population of fewer than 100 individuals statewide or when they are absent from a significant portion of their range. Today, wolves in the state are almost exclusively confined to the northeast portion, making this population still highly vulnerable.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Much of the recent success of wolf dispersal to the south and west regions of the state has been directly due to Oregon's emphasis on nonlethal wolf and livestock management. If wolves are delisted and this emphasis reduced, it will impact the wolf's ability to disperse to these significant portions of range. As seen, improperly managed conflicts with livestock represent the single greatest challenge to wolf conservation. And if wolf and livestock conflicts are not well managed, as frequently seen elsewhere, wolves pay a heavy toll through lethal control and illegal killing.

I am concerned that delisting could stop or dramatically slow wolf recovery in Oregon if certain vital protections are not maintained.

These protections specifically include primary nonlethal approaches to managing wolves and livestock on public lands, working with landowners to reduce attractants on private lands, and promoting awareness of the tools and methods that allow wolves and people to coexist. The Commission has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that wolves are restored to significant portions of their native range in Oregon.

Moving too quickly to eliminate Oregon Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection could reverse the positive trends in restoration and recolonization underway in Oregon.

The Commission's hand is not forced on an all-or-nothing, black-or-white "delist now." The more prudent alternative is to consider downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. This would enable wolves to continue to have the vital state protections they need, while simultaneously

recognizing the progress the state has made to recover wolves. And, it would leave wolves fully protected in the western part of Oregon, where they are just starting to expand, while allowing for greater management flexibility in the eastern part of the state.

In closing, I would request that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission maintain state ESA protection for wolves and a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Sierra Lavery
1250 NW 29th St Apt 12
Corvallis, OR 97330-1854
(208) 741-3781
sierralavery@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kerstin B. <kgalaxy03@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:39 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting of gray wolves

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned citizen and wildlife professional, I urge you to reconsider your decision to delist gray wolves from the Endangered Species Act. We both know the reason behind this possible delisting decision and we both know that this decision is not based on scientific facts but is rooted in the funding structure of your organization.

Should you decide to delist gray wolves in Oregon, I hope you can look into the eyes of your children and tell them the truth about the suffering and needless killing you have caused in the name of special interest, not science.

Sincerely,

Kerstin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Valerie Baldwin <valbaldwin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Do you really have to kill all the wolves?

Dear Commissioners,

Please keep the wolves protected under Oregon's Endangered Species Act. Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

- Oregon can support more than 10 times as many wolves as it now has.
- We need apex predators to keep populations of other animals in check. Check out the studies in Yellowstone.
- Your decision is based on junk science. Studies should be peer reviewed.
- Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.
- Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. Delisting would result in a big step backwards.
- Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.

So please follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,

Valerie Baldwin
243 Echo Lane
CA, CA 94028
US

Roxann B Borisch

From: Yves Garin <garin.yves@neuf.fr>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 1:58 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please consider keeping Oregon wolves listed

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I'm writing the Commission today to request that the ODFW Commission keeps gray wolves listed on Oregon's Endangered Species List.

The wolf delisting proposal is purely political; the recommendation appears to not consider any scientific data collected from independent biologists (who do not agree with the delisting proposal).

Oregon's fragile population of a mere 81 wolves cannot currently withstand delisting. It would be disastrous to prematurely yank gray wolves off Oregon's Endangered Species List.

I'm urging the Commission to conduct a solid, peer-reviewed scientific analysis on the gray wolf population in Oregon before it makes its final decision on the gray wolf delisting. Until such thorough analysis is provided, I'm asking the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners to keep Oregon wolves protected.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt request.

Sincerely, Yves Garin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jan Garen <jan@ape-monkey-rescue.org.uk>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 3:37 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Protection of wolves in Oregon

Please do not remove wolves from the state endangered species list.

Jan Garen
Caehopkin
caehopkin
Swansea, ot SA91UD

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nancy Dollard <liberalnancyinoh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 4:37 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: SAVE WOLVES in Oregon/Keep Endangered Species Act for Wolves

I am writing in support of maintaining protections for gray wolves under Oregon's Endangered Species Act. Delisting wolves in Oregon is extremely premature, and I urge the commission to reject any such recommendation for the following reasons:

