

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ron & Kristy Martin <rkmartin7@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support of Wolf Delisting

Greetings;

I am a longtime member of OHA, a hunter and supporter of ODFW. However would like a brief moment of your time to support the delisting of wolves in Eastern Oregon. Their range is naturally extending do in part to the number of breeding pairs. There has been an increase of livestock kills and there are no natural predators to help keep the overall numbers from increasing and causing substantial loss to our deer and elk herds along with the growing number of moose that have been established here. I believe the delisting of wolves would be a substantial step in the right direction to allow better management of them while still offering them protection as well. They should not be eliminated at all, but do need to be controlled.

Thank You
Ron Martin

Roxann B Borisch

From: kayenta <kayenta@efn.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:12 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: more info on wolf delisting

29 October 2015
To the Commission:

After I submitted my testimony for the Nov. 9th hearing, I got this news.
<http://www.oregonwild.org/about/press/oregon-wild-statement-5th-known-gray-wolf-poaching-oregon>
(cut and pasted below for your convenience).

You may or may not have heard this news already.
So as we speak, the wolf population is getting smaller, with three wolves killed in the past three months. Not a good average, and certainly not a good average for a population that is so small and not anywhere near fully recovered.

I urge you to continue to protect wolves under the OESA until their numbers and distribution are at levels which would be scientifically defined as successful. And by scientific, I should clarify that I mean current and updated science, not outdated science.

I just have to say that considering delisting a species that is still at such low numbers and not distributed in anywhere near sustainable levels in their historic range reeks of politics. We expect more of you as an agency.

This discussion would not happen for ANY other species, given the same circumstances with low population numbers and minimal representation of historic range.

Let current and updated science lead the way in your decision making.
Respectfully,
Karen Olch
PO Box 128
Eugene, OR 97440

Oregon Wild Statement on 5th Known Gray Wolf Poaching in Oregon

Conservation organization urges improved hunter education, accountability

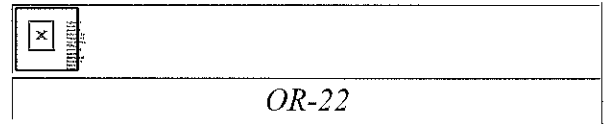


Arran Robertson
503.283.6343x223
ar@oregonwild.org

OCTOBER 19, 2015

Oregon Wild released the following statement following news that OR-22, a collared gray wolf dispersed from the Umatilla River pack, had been shot and killed in Eastern Oregon. An unnamed individual alleged to have mistakenly killed the wolf while hunting coyotes.

All hunters have an ethical and moral responsibility to be absolutely certain of their targets before they pull the trigger. While we can applaud this man for turning himself in for killing an endangered species, we also hope state and local law enforcement will fairly enforce the law. It is disturbing to hear the Oregon State Police applaud this individual as a "true sportsman." A responsible hunter knows the law and knows his target with certainty. Whether by mistake or not, this hunter broke the law.



A fully grown gray wolf like OR-22 weighs 80-100 pounds, stands 2.5 feet tall and measures up to 6 feet long, while a grown coyote can weigh up to 50 pounds and can stand 1.5 feet tall. OR-22 was also wearing a large radio tracking collar and had bright colored ear tags. Poaching of both game animals and endangered species is rampant in Oregon. While there are regular investigations and prosecutions of deer and elk poachers, of the five known wolf poaching incidents in Oregon, and not counting the suspended investigation into the suspicious deaths of the Sled Springs pair, no charges have ever been filed.

This also has to be viewed in context. All across the country, there has been a disturbing trend of hunters shooting endangered wildlife then claiming it was a mistake. Either hunter education requirements are falling short, or there is a perception that shooting without knowing your target doesn't matter because law enforcement won't prosecute.

The Salt Lake Tribune produced this graphic illustrating the differences between gray wolves and coyotes. We hope that true sportsmen will circulate this information and help educate others to recognize the difference and obey the law. (graphic not included in this email)

"Goodness and kindness rule the world. They just don't get a lot of press."
~Pete Sibley
www.anneandpetesibley.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Rich Thompson <rich@kathykellydesign.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves in Oregon

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of ODFW staff and commission, wolves have made a strong recovery in Oregon.

Given the success thus far, this goal has required a lot of "give" on the part of those that have had to live by the wolf plan, while those on the other side of the "fladry" seem to want to "take" more than what was believed to be a workable wolf recovery solution little more than 10 years ago. With the collective knowledge and experience of ODFW Commission and Staff, it is hard to believe that any stone has been left unturned and wolves will be a part of the landscape in Oregon well into the future.

Admittedly, I am hardly qualified to pass judgement on this success, however at this point the wolf plan has all the indications that agreed criterion has met and the program is an outstanding success. As a small part of the big picture, one thing I do understand is that sportsmen are the real conservationists that pay the bills, provide the sweat equity and support agencies that protect and enhance wildlife for the benefit of all citizens.

As a member of that dedicated group, I would urge the commission NOT to allow wolves to become a social issue which would further upset the balance of nature in the 21st century.

Begin the delisting process NOW!

Best Regards,
R. S. Thompson
Newberg, Oregon
TAO, OHA, OOC, OFF

Roxann B Borisch

From: Adrian Harguess <aharguess@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 10:03 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to request that you vote to delist wolves from the Oregon endangered species list.

I'm a member Oregon Hunters Association as well as a Banker in Eastern Oregon. Hunting and ranching are both important economic factors in Eastern Oregon that our citizens depend on and could be in jeopardy if wolf populations get out of hand. These individuals and industries agreed to the grand compromise with the signing on the Oregon Wolf Plan many years ago. The Oregon Wolf plan was written with the necessary scientific information to support required population targets needed over a 3 year period to insure the establishment of the species in Oregon and protect the species regardless if the Wolf was delisted or not. These required population targets have been met for three consecutive year according the 12/31/2014 ODFW wolf surveys. The survival of wolves is not in question with 13 of 16 breeding pairs producing pups and continued protections under phase II of the Oregon Wolf Plan. Please help fulfill your end of the grand compromise that was made as those in Eastern Oregon have.

Respectfully,

Adrian Harguess
541-426-4056

Roxann B Borisch

From: Frank Benjamin <spiritgecko@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 10:28 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Thank You (Wolves)

Dear ODFW Commission & Governor Brown,

Like most Oregonians, I care deeply about wolves and other native wildlife. I support ODFW's mission to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats". I am writing to commend your recent decision not to kill wolves of the Mt. Emily Pack and your efforts to prevent conflict through non-lethal measures.

I am also writing to encourage you to maintain important protections for wolves and carry forward parts of the wolf plan that have recently led to a reduction in conflict, provided clarity and transparency, and support defensible decisions like this. The rules under which the state has been operating since a landmark settlement in 2013 have made Oregon a model for the rest of the country in balancing conservation with legitimate concerns.

Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Frank Benjamin
6134 Rocky Mountain Av.
Las Vegas, NV 89156

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dianne Alpern <DAlpern702@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:37 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Thank You (Wolves)

Dear ODFW Commission & Governor Brown,

Like most Oregonians, I care deeply about wolves and other native wildlife. I support ODFW's mission to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats". I am writing to commend your recent decision not to kill wolves of the Mt. Emily Pack and your efforts to prevent conflict through non-lethal measures.

I am also writing to encourage you to maintain important protections for wolves and carry forward parts of the wolf plan that have recently led to a reduction in conflict, provided clarity and transparency, and support defensible decisions like this. The rules under which the state has been operating since a landmark settlement in 2013 have made Oregon a model for the rest of the country in balancing conservation with legitimate concerns.

Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Dianne Alpern
4318 Eldorado Springs Drive
Boulder, CO 80303



*Blue
Mountains
Biodiversity
Project*

Portland Office
5622 NE 7th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97211

October 29th, 2015

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chair Finley & Commission Members,

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project wishes to voice our opposition to the premature delisting of wolves.

Our mission is to protect and restore the natural ecosystems of the Blue Mountains and Eastern Oregon Cascades. We work on four national forests, and have been active in Eastern Oregon for 25 years. Our work includes extensive on-the-ground monitoring of public lands projects, and we have field-checked many thousands of acres of national forests with the help of hundreds of volunteers. Wolves are an integral part of ecosystem health in these areas, and we are very supportive of their full recovery so that they can once again fulfill their ecological roles and have sustainable populations.

We urge you not to weaken existing protections for wolves. We are concerned that in light of ongoing threats from poaching and other sources of mortality, Oregon's small wolf population continues to be in jeopardy of extinction. Wolves are still too limited in numbers and in distribution for sustained populations or ecological recovery to occur. Shrinking wolf populations in neighboring states, combined with weakened protections in Oregon, will not ensure sufficient genetic diversity and connectivity. Approximately 80 wolves is a very small number for any recovering population, especially given wolves' pack structure and breeding dynamics.

