

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES TO AVOID AND REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE GRAY WOLF IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the gray wolf, an apex predator, is listed as endangered throughout portions of its range, including California, under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; and,

WHEREAS, in 2011 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) organized working group meetings for preparing a plan for management of wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2012, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received a Petition to List the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) as Endangered as submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity, Big Wildlife, the Environmental Protection Information Center, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center; and,

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2012, the Commission voted to accept the Petition and initiate review of the species' status in California; and,

WHEREAS, the CDFW is responsible for administering, implementing and enforcing policies and regulations set by the California Legislature and Commission, as well as for providing biological, scientific information and expertise to inform the Commission's decision making process; and,

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2014, Charlton H. Bonham, Director of CDFW wrote in his memorandum to Sonke Mastrup, Commission's Executive Director, "based upon the best scientific information available to the Department, listing the gray wolf as threatened or endangered is not warranted;" and,

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2014, the Commission voted to approve listing the gray wolf as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Commissioners Richard Rogers, Jack Baylis and Michael Sutton voted affirmatively for listing, while Commissioner Jacque Hostler-Carmesin voted no. Commissioner Jim Kellogg was absent; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2016, CDFW issued a Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission's terrestrial predator policy is that "human-predator conflict resolution shall rely on management strategies that avoid and reduce conflict that results in adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, and public and private economic impacts;" and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Plan says that "a primary challenge for CDFW in developing and implementing the [Conservation] Plan is that state and federal listing of wolves as an endangered species affects the state's ability to manage the species with respect to any possible use of lethal take for management. It is reasonably foreseeable that some forms of

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aversive condition and lethal take to protect human safety, to reduce livestock depredation, or to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates, may become warranted;" and,

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the Pacific Legal Foundation, representing the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Farm Bureau, filed suit against the Commission, challenging the Commission's 2014 decision to list the gray wolf; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2018, the presence of the grey wolves in Lassen County and Plumas County is resulting in wolf-livestock interactions involving the slaughter of livestock and those killings have been corroborated by evidence collected by CDFW staff, including data from satellite GPS tracking indicating that wolves were in the vicinity of the killing; and

WHEREAS, the wolf's legal status prohibits the implementation of a Commission policy that "in the event that some birds or mammals cause injury or damage to private property, depredation control methods directed toward offending animals may be implemented;" and,

WHEREAS, a violation of a wolf's legal status may result in criminal and civil fines of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is appreciative of the State organizing working group meetings for preparing a plan for the management of wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is supportive of the Commission's policies that avoid and reduce conflicts that results in adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, to reduce livestock depredation, public and private economic interests, or to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates (e.g. deer and elk populations); and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's Conservation Plan statement that "a primary challenge for CDFW in developing and implementing the [Conservation] Plan is that state and federal listing of wolves as an endangered species affects the state's ability to manage the species;" and,

WHEREAS, it is the Board of Supervisors' opinion that the Commission's 2014 split-decision to list the gray wolf as endangered is a baseless and premature decision that is preventing the implementation of the Commission's own policies for protecting human health and safety, to reduce livestock depredation, and to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen urge the Commission to reconsider the listing of the gray wolf based upon the Department's recommendation of February 5, 2014, that "based upon the best scientific information available to the Department, listing the gray wolf as threatened or endangered is not warranted."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission should delist the gray wolf as threatened or endangered and direct CDFW staff to apply for a Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit to allow the take of wolves that would involve both lethal and nonlethal control for individual wolves for the protection of human health and safety, and individual wolves involved in depredating livestock, livestock guard animals, pets, and for mitigating risks of substantial effects on native ungulates.

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The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Lassen, State of California, held on the 16th day of October 2018 by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:  
JULIE BUSTAMANTE  
Clerk of the Board

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

I, MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the 16th day of October 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the County of Lassen  
Board of Supervisors