

Raszka Shelley

From: Vanessa Carbia <vcarbia@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 10:28 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Attention: Oregon House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

This is to **STRONGLY** urge the Oregon House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to oppose House Bills 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188 and 3514.

House Bill 3515 would prohibit Oregon from **EVER** protecting gray wolves under the state Endangered Species Act. The other bills are equally as awful for wildlife. They unfairly target cougars and other native predators while overlooking the critical role these species play in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

See descriptions of the other bills below:

HB 3515 – Declares an emergency and prohibits Oregon from ever protecting wolves under the state endangered species act. This bill makes listing of wolves an entirely political decision, ignoring all science.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB3515>

HB 2050 – Exempts counties from the state law widely supported by Oregonians which prohibits hound-hunting of cougars; allows counties to decide on their own to sic dogs on these magnificent big cats. This bill thumbs its nose at Oregon voters and at the science which shows that killing cougars and other apex predators increases conflicts.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB2050>

HB 3140 – Declares an emergency and establishes a Task Force on Predator Damage Control Districts to study whether local predator damage control districts would benefit rural areas of the state. This bill entirely disregards the known ecological benefits of predators as well as the vast majority of Oregonians who value native predators.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB3140>

HB 3188 – Directs the State Department of Agriculture and State Forestry Department to study whether to establish a procedure to set up predator control districts in the state to control harm to resource uses from predators. This bill ignores the fact that native predators are themselves natural resources to be protected from harm, and are an essential part of Oregon’s natural heritage.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB3188>

HB 3514 – Continues a tax credit that was supposed to sunset, which livestock owners can obtain for losses attributed to wolves. Greatly expands the tax credit beyond what it was originally designed for. To qualify, the loss need only be deemed a “probable” wolf-caused loss, with no confirmation, and determination can be made by a sheriff or deputy sheriff instead of by experts in evaluating livestock causes of death. Nearly quadruples the monetary amount of tax credits that can be issued. This bill is a wasteful use of taxpayer money that could be better spent instituting non-lethal tools and strategies to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB3514>

Thank you.

Vanessa Carbia