Oregonians have been clear in their overwhelming support of wolves, and want strong protections in order to ensure wolf recovery. We are disappointed that ODFW seems intent on justifying delisting, and on weakening protections for wolves—despite scientific evidence supporting the need for continued listing and in opposition to the values of most Oregonians.

The public favors wolf recovery. Public polls show that over 2/3 of Oregon citizens support wolf recovery. This is also true of public polls in Washington and California, and nationally. In addition, public support of the Endangered Species Act continues to remain strong (1, 2, 3). State and federal agencies are obliged to uphold the law, act in the public trust, and preserve natural resources, including wolves, for current and future generations.

Good-sense economic strategy favors strong ecological protections, and strong protections for wolves. Oregon's natural landscapes are one of its most valuable economic assets. Oregonians receive tremendous economic gains from clean water, livability, outdoor recreation activities, tourism, and

other resources associated with our breathtaking natural heritage. Wolves indirectly and directly contribute to these economic gains.

Strong protections are needed to ensure public acceptance of wolves. In areas where killing wolves is legally acceptable, public support of wolves may decrease (4). State-sanctioned killing of wolves actually increases controversy and discontent about wolf presence. We are opposed to lethal control of wolves, particularly on public lands.

Wolves fill vital roles in ecosystems. Wolves prevent damage to streams and riparian habitats from ungulates, and so play a critical role in the restoration of these areas. This, in turn, helps to support healthy populations of fish, birds, and riparian vegetation. Wolves can release rodent populations from coyote pressure, which in turn sustains healthier populations of certain birds of prey (5). Studies have also shown that the presence of wolves contributes to healthier soils (6), and may buffer the negative effects of climate change on ecosystems (7).

Non-lethal works! The Wood River Project in Idaho, run by Defenders of Wildlife is an example of successful coexistence of livestock and wolves. The Wood River Project has been going strong for eight years, and uses non-lethal management to protect more than 25,000 sheep that graze annually on the Sawtooth National Forest. It has one of the highest concentrations of wolves and livestock sharing the same landscape, yet the project area has the lowest rate of loss due to wolf depredations across the state. The Wood River program has been so successful that Blaine County, where the project is located, unanimously passed a resolution in 2014 requesting that the state use non-lethal tools over lethal tools. (8, 9, 10, 11) On the other hand, where killing wolves in response to depredations has been emphasized, depredations have gone up. These results are consistent with the 2014 Wielgus study showing that killing wolves in response to livestock depredations actually causes more depredations (12).

Killing wolves harms wolf pack structure, which may cause young, inexperienced, or immigrating wolves to be more likely to prey on livestock. In addition, the pack may dissolve, or reproduction can be negatively affected- potentially jeopardizing recovery in a population with very few breeding pairs. (14)

The Wolf Conservation and Management Plan is clear- more than four breeding pairs of wolves triggers **a status review** of the population. The law requires the Commission to base any delisting decision on scientific criteria related to the species' biological status in Oregon and to use documented and verifiable scientific information. If the commission moves forward with premature delisting of wolves, we request an independent review. We also would like to point out that under Oregon's current management Plan, wolf numbers are up while depredations remain low.

We are very disappointed that ODFW seems intent on justifying delisting Wolves rather than seriously considering the wishes of the public or giving an unbiased scientific review. We are also concerned that the decision to delist wolves has been unduly influenced by political concerns rather than facts.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Paula Hood
Co-Director, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

Footnotes/references:

1. Defenders of Wildlife, 2013. *Polls show strong support for wolf recovery in the Pacific Northwest*. <http://www.defenders.org/press-release/poll-shows-strong-support-wolf-recovery-pacific-northwest>
2. Tulchin Research, 2013. *RE: Polls show strong support for wolf recovery in Western States*. <http://www.defenders.org/sites/default/files/publications/defenders-of-wildlife-public-memo-new-poll-finds-strong-support-for-wolf-protection-in-western-states.pdf>
3. Harris Interactive, 2011. *Endangered Species Act summary- Poll for Endangered Species Act public support*. http://www.defenders.org/publications/endangered_species_act_poll.pdf
4. Treves, A., Naughton-Treves, L. & Shelley, V. 2013. *Longitudinal analysis of attitudes toward wolves*. *Conserv. Biol.* 27, 315-323.
5. Ripple, W.; Beschta, R.; 2011. *Trophic Cascades in Yellowstone: the First 15 Years After Wolf Reintroduction*. http://www.cof.orst.edu/leopold/papers/RippleBeschtaYellowstone_BioConserv.pdf
6. Bump, J.; Peterson, R.; Vucetich, J., 2009. *Wolves modulate soil nutrient heterogeneity and foliar nitrogen by configuring the distribution of ungulate carcasses*. *Ecology*, 90(11), 2009, pp. 3159–3167.
7. Wilmer CC, Getz WM (2005) *Gray Wolves as Climate Change Buffers in Yellowstone*. *PLoS Biol* 3(4): e92. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.0030092.
8. Defenders of Wildlife, 2014. *Living with Wildlife: Coexisting with Wolves in Idaho's Wood River Valley*. http://www.defenders.org/living-wildlife/gray-wolves?_ga=1.220162841.1084860869.1412731542
9. Defenders of Wildlife, 2014. *Wolves Among the Sheep*. <http://www.defendersblog.org/2012/10/wolves-among-the-sheep/>
10. City of Ketchum, Idaho. *Recommendation To Adopt Resolution 14-022 in Support of Wildlife Co-Existence and Recognizing The Wood River Wolf Project*. <http://ketchumidaho.org/DocumentCenter/View/2251>
11. KTVB.com, Idaho News and Weather, 2014. *Conservationists use non-lethal methods to deal with wolves*. <http://www.ktvb.com/story/local/2014/10/07/12686175/>
12. Wielgus, R. and Peebles, K. 2014. *Effects of Wolf Mortality on Livestock Depredations*. *PLoS ONE* 9(12): e113505. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.
13. Borg, B.; Brainerd, S.; Meier, T.; Prugh, L.; 2014. *Impacts of breeder loss on social structure, reproduction and population growth in a social canid*. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 2014 doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.12256
14. Treves, A. 2009. *Hunting for large carnivore conservation*. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 46: 1350-1356.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nancy <nancykweil@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Balance

A note to ask, please consider the natural balance, established by design and then manipulated..slaughtered..to the brink of extinction, then back.... reestablished barely...to face continued hatred and fear. Inspiration!

Wolves are intertwined to our natural balance. The threat to the economic balance can be reconciled through means other than the death of wolves, a cause we have spent public funds and extensive commitment to reestablish.

Please consider the wolf, the wolf community, the balanced wolf pack. The future of our wild...free range.

Thank you,

Nancy Weil
Portland and Falcon Cove, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: treatmj68@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolf delisting from ESA

Commissioners,

I am writing to lend my support to the ODFW staff recommendation to delist wolves from the ESA. It has taken many years to get to this point and a lot of hard work from ODFW staff and stakeholders. After reading the biological review that Wolf Program Coordinator Russ Morgan and his staff provided, the success of the wolf plan shows that all the hard work has produced outstanding results. The biological data reveals a healthy and growing wolf population and supports the projection that it will continue to grow and extend itself to other areas of the state as the plan moves forward.

The fulfillment of the ESA criteria for wolf delisting is well documented and addresses all the concerns that are required to consider moving the plan forward into Phase 2.

I understand that this is an emotional subject for some, but encourage the Commission to place the **science that they have been presented with** above the emotion when making their decision. The wolf plan is working very well and all indications are it will continue to work well in the future.

Thank you,

Mike Treat
TAO

Roxann B Borisch

From: Susan Basore <5scbasore7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:13 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Save our wolves

Wolves are needed and are apart of a healthy forest from state to state. Please keep them on the endangered species list for our planet and our future.

Roxann B Borisch

From: John Gander <jc.gander@frontier.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:31 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolf Delisting

Chair Finley & Commissioners:

As a member of the Oregon Hunters Association and an avid hunter, I would like to express my concerns regarding the Wolf Plan delisting that the Commission will be acting upon at the November meeting. ODFW's mission statement; "Our mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." The Wolf Plan is basically an extension of this mission. Hunters are but one subset of groups comprising present and future generations. Delisting wolves takes ODFW further down the road toward fulfilling that mission. The Wolf Plan is a road map. Phase II, delisting of wolves is one of the destinations on that map toward completing the Wolf Plan journey. It must be declared that Phase II destination has been reached before proceeding onward on the road map. Delisting does not remove protections for wolves in Oregon. Delisting will start the journey on the road to Phase III. This will allow ODFW more options toward applying sound wildlife management practices.

