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RE: HB 4158

This bill falsely claims to address an emergency, when there is no such emergency at all, nor is the bill even needed. The carefully crafted Oregon Wolf Management Plan already addresses livestock depredation, either compensating ranchers or killing habitual offender wolves if non-lethal actions are tried and prove inadequate.

Already several of our few wolves have been killed to appease ranchers.

More and more research has proven that large predators like wolves and cougars are necessary for the health of ecosystems; wolves and cougars for the forests, and sharks for the seas. Man does not balance the health of the ecosystem in the same sustainable way.

An adequate number of wolves could be an asset to Oregon's healthy tourism industry, just as they have drawn many people to Yellowstone National Park since their return there years ago.

I support the bill being considered to give ranchers a tax credit for any depredation, providing there is some way to verify it. However, 4158 is too simplistic, and allows killing wolves without any proof of attempt to protect livestock adequately, and without any proof of actual wolf depredation. It appears to just make it easier for ranchers and others to kill wolves. A tax credit is a far better idea.

Killing endangered species should not be called "conservation" of that species. Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Laurel Hines

