

My name is Janet Conklin. I am a native Oregonian. I was raised and educated in the Pacific Northwest. I grew up in an outdoor family camping in the Cascades, the Wallowas and Central Oregon. I love, value and cherish the wilderness and other beautiful areas of our state, including its wild inhabitants.

I am here in opposition to this bill and to ask you to protect the very small population of wolves that have only recently found their way back to Oregon after having been completely exterminated here three generations ago.

I want wolves in Oregon. I want Oregonians to be better now than they were 65 years ago when the last Oregon wolf was killed. I am one of those Oregonians who place a high value on careful stewardship of our wild, natural species that inhabit our state. I believe this ethic is a value that most Oregonians share and support. The continued protection of the Imnaha pack and the few wolves living within our borders is compelled by that ethic.

The fact is.... that wolves pose an extremely small threat to either people or livestock in relation to other threats that both are subject to every day of their lives.

There are other people here who have more in-depth statistical and economic data than I do bearing on this question.

What I know is that there are an estimated 1,300,000 cattle in Oregon and fewer than 30 wolves. I don't know the population of domestic sheep, but it must be in the hundreds of thousands.

The number of livestock lost to wolves is a miniscule percentage of the total livestock population, and even a miniscule percentage of deaths from all causes.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service has reported from a 2005 study that in all of the lower 48 states, the most significant causes of cattle death are overwhelmingly from health issues such as respiratory and digestive problems, disease and calving, followed by weather related issues. After that the significant causes of death are from domestic dogs, theft, and other predators such as cougars, bears, and even vultures. In fact in the lower 48 states in 2005, only one tenth of one percent of cattle losses were due to wolf predation; so 1 out of 1000 cattle deaths were due to wolves. Coyotes killed more

than 22 times more cattle, domestic dogs killed almost 5 times as many cattle, vultures killed almost twice as many cattle as wolves did and theft was responsible for almost 5 times as many cattle losses as were lost by wolf predation. Wolves were listed as #19 on the list of 20 causes of cattle death.

In Oregon in 2010, more than 50,000 cattle deaths were due to causes unrelated to wolf predation, compared to an estimated 25 deaths due to wolves. And there is a system in Oregon to compensate ranchers for such losses at taxpayer expense.

This bill unfairly singles out wolves which are an infinitesimal contributor to the overall problem of livestock loss.

There has to be a balance. Currently wolves are protected under Oregon's endangered species Act. And they are protected from discretionary killing by ranchers under the Wolf Plan.

Ranchers can be protected against economic loss by the Oregon Livestock Compensation and Wolf Coexistence Act. I urge you to keep these current protections intact and not to approve any exceptions to them.

I was 5 years old when the last Oregon wolf was shot and killed ; now these few have found their way to Oregon.

In my system of values, these wolves should be given a chance to reproduce and reestablish themselves within an ecosystem of which they were once a natural and vital part.

This bill could easily be interpreted to remove all protection for the wolves and take us back to the open kills that resulted in the extinction of a species. I strongly urge a NO vote on this bill.

Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of the wild wolves of Oregon.