I feel the Wolf Plan was developed out of sound judgement with all parties' interest in mind. The Plan was agreed upon and the road map was placed into action. Destinations have been reached, therefore, there should be no deviation from the Plan and ODFW should proceed on their prepared road map.

Thank you
John Gander

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jerry May <jerrymay0101@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:36 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Please take wolves off the endangered list. Having wolves around is a terrible burden on ranchers who have cattle and other animals. We have enough coyotes running around, and we don't need to have to worry about wolves as well.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Siera Colucci <siera.colucci@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:13 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Do NOT delist wolves. They are essential to our environment. As soon as they are delisted they are as good as dead. Wolves play an important role in our ecosystems and they are such an amazing creature. I will not let them go extinct and neither should you.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Candy Yow <yowhunter2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:26 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Support Wolf Delisting

I am a member of OHA and an strongly in support of wold delisting. The huge negative impact they have had on wildlife and livestock in other states is overwhelming. I would hate to have this same thing happen in our state, Thank you very much, Candy Yow

Candy Yow
Extreme Desire TV

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Lehnen <bclehnen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:33 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Removing Wolves as Endangered Species

Dear Commission,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the removal of wolves from the endangered species list in Oregon.

We believe many Oregonians like us welcome the wolf's return to Oregon and have been eagerly following the progress of OR-7. There are clearly many people who would take the removal of the wolf from the list as license to shoot wolves.

Further, I live in the heart of Southern Oregon ranch country and have not heard of any livestock losses in my area or complaints from ranchers.

Please do not vote to remove the wolf. We have well over 1 million cattle in Oregon. We certainly can coexist with a few hundred wolves.

Brian and Stacey Lehnen

Roxann B Borisch

From: THOMAS DIXON Owner <dix-39@centurylink.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:51 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Of Wolves

To Whom it May Concern,

Although I am not an OHA member, I do fully support delisting wolves at this time. I support this action because according to the information available to me it appears they have met the criteria previously stated in the Oregon Wolf Management Plan in order to do so. Please take this action in accordance with the original plan.

Sincerely,

Thomas S Dixon
407 Coral Circle
Phoenix, OR 97535
541 535 6550

Roxann B Borisch

From: Don Schaller <deschaller@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 11:05 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolf plan

It is time to de-list the wolf. The wolf numbers have met and exceeded the provision of the plan. When the plan was put together all parties agreed to the plan. For the conservation groups to now claim that the wolf numbers are not adequate tells me that their word means nothing. De-listing will not cause the wolf population to decrease for I can not believe that ODFW will allow the killing of wolves to exceed the birth rate of the state wide wolves. There is no reason not to de-list.

Roxann B Borisch

From: F. Biggs <bwanabubba@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 11:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW Commission Members

Thank you for reading the following words from me.

In my business I meet many people that love the thrill of the hunt. In recent times many have given up hunting because of the predators we have in abundance in the state of Oregon. This leads to less revenue for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Many places the big game is disappearing and hunters don't want to waste time on empty space.

We all know the habits of the wolf...

It is time to delist the Wolf in Oregon.

I am sure that there are more wolves than what the numbers are given to the public. Since I meet all types of people in my day job, I have had some tell me in the past they have raised wolves and have been compelled to help in letting some go. Many outdoor people have spotted them in the Santiam area and the Mt Hood area, just to mention a few other places, that weren't supposed to have any. Take the time to think about the people that generate the money to keep the ODFW running.

Thank You for your time.

Frank Biggs

Pro Staff on Xmaps HUNT
Field Staff H.H.A. Sports
Contributing Writer "Archery Talk"
Contributing Writer "MyOutdoorBuddy"
Senior Luxury RV Sales Consultant
U.S. Naval Security Group - Retired

The last frontier for Freedom is the United States of America!

Dear Director Melcher, Chairman Finley and Members of the ODFW Board,

I have written to you before in support of continuing protection of our wolves and I will continue to do so until they are assured of continued protection by this State. It is our voice that you must listen to, the residents of this state and not just the lobbyists. I am a designer/architect / mother/ and environmentalist. I work towards sustaining and protecting our natural environment, I volunteer and mentor students in learning to appreciate the diversity of our environment and how fragile it truly is.

The Grey Wolf was here before any of us were ever here, and yet today it is in a very precarious situation due to mankind's prejudices and mounting persecution against it. Your vote to remove their protection prematurely will ultimately be a death verdict for our small population. All the time, money, effort by the ODFW in developing a sustainable pack of wolves in Oregon will be lost and will be replaced with an ugly bloody immoral deficit in our wildlife conservation history.

Again, I am requesting your utmost support of continued protection of Oregon's Grey Wolf population. There is no other mammal species more controversial than the wolf. Still, after hundreds of years of persecution we are still deliberating the need and value of this one predator. Prejudice, ignorance and politics should be eliminated from this debate and only science backed facts should be considered along with the moral obligation to be mindful stewards of our diminishing wilderness. Acceptance, co-existence and continued protection along with prevention of mortal corrective measures should be our goal. The Wolf IS a necessary predator in any healthy ecosystem. The wolves of Yellowstone have proved this, - increase of healthy deer and elk herds, allows riparian zones to reestablish, allows for meadows to reestablish and increases the health of rivers and streams thru the natural act of predation- keeping prey moving to reduce habitat destruction. The wolf is your best tool for natural wildlife and habitat health and maintenance. Oregon does not have enough wolves to even consider removing their protection. The number of breeding pairs from a population of 81, is not enough for a species to recover and have a genetically diversified population in order to be sustainable in the threat of poaching, disease, accidental and human caused death as well as natural death.

Oregon lists approx. 230,000 mule deer, 25,000-30,000 bears, 5,700 cougars and only 81-100 wolves. Currently, the majority of the population is in the NE of the state and without greater protected distribution throughout, the future of the wolf is very precarious. Removing its' protection is extremely premature, wolves need time to reestablish, and ranchers need time to learn ways to coexist with wolves. We must stop the political "poisoning" of wolves, we need them, a balanced eco-system needs them, they have a right to exist and to prosper. Until their future is assured without negative encumbrances, they will need on going protection from the State and Federal Endangered Species Act. I urge you to vote for continuance of full protection of the grey wolf, we owe this to this unique and magnificent creature. The wolf is the heartbeat of the wilderness and it should be protected in ours.

Thank you for voting to protect wolves and supporting the wild in our wilderness.

Respectfully,

Wendy von Kalinowski

Roxann B Borisch

From: Damon Liles <damon@mbrady.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: FW: Please support wolf delisting

My name is Damon Liles. I am an OHA member and a lifelong Oregon resident. I urge the commission to support the delisting of Wolves in Oregon.

Wolves are now very well established throughout the state of Oregon. We have an estimated 15 packs throughout Eastern Oregon and the Southern Cascade range. Wolves will effectively continue to fill in all suitable ranges throughout Oregon.

Wolves have demonstrated high reproductive and survival rates. This year documentation shows 13 of the 16 known breeding pairs produced pups. With the numbers of packs and breeding pairs in the state, wolf populations in Oregon will continue to increase. The genetics are diverse and healthy as acknowledged by US Fish and Wildlife and the ODFW population model shows a less than 1% chance of biological extinction.

As an avid outdoorsman, I have seen firsthand what happens when wolves are left unmanaged. I spent many years in Idaho as a hunting guide and hunter, both prior to and through their wolf population explosion. Wolves devastated much of the big game hunting in Northern and Central Idaho as they were not regulated. Idaho's decision to delist wolves and actively manage the population is starting to pay off but they have a long way to go. Please do not let this happen in Oregon.

I commend ODFW for having an active Wolf Plan. We do have room for wolves in as long as they are managed. Wolf populations in Oregon have met and exceeded the criteria identified in the Oregon Wolf Management Plan. We need to follow the plan and delist wolves in Oregon.

Thank you,

Damon Liles

Roxann B Borisch

From: eddew7x7@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves

Hunters have been waiting for this delisting of wolves in Oregon for a long time. We are in the field and see the damage of the over population of wolves to our wildlife populations. Please do the right thing and delist wolves for Oregon and give all of us the satisfaction of knowing you are listening to our concerns.

Thank You

Eddy Dew

503-655-1412

13163 Wassail Ln.

Oregon City, Ore 97045

ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: Terry Wilson <twilson@compasspdx.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 7:07 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting Wolves from the Endangered Species Act

To members of the Fish & Wildlife commission:

I support de-listing wolves in Oregon from the Endangered Species Act at this time, based upon the scientific evidence and goals you've set for wolves in our state. As a life-long Oregonian, hunter and fisherman, I trust that your agency will do what is "right for the entire state in this issue", not just a small/vocal group of persons and agencies that would have you do nothing on this issue now or anytime in the future, even if now is the right time to do so.

