

Raszka Shelley

From: Amandaconda! <afergu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 4:10 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Comment on HB3515

Hello,

I'm writing to express concern about HB3515, a bill which will prevent gray wolves from being listed as threatened or endangered by the ODFW Commission. I understand that there will be a hearing on this bill in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee tomorrow.

I am an Oregon resident, living in Portland, and an animal advocate. I moved to this state 9 years ago largely because I was in awe of the beautiful landscape, the abundant wildlife, and the community's focus on environmental protection.

I feel very strongly that wolves should continue to be protected in our state. The small recovery we have had so far, to a population of 77 wolves, is very positive for wildlife and the ecology in Oregon, but it is not enough to consider them fully recovered, especially since the majority of wolves in Oregon live in the Northeast corner of the state. Considering that Federal protections are likely to end soon, and considering ODFW's current process to consider delisting wolves, I find this bill to be unnecessary and potentially harmful to the preservation and restoration of Oregon's native wildlife. The argument that ranchers present, that depredation by wolves causes significant financial loss, does not stand up to the data: disease, weather, and other factors cause far more damage to livestock populations than wolf depredation does. I urge the committee to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,
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