

**Western Predator Control Association
Presentation to Committee March 5, 2010**

Mister/Madame Chairman and Committee members, I am Clay Dethlefsen and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I represent the newly forming "Western Predator Control Association." We are establishing our headquarters in the Big Hole.

Through developing liaisons we are hopeful of working with and establishing a Summarily Unified Voice for All Who are Impacted by the Introduction of the "Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf."

Accompanying me today is Dr. Jack K. Ward, most likely known to all as a renowned Big Animal and Game Veterinarian. In addition Dr. Ward was a member of the Committee that created our "Montana Constitution;" his name is included in our Constitution in the Signatures Paragraph at Section 11, Article XIV. Dr. Ward is working as an Association Member on Wolf Disease issues.

During my 45 year career, I have frequently been accused of having "Common Sense and a Practical View on Issues." As I look to you I see similar traits. But today the focus for my comments is on the Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf's Introduction and the Expanded Problematic-situation we find ourselves in.

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Our Association Members, in the Role of the "Reasonable Person" have looked into the Recovery Plan, read it and attempted, as it is being implemented, to understand it. We've also spent many hours researching and reading many other publications including the Federal Register, medical studies, articles on relevant diseases, Federal Code entries, Idaho's and Montana's governmental handouts, Wolf Management Flyers, and other related documents. Obviously, not all published material has to date been read; that may very well take another five years.

What comes out very clearly from these documents, particularly the more current documents, is that no proper scientifically-based analyses, discussions or courses of action were ever posed that focused on the wolf's impact on our citizenry, or the full impact on our livestock, sporting or our recreation industries.

The sum of all inputs to the recovery program were developed, focused and implemented on eliminating man's interface and interference with the wolf introduction. Thus the Recovery Plan substantially ignored citizens' livelihood, health, safety, welfare and economic needs. As well our State's Constitutional Provision

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guaranteeing all Montana citizens' the traditional right to harvest our State's game, specifically Elk, Moose, Deer, Bear and Mountain Lion.

This ignoring, it seems, was based on the supposition that any human interface would be tainted by a "Wives Tale" predisposition that all European settlers to our Three States' Regions would "universally associate wolves with the Devil, pagan worship, evil and man's bestial nature," and therefore would instinctively do harm to Wolves.
[pg 10 Northern Rocky Mountain Recovery Plan, 1987]

Thus, the Recovery Plan concludes that the needs of our citizens are Less important and secondary to the Gray Wolf's interjection and survival.

Further, it is apparent that our environment and geography have been established as a Huge Scientific Laboratory Experiment. An experiment that does not allow for the controls that should and normally do accompany a properly constructed and repeatable Scientific Experiment.

This, we submit, are Main Reasons we now find the ever Expanding NEGATIVE Impacts on our livestock, our big game

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Of these issues the most pressing, we believe, are the Depredation, Public Health and Economic Issues.

Nothing to our knowledge seems to be being pursued or has been successfully pursued to qualify and quantify the total loss to Ranchers, or to Outfitters, or to Guides, or our Supporting Industries. In fact the ranching reimbursement program that is now in place is based on the very "minimal and inadequate loss-analysis and compensation approach" which is postulated in the "Recovery Plan."

In fact, because of the assumptions upon which the reimbursement program is based, it is more cursory than substantial and therefore, is woefully insufficient.

Hence, the "Western Predator Control Association" is championing the cause, which is directly in line with the Recovery Plan's provisions of "Public Acceptance" and is commencing, with the confidence of success, the pursuit of specific solutions. Our approach is first and foremost to work in cooperation with our FWP,

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local governments, state wide Outfitters, Water Shed organizations, and other associations and applicable Governmental Departments.

Our emphasis is currently concentrated in the following three areas, and our focus is toward enhancement of current approaches, and our direction is toward establishment of solutions that will better fit currently evolving requirements and future needs.

To encourage and support these efforts, we submit and request that this committee could initiate, as Idaho's House and Senate are doing, administrative and legislative actions:

First:

a. to ensure through our Department of Public Health that the medical community and its public and private officials report to the State suspicious or irregular findings consistent with Echinococcus Disease and other diseases associated with Gray Wolves,

b. to ensure that physicians, radiologists, state licensed and other medical personnel are encouraged to assess patients that complain of systems consistent with these diseases, and

c. to appropriately enhance public awareness through the Department of Public Health regarding the potential for Echinococcal-disease transmission especially in our ranching, hunting, public recreation, residential and family arenas.