In looking at the effect of wolves in our neighboring states to the east, when the predator/prey relationship gets out of balance, we all suffer, especially our ranchers and farmers who must "live with wolves and other predators" on a daily basis.

I urge you to follow through with delisting wolves at your November meeting.

Kindest Regards,

Terry Wilson

Terry W. Wilson, Principal
Compass Commercial Real Estate Services
7000 SW Hampton, Suite 202, Portland, OR 97223
(T) 503-431-2424 / (F) 503-431-2233 / (C) 503-481-7313
twilson@compasspdx.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Vicki K. Davis <vickiltc@centurylink.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:37 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting gray wolves

You met your "objective" in January of this year. There is no longer any reason not to delist gray wolves. We recommend you delist them asap.

We disagree with the way they were reintroduced into Oregon to begin with. The so-called experts just can't quit trying to mess around with the balance of nature. How arrogant.

Perhaps if some of these "experts" had a lovely mating pair destroying their livestock, they would think differently. Not to mention all of the taxpayer money that has been wasted on this project.

Dean & Vicki Davis
PO Box 387
Bonanza, OR 97623

Roxann B Borisch

From: Paula Hood <paula.e.hood@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:45 PM
To: roxann.b.borisch@state.or.us
Subject: Comments re: wolf hearing Nov 9th
Attachments: BMBP wolf comments 10_29_2015.pdf

Dear ODFW representative,

Attached are my comments on wolf management as they relate to the upcoming ODFW hearing on November 9th, 2015.

Thank you and have a good day.

Sincerely,
Paula Hood

Paula Hood
Co-Director, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
510 715 6238
<http://bluemountainsbiodiversityproject.org>

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gary Clement <zen-alaska@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 2:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Pro-WOLF Anti-COW

ODFW, Please do not allow these hysterical cowBOYs to decimate the wolf population as they have in the past.

Having spent much time in Yukon, Alaska, Idaho, and eastern Oregon, it is clear to me that there hate of wolfs is not rational.

Please do NOT de-list the Wolf in Oregon.

It would benefit us ALL and the EARTH to start by removing Cows and other live stock for All PUBLIC LANDS.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Annie Burnham <bananie1949@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 2:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: NE Oregon Wolf Lover Please do not de-list

Commissioners, ODFW

I have lived in North East Oregon for 14 Years. I have watched the insane controversy over the reintroduction of the wolf in Idaho and NE Oregon.

Please do not allow these few extremist to dismantle the years of hard work we have done to bring balance back to the eco-system. You know this push to de-list the wolf is political and not based on science.

Please DO Not vote to DE-LIST THE WOLF in Oregon.

Annie Burnham
Cove, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gary Lewis <garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 2:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please support wolf delisting-Lewis

To the members of the Commission:

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife web site, Oregon now has nine confirmed breeding wolf packs.

In addition, there are known packs (two or more animals) in the Catherine Creek, Chesnimnus, Desolation, Keno, south Snake River and Sled Springs areas.

At present, Oregon's wolf population is thought to number between 81 and 90 animals. All since 2009 when the first pack was established in the Wenaha Unit.

It's interesting to take a look at populations across North America. In a 2009 study, experts said there were between 60,000 and 70,000 in the United States and Canada. There are an estimated 12,000 in Alberta and British Columbia. Idaho counts 104 packs with another 23 packs that roam the borders with Montana, Washington, Oregon and Canada.

With Idaho as Oregon's source population, wolves are here to stay.

Agreed to by the parties involved in the formulation and adoption of the Wolf Plan was a key provision, a road marker, a conservation population objective that said that the Oregon ESA protections would be withdrawn when four breeding pairs have two or more pups that survive until December 31, for three consecutive years. This would allow a naturally sustaining population to exist in Oregon. This goal was reached at the end of 2014.

This is a good opportunity for the state to honor its promise to conservation groups and livestock growers as we enter Phase II of the Wolf Plan, to delist and turn effective management of the wolf to state wildlife biologists.

Please support wolf delisting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely,

Gary Lewis
Bend, Oregon
Eastern Oregon director, OHA
Author, TV host

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kim Kahl <kimkahl@dukewarner.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 3:19 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolves

I am writing asking that you do not de-list wolves. As a tax paying Oregonian born in Salem Oregon and living in Bend Oregon since 1985, I am absolutely against taking away any protections for wolves. What are you aiming to do...allow hunters and ranchers to kill off wolves just as humans did long ago? That is what hunters and ranchers want to do...I see their hateful posts on facebook about killing wolves and ending their lives in cruel and horrible ways. There is something truly wrong with those people who hate wolves so much. Wolves are incredible animals....ones humans could learn so much from...they are dedicated to their family pack and all members of that pack care for the young, hunt together to provide food for the entire pack and protect the pack from all who seek to harm its members....unlike humans who farm their children out to strangers to care for and ship their elders off to nursing homes. Humans are selfish and cruel and that cruelty translates to the kinds of hate we are seeing coming from the anti-wolf factions....it is irrational and I am praying that ODFW does not buy into that irrational way of thinking and de-list the wolves to keep those crazy people happy.

I love wolves, I have friends with wolf sanctuaries and I rescue wolfdogs....I cannot think of a more noble and important animal whose numbers should thrive and grow than the wolf. It is irrational that ranchers lose minimal numbers of cattle to wolves but to hear the uproar from them when they do have a wolf predation, you'd think they were losing them by the thousands. Conversely, those same ranchers do not say one thing about the thousands of cattle lost each year to disease, birth accidents resulting in death & starvation...all of which cattle face out on the open range...why do you buy into their irrationality?

The solution I see is to get the damn cattle off of our public lands and leave those lands to the wild things...wolves, coyote's, cougar, elk, deer, wild horses. Ranchers pay a pittance to use land that belongs to the public and the public wants those lands to be home to the wild things that belong there...not a bunch of cattle. Make ranchers be accountable for their own animals on their own land and stop causing death for the wild things who have no other options and should not be "managed" by killing them to satisfy ranchers who are using the public lands as if it were their own.

I am unable to attend the meeting in Salem or I would be there in person voicing my support of keeping wolves listed. Their lives are a struggle trying to live in a land where there are so many wolf haters out to kill them. You are the protection in between the wolves and the killers....please do not take away your protections.

Kim Kahl, P.C.
State of Oregon Licensed
Real Estate Broker
Duke Warner Realty
1033 NW Newport Ave.
Bend, OR 97701
541-480-1662 Cell
541-385-3272 Fax
<http://www.dukewarner.com/brokers/kim-kahl/>

Roxann B Borisch

From: Larry Powell <less_4@live.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 3:56 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Public Comments from the Web

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

Topic: Wolf Management Plan (approve Wolf delisting)
Name: Larry Powell
E-mail: less_4@yahoo.com

Comment: Please follow through with the plan, it is time to delist the Wolf.
Phase 2 has been reached on the East side and Phase 1 has been reached on the West.

Sincerely,
Larry Powell

Roxann B Borisch

From: Roxann B Borisch
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:59 PM
To: Russ Morgan (russ.l.morgan@state.or.us)
Cc: Ronald Anglin
Subject: FW: Comments re: wolf hearing Nov 9th
Attachments: BMBP wolf comments 10_29_2015.pdf

Russ:
Consult group?
Roxie

From: Paula Hood [mailto:paula.e.hood@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:45 PM
To: roxann.b.borisch@state.or.us
Subject: Comments re: wolf hearing Nov 9th

Dear ODFW representative,

Attached are my comments on wolf management as they relate to the upcoming ODFW hearing on November 9th, 2015.

Thank you and have a good day.

Sincerely,
Paula Hood

Paula Hood
Co-Director, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
510 715 6238
<http://bluemountainsbiodiversityproject.org>

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Wolf Delisting

From: Bonnie Christensen [<mailto:bvanatta@fmtc.com>]

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:00 PM

To: russ.l.morgan@state.or.us

Subject: Wolf Delisting

Sir, this email is to notify you of our position on the wolf delisting process. As we have watched all of the wolf issues in the past couple of years there is an increase in livestock deaths and since they are moving to livestock they have obviously taken all of the wildlife that is available. Your agency promised the cattlemen that when the requirements were met, the wolf would be delisted. This requirement has been more than met and we believe your agency needs to stand by their word and move forward. The tax paying citizens of this State should not continually be pushed aside and ignored in this controversy. The wolves were removed years ago for a reason and now we are living the consequences of that return. Those who want the wolves need to tear down their city walls and allow them to roam in their back yard-it is justly unfair to build on every square inch of the west side and expect the east side to bear the burden financially and emotionally for their dream. Thank you for all you have done, I know there is pressure on your agency from all sides. We just ask for fairness in this action. Thank you Chris and Bonnie Christensen Vale Ore

Roxann B Borisch

From: june yamrick <kokoewok@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:19 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Hello,

I cannot believe this organization would take wolves off the endangered list. To begin with the wolves are necessary for the environment as Carter Niemeyer discovered through many years working for Fish and Wildlife. The wolves main diet is vermin, not livestock. Wolves have been harassed by humans, lost territory through human population and now targeted for killing livestock.

