

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Hicks, Hoyle, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett
Nays:	Holvey
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/29, 6/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines “chronic depredation.” Stipulates that nothing in wildlife laws is intended to prevent Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) or Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) lethally taking gray wolves to address chronic depredation of livestock, regardless of the management status of wolves under Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan). Pursuant to rules adopted by Commission, person who owns or lawfully occupies land may take gray wolf without permit if (1) person has not used bait to attract gray wolves or taken other intentional act to attract wolves other than engaging in regular and ordinary livestock management practices, (2) taking is allowed under federal Endangered Species Act, and (3) gray wolves are caught in act of biting, wounding or killing livestock or working dogs or caught in the act of chasing livestock or working dogs. If taking of gray wolf in response to chasing occurs during phase 1 of Plan, person must have first undertaken nonlethal actions specified by ODFW to minimize conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs and taking must occur during time period in which ODFW has determined situation of chronic depredation exists. Authorizes person who is landowner or lawful occupant to authorize another person to enter onto land for purpose of taking gray wolves. Requires authorization to be in writing and to include specific information. If person takes gray wolves under Act, person must report taking to ODFW within 24 hours and make reasonable effort to preserve, and keep undisturbed, scene of taking. Until June 30, 2015, any taking by Commission or ODFW under Section 2 (2) must be consistent with rules adopted by Commission related to lethal take of wolves in effect on effective date of Act. Stipulates Act governs taking of wolves causing damage. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of depredation
- Circumstances for taking of wolf by landowner
- Codification of settlement
- Rulemaking authority to ODFW and Commission
- Evidence of biting, wounding or chasing of livestock
- Definition of chasing
- Lethal and nonlethal gray wolf management practices
- Taking of gray wolf on public land

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Gray wolves in Oregon are listed statewide as endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (ESA). Wolves occurring west of Oregon Highway 395/78/95 are federally protected as endangered under the federal ESA. Oregon’s wolf population has continued to increase in distribution and abundance and, at the end of 2012, the minimum wolf population was 46 wolves in six packs.

In 2005, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to “ensure the conservation of gray wolves as required by Oregon law while protecting the social and economic interests of all Oregonians.” The plan includes provisions for monitoring and managing populations, developing education and communication programs, and responding to wolf interactions with wildlife, humans, and livestock. House Bill 3452-B establishes the circumstances under which a gray wolf may be taken.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.