

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
3 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES
4 IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
5 REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
6 STATES.

7 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho
8 assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully
9 represent that:

10 WHEREAS, gray wolves were introduced into Idaho in 1995 by the United States over
11 the objections of the Idaho Legislature upon the premise that the population would be fully
12 recovered upon the establishment of 100 wolves and ten breeding pairs in Central Idaho, with
13 similar populations in Northwestern Montana and the Greater Yellowstone area for three con-
14 secutive years, with dispersal and genetic connectivity among the three populations; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2002, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service affirmed that numeric
16 recovery goals for the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains had been achieved upon the
17 establishment of 100 wolves and ten breeding pairs each in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming for
18 three consecutive years; and

19 WHEREAS, the state of Idaho has in good faith cooperated to achieve wolf recovery in
20 accordance with the standards established by the federal government, with the understanding
21 that Idaho would regain its authority to manage wolves in the same fashion it manages its other
22 wildlife; and

23 WHEREAS, the wolf population in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming has surpassed the nu-
24 meric recovery goal every year since 2000 and there is now proof of dispersal, genetic connec-
25 tivity, and interbreeding of wolf populations among all three states; and

26 WHEREAS, the current wolf population in Idaho includes an estimated minimum of 800
27 to 850 individuals, comprising at least 88 packs and 38 breeding pairs; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services estimated that
29 in 2008, 26 of these packs were chronically depredating packs and predation by the growing
30 population of gray wolves is having an increasing impact on the livestock industry in Idaho;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, unchecked predation by wolves has also reduced elk populations in portions
33 of Idaho to a point where hunting opportunities must be reduced, with economic impacts to
34 businesses and communities dependent on hunting, and the continued growth of the gray wolf
35 population far beyond recovery levels will have profound economic consequences for people
36 and communities in Idaho; and

37 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service approved the state of Idaho's
38 wolf population management plan, thereby supporting Idaho's exercise of authorities for certain

1 control and management actions for listed species pursuant to section 10(j) of the Endangered
2 Species Act and supporting full state management following delisting; and

3 WHEREAS, in his July 18, 2008, decision overturning a previous version of the delisting
4 rule on other grounds, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy indicated that the state of
5 Idaho's legislative framework and state wolf population management plan were not likely to
6 threaten the continued existence of the wolf in Idaho; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States, in the draft final rule announced by the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service on January 14, 2009, confirmed that the best available science proves that the
9 gray wolf population in Idaho is fully recovered; and

10 WHEREAS, for purely administrative purposes, the incoming Administration of Presi-
11 dent Barack Obama ordered that the draft final rule removing Northern Rocky Mountain gray
12 wolves from the list of endangered and threatened species be indefinitely withheld from publi-
13 cation in the Federal Register.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of
15 the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein,
16 that the United States is urged to honor the commitment made to Idaho that wolves would be
17 delisted upon fulfillment of the 1994 recovery standards.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature expresses its support for the
19 draft final rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the gray wolf
20 population in Idaho.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President be urged to withdraw the directive sus-
22 pending publication of the rule removing Northern Rocky Mountain gray wolves from the list
23 of endangered and threatened species and that the President and his Administration be urged to
24 allow that rule to take effect and defend the rule against any legal challenges.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the
26 Governor's Office of Species Conservation are requested to support and defend the delisting of
27 gray wolves in Idaho.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the
29 Governor's Office of Species Conservation are requested to take all appropriate lawful actions,
30 both pending and following delisting, to control wolf-caused depredation on domestic animals
31 and to control wolves in areas with unacceptable impacts to Idaho's big game species, to sup-
32 port the responsible management of all of Idaho's wildlife and to provide for the public welfare,
33 economic well-being and security of Idaho citizens.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, so long as wolf populations in Idaho are listed under
35 the Endangered Species Act, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Governor's Of-
36 fice of Species Conservation are requested to annually determine, and report to the Legislature,
37 the amount of monetary damages caused to Idaho's economic interests by wolf predation on
38 domestic animals and wildlife for the time period when inaction by the federal government has
39 prevented Idaho from fully managing wolves located in the state.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be,
41 and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President
42 of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the President of the Senate and the Speaker
43 of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the
44 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.