The loss of livestock can also be due to disease, neighbor's dogs and unstable land causing the animals to fall. No one wants to account for these problems, lets just blame the wolves!

The endangered species act must protect the wolf!!!

I am a taxpayer who wants this legislation to remain. Do not send me information from Fish and Wildlife.

June Yamrick
6109 NE 57th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington 98661

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ronmabe <ronmabe@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:43 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: please support wolf delisting

I am a member of Oregon Hunters Associaton.
Please support the Oregon Wolf Plan for the delisting.
Wolves should be managed by the wildlife professionals
Like bears, cougars and all other wildlife.

Sincerely,
Ronald Mabe

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dan S. <apple@gorge.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't forget where you get your money...

As a passionate archery hunter for 60 years, 2015 Season is a BUST because of **poor ODFW management**.

You are paid to do what is best for the Fish and Game.

Paid by our fees. RIGHT?

Now your game herds are infested and plagued by over predation of Wolves and Cougar. PERIOD! Your Mule deer and Elk populations are heading south and you pay more attention to collared wolves than protecting the licensed hunter's game.

This last season in the Starkey area we "packed up" our normal hunting archery hunting and QUIT because ODFW has allowed the overpopulation of Wolves in the Limber Jim, La Grande Resivour, and Anthony Butte. 30% of the normal elk population, double the cougar and bear.

We quite and so have others. Word on the streets is that ODFW has gone soft and Political Correct Green.

Keep screwing around here and you'll crap your pants.

I would have written this sooner but did not because your Capt. Jeff Samuels is friend and hunting pal, Jon England is also.

Enough is enough, Someone needs to do what is right for ELK, Deer, and your license holders... NOT the impeded tree huggers.

You all know what is needed but hiding in the shadows has made things worse.

Thanks to you folk, I won't be able to hunt much more at 72 years old because you've allowed the predator to over feed what you want to sell me a license for.

I give you a BIG FAT "F". Don't blame the Fires, it's your biologists cooking the figures of survival rates.

These bastards are eating the shit out of our elk and deer and you are watching rome burn. Not the Forest.

Any body want to buy some archery gear? YA, payday is on Friday and your biologists continue too make poor decisions and keep their jobs come monday. Then retire with benefits?!

Dan Stair, SR

Dan and Donna Stair
Apple Valley Farm
2780 Glass Drive
Hood River, OR 97031
541-490-8214 cell-dan
490-4816 cell donna
apple@gorge.net



If it's predictable, it's preventable; and if it's preventable,
..... then it wasn't an accident.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gina Longo <hollandjerr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:18 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

I am writing to express my **EXTREME DISGUST** about the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list. It is **CLEARLY** based on politics, not science.

Way to pander to special interests and prove to the world that you're a bunch of spineless cowards!

You're afraid to do what is **RIGHT** and what is **SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN**.

SHAME ON YOU. Shame. Shame. Shame.

You should be ashamed of yourselves. Enjoy your kickbacks from the hunters -- I hope you buy yourselves a conscience.

Gina Longo
PO Box 71645
Durham, NC 27722

Roxann B Borisch

From: John Noland <johcnoland@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:37 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves Delisting

Dear Commissioners:

I believe it is too early to delist the wolf in Oregon from the endangered species list and the protections thereof. There are less than one hundred wolves in this state, a number that could easily dwindle to many fewer or none at all if disease or overhunting, or unforeseen circumstances, were to occur. Or a combination of these possibilities could happen and jeopardize the wolves' existence in Oregon. I believe that wolves are vital to our heritage as a pioneer state in which Oregonians take pride. The opportunity to see wild wolves gives people incentive to travel to different parts of the state than they might otherwise visit and to identify themselves as from a state where the Wild still roams free. This identification makes Oregon special and serves as a binding agent for people from all walks of life. The possibility of encountering wild wolves in their native habitat will also bring wildlife lovers from other states.

Wolves are also valuable assets in creating a healthy ecological balance which benefits both the wolves themselves as well as their prey and other wild creatures affected by them. Wildlife promises to be more and more important to the economic well-being of states that retain their wild animals as the world becomes more and more dominated by humans and fewer and fewer places harboring wildlife exist. To have wild wolves will benefit Oregon as one of the prime places for people who wish to see live animals rather than dead trophies more and more in the future. Failure to protect these creatures is short-sighted and uncalled for. Please protect the wolves.

Thank you,

John Noland

Roxann B Borisch

From: michael smith <mssq@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Protecting wolves

Dear Sir:

I oppose the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list.

The wolves are under enough pressure from illegal hunting. There are few in Oregon, and we can compensate ranchers for their losses, provided of course that the losses occurred on private, and not public, land. It is my land, too.

Sincerely yours,
Michael S. Smith

Roxann B Borisch

From: Courtney Rae <courtney@bark-out.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 6:06 PM
To: 'odfw.commission@state.or.us'
Subject: Official comments on the Recommendation to Delist Gray Wolves in Oregon
Attachments: Bark Wolf Delisting Comments 11 30 15.docx

Dear Commission,

I thank you for your close reading of these concerns and requests on behalf of our membership.

Also, please note that according to the press release sent out yesterday, written comments may be submitted through 5pm on Nov. 6, 2015. Our supporters will be submitting their own individual comments over the next several days, and will be present at the hearing. I hope you will take the necessary time to review these forthcoming statements and all of the comments submitted by the public at large.

Bark staff and volunteers along with dozens of other organizations dedicate our work to educating and empowering the public to strengthen our communities, safeguard our quality of life, and see the health of our environment bettered by our actions. This work means nothing if it falls on deaf ears. I both recognize and respect your responsibility to do uphold the public trust.

Regards,
Courtney Rae



Bark
P.O. Box 12065
Portland, OR 97212
bark-out.org
503.331.0374

October 30, 2015

RE: Consideration to delist the Gray Wolf from Oregon Endangered Species Protection

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our following comments. Bark's mission is to bring about a transformation of public lands on and around Mt. Hood National Forest into a place where natural processes prevail, where wildlife thrives and where local communities have a social, cultural, and economic investment in its restoration and preservation. Bark has over 25,000 supporters who value sensible, conservation-oriented, science-based stewardship of public lands and the wildlife that inhabit them. We submit these comments on behalf of our supporters.

Bark objects to the state Fish and Wildlife Commission's recommendation (Oct. 29, 2015) to revoke protections for Gray Wolves under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. This would demonstrate a predilection on the part of ODFW to dictate management that is unsubstantiated by the scientific community, conservation advocates, or public pressure. We request that ODFW 1.) Delay the ruling on delisting until a proper peer review of the Updated Biological Status Review of the Gray Wolf is complete and a response to such a review has been published publicly. 2.) Reevaluate the findings of the Status Review to assess in detail the implications of the upcoming revisions to the Wolf Conservation Management Plan. 3.) Define and make public long-term population goals (individual and breeding pair) by management zone. 4.) Reevaluate the findings of the Status Review to assess in detail the implications of pending forest management plan revisions (NW Forest Plan and individual National Forest Management Plans) on potential range and suitable habitat. 5.) Reevaluate the findings of the Status review to assess in detail the long-term implications of increased human populations both in terms of direct physical interactions and in terms of increased utilization of forested areas for drinking water, recreation, and infrastructure.

Objections to ODFW findings on Criteria 1:

This criteria addresses the potential risk of extinction throughout the species range. Wolves are absent from 87.6% of their potential range state-wide, occupying only 3% of their range in the Western Management Zone (WMZ). It is not logically possible for this criteria to be satisfied.

ODFW's claims that Criteria 1 is met are based on future events, not current realities. The assertions: that wolves will "eventually become established in the WMZ", that there are no known conditions to prevent wolves from expanding throughout their range, and that previous dispersal shows that individual wolves from eastern Oregon have so far made it to the western part of the state; all depend on the survival of the population in the EMZ. Delisting wolves in the Eastern Management Zone would threaten the heart of the population, exposing them to greater human caused mortality in the region where that threat is the strongest.

