

Wolflines #144

The Bulletin of Wolf Council

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August 20, 2007

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Governor Richardson Takes a Stand for Southwest Wolves

On July 6, Governor Bill Richardson took a strong position for Mexican gray wolves by announcing an immediate suspension of New Mexico’s involvement in the so-called “three strikes” policy on the removal of wolves accused of killing livestock.

Citing deep concerns about the recent escalation in wolf removals, Richardson suspended state involvement in wolf removals pending further investigation and revision of the rules governing wolf removal.

The governor’s announcement came on the heels of the killing of the Durango Pack’s alpha female, which had been implicated in three livestock deaths. Her removal by federal agents resulted in conflict between state and federal officials and left the wolf’s pups without a mother. With only 58 wolves in New Mexico and Arizona, the loss of any members of the Southwest population negatively affects Mexican gray wolf recovery efforts.

[Read more about this issue.](#)

Proactive Non-lethal Measures Prevent Conflicts in Central Idaho

A sheep ranch located in central Idaho is proving that livestock and wolves can co-exist. By using non-lethal methods to prevent conflicts with wolves, [Lava Lake Land and Livestock](#) has not experienced any livestock losses to wolves since 2005. Through [The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund](#), Defenders has cost-shared with the

ranch to place livestock guarding dogs with flocks as well as construct turbofladry (solar powered electric flagging barrier) pens and purchase radio telemetry equipment. Ranch manager Mike Stevens is a founding member and continues to serve on Defenders' [Livestock Producer Advisory Council](#), which works to address the concerns of livestock producers while furthering wolf and grizzly bear conservation.

An article about the ranch by Jason Kauffman in the Idaho Mountain Express and Guide is available online at: <http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005116488>.

Speak Up For Wolves in Washington State

Once common in Washington, wolves completely disappeared from the state by the 1930s. Since federal wolf-recovery efforts began in the northern Rockies in the 1990s, there has been increasing evidence that wolves are returning to their historic range in the Evergreen state—a good sign for the future of wolves elsewhere in the Northwest. In fact, this summer photos suspected to be of a wolf—most likely wandering from Idaho or Montana—were captured by a night camera in the Colville National Forest. However, the federal government is currently pushing to remove all federal protection for wolves in the region, even while wolves are struggling to return to Washington. For this reason, state-level wolf protection is even more important.

Wolves are a natural part of the Northwest's wildlife heritage. Their return to Washington depends on our efforts to support their presence and co-exist with them.

In anticipation of the wolf's return, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is inviting citizens to comment about wolf management in the state. Several public meetings will be held to allow residents in the region to engage in an important dialogue as agency officials develop a wolf management plan.

Show your support for the wolf's return to the Northwest!

Written comments must be received by WDFW by August 31 and may be submitted by U.S. mail to:

Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Comments may also be e-mailed to: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov (include "Wolf Plan Scoping" and your name in the e-mail subject line), or faxed to: (360) 902-2946.

You may also comment at one of the following meetings to express your support for wolf recovery in Washington State. The meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Twisp: Monday, August 20
Methow Valley Community Center

2001 S. Methow Valley Highway

Sequim: Tuesday, August 21
Guy Cole Convention Center
Carrie Blake Park, 212 Blake Avenue

Bellingham: Wednesday, August 22
Whatcom Community College
237 West Kellogg Street

Vancouver: Thursday, August 23
Water Resources Education Center
4600 SE Columbia Way

Please use the following talking points to assist you in drafting your own comments, but do not list the items verbatim.

- Wolves are native to the Northwest and should have strong federal and state protections to encourage their return to Washington and other parts of their historic range.
- Wolf conflicts with livestock should be resolved by the same non-lethal methods that have been successful in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, including carcass removal, human supervision of livestock, the use of livestock guard animals, improved lighting and predator deterrent fencing.
- WDFW should help Washington ranchers learn about and adopt these non-lethal methods so they can avoid or reduce potential conflicts with wolves.
- Washington needs to develop a strong population of wolves in order to protect the species from disappearing from the state once again.
- Wolves play a crucial role in big game management, protecting the overall health of deer and elk populations by culling weak and sick animals and preventing overgrazing.
- WDFW must educate Washington citizens about wolf ecology to increase public understanding of these animals and provide instruction about how to co-exist with wolves.

Remember...

- Comment from the heart. Let officials know why wolves are important to you.
- Stick to the facts. Only substantive comments will be considered.
- Be respectful and your voice gains impact. Rude or over-the-top comments can be dismissed.

[Learn more](#) about wolves in the Pacific West.

Gray Wolf Found Shot and Killed in Oregon

On May 25, a dead female wild wolf was found in a forested area near Elgin, Ore. – it had been shot. This is the first confirmed report of a wild wolf in Oregon in seven years. Killing gray wolves found in the state is illegal as they are protected under state and federal law.

Read Defenders' press release about the incident at:

http://www.defenders.org/newsroom/press_releases_folder/2007/07_13_2007_gray_wolf_shot_in_oregon.php.

2007 Red Wolf Pup Update

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program reported finding 31 pups during their search for red wolf litters this season. In addition, fostering pups continues to aid efforts to increase wild populations. Fostering involves placing captive-born pups with wild wolf females. This year, three captive born pups were placed within two wild wolf dens. Fostering methods have been used for five years. During that time, no wild parents or siblings have rejected any of the captive-born pups. Fostered pups come from one of the 38 captive breeding facilities throughout the United States, which today contain 207 red wolves. Approximately 100 wild wolves roam across 1.7 million acres throughout northeastern North Carolina.

[Read more about Defenders' red wolf recovery efforts.](#)

Check Out Defenders' New Look

Visit www.defenders.org today and check out Defenders' new Web site design featuring more information about our different programs and ways to support wildlife conservation.

Celebrate Wolf Awareness Week, October 14-20, 2007

Preparations are underway for Wolf Awareness Week taking place October 14-20. This week offers an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the positive role wolves play in maintaining the web of life. Visit <http://www.defenders.org/waw/> to download activities and information about events. If you would like Defenders to post your celebration on our Web site, please send details about the event including location, date, time, event Web site address and a short description to njayasinghe@defenders.org.

Sign Up For Defenders' *Wildlife eNews*

Register now to receive Defenders' electronic newsletter, *Wildlife eNews*. This newsletter offers exciting information about protecting endangered animals and their habitat. Each monthly issue highlights a feature story, creature feature, action of the month, wildlife hero and an enviro tip. Subscribers will receive timely action alerts with exciting new ways for you to help protect wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive. Sign up today at <http://action.defenders.org>.

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