



3415 Commercial St. SE, Ste. 217
Salem, Oregon 97302
Phone: (503) 361-8941 • Fax: (503) 361-8947

Please, vote for HB 3452

In 2005, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan—a consensus-driven plan, based on the best available science for wolf conservation. One of the key components and science-based tenants of the Wolf Plan was that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would have the authority to remove problem wolves. The authority for this rule, as understood by the groups involved in the development of the wolf management plan, was long thought to derive from the general wildlife statutes.

In 2011, a lawsuit was filed by Cascadia Wild, Oregon Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity and the Oregon Court of Appeals' commissioner temporarily stayed the Department's legal authority to remove wolves that had been in chronic depredation of livestock, pending full review by the Court of the suit. Since the stay was put in place, chronic depredation has continued in spite of non-lethal methods taken by ranchers to distract wolves from preying on livestock. HB 3452 provides a vehicle to finalize a settlement agreement between the parties who filed the suit, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and to bring closure to this issue. The settlement agreement and HB 3452 also include a permit-less take provision to complete a critical piece of the wolf plan requiring legislative action.

HB 3452 will restore the Department's authority, which the parties who supported and found consensus in the Wolf Plan—including pro-wolf groups, state agencies, legislators and industry representatives—believed existed and relied upon for over six years. Authority for science-based wolf management will be restored to on-the-ground authority working in the best interests of both wildlife and livestock.