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Second, take immediate steps to initiate and fund a corrective action to determine the full and actual impact of the Wolf Program on our State's economy including ranching, outfitting, hunting and their supporting industries. This action could include:

- a. Total loss valuation to ranching, outfitting, and our overall economy,**
- b. Total loss valuation to supporting and recreational industries,**
- c. Determination of the negative economic impacts to our State's economy, and**
- d. Subsequent rapid corrective action.**

Third, because FWP has emphasized their resource constraints, it is submitted that this Committee could initiate actions to establish, through appropriate existing and developing grass-roots citizen associations, an independent, certified, citizens, volunteer-network to supplement State and local government agencies in providing for and establishing a broader spectrum of 'on-the-ground action groups. These groups would:

- a. legally provide supplemental manpower to aid in managing and controlling necessary support activities of the Wolf Program,**
 - b. more completely count and locate the Wolf population,**
 - c. more rapidly, directly and fully deal with local Wolf impacts,**
- and**
- d. provide grass roots resources to address the Wolf's Negative impacts on our Big Game Populations by making formal recommendations, by developing courses of action, and by penning draft revisions to our Big Game Management Plans.**

Thank you for your attention.

This concludes our comments.

Are there any questions from the Committee?

Abstract

Synopsis of References and Facts

Idaho State Specific

* Ref: Idaho Senate Document, Ref: 11 point Actions—Acknowledges Hydatid Diseases as Public Health problem and assures Public Health System alerted to diagnose, treat and report *Echinococcus Granulosus* in Humans, Co-sponsors: Senator Tim Corder, Senator Gary Schroder, dated February 16, 2010,

* Ref: House Continuing Resolution HCR #43, Declares a State of Emergency and encourages Governor to authorize a reduction of “wolf numbers to those [initially] designated for recovery of species.” 2d Reading February 17, 2010,

*Ref: Senate Resolution RS19649C1, “Voices Legislatures support for governor to declare a State of Emergency by Executive Order to remove Wolves to 150.” References HCR #43,

*Ref: State extended the wolf hunting season to March 31, 2010 to assure the authorized harvest quota was filled, as of February 26, 2010 several tags still available,

* Ref: Wolves recently taken from border with Montana packs, one taken on or about January 8, 2010 weighing 145 pounds, taken in close proximity to cattle, Picture available,

* Ref: Figure 6. Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Trends by State, 1979-2008, Per minimum count statistics Idaho Wolf Population increased to over 6 times its size from 1999 to 2008, ,

* Ref: Figure 6. Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Trends by State, 1979-2008, Per minimum count statistics, Total population in Three States at 1650 wolves in 2008, with 850 in Idaho, 500 in Montana and 400 in Wyoming,

*Ref: Federal—Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan, Wolf biological stability reached at populations per state of 10 Breeding Pairs and a Total of 100 Wolves, dated: August 3, 1987, Wolf-Human Interactions: [pg 10]—“....Europeans seemed universally to associate wolves the devil, pagan worship, evil, and man’s bestial nature. Wolves along with werewolves, became tied to man’s baser emotions with debauchery, sacrilege, witchcraft and sorcery. This traditional view of the wolf came to the New world with the first colonists and persists in television productions today.” Summary: a pack of 12 wolves is now known to occupy an area in Northwest Montana. Reproduction was documented in this area in 1982, 1985, 1986 and

Idaho State Specific-continued

1987. However, the prognosis for the species in this and other recovery areas remains uncertain. Refers also to dispersal and reintroduction but does not address the care and protection of these "12 wolves." [pg 10]

Ref: Idaho 2008 Wolf Activity Map, approximately 27 packs shared with Montana, at least 3 shared with Wyoming and at least 5 shared with Canada,

Ref: Lone Wolf Robert Milleage, Field and Stream Article March 2010 edition: content tells of attacks, verbal, and death threats by people opposed to killing Gray Wolves, does not matter that it was a legal hunting season, Map displays three original release areas in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming [pg 61],

Montana State Specific

Ref: Canada Wolf Movements [Montana, NW of Helena], May –December 2004,69 sightings w/ movement from Canadian border toward Helena.

