

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Protect Wolves and Ban Wildlife-killing Contests
Date: Saturday, April 26, 2014 1:40:05 PM

I am writing in support of protection for gray wolves under California's Endangered Species Act. I am also writing to urge you to ban ethically and scientifically indefensible wildlife-killing contests in the Golden State.

In its recently released status-review report, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommended against listing wolves with the argument that there are no known wolves currently in the state. I urge the Commission to reject this recommendation for the following reasons:

-- Wolf OR-7 has now made California part of his range for parts of the last four years, including most recently on the very day the Department presented its recommendation to the Commission. Scientists agree (as does the Department) that it's highly likely that more wolves from Oregon will come to California.

-- Nowhere in the legislative history of the California ESA does it require that a population of a species be present in order to list it. The wolverine, Guadalupe fur seal and condor were all protected and remain protected as endangered under California law even though no wolverine had been confirmed for 50 years at the time of listing, even though the Guadalupe fur seal was thought extinct at the time of listing, and even though state officials knew there were no condors in the wild when they chose not to remove the condor from the state list.

-- Multiple peer-reviewed scientific modeling studies report that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of suitable wolf habitat in California.

-- And threats against wolves exist in the Golden State, including verbal threats from private citizens and elected officials.

I urge you to follow the law, the science and past precedent by listing the gray wolf under the California Endangered Species Act and fully committing the state's resources to protecting, restoring and conserving this magnificent native species.

As for wildlife killing-contests, California must act according to the current science showing that massive, nontargeted killing of coyotes results in more conflicts, not fewer. These "derbies" that award prizes for the most or largest animals killed can by no means be considered a science-based form of wildlife management. They're also out of step with the values of most Californians.

Finally, California recently passed legislation (A.B. 2402) that requires the Department to use "ecosystem based management" and the best science in its stewardship of California's wildlife. Allowing these contests to continue would be a violation of this law. Please do everything in your power to stop wildlife-killing contests, and use this as an opportunity to move California toward more responsible wildlife management.

Thank you,

wendy niemeyer
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