

# Oregon Wolves Back on Endangered Species List

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Great news! On Thursday, August 5, 2010 federal judge Donald Molloy ruled that Northern Rockies and Eastern Oregon/Washington wolves must be returned to the endangered species list.

Judge Molloy found that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act when it delisted wolves in Idaho and Montana (and thereby the eastern portions of Oregon and Washington), but not Wyoming. Molloy said that the law requires that the entire regional population, which was listed as one overall population and not divided by state lines, must also be delisted in the same way – together as one overall population.

"Even if the Service's solution is pragmatic, or even practical, it is at its heart a political solution that does not comply with the ESA," Molloy wrote in his ruling.

Wyoming has failed to submit a reasonable wolf management plan to USFWS and, thus, USFWS will not approve the state for delisting. Because officials in Wyoming have been unwilling to designate wolves throughout the state as trophy game animals (versus varmints in 88% of the state that can be shot on sight), USFWS delisted Montana and Idaho wolves without including Wyoming.

Last fall, a total of 260 wolves were killed in state-run wolf hunts in the two states. Another roughly 300 wolves have been killed illegally or by Wildlife Services in lethal control activities since wolves were removed from federal protections in May, 2009.

The relisting of wolves in eastern Oregon means that management activities will need to be coordinated through the USFWS. Lethal control can no longer be authorized solely by ODFW.

Read Judge Molloy's ruling at

[http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/wolves\\_ruling\\_ESA\\_delisting\\_080510.pdf](http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/wolves_ruling_ESA_delisting_080510.pdf)