Ref: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, "Echinococcus Fact Sheet, Published January 21, 2010, Carolyn Sime questioned about Public notification January 8, 2010 by Environmental Quality Committee on public notification for hunting season, Hence, this Fact Sheet subsequently published,

Ref: Montana Gray Wolf Program, Montana State Law and Administrative Rules: Citizen and Livestock, Domestic Animals, Human Safety, FWP & USDA, Loss reduction & Mitigation Topics, dated: May 5, 2009,

Ref: 2009 Montana Wolf Hunting Season Report, Wolf Statics on Wolf Harvest, and Legal Challenges, Predator and Prey Relations, Harvest Locations, etc. , dated December, 13, 2009,

* Ref: Montana Code annotated, title 81: Livestock-Table of Contents, 81-30-101. Short title, 81-30-102. Definitions, 81-30-103, Unlawful Acts, 81-30-104. Action for damage, 81-30-105. Penalty, 81-2-703, Documents required for importation – exemptions, 81-7-103.

Administration of funds by department, 81-7-104. Predatory Control Money – use of proceeds, 87-1-217. Policy of management of large predators – legislative intent,87-5-131. Process for delisting the gray wolf – management following delisting. Upon determining the wolf does not need protection as a species in need of management and can be protected as a big game animal of a furbearer and may regulate the taking of a wolf as a big game animal of furbearer. [Para (1)](3) following delisting ...the Department of Livestock pursuant to 81-7-102 and 81-7-103, may control wolves for the protection and safeguarding of livestock in the control action is consistent with the wolf management plan approved by both the department (F and G) and the department of livestock, (3)(b) any management plan approved...must allow the issuance of special kill permits, also known as "shoot-on-sight written authorizations, by the department to landowners or public land permittees who have experienced livestock depredation, Title 87-Table of Contents.

***** Section 7, Article IX, Environment and Natural Resources – Preservation of Harvest Heritage, by Montana constitution declares that "the opportunity to harvest ...wild game animals is a heritage that shall be forever preserved to the individual citizens of the state and does not create a right to trespass on private property or diminish other private rights."**

Diseases Specific

*** Echinococcus Granulosus - Idaho:**

*** Ref: The Outdoorsman-Bulletin Number 36, dated December 2009, "Two thirds of Idaho Wolf Carcasses Examined have thousands if Hydatid Disease Tapeworms, by George Dovel: Alaska over 300 cases of Hydatid Disease cases reported since 1950 due to wolf/dog interaction with man, [pg1], Dr. Valerius Geist (Feb-March 2006 Article) article "Information for Outdoorsman in Areas Where Wolves have become Common "Cysts can kill infected persons unless there are diagnosed and removed surgically," with generated dense wolf populations it is inevitable that humans will get the disease, Ed Bangs re: 1994 DEIS "Bangs chose not to evaluate the impact of wolf recovery on diseases and parasites [1993 DEIS Page 1-17], highly touted testing of blood and fecal sample from live trapped deer, elk, etc. does not reveal the existence of hydatid disease [pg 2], Neospora-Minnesota findings that wolves were infecting livestock pastures and moose habitat-parasite causes abortions in cattle, moose and members of the deer family [pg 2],hydatid disease know by ID, MT F and G staff as being very well established and infecting elk and deer for several years [2006-2008, Drew had two of his counterparts from Montana participated in the evaluation of the lower intestines of 123 or more wolves from Idaho and MT (Reported by Tom Remington on Dec 13, 2009: results 62% and 63% of Montana and Idaho wolves test positive with over 50% having over 1,000 worms and 71% of wolves tested positive for Taenis, 90% infected rate in areas with high density wolf populations [pg 4], Idaho F and G and Montana Fish and Game have neglected to state that Hydatid disease has been detected in indigenous people who hunt wild Cervid or are reindeer herders with dogs, and that several hundred thousand people in Idaho and Montana also hunt wild Cervid's and thousands more recreate where wolves defecate on the ground and in or around water with parasites in their feces and thus contaminated water sources [pg 4], e. multilocularis found in Alberta wolves also exist in transplanted wolves in Montana and Idaho,**

*** Ref: Echinococcus granulosus in Idaho, Fish and Game Department, dated January 19, 2010, Hydatid Cysts found in sheep that were sent to California in late 1960's and 1970's, cysts found in Mountain Goat in 2006, in mule deer and elk subsequent years in several Idaho areas, Adult tape worms found in 39 of 63 wolves collected in 2006-2008; similar prevalence occurs in Montana, not test on coyotes or foxes, all wolves released to Yellowstone and central Idaho were quarantined and treated for lice [2 x w/ivermectin and pyrethrin], blood, feces, external parasite tested, roundworm treated with ivermectin and tape worm with praziquantel,**

