

**March XX, 2015**  
**Letter to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**From Scientists on Wolf Recovery**

We, the undersigned scientists, are writing to express our concern that now is not the time to delist the gray wolf in Oregon. Continued state Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections are essential for allowing existing populations to stabilize and expand into other suitable habitat. Milestones should be celebrated, but meaningful recovery is not complete in significant portions of suitable habitat in the state. Prematurely weakening gray wolf protections is likely to reverse years of progress, put recovery in jeopardy, and exacerbate conflict.<sup>i ii iii</sup>

**We urge ODFW to:**

*Maintain ESA status for gray wolves and foster coexistence by getting ahead of – rather than reacting to – conflict. Some suggestions for doing this are to:*

- *Focus on positive aspects of wolf recovery, native predators, and healthy landscapes*
- *Conduct and facilitate research regarding wolves and conflict deterrence measures and*
- *Provide landowners with information that will assist in reducing potential conflicts*

Like all native wildlife, wolves are an enormous asset to the biological diversity of our state, ecosystem services, and quality of life. Wolf recovery is overwhelmingly supported by Oregonians. After years of making excellent progress toward recovery, it would be a shame to stop before the final goal is accomplished.

We offer our expertise and support for such an effort and extend our thanks to you for your leadership on wildlife conservation issues.

Signed:

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<sup>i</sup> Tad Larsen and William J. Ripple, "Modeling Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) habitat in the Pacific Northwest, U.S.A," *Journal of Conservation Planning* Vol 2 (2006) 17-33.

<sup>ii</sup> Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Oregon Wolf Population," <http://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/population.asp>, (January 27, 2015)

<sup>iii</sup> Carroll, C., R.F. Noss, N.H. Schumaker, and P.C. Paquet. 2001. "Is the return of the wolf, wolverine, and grizzly bear to Oregon and California biologically feasible?" Pages 25-46 in D.S. Maehr, R.F. Noss, and J.L. Larkin, editors. *Large Mammal Restoration: Ecological and Sociological Challenges in the 21st Century*. Island Press, Washington, DC.