

**WOLF DELISTING TESTIMONY**  
**HB 4040 and SB 1557**

My name is Stephen Kafoury, and I represent the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We are the professional and scientific society of wildlife biologists. Our role at the legislature is to present and advocate for science-based decision making.

Our members have been closely following the development and implementation of the Oregon Wolf Plan. This plan was created by a political process whereby competing interests came up with a compromise solution to a complex issue, and was passed by the legislature. As a scientific society, we do not engage in issues that are resolved by political processes. We do offer our best scientific analysis of decisions and policies, but not their wisdom. It is our opinion that once the plan was completed and administered by ODF&W, it has been effectively managed and the agency has made science-based decisions.

HB 4040 and SB 1557 present two distinct issues, one substantive and one procedural. We agree with the substance of the bill- the agency decision to delist the wolf was the proper one. However, we have strong objections to the process issue of enacting a statute that either lists or delists a species. In our view, the process of listing or de-listing of species is a scientific one, and should be based solely on the best available scientific information. The only issue should be whether the species is in danger of extinction or not. This is not a political issue, and should not be the topic of statute. It is as if the legislature passed a bill agreeing that the boiling point of water is 212 degrees F.

If, indeed, the bill is merely a reaffirmation of the agency decision, then a legislative resolution is the proper measure to pursue. However, we heard testimony from the proponents of the bill, stating that their purpose in passing the bill was to preclude a lawsuit overturning the agency decision.

We therefore oppose HB 2040. Even though it merely endorses a decision that was previously made by an administrative agency using scientific methods, it is not harmless. The bill establishes a potential precedent whereby legislative action can place or remove a species from the ESA.