

BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEVENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF WOLVES IN
STEVENS COUNTY

) RESOLUTION NO. 46-2014
)
) RESOLUTION TO ADVISE
) THE PUBLIC REGARDING
) THEIR RIGHTS

WHEREAS, There is an ongoing problem with wolves in Stevens county attacking livestock and causing economic damage to the citizens of Stevens county. This problem affects the Stevens County residents use and enjoyment of their land, security of their property, and the personal security of the residents of Stevens County.

WHEREAS, The residents of Stevens county may not be aware of their rights to defend themselves or their property due to the fact wolves in Stevens county are listed as an endangered species under WAC 232.12.014,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Stevens County deems appropriate to reaffirm and advise the residents of Stevens County of their constitutional rights.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED The citizens of Stevens County have a constitutional right to defend themselves and their families from wild animals. The citizens of Stevens County may kill a wolf or multiple wolves that are a threat or perceived threat to the personal safety of themselves or others.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED. The citizens of Stevens County have a constitutional right to defend property from wolves. The citizens of Stevens County may kill a wolf or multiple wolves if reasonably necessary to protect their property.

Passed by the Board of Stevens County Commissioners meeting in regular session at Colville, Washington, by the following vote, then signed by its membership and attested to by its Clerk in authorization of such passage the 29th day of August, 2014.

3 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; and ABSENT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chairman Wes McCart


Commissioner Steve Parker


Commissioner Don Dashiell

ATTEST:


Lois Haag for Polly Coleman
Clerk of the Board

BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEVENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF WOLVES	RESOLUTION NO. <u>51-2014</u> DECLARING WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE'S FAILURE TO ACT
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WHEREAS, on August 10, 2014 a Stevens county resident who owns sheep on private property reported livestock were attacked and several sheep were later determined to be killed by wolves, and

WHEREAS, between August 11 and 12, 2014 multiple incidents were confirmed where several sheep were killed by the "Huckleberry Pack" of wolves, and

WHEREAS, the Stevens County resident sheep owner had used multiple methods to keep wolves away from his livestock including, but not limited to, guard and herding dogs, human presence and moving the sheep to another area on the property away from the attacks, and

WHEREAS, despite Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's employees and Stevens County concerned residents on the ground to repel wolf attacks, livestock owned by Stevens County residents continued to be attacked and killed by wolves, and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2014 a permit was issued to Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife employees and the Stevens County resident livestock owner to kill two wolves on sight, and

WHEREAS, all of the protocols for lethal removal of wolf pack members were met and on August 22, 2014 Director Phil Anderson authorized the removal of four members of the "Huckleberry Pack" to reduce the imminent threat of further wolf attacks in Stevens County, and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2014 a helicopter with sharp shooter was used to remove one wolf, and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2014 leg traps were set in an attempt to capture other members of the pack, and

WHEREAS, wolves continued attacking the Stevens County resident's livestock as evidenced by three additional confirmed incidents subsequent to the removal of the one "Huckleberry Pack" wolf, and

WHEREAS, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife removed the helicopter and traps on August 29, 2014 with no indication they would return, and

WHEREAS, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife failed to remove four members of the "Huckleberry Pack" pursuant to the August 22, 2014 authorization, and

WHEREAS, the "Huckleberry Pack" behavior had not been modified, and

WHEREAS, the Stevens County resident livestock owner felt compelled to remove sheep from private property held under lease to prevent further losses, and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Director of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife were informed that the Stevens County resident livestock owner's removal of 1800 sheep would take approximately 10 days to complete, and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife was informed of several other Stevens County resident livestock operations within close proximity (1-10 miles) to the sheep attacked by wolves, and

WHEREAS, all Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife resources, except four Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife employees on the ground, were removed from the Stevens County resident livestock owner's property, thereby abandoning the livestock owner still under threat of imminent attack by the "Huckleberry Pack", and

WHEREAS, as of September 4, 2014 the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife issued an inaccurate press release stating that all of the sheep had been removed from the area when, in fact, over 200 sheep were still unaccounted for, and

WHEREAS, as of this date, over 200 sheep are still unaccounted for, and

WHEREAS, in the same press release it was stated that no further members of the wolf pack were going to be lethally removed unless further livestock are killed, and

WHEREAS, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife resources failed to honor its obligation and an imminent threat to life and property still exists, and

WHEREAS, no person should be forced off their own legal personal property which they have a Constitutional right to occupy by inappropriate actions of the State, and

WHEREAS, Stevens County Commissioners and elected officials have a duty to protect public health and safety, and to preserve the customs, culture and economic stability of our County and its residents, and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's wolf plan fails to be compliant and consistent with our Stevens County comprehensive plan as per RCW 36.70A, and

WHEREAS, the actions and inactions of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife violate Stevens County Resolution No. 15-2013, invoking authority to coordinate with state agencies and entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners declares that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife failed in efforts to manage and protect both wolf recovery and the livestock industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners declares that there exists an imminent threat of life and property subject to wolves attacking Stevens County residents' property by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's failure to act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife fails to take immediate action to address the "Huckleberry Pack" and protect the residents of Stevens County, the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners will consider all available option to protect the residents of Stevens County, their families and their property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Stevens County Board of County Commissioners declares that the wolves of the "Huckleberry Pack" are subject to whatever Constitutional means necessary to secure our public in their lives, liberty and property.


Passed by the Board of Stevens County Commissioners meeting in regular session at Colville, Washington, by the following vote, then signed by its membership and attested to by its Clerk in authorization of such passage the 17th day of September, 2014.

3 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; and 0 ABSENT

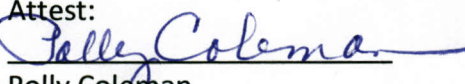
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chairman Wes McCart


Commissioner Steve Parker


Commissioner Don Dashiell

Attest:


Polly Coleman
Clerk of the Board