

Raszka Shelley

From: carly burgess <carlyjeanne93@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Endangered Species List

Please reconsider the proposal to remove wolves from the endangered species list. Wolves play a vital role in ecosystems as a top-predator keystone species, and affect the lower trophic levels of the environment and improve the health of all species living in the area. Herbivores that are weak or sickly are removed, leaving stronger individuals to provide for the next generation. The reduction of herbivores changes the vegetation of the ecosystem, which affects all other animals including mammals, songbirds, and birds of prey, as well as the production of new growth forests, which stabilize rivers and prevent erosion.

Killing wolves disrupts the structure of their pack and causes an increase in human conflicts with lone wolves. Lone wolves must kill easier prey (such as livestock) instead of working together as a pack to kill larger, (often) overpopulated herbivores such as moose and elk. Wolves are highly intelligent animals who will not attack humans; they just need enough space to hunt and to be left alone. The populations of prey (herbivores) and predators (wolves) remain balanced, so human intervention is not necessary. A decrease in prey will decrease the wolf populations, while the decrease in wolf populations from reduction of prey will allow prey populations to grow again, then predators can increase again. The system is balanced and human intervention will interrupt the process that nature has shaped.

Yellowstone is a key example of the success of a wolf reintroduction. Hunters alone cannot maintain a lower, stable population of deer, but the introduction of wolves into Yellowstone stabilized deer populations and has shown the positive effects of top-predator control for the regulation of an ecosystem.

Before making a decision, please consider the implications of human activity on wolf populations and the importance of wolves to the natural environment.

Thank you for your time.