

Union County Cattlemen
61931 Cottonwood Rd.
La Grande, OR 97850

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
RE: HB 4158

Committee Members:

On behalf of the Union County Cattlemen's Association we support the House Bill 4158-6 which makes clear in law that which already exists in the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and its accompanying administrative rules: That the Department of Fish and Wildlife and its Commission may direct the taking of wolves under certain circumstances.

Stockmen have mastered the art and science of good stewardship of their land and animals; but because of environmentalist's litigation and agencies interpretation of laws like those generated under the guise of protecting threatened and endangered species, our rights to practice our skill has been taken away causing chaos, dread and economic loss.

The wolf advocates have yet to learn that to preserve nature, management is required, and management means taking out the bad actors selectively and reducing wolf populations before they put too much pressure on other wildlife populations in areas they choose to occupy. One lesson learned in Yellowstone is that "natural management" is a failure because it leaves people out of the equation. Our observation is people are a permanent fixture in the environment.

Union County Cattlemen believe it is our constitutional right and our moral obligation to protect our property and humanely husband our livestock which obviously excludes allowing wolves to wantonly kill, grievously injure, chase and terrify them.

We urge your swift and positive action on this bill.

Union County Cattlemen

Dennis Merchison, President
Pat Larson, Secretary
Sharon Beck, County Wolf Committee Representative