

February 2, 2012

Senator Jackie Dingfelder  
900 Court Street NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301

I am writing to urgently and respectfully ask you to oppose legislation being pushed by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association that would both set a terrible precedent for the state's Endangered Species Act and allow for the killing of the Imnaha wolf pack, which was Oregon's first pack to produce and establish pups in the state in more than 60 years.

This same pack was the progenitor of the wolf called Journey, who has just traveled hundreds of miles to become the first wolf in California since 1924.

I understand that the Imnaha pack has preyed on livestock, but I strongly believe that compensation for ranchers and nonlethal measures to avoid future depredations are a better solution than killing this pack. There are better ways to keep cattle safe than killing the family of Journey.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, less than one percent of all livestock are lost to predators. And wolves actually kill fewer sheep and cattle than other predators. There is no scientific reason to kill these wolves, already living on the edge of extinction.


Wolves are known as alpha, super-, or top predators that have no predators of their own, residing at the top of their food chain, where they have a crucial role in maintaining the health of their ecosystems.

Other regions of North America that accept a balance between carnivores and herbivores do not experience problems. The balance of nature can be respected for the benefit of humans and the animals with who we share the planet.

Oregon can take pride in its Imnaha pack. Please reject any legislation that allows the killing of these wolves.

Thank you most sincerely for your help to oppose this legislation and the killing of the Imnaha pack.

Yours respectfully,

  
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