The OESA delisting coincides with implementing Phase III of the Wolf Management Plan. This phase of management allows for active population control - yet clear population goals are not defined by region, state-wide, or based on population density, hence the implications on population of Phase III management are not understood, nor made public. Going forward with delisting and thereby triggering Phase III in a public rule-making process without clear, scientifically sound population goals is irresponsible.

There is little evidence to suggest that the original conservation goal (meant to bring the population above the threat of extinction) of only 4 breeding pairs for 3 consecutive years is a viable standard for species recovery. The minimum conservation goals that Criteria 1 is based on are scientifically indefensible.

Objections to findings on Criteria 2:

This criteria was found to be satisfied using a population viability analysis to assess the risk of population failure in Oregon. ODFW finds that the species' natural reproductive potential is not in danger of failure. This criteria, like all the others, is based on a conservation objective of four breeding pairs over three consecutive years, an inadequate minimum conservation goal that reveals the agency's directive is not full recovery of the species to their natural presence in the landscape but to achieve a minimum as required by self-set regulations and maintain the authority to manage the population according to human tolerance largely dictated by political motives.

-None of the models, simulations, or assessments of this criteria have been subjected to a lawfully required peer-review.

Objections to findings on Criteria 3:

ODFW finds that "Wolves are expanding in their range in Oregon and therefore cannot be undergoing active deterioration of range". This finding is particularly problematic because it asserts that because Oregon wolves are dispersing into their potential range, the availability of suitable habitat is somehow guaranteed. That wolves will expand their territory does not imply that there is no deterioration to range and habitat occurring. Circular logic does not imply truth.

ODFW asserts that there is a "strong relationship between persistence of wolf populations and forested cover," and that a large portion of Oregon's public land is managed as forested habitat. Asserting this as evidence that range and primary habitat is abundantly available is myopic and unjustified. In fact, 60% of Oregon's

forested lands are National Forests, managed by the Department of Agriculture with commercial timber taking priority, not habitat conservation. State and private forests (the other 40% of Oregon's forests) are often treated with pesticides, have weaker logging restrictions, and are not subject to the protections for water and wildlife laid out in the Northwest Forest Plan. It is incredibly misleading to assert to the public that because there are forests, these forests are by definition suitable, safe, and abundant.

ODFW claims that they "are not aware of any planned or imminent changes in laws or policies affecting Oregon's forest management on a broad scale." Right now Bark and many other environmental groups are engaging with management plan revisions to the Northwest Forest Plan (and all National Forests in the country are revising individual management plans as well) which will have certainly have significant impacts on forests throughout OR, WA, and CA. Yet, ODFW claims they do not know this is happening. There are two bills (HR 2647 and S 1681) currently being reviewed in the federal Congress that would direct the Dept. of Agriculture to specifically mandate increased logging on National Forests across the country. Yet, ODFW boldly asserts no such changes are imminent.

Objections to findings on Criteria 4:

ODFW recognizes that the human population of Oregon is projected to increase by about a million over the next 15 years. They assert that this new population will settle in the Willamette Valley and have little effect on the availability of wolf habitat. However, Bend in central Oregon is the fastest growing city in the state and data shows that it is Oregon's eco-tourism, outdoor recreation and rural areas that are drawing people to the state. ODFW fails to prove that the population increase will be focused in the Willamette Valley and neglects to address the fact that the population increase will undoubtedly put increased pressure on forested areas for drinking water, forest products, and increased recreation use.

Objections to Criteria 5:

This criteria cannot be met because main protections for the species are imbedded in the OESA listing. Considering the Wolf Conservation Management Plan is going into revision and the agency has a clear leaning toward lessening protections and moving toward population limits and control rather than recovery, it cannot be asserted that the remaining protections (the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan) will be adequate to ensure recovery without the OESA listing. The Status Review findings only assume that protections will be adequate. Without knowing what the revised Wolf Conservation Management Plan will require, it is irresponsible to claim the OESA listing unnecessary. Noting the Federal ESA in effect in the WMZ as adequate is unfounded, since this in no way protects the vast majority of wolves in the state.

Thank you,

Courtney Romine-Mann
Community Organizer

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael McLaughlin <briseboy@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 6:43 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please avoid precipitate and unscientific delisting of *Canis lupus* in Oregon

It appears that ODFW may have failed to understand the need to continue protection of *Canis lupus*, even though the species remains at extremely low levels in relation to dispersal capacity. We know that the larger reservoir occurs in Idaho, and that reservoir is severely suppressed by that state's unscientific management policies - I have previously mentioned that the open 10 month killing season in ID holds the population there to a level at which slow trend to homozygosity will occur. While this is not yet supported in the literature, such an experiment is unethical, and WILL reduce back-dispersal and gene flow in addition to chaotically/stochastically selecting survivors - who thus may not retain valuable adaptive traits in nature.

Oregon DFW must NOT plan to hold the population on this side of the Snake and Columbia to such extreme low levels, but will hopefully understand that Oregon will need to avoid politically-generated mismanagement, and prevention of the wolf from repopulating historical habitat in neighboring states.

This last reason touches upon the effort by wildlife/wildlands advocates to prevent Oregon delisting as "endangered", and I sincerely hope that the Commission has taken cognizance of the mean population levels required to avoid extinction. Once again, the metapopulation and local populations and connectivity between those populations, must rise to near OR carrying capacity in order to prevent a fall toward inbreeding and extinction in the Northwestern states.

Prey will, again, determine that capacity, and overmanagement will prevent the proper restoration of a resilient suite of predators in the face of anticipated and real climate change.

Direct proximal reason to reject ODFW staff recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list include this need to retain as completely as possible the NE Oregon wolves as fertile source for Cascades and coastal areas, as well as California recovery. The wolves do not know political boundaries and are subject to the natural boundaries of ungulate preferred habitat.

Insufficient caution in approaching recovery is a clear hallmark of corruption by emotional response by those most involved in ecosystem exploitation. Reference to a large number of carnivore and wildlife biologists, and a summation or preferably a consensus of unbiased opinion will be the better course.

There are in reality such a tiny number of wolves extant in Oregon, that the best perceivable course is clearly to conduct an experiment in opposition to the previous corrupt policies occurring in the other Northern Rockies DPS states (and the precipitate state persecution - it can be termed in no other way - by Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as the obstruction occurring in the states where *C. l. baileyi*, the Mexican wolf, reintroduction and recovery are being attempted.

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.

Dr. Carlos Carroll who has developed strong models of population viability, has, when invited to assess the ODFW plan, clearly stated that the population is far too tiny to consider removal from full protection.

Please seriously evaluate the validity of the ODFW study, and obtain a broad array of expert mammalogist opinion before determination of removal from OR ES listing.

Thank you,

Michael McLaughlin
PO Box 3286
Eureka, CA 95502

Roxann B Borisch

From: Melissa Dunn <halfabuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 7:36 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: delisting the wolf

I agree that time is nearing to delist the wolf from the endangered species list however, I think it should come with some conditions.

1. That our public lands be returned to the public and any private use be strictly forbidden. The damage that the livestock industry has done to our (MY) public lands is unforgivable and we need to spend a few lifetimes fixing the streams, getting rid of invasive weeds, and returning the streams to the riparian states of 200 years ago.
2. That no wolf hunting be allowed in wilderness areas, U S Forest Service lands, or BLM properties. Any wolf hunting would be only on private lands owned by individuals or corporations not the US Government.
3. Any person found to have killed a wolf illegally be asked (required) to donate time, money and energy to the wolf rescue group in Washington State or to the U S Humane Society. Say 6 months to a year.

Thanks Melissa Dunn Irrigon OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brenda Kameenui <my240house@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 8:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list.

What a shame this is, and what a mistaken omission of science. What about the 5-year review of the wolf plan? What about biologists' findings that delisting is premature? What is the pressure causing ODFW to recommend delisting?

I urge the Commission to instruct ODFW to pursue an independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those findings into an updated recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely yours,
Brenda Kame'enui

Brenda Kameenui
4003 Dillard Rd.
Dillard Rd.
Eugene, OR 97405

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jim Steitz <jimsteitz@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves Are Not Yet Recovered in Oregon

ODFW must not strip Endangered Species Act protection from the Gray Wolf, in defiance of the plain biological fact that the wolves still occupy only a tiny fraction of their historic range, and landscapes are suffering an ecological deficit in the absence of this key top predator. Delisting the Wolf leaves these precious animals open to slaughter that our fragile population cannot sustain. This action would also violate the the moral responsibility of ODFW to respect the best available science when making policy decisions. The notion that the Gray Wolves are sufficiently recovered to be left to the cruel vicissitudes of hunting and habitat invasion by humans is plain fantasy. We must uphold state protections for the Gray Wolf and its habitat, welcoming them to their rightful ancestral home to which humans are recent immigrants.

