

June 4, 2018

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

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Just imagine going to go check your cows during calving season, you are already sleep deprived and when you get there you see one of your precious calves ripped into pieces. Then you see the wolf blood stained lips and you know its him. All you can do is try to scare him away. When you come back in the morning you notice many calves are missing. Wolves are tough on cattle production, I know if this was the case in my family we would be at great loss. Every calf counts. This is why wolves do not belong in Eastern Oregon.

As the members of the commission you need to recognize the effects that wolves have on ranches in Eastern Oregon. In the book *The Real Wolf* by Ted B. Lyon and Will N. Graves it states "In Wisconsin in 2010, wolves attacked livestock on 47 farms, 15 more than the previous high, killing 69 animals." This shows that wolves are a continuous problem. The loss of one calf is about \$700, and cows almost twice that. The loss of a cow or calf is hard for a rancher in the long run because they can produce more than just the \$700. A cow can produce up to about 12 calves in its lifetime. Also in the book it says, "Wolves killed 24 dogs, and injured 14 more, the most ever." When wolves are getting close enough to kill pets they could just as easily get a child or human. Many people are very attached to their pets and even more so their children. By changing the wolf laws, livestock and pets would be safer.

Your mission states that you are responsible for regulating harvest, health, and enhancement of wildlife populations. Also in the book it says, "It showed that, in 1995 when wolves were first introduced into Yellowstone National Park, The elk herd numbered more than 19,000 animals. The count in 2009 was just a little over 6,000 elk." The elk are a big part of the environment. You're probably thinking well this is in Yellowstone, but we don't want this same thing to happen in Eastern Oregon. Another instance from the book is, "Originally there were 43 bull elk in the herd. The wolves killed 36 of the bulls as winter turned into spring and left them uneaten." It's a different story if the wolves would have eaten the elk. If you have kids you want them to finish their dinner if they dont they are wasting. Just like your kids sometimes waste, wolves do it too but a lot more often. With restrictions on where the wolves can be you would help the environment and the wildlife.

I am worried if we don't do something about the wolves soon a human will get hurt or killed. As I read through the book I came across a horrific story about an 8-year-old boy who was mauled to death by wolves. The two wolves caught hold of the boy and dragged him into a field where they tore him apart. It is incidents like this that really get to us and make us realize how horrible the wolf is. I would hate for this to happen to any kid, and I hope you would too. So by changing the wolf laws and getting rid of wolves in Eastern Oregon we decrease the chance of a human getting injured by wolves.

On the other hand, conservationists say the wolves should be in Eastern Oregon. I understand this point of view because wolves were once common in Oregon. However, just because they are native to the area doesn't mean they are helpful to the area. In fact the wolves introduced weren't native to our area they are larger wolves. They are not helpful because they cut down the wildlife growth, they attack livestock and pets, and they are dangerous to humans.

No farmer or rancher wants to wake up to their cow or calf dead. Wolves are a danger to livestock, pets, wildlife, and humans. You need to listen to the farmers and ranchers of Eastern Oregon and adopt policies to remove wolves.

Sincerely,



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