
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time 02/03/11. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The federal government first declared the gray wolf, *Canis*
10 *lupus*, endangered in 1974 and it remains protected under the federal
11 endangered species act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, within the
13 United States Department of the Interior, is the agency with primary
14 responsibility for managing the gray wolf and other endangered species;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The northern Rocky Mountain distinct population segment of
17 gray wolves includes the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, a
18 small part of north central Utah, and all of Idaho, Montana, and
19 Wyoming; and

1 WHEREAS, The northern Rocky Mountain distinct population segment
2 exceeded the federal recovery level of thirty or more breeding pairs in
3 2002, and now contains at least 1,700 wolves and approximately 115
4 breeding pairs; and

5 WHEREAS, A primary purpose of the federal endangered species act is
6 to "provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered
7 species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a
8 program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened
9 species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the
10 purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of
11 this section."; and

12 WHEREAS, The primary purpose of the federal endangered species act
13 has clearly been achieved for the northern Rocky Mountain distinct
14 population segment and gray wolves have recovered in this region; and

15 WHEREAS, A lack of delisting, given the species has met recovery
16 goals, can result in an erosion of public acceptance of wolves and the
17 federal endangered species act; and

18 WHEREAS, The overall aim of the federal endangered species act is
19 to recover species such as that the species can be managed by the
20 appropriate entity. The Washington state department of fish and
21 wildlife and other state wildlife management agencies in the region are
22 the appropriate authorities to manage the gray wolf as a resident
23 species;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
25 federal government, through legislative or administrative means,
26 immediately delist gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountain distinct
27 population segment from the federal endangered species act, and that
28 gray wolf management authority be turned over to Washington and the
29 other respective states.

30 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
31 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
32 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior,
33 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
35 Washington.

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