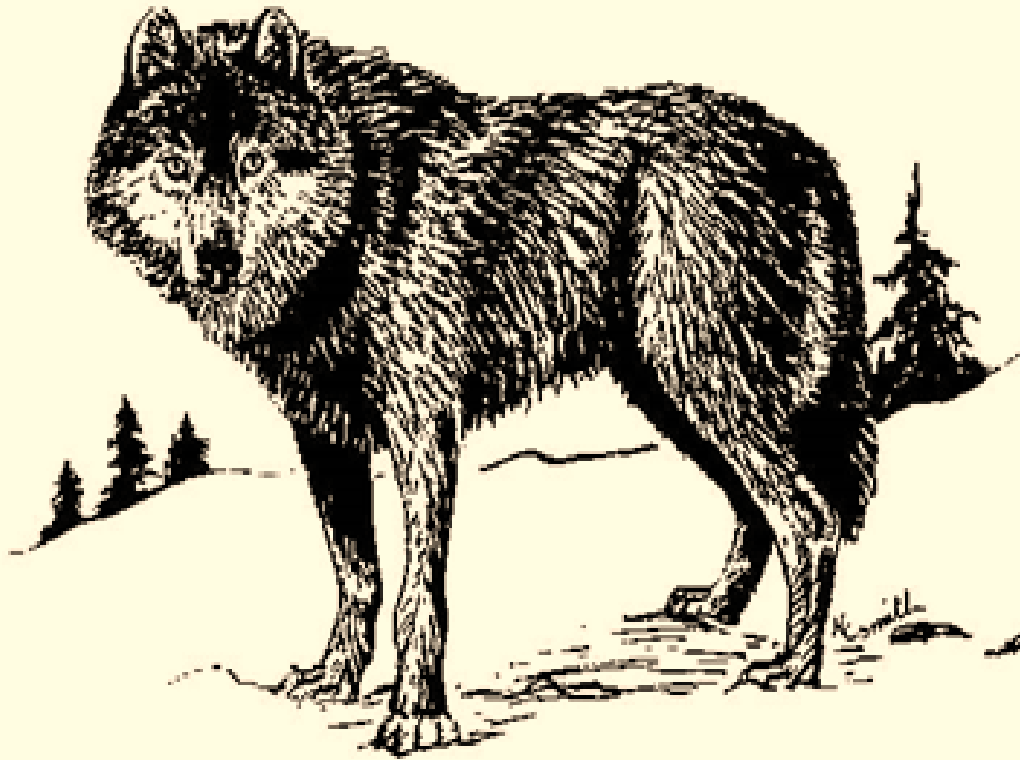


DEVELOPMENT OF OREGON'S WOLF PLAN



LEGAL STATUS AND WOLF PLANNING PROCESS

GOAL AND STATISTICS

- 2000 – Both Federally and State Endangered Species listed.
- ODFW requested legal opinion from Attorney General.
(ORS 496.171 – 496.182)
- “.....ensure the conservation of gray wolves as required by Oregon law while protecting the social and economic interest of all Oregonians”.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

- ODFW staff organized four informational workshops for the Commission.
- Twenty nine guest speakers covering a variety of topics including: political, social, economic, and biological aspects of wolf management.
- Several wolf experts informed the Commission that wolves would eventually establish permanent residence in Oregon.

TOWN HALL MEETING

- 15 Town Hall Meetings throughout the state.
- 6000 Oregonians attended.
- Collected 2600 oral statements and 1500 written comments.
- 12 themes
 1. Human and pet safety should/should not be a concern
 2. Do/do not write a management plan
 3. Educate the public about wolves and wolf issues
 4. ESA listing questions and comments
 5. Improved ecosystem health
 6. Compensation for livestock losses
 7. Cost of wolf management
 8. Depredation of wolves on livestock
 9. Suitable wolf habitat: there is, there is not, is there?
 10. Revenue loss to agency and rural communities
 11. Predation on wildlife (mostly deer/elk) and/or the loss of hunting opportunities
 12. Yes to wolves, no to wolves, with no other concern or recommendation provided

DRAFT PLAN GUIDANCE

- Science-Based
- Review and include oral and written concerns received from the 15 Town Hall Meetings.
- Review other states wolf management plans.
- The Commission wanted to review the strategies to provide relief for livestock owners experiencing depredation.
- Describe the Commissions ability to manage wolves while meeting a conservation goal.
- Use an advisory group to assist in the Draft Plan Development.

NINE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. A wolf plan should be based on “conservation” of wolves as required by state law.
2. Use a “Wolf Advisory Committee” to draft a recommended wolf management plan.
3. Consider wolf management plans from other states.
4. Consider the themes expressed by the public from the Town Hall Meetings.
5. No active reintroduction of wolves will be considered.
6. Final Plan must be consistent with Oregon’s ESA.
7. Strive for flexibility in managing wolves while providing needed protection.
8. Seek relief for livestock producers from expected wolf depredation.
9. A draft plan will not address public land grazing or other public land management issues.

WOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)

- Fourteen members representing livestock producers, county governments, wolf conservation, trappers, hunters, economists, and citizens at large. Meetings were open to the public.
- WAC met 10 times in 2003-2004.
- October 2004 the draft plan was ready for release to public. Rulemaking process begins.
- Public input was solicited at the November through February Commission meetings.
- Final plan adoption was February 11, 2005

SUMMARY

- 1999 a 2 year old female (B-45) migrates from Idaho to Oregon.
- 2000 two wolves from Idaho are killed in Oregon.
- Attorney General advises Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife of the legal status of wolves in Oregon.
- 2002 ODFW staff organized four informational workshops for the Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- Fifteen Town Hall Meetings were held throughout the state to solicit public comments.
- By 2003 the Fish and Wildlife Commission directs staff to begin planning process.
- Commission selects a 14 member Wolf Advisory Committee (WAC).
- The WAC meets 10 times (2003-2004).
- October 2004 the formal rulemaking begins for the plan adoption. Public again has opportunity for input.
- February 11, 2005 Oregon's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan adopted.