

Raszka Shelley

From: Gloria Gipson <antelope@digitalpath.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Please oppose HB3515

Dear Members of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

Please kill HB3515.

I have been a credentialed science teacher for 40 years and have also spent much time in Oregon recreating camping, hiking and recreating in the National Forest lands and BLM lands in Oregon. Previous to the "Big Bad Wolf" era, wolves had been part of the fabric of American wildlife, keeping sick and weak animals in check, and allowing for hybrid vigor in wildlife populations. But the cattle monopoly has had a negative impact on wolves, especially in the West. We still need the wolf to be protected, as private interests who use our National Forest lands for cattle, sheep or other livestock, are trying to eradicate this noble animal to further their monopoly on our "multiple use" public lands. Predators like the gray wolf have been wiped out by "predator control" programs designed to protect the highly influential livestock industry. Please kill this bill, HB 3515 we need to keep the native animals in our wild lands and not allow a private interest to sway the needs of our wildlife for the good of the cattle industry.

This bill would overturn the repeatedly affirmed desire of the majority of Oregonians to maintain full protections for Oregon's wolves until a healthy, genetically viable and self-sustaining population of this keystone species is well-established in our state.

Right now only 77 confirmed wolves occupy Oregon's 97,000 square miles, with only seven wolves known outside of NE Oregon. This is far from a recovered population.

HB3515 would remove wolf management from the professional hands of the ODFW and put it under the entirely unscientific hand of politicians and special interests, some of whom have displayed an inveterate hatred of this species.

It would undo years of work which has produced the Oregon Wolf Plan, which has set a national standard for enlightened, scientifically rational wolf management.

This Bill would set a precedent which could be applied to any endangered or threatened species and would entirely politicize what should be a scientific process.

Oregon is a state distinguished for reverence and protection of its natural heritage including diverse wildlife. This Bill would betray the environmental values cherished by the vast majority of Oregon voters.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote against this Bill.

Respectfully, Gloria Gipson

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