

After a series of public hearings in 2005 Oregon created a Wolf Management Plan, which was updated in 2010. This plan contains language which includes the federal Endangered Species Act and describes "measures that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will take to conserve and manage the species." In its final form, neither side of the issue were completely happy but it was accepted, updated, and should be recognized as the legal framework for regulating wolves in Oregon.

I believe that Oregon House Bill 4158 is trying to circumvent Oregon's Wolf Management Plan and if passed will create a legal nightmare that will be both costly and nonproductive for the state of Oregon. The possible legal ramifications are myriad. We should work within the current Wolf Management Plan and let legal actions take their course within those regulations. That is why the Wolf Management Plan was created and it should be respected and not weakened by a small but vocal group of people whose opinions were taken into consideration during the original hearings for the plan.

I completely support House Bill 4005. I believe that ranchers should be compensated for livestock losses caused by wolves if the ranchers have made good faith efforts to protect their livestock. There may be situations which in order to protect ranchers' livelihoods that wolves could be killed, but only under the regulations laid out by the Wolf Management Plan.

House Bill 4148 sets a dangerous precedent for getting around state and federal protection for all endangered species and guts a plan that was democratically and thoughtfully created. House Bill 4158 therefore should not be passed.

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