I am writing to express my strong opposition 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.

I urge the Commission to instruct ODFW to pursue an independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those findings into an updated recommendation. Any vote on whether wolves should be removed from the state endangered species list should be postponed until such a update is concluded. If the agency is basing its delisting recommendation on political pressure rather than sound, peer reviewed science, it undermines the legitimacy of the agency and its wildlife management decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Jim Steitz
357 Vista Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Roxann B Borisch

From: Bob Brister <bbrister@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 12:04 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: no persecution of wolves

I strongly oppose the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommendation to remove gray wolves from the state endangered species list. It looks like a done deal based on politics, not science.

More wolves, less politics, please.

Bob Brister
1102 South 800 East Apt A
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Roxann B Borisch

From: Robert Danko <bd@hoodriverelectric.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 3:01 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't Change Wolf Status

I understand you plan to drop the endangered species protection of wolves even though the wolf numbers are less than 100 and wolves have yet to again establish in the Northern Cascades. I am sure you are being pressured from ranchers and hunters, but you should listen to everyone in the state. It is never a good thing when decisions are made from politics instead of science.

And why are you acting so fast. There isn't that much damage occurring as wolves slowly increase their population. I understand many biologists think it is too early to change the wolf status. It seems you should postpone any action on the status until there's consensus on the science involved and you have taken the time to hear from all citizens, not just ranchers and hunters. Wolves are important to all of us.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Bob Danko
8455 Hwy 35
Parkdale, OR 97041

Robert Danko
8455 HWY 35
Parkdale, OR 97041

Roxann B Borisch

From: Linda Harsin <northforksavage@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 4:55 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting endangered species

Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear Sirs:

I am opposed to wolves being removed from the endangered species list. My sister and I jointly own a home alongside Camas Creek, just North of the North Fork of the John Day River in Umatilla County. If existing programs were sufficient to protect wolves, they wouldn't have had to be on the endangered species list to begin with. While I have some sympathy for concerns of ranchers for safety of their stock I believe it would be a tragedy to allow the population of wolves to diminish any further. I personally agree they can be very scary. They are also beautiful and amazing animals that belong in wilderness areas and national forests. Also, I am not sure that it has been verified that the 81 known members of the wolf population have really made a significant negative impact on livestock population. Although their numbers have slightly increased in eastern Oregon, they need more time to become more established in the areas of Oregon they exist and to extend into other areas of suitable range.

Hundreds of years of fear and primitive encounters have led to people living and working in rural communities fear and superstition of wolves. They are vulnerable to a wide variety of possible problems and only four breeding pairs of wolves is insufficient to ensure they will continue to survive and grow in numbers and expand into other areas. I have heard people complain that any of them exist in the area at all and fear for their safety, especially if the little protection they have is removed. I urge you to review and consider what verifiable independent scientific opinion supports that wolves are not still in danger of extinction and decide against delisting wolves from the endangered species list.

Thank you,

Linda Harsin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Charlotte Behm <behmc@lanecc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 9:43 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

What are you thinking? We only have 81 wolves, and they need protection.

Please do your job to protect our wildlife.
Charlotte Behm 731 Poltava St
Springfield OR 97477

Charlotte Behm
731 Poltuvast
Springfield, OR 97477

Roxann B Borisch

From: Shawn Smithley <xenatoo61@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 11:07 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: De-listing Wolves???

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. And I'd write it 80 times, once for every wolf we MAY still have in the state with the Soda Springs couple now dead of suspicious causes and OR-22 shot dead, if I had the time.

This is one of the most ludicrous things I could possibly think of. What, we gave them a whole 7-10 years of protection and they reached that "overpopulation" amount of 80? I would think even an uneducated person could see that 80 wolves, and an undetermined amount of unskilled, uneducated hunters will have that population of 80 wolves down to 0 (zero) in no time. 80 +/- does not, in any way, sound like a number of animals, that could be DE-LISTED to take off the ENDANGERED LIST. This is not a number that is "at low risk of extinction"!!!! Look up the word endangered again people. Maybe if you look hard enough you'll see our Oregon Wolves pictured there.

Don't do it!!!!

Shawn Mileham

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mary Allardt <bizymary@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 11:39 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

I am strongly opposed removing gray wolves from the state endangered species list. Wolves should be an important part of ecological balance. They are just beginning to spread from the NE corner of Oregon. I believe it would be disruptive to redeveloping the balance with deer and elk and other species in our state others to remove them from their protected status. Studying their spread into new areas and the impact that has on wild life will be a great contribution to our understanding of our wild heritage and environment.

PLEASE LEAVE GRAY WOLVES ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST!

Mary Allardt

Mary Allardt
25147 Coon Rd
Monroe, OR 97456

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: delisting decision

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

From: Lee Insko [mailto:leeinsko@hughes.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 9:34 PM
To: russ.l.morgan@state.or.us
Subject: delisting decision

Russ,

The next meeting gives the commission the opportunity to act according to the work accomplished by the State ;and all of the northeast Oregon rural community to move the wolf delisting to the next phase. Everyone who has followed the pattretn of the actions of the so-called conservations organizations knows whenever a positive del;listing decision is made that those organizations will go to courts, so why not make that sooner then later. The cost of the wolf program to the State has been high and will get higher if the commission continues to attempt to placate those organizations. The recent comments by Oregon wild that the informations has not been peer reviewed is classic. IPeer review is for the science involved, the actual gathering of data, etc. for your reports. I would urge those of your who have worked so hard to do a good job to push with all of your available resources for the movement of the plan to the next step in the process.

Thanks for your consideration of this requestl.

Lee Insko
76984 Palmer Junction Road
Elgin, Oregon 907827

Roxann B Borisch

From: JOHN M KAREN R BARNUM <johnmkarenr@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 12:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting wolves

To who it may concern,

I am 65 years old and 4th generation Oregon farmer and rancher. I have hunted and fur trapped all of my adult life. I am a member of many wildlife organizations.

There is no dispute on the damage that predators like coyotes have on deer, antelope and livestock. When large predators like Cougars and wolves are not controlled and even protected, it has a huge effect on the entire wildlife ecosystem. Results are a loss of valuable wildlife for human consumption and sport as well as the loss of the monetary value to the state. These large predators can multiply very fast if not controlled early on. If not controlled and allowed to establish large numbers, the visions and goals of the Game Commission and Oregon sportsmen will be lost or at best deluded.

I am very much in favor of the delisting of wolves in Oregon with aggressive measures to keep the numbers small.

Thank you for your consideration

John BARNUM
19700 J.W. Brown Rd.
Bend, Oregon 97703
Sent from my iPad

Roxann B Borisch

From: Lester and Judy Hoyle <jalh2@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 1:22 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

We are SHOCKED and OUTRAGED that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommended removing gray wolves from the state endangered species list.

This recommendation was obviously a forgone conclusion made PRIOR to receiving 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 the deadline to receive it, the agency announced its recommendation to delist gray wolves.

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.

The Commission MUST instruct ODFW to HONESTLY pursue independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those ACTUAL findings into an updated recommendation. Failing this, the agency should be dissolved, since it is clearly not performing in a legitimate manner.

Any vote on whether wolves should be removed from the state endangered species list should be postponed.

ODFW is basing its delisting recommendation on political pressure rather than sound, peer reviewed science, so what is the point of paying these PUBLIC EMPLOYEES? Obviously, there is no need for such an agency, since it is not doing the job taxpayers are spending good money to support.

ODFW is clearly operating in an illegitimate manner and should be dissolved. Science-based wildlife management decisions should be made by another state or federal agency, since ODFW is clearly incapable of doing so.

Lester and Judy Hoyle
765 Mesa Verde Dr.
765 Mesa Verde Dr.
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dale <dstutevoss@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 1:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Delist Wolves in Oregon
Attachments: Desolation Wolf.png

Hello, I'm in favor of delisting wolves in Oregon. The population of wolves has exceeded the number in the wolf plan and their populations need to be kept in check. I believe their numbers are higher than surveys indicate. During this last hunting season we were hearing wolves howling near our camp. We even captured a picture of one on a trailcam.

Please Delist Wolves

Thank You
Dale Stutevoss

Member of Oregon Hunter Asso.



Roxann B Borisch

From: Willie Wanker <Willie@kmlcorp.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 1:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wolves

Commissioner

Please take note to the fact the Wolves are killers and don't consume their kill!
Many ranchers lose their cattle and sheep, let alone the deer and elk they take down!
They multiply 3 to 6 in an average litter and roam to kill wild life and livestock!
Please initiate tags and hunts to reduce the packs!

