

Raszka Shelley

From: Steven Jonker <stevenjonker@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: HB 3515

Hi Shelley,

I am writing you to respectfully protest against HB 3515 and any other future bill that would limit protection for the Gray Wolf in Oregon in any way. These animals have not yet recovered and need continued protection!

With only about 77 wolves in the wild in Oregon, you cannot conclude that the population has recovered and with the majority of the wolves residing in the Eastern part of the state, these animals need continued protection to be able to establish themselves in other parts of the state and to become a diversified and sustainable population. There is sufficient habitat in Oregon to sustain a population of at least 300-500 wolves.

If the way the wolves are treated without protection in neighboring states such as Idaho and Montana is not enough example (hunted and trapped), Oregon should learn that we simply cannot turn our back on this majestic animal. If protection would be stripped, it will most certainly be a death warrant for this animal. In addition, this bill wants to prevent future protection as well. This means, that if the population drops to a dangerously low minimum, the wolf population will never be able to recover and it limits further recovery in states such as California as well.

As Oregonians we should be proud that we have wild animals such as the wolf roaming free in our state and we need to make sure that these animals can still be admired by our children and grandchildren. We all know that it is important to coexist with wild animals and Oregon previously showed the rest of the world that we can work together with different parties to come up with a compromise that works for all involved. This bill would throw all that hard work aside and this bill should therefore not even be considered. Instead, let's get to work again and come up with an updated wolf plan for the next 10 years that enables the population to fully recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Best Regards,

Steven Jonker