- Oregon's wolves are nowhere near recovered. Scientists indicate Oregon could support up to 1,450 wolves, and yet there are only an estimated 83 wolves in the state today.
 - Most published studies on species viability indicate there needs to be a population in the range of several thousand animals -- not a mere 83 -- to be able to withstand catastrophic events like disease outbreaks.
 - The state wildlife agency's report notes that if the number of wolves killed each year increases from 7 or 8 wolves up to 11 or 12 wolves, the chance of Oregon's wolf population failing increases to a staggering 50 percent probability. That's a huge increase in risk to Oregon's wolves -- we must apply the precautionary principle of science and wait until the state's wolf population is larger before wolves are delisted.
 - The Oregon ESA requires that delisting decisions be based on science which has been peer-reviewed by an outside panel of expert scientists who have no bias in the issue. If the commission will be basing its delisting decision on the state wildlife agency's gray wolf status review and population-viability analysis, the commission must first get these reports peer-reviewed by independent, outside scientists.
 - Most of Oregon's wolves live in the northeastern part of the state and already are less protected than they used to be due to some provisions in the state wolf plan that recently went into effect. Those wolves are the source population for the rest of the state, so we should wait to see how those wolves fare under less protective management before we consider removing safeguards entirely.
 - Oregon's small wolf population exists only because of state protections and model rules for coexisting with wolves to reduce unnecessary conflict. Delisting would result in a big step backwards.
 - Oregon's natural heritage includes our magnificent wildlife and wolves are a part of that heritage; they deserve continued protections and a real shot at recovery to ensure this natural heritage will exist for future generations.
- In sum, I urge you to follow the law, science and strong conservation-minded values of our state to preserve our natural heritage and keep wolves protected at this time.

Sincerely,
Nancy Dollard
11255 Cottingham Cir., NW
Uniontown, OH 44685

Roxann B Borisch

From: ELISE MICHELE WITTMAN <michshelleywolfsaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 5:58 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Re: Thank you for your comments

I Am for keeping Wolves alive!! Please note I may have hit wrong button!! Thank you.. Let The Wolves Run Free!!

On Nov 6, 2015 2:09 AM, "ODFW Commission" <odfw.commission@state.or.us> wrote:

Thank you for your comments on this issue. Your message will be forwarded to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners for review and any necessary response.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Defenders of Wildlife <ecommunications@defenders.org> on behalf of Erin Hauge <defenders@mail.defenders.org>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Commission Chair Finley
Subject: Maintain State Protections for Oregon Wolves - Don't Delist!

Nov 6, 2015

Commission Chair Finley

Dear Finley,

Please maintain state protections for wolves in Oregon.

With fewer than 100 wolves statewide and with a significant portion of their native range still unoccupied, (currently wolves are almost exclusively confined to northeast Oregon) the overall trajectory of population growth must be seen in tandem with these metrics. The wolf population is still very small compared to the significant portion of their range that remains unoccupied.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that wolves are fully restored to their native range and to not just respond to a number on paper that may have nothing to do with the balance of a fully restored ecosystem.

In that the Commission's hand is not being forced on an all-or-nothing, black-or-white "delist now," the more prudent alternative is to consider downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. This would enable wolves to continue to have the vital state protections they need, while simultaneously recognizing the progress the state has made to recover wolves. And, it would leave wolves fully protected in the western part of Oregon, where they are just starting to expand, while allowing for greater management flexibility in the eastern part of the state.

Please maintain state ESA protection for wolves and a strong emphasis on proactive nonlethal wolf management and livestock protection efforts to encourage wolf recovery statewide.

Do not delist Oregon wolves at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Erin Hauge
1559 5th St
Sacramento, CA 95814-5409
(916) 764-7953
advocate4wildlife@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: jorge@addthis.com on behalf of jorge@bluelr.com
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 7:59 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: For more wonder, rewild the world

The importance of Wolves in the massive nature ecosystem restoration - (all the way from vegetation to watersheds and river flows) please watch this short video. JORGE ZEA

https://www.ted.com/talks/george_monbiot_for_more_wonder_rewild_the_world?language=en

--- This message was sent by jorge@bluelr.com via <http://addthis.com>. Please note that AddThis does not verify email addresses.

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Brentcarolet@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 8:05 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: RE: Wolf Delisting

Dear Commissioners,

As a life long resident of Oregon, I have been hunting in Oregon for 45 years. I have been in the woods following my dad since I was 2 years old. I have seen many ups and downs regarding the huntable game. But not since the wolves introduction have I seen such a decline in both elk and deer.

In 2005 the wolf plan was crafted and in its purpose it was designed for the possible delisting of wolves once the criteria of 4 breeding pairs for 3 consecutive years occurred.

#1. The above mentioned has happened, and to be quite honest with you, I believe, as many other hunters, there are more wolves in Oregon than ODFW can count.

#2. This plan was crafted "by a broad group of stake holders balancing competing interests". This plan works. Let it continue.

I, with many other hunters strongly urge each of you to vote in favor of delisting Oregon wolves.

Please do not wait until it is too late as others states have.

Brent Tannock
Life Member of OHA, RMEF, and OR-FNAWS.

Roxann B Borisch

From: JORGE ZEA <bluelighyhouse Realty@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 8:12 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Different approach supporting the protection of species

Dear Commissioners,

The importance of Wolves for the entire ecosystem is understated and probably not completely understood. Please take a couple of minutes and watch this video regarding the "re-wilding" concept and a specific short example of what wolves reintroduction did for Yellowstone's ecosystem - it modified to such an extent that rivers changed their courses, diminished erosion and improved watersheds (please share it with your colleagues).

Please watch this view from TED Talks:

https://www.ted.com/talks/george_monbiot_for_more_wonder_rewild_the_world?language=en

Cordially

JORGE ZEA
1198 SW 13th AVE
BOCA RATON, FL 33486
US