

Raszka Shelley

From: Hanna Arnold <zafira@iastate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Please do not pass HB 3515

Please do not ban grey wolves from ever being included on the Oregon Threatened or Endangered list. Grey wolves are vital to a healthy, functioning ecosystem, but are currently under attack by anti-wolf interest groups who scare people into believing that wolves are a threat.

The reality is that wolves are quiet, shy, and rarely, if ever, interact with humans. Wolf attacks are *incredibly* rare: with only two documented fatal and four documented non-fatal wolf attacks in North America since 2000. Wolf attacks on livestock, while more common than attacks on humans, are incredibly few when compared to livestock losses from disease, malnutrition, birthing, and even lightning strikes.

The wolf population needs to reach healthy, sustainable numbers in order to support itself and the surrounding ecosystem, for the benefit of the forests as a whole and for species within them. Wolves increase the health and size of game due to selective hunting of weak or sick members, leaving stronger, healthier members to reproduce. This is good for game populations as well as game hunters, who prefer larger, healthier animals.

Besides, banning *any* species from ever being included on a threatened or endangered list is highly unprofessional. Lawmakers cannot predict the future to see when or if a species may need to be protected. This kind of selective wolf-hate ignores all current science, which *overwhelmingly* supports protections for wolf populations.

Please do the right thing; do not pass HB 3515.

Thank you from me, the forests, and the wolves,

Hanna