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Testimony in Support of H.B. 343 Feb. 5, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Representatives:

I strongly support this excellent bill by my Representative Diane Rice. It will protect our customs, culture and hunting and ranching heritage currently being harmed by an out of control wolf population. I am a 5th generation Montana native. I have been a wildlife research biologist and management biologist and a cattle rancher here in Montana. Currently I am a general outfitter and a wildlife consultant.

Wolves were transplanted here against the will of the people, against the will of Congress and with stolen Pittman-Robertson funds rightfully belonging to the states. They have been mismanaged in violation of the original scientific agreements.

We need this bill to get justice and roll back the wolf fraud which has occurred. I know some of the true wolf history of Montana. I found that wolf dens, pups and packs were ignored and rewritten in SW & NW MT in order to bring in wolves. Scientific Report No. 1, 55 pp. in 1975 by Francis Singer on wolves in the Glacier Park vicinity was ignored as were his 20 pages of wolf observations. Quoted but with inaccurate information was Judge Gary Day's excellent MS thesis in 1981 with 279 valid wolf observations in SW MT and the Rocky Mountain Front. I reported all this in my comments to Montana's draft wolf plan. MT FWP deleted 80 per cent of my comments, rewrote part of the rest and attributed all the remaining 20 per cent to a county commissioner at Hinsdale, MT and to a county predator control agent at Lambert, MT. I confirmed the fraud with both on the telephone. This fraud has been reported to the highest levels of government.

Dangers of wolves to humans have been ignored and downplayed. The first reported wolf attack in the area that became MT occurred on July 26, 1806 near Pompey's Pillar. A wolf attacked Sgt. Pryor, bit through his hand and then jumped on Private Windsor while they were sleeping. Private Shannon shot the wolf. This past year, five of my friends have had dangerous, close, encounters with wolves in the Ennis, Gardiner, and Sheridan areas and in the wilderness west of Augusta. Be sure and get Will Graves book coming out this winter. He details 150 years of human deaths due to wolves in Russia. He also details wolves' ability to spread disease to humans, livestock and wildlife. That has also been ignored here.

Elk have mostly left Blacktail and Robb-Ledford Wildlife Management Areas each winter since 2003. We local sportsmen, ranchers and ranch managers and former wildlife biologists think wolves are a major factor in the elk moving to private land. That is also occurring in the Madison Valley, the Yellowstone Valley and on the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone in Montana and Wyoming. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.