

Raszka Shelley

From: Amanda Terry <alterry21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:26 PM
To: Raszka Shelley; Amanda Terry; Jamie Jensen
Subject: HB3515

Dear Friends,

I'm writing you out of concern as a biology student. After studying biology at Brigham Young University I've come to discover and better understand the vital roles predators play in Eco systems. As an avid outdoors woman (I support and enjoy responsible angling and hunting) I'm afraid that bills like HB3515 will destroy the Eco systems of the wilderness I love so much and want to share with my children and their children for lasting generations.

It is my understanding that the majority of Oregon voters have also been against removal of protections for wolves. Please protect this keystone species at ALL costs. Do not become another Idaho where wolves including the Alpha breeding female from Yellow Stone are mercilessly killed. This top predator is vital for Eco system balance.

Wolves cull herds, help return deer species and other pray species to their original behaviors. This protects overgrazing and regeneration of plant life. This plant life in turn supports other species such as birds and even the smallest insects that may be a vital food source for something else. River banks are protected from erosion (because deer avoid overgrazing these areas as they are easy hunting areas for wolves) and in turn fish habitat is restored. Most avid anglers are very happy about that. This was seen in Yellow Stone.

Currently Oregon has a very small population of wolves around 70. This is not a stable population and reduction of even one wolf destroys genetic variation needed to prevent inbreeding and disease. If the population is allowed to grow more and more benefits will be seen from these majestic creatures. Killing these creatures will trigger a tropic cascade of further destruction of habitat. The deer population hunters love so much may breed and produce greater numbers but at a high price. The herds with out top predators will pass their carry capacity (that is the number of a species an eco system can support and remain in balance). This in turn will lead to food shortages for the deer and other animals depending on the same resources, the herds will become more susceptible to disease, over grazing will destroy more plants, saplings will never get the chance to grow to replace trees as they die, the undergrowth will cease to exist with damaging affects down to the smallest of creatures even microbes, river banks will collapse and mudslides will become more likely, the fish habitat will be destroyed, and really the affects go on and on.

With the stripping of the endangered species protection for wolves on the horizon due to special interests and not sound science wolves need every possible defense possible to not only ward off extinction but to protect genetic variation and Eco systems. Oregon has the opportunity to Stand up for this keystone species and make a statement to politicians and to show them that they will not be part of repeating another atrocity against wolves, the Eco system, and ultimately are our own children who may only see a wolf in a zoo or museum but never witness their true God given purpose or potential.

As a Christian I believe God made man stewards over the earth not destroyers. Please stand with the majority of the Oregon people and show that Oregon will serve as a responsible steward utilizing sound unbiased science in wolf management. Quite honestly any area that by the grace of God has an over population of wolves (which is not possible in the foreseeable future) should not kill them but rather capture them for relocation to an area that needs increased genetic variation.

I plead with you to kill HB3515 and any future bill that could put even one wolf at risk of extermination. Kill the bill not the wolves!

Feel free to contact me any time if you would like to discuss this issue in greater detail or if you would like Scientific references.

Very Respectfully,
Amanda L. Terry
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