Thanks You!

Willie Wanker

Phone: 253.475.7541

Fax: 253.475.7517

Willie@kmlcorp.com



Roxann B Borisch

From: richardmasters35@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 1:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Sent from Windows Mail

please support wolf delisting. as a oha member the ojective has been reached and more . please let the fish and wildlife control there numbers now .

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tim Sowa <tmsowa@molalla.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 2:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT WOLF DELISTING

Now that the criteria have been met and surpassed, please delist the wolf. I urge you to maintain the trust that ranchers and hunters have placed in you and follow the Wolf Plan.

Thank you,

Tim Sowa
Oregon Hunters Association Life Member

Msg sent via MCC Webmail - <http://www.molalla.net/>

Roxann B Borisch

From: Clay Cockrill <c.cockrill1121@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 4:09 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Re: Thank you for your comments

The state of Washington, both conservation and ranching communities, has shown remarkable cooperation and initiative in working together to ease the transition to a time when, once again, wolves are a part of the landscape. Why wouldn't Oregon do the same? Wolves can and should be allowed to repopulate their historic range; the modern goal of conservation is less to protect individual species and more to preserve whole ecosystems. These goals are not incompatible with agricultural interests. In fact, in the face of post-industrial population expansion (worldwide), combining forces with conservationists to preserve rangeland makes imminent sense for the livestock producer. And stubbornly refusing to accept this conservation movement is not going to cause it to disappear. Embracing it and combining interests with it, where compatible, and working to solve conflicts where there is incompatibility is the way to go. All of the problems between wolves and livestock can at least be mitigated if not solved. It simply requires a willingness to work with one another.

On 10/31/15, 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: Janet Moore <arrowstraighterthan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 3:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

I am writing to express my **STRONG** opposition to the ODRW staff recommendation to remove the fragile population of 81 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.

I urge the Commission to instruct ODFW to pursue an independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those findings into an updated recommendation. Any vote on whether wolves should be removed from the state endangered species list should be postponed until such an update is concluded. If the agency is basing its delisting recommendation on political pressure rather than sound, peer reviewed science, it undermines the legitimacy of the agency and its wildlife management decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Janet Moore
2031 Maine Ave.
North Bend, OR 97459

Roxann B Borisch

From: Julia Walz <julwalz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 7:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: please keep wolves protected

Dear Chair Finley,

Please do not remove wolves from the state endangered species list. Please keep wolves protected so they can fully recover in our state.

Thank you,
Julia Walz
Portland, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: A-Kareni <piepup@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 8:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: wolves

It is way too soon to delist wolves from their protected status listing. Scientific studies show that a healthy wolf population benefits the whole of the ecosystem.

Karen Irmscher

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle MacKenzie <michellehmackenzie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 7:08 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Decision to Delist Wolves Should Be Based on Science, Not Politics

I write because I strongly oppose the recommendation by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff 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.

I urge the Commission to instruct ODFW to pursue an independent and meaningful scientific review of its report, and incorporate those findings into an updated recommendation. Any vote on whether wolves should be removed from the state endangered species list should be postponed until such an update is concluded. If the agency is basing its delisting recommendation on political pressure rather than sound, peer reviewed science, it undermines the legitimacy of the agency and its wildlife management decisions.

Oregon used to lead the way with regard to coexistence with wolves. With this, Oregon is just like Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. For shame!

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Michelle MacKenzie
2607 Graceland Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Hough <tommy@tommyhough.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 1:48 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Thank You (Wolves)

Dear ODFW Commission and Gov. Brown,

Like most Oregonians, I care deeply about wolves and other native wildlife, and support ODFW's mission to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats."

I am writing to commend your recent decision not to kill wolves of the Mt. Emily Pack and your efforts to prevent conflict through non-lethal measures.

I am also writing to encourage you to maintain important protections for wolves and carry forward parts of the wolf plan that have recently led to a reduction in conflict, provided clarity and transparency, and support defensible decisions like this.

The rules under which the state has been operating since the landmark 2013 settlement have made Oregon a model for the rest of the country in balancing conservation with legitimate concerns.

Thank you for keeping it that way.

Best,

Thomas Hough
5937 N. Greeley Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

Roxann B Borisch

From: Deborah Burckhardt <ethoethien@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 10:22 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Thank You (Wolves)

Dear ODFW Commission & Governor Brown,

Like most Oregonians, I care deeply about wolves and other native wildlife. I support ODFW's mission to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats". I am writing to commend your recent decision not to kill wolves of the Mt. Emily Pack and your efforts to prevent conflict through non-lethal measures.

I am also writing to encourage you to maintain important protections for wolves and carry forward parts of the wolf plan that have recently led to a reduction in conflict, provided clarity and transparency, and support defensible decisions like this. The rules under which the state has been operating since a landmark settlement in 2013 have made Oregon a model for the rest of the country in balancing conservation with legitimate concerns.

Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Deborah Burckhardt
Third St
San Rafael, CA 94901

Roxann B Borisch

From: Louise Shimmel <Burwell@efn.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 8:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Delisting of wolves

Please do not remove current protections from our fledgling population of wolves. The ecosystem NEEDS apex predators to keep that intricate balance that defines a healthy system. Trophy hunting, especially of predators, should be banned, as it upsets that balance – their population is perfectly self-regulating if humans leave them alone. They do only good for the environment as a whole. Humans are the ones who get the system out of whack and then they try to blame it on some wildlife species rather than on their own actions.

Please listen to all your constituents, not just to ranchers who make a living on public land, while paying a pittance, and complain about having to protect their livestock, or to hunters who think it would be macho to kill a wolf. Please. Let the top predators have their place in Oregon and help maintain our state as an example of enlightened conservation. Thank you.

Louise Shimmel
Eugene OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: Joan Milford <joanmilford@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 8:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Protect Oregon Wolves Under Endangered Species Act

Dear sir,

I support continued protections for wolves in Oregon. Oregon is a model for other states in ensuring wolf recovery while reducing unnecessary conflict. Wolves are beginning to retake their rightful place in the wilds of Oregon, but with only 77 wolves in the state, it is far too early to strip them of needed state Endangered Species Act protections. Oregon's wolves are a long way from a meaningful recovery, and continued misinformation and fear, not sound science, are driving delisting efforts. Please consider the latest peer-reviewed science on wolves and livestock depredation, which shows that indiscriminately killing wolves leads to greater, not lesser levels of depredation (Wielgus et al., Effects of Wolf Mortality on Livestock Depredation, Dec. 2014).

I urge you to follow the science, follow the law, and honor Oregon's conservation values by maintaining state Endangered Species Act protections for wolves. When wolves are restored to landscapes, the benefit of their return triggers a trophic cascade, an ecological phenomenon by which the return of an apex carnivore brings benefits that, like a waterfall, cascade through an ecosystem. The return of wolves to Yellowstone triggered a trophic cascade that positively impacted species across the web of life, from grizzly bears to beavers to fish and songbirds. We know from the Yellowstone experience that landscapes with wolves are healthier and more full of life, but it takes an ecologically effective population to trigger those benefits.

Please do not abandon your important role in ensuring this key species fully recovers for the wolves, for the vast majority of people who support wolf recovery, and for the many other species that benefit from the return of wolves.

Joan Milford

Roxann B Borisch

From: William Deutschman <olcbill@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 9:22 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Sound, Peer Reviewed Science Should Inform Wolf Decisions

Dear Sirs:

I am concerned that removing Oregon Wolves from their current protected status is becoming an emotional/political decision rather than one that is guided by sound scientific principles.

I believe that eighty one wolves is far too few for the size of the forest area in Oregon. They should be allowed to continue to grow in number.

Farmers and ranchers should learn to share the public lands that they use with the wolves and other Oregon wildlife.

William A. Deutschman, PhD
olcbill@hotmail.com
455 Hillside Avenue
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

William Deutschman
455 Hillside Avenue
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Roxann B Borisch

From: Terri Denton <walther2312@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 11:10 AM
To: ODFW Commission; michelle.n.dennehy@state.or.us; odfw.info@state.or.us;
odfw.comments@state.or.us
Cc: Terri Denton
Subject: Continue delisting process on wolves - protect Oregon

Dear Administrators and Commissioners of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

RE: Delisting of the wolves in Oregon & Wolf Management Conservation Plan

The recovery plan has been successful and now the ODFW must manage the depredation related issues, the wildlife and large game population numbers that are beginning to show decreases due to continued increase of the wolf population.

The depredation plan is precise, three confirmed strikes lethal actions are to be taken. ODFW must follow the plan to regain trust within the public, continue the delisting process and consideration for entire state.

Thank you.

Terri Denton
walther2312@hotmail.com
Heppner, Or 97836