

From the Desk of Rep. Peter Buckley



## VOTE "NO" ON HB 4040

### Wolf Delisting Bill Sets a Dangerous Precedent for Wildlife Management

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Our coalition of conservation organizations strongly opposes HB 4040, which takes the unprecedented step of legislatively delisting wolves from the state endangered species act.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has exclusive statutory authority to list, delist or relist species as threatened or endangered. With fewer than 100 known wolves in Oregon, the Commission voted 4-2 last November to remove gray wolves from the state list of endangered species. Legislative "ratification" of the delisting decision is not only unnecessary -- it sets a dangerous precedent for amending the state endangered species act and constraining the Commission's authority on a species by species basis.

**Important decisions about whether to list or delist species should be based on science, not politics. HB 4040 opens the door for the legislature to make politically driven decisions about the fate of imperiled animals across Oregon.**

- "Ratification" of the Commission's controversial delisting decision is not harmless. It is unprecedented and chips away the Commission's authority and ability to effectively manage Oregon's imperiled species and other wildlife.
- Given the Commission's vote in November 2015 to remove gray wolves from the list of endangered species, legislative action is unnecessary.
- Legislative delisting does nothing to address concerns raised by bill proponents. The Wolf Plan guides wolf management, and the review process currently under way is the proper forum for addressing those concerns.
- This bill sidesteps the right of Oregonians to participate and hold public agencies accountable in processes that impact our state's natural heritage.
- Legislators should not unnecessarily take sides on a controversial decision that defied the wishes of the vast majority of Oregonians. 96% of over 10,000 public comments received on delisting were in favor of maintaining protections for wolves.
- When the Commission made its delisting decision, it did not request that the legislature ratify its decision -- it requested that the legislature address wolf poaching.

**We respectfully urge you to vote "no" on HB 4040 to ensure that important decisions about Oregon's imperiled species are based on science, not politics.**