

February 9, 2012

Oregon House of Representatives  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court Street NE, Room 347  
Salem, Oregon 97301



A COMPREHENSIVE  
MOUNTAINEERING ORGANIZATION  
SINCE 1894

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Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Mazamas is a 3,000 member hiking and climbing organization located in Portland, Oregon.

We oppose HB 4158 - Killing endangered wolves to protect livestock and we urge you to oppose this bill.

While Oregon's Wolf Management Plan allows the state to kill wolves involved in 'chronic' livestock depredation, many have argued that the state and ranchers are not taking significant enough non-lethal measures to prevent wolf/livestock conflicts before resorting to lethal control of Oregon's endangered wolf population.

There are currently fewer than 30 wolves in Oregon.

In the fall of 2011, a judge blocked a state kill order targeting two wolves in northeast Oregon's Imnaha pack, including the pack's 'alpha' male, which would result in functional elimination of the first wolf pack to begin breeding in Oregon in more than six decades. One of the Imnaha pack's offspring (OR-7, also known as 'Journey') has captured international attention as it has been tracked wandering through the open areas of eastern Oregon and northern California. There is some speculation in the minds of many whether HB 4158 is intended to overturn this ruling.

Mazamas believes wildlife have a valid place in our ecosystem and wolves should be a vital part of the wild places of the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely

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