Diseases Specific-continued

* **Echinococcus Granulosus - Montana:**

* **Echinococcus Granulosus – Nepal/World Assessment:**

* Ref: **Echinococcus granulosus: Is Eradication an Option for Nepal? Zoonotic cestode causes hydatid disease in man and animals, worldwide distribution but endemic in South America, central Asia, African countries, and range of intermediate host varies based on strain [9 each] and geographical area, world distribution and Zoonotic significance covered, Nepal: considerable economic and public health problem-control attempts necessary e.g. vaccination have been newly developed [abstract], control/eradication through health education, legislation and immunizations, geographical, sanitation and facility evaluation currently having negative corrective impact, parasite deferrers form other Taeniid: has low specificity in the larva stage and great reproductive capacity, definitive hosts “almost invariably canid carnivores – dog, wolves, jackals (foxes, coyotes)[pg 3], Table 1 Strains – 9 each and 7 directly affect man: Lion strain in wild African ungulates –geography includes Eurasia, North America, Africa, Horse Strain in horses and other equines, Europe, Middle East and Asia, Cervid Strain in wolves and dogs with intermediate hosts being Cervid and man in Europe, Russia, South America [pg 4], eggs move from definitive hosts to intermediate hosts and are extremely resistant and can withstand a wide variety of environmental temperatures, stay alive from hours to years depending on environmental conditions with moist environments being best, Epidemiology [pg 11] found on all continents with highest prevalence in Europe, Asia, north and east Africa, Australia, South America, New Zealand, Iceland, Falkland Islands, China in 2000 had 600, 000 to 1.3 million human cases, with 60 million of population at risk [2003], sylvatic {wild life} cycle less problematic then pastoral {domestic} cycle, no symptoms are usually seen in intermediate hosts throughout their life cycle [pg13], human symptoms can be very severe and anaphylaxis may be seen, in ovine’s cysts are found in liver and lungs and in bovines liver, lungs with lungs being predominate location, in wild animals, e.g. elk & moose, lungs most common local of cysts, [pg 13], domestic cycle most important-occurs more frequently, in man no definitive signs or symptoms in the beginning but as develop symptoms generally are masked do to similarity to symptoms of more common diseases, however, as cysts grow – highly variable incubation periods [5 years up to 20 or more], in children infected as children from 10 to 50 year incubation cycle[pg 15], children having more frequent contact with pet dogs are very susceptible to contracting disease, in dogs examining the fecal sample “DOES NOT SEPARATE ECHINOCOCCOSUS GRANULOSIS EGGS FROM OTHER TAENIIDS EGS, SO FAECAL TESTING IS**

Diseases Specific-continued

NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS PURPOSE [PG 16], treatment if humans – 1. Surgery, 2. Puncture, aspiration, injection and Reaspiration (PAIR) and 3. chemotherapy [pg 17], Drug treatments: Two benzimidazole- 1. Albendazole and 2. Mebendazole as Chemo agents, praziquantel and albendazole together has very good effect, praziquantel is the most effective anthelmintic drug in dogs, currently no effective treatment is available for intermediate hosts but vaccination is burgeoning concept to prevent disease, proper preventive measures include “reduction of Dog Population,[pg 20]” New Zealand took from 1959-2002, Iceland took from 1869-1979, Australia took from 1964-1997 to control and/or eradicate the Echinococcosis, Vaccination with “recombinant antigen vaccine designated a EG95 has been developed for use with intermediate hosts to prevent contracting the disease [96 to 100% effective][pg 22], eradication in geographies like Montana, Idaho and Wyoming is nearly impossible do to the lack of secure state boundaries to prevent incursions of infected canines [pg 28],

*** Ref: Neosporosis:**

* Ref: Neosporosis: Introduction: recognized in dogs, cattle, sheep goats, deer and horses and pigs and rodents, major cause of abortion in cattle, I dairy cattle N caninum major cause of abortions, still born births, under weight, weak or paralyzed calves, [pg 1], dog should not be allowed to defecate in cattle feed or feeding areas [pg 2], infection by ingesting food or water contaminated with oocysts excreted in feces of dogs, by ingesting infected tissue or transplacentally, vertical transmission between cattle and dogs is a major route[pg 1],

*** Ref: Brucellosis:**

* Ref: Brucellosis in Large animals: Introduction: primarily effects cattle, buffalo, bison, pigs, sheep, goats, DOGS, elk and occasionally horses, dog infection is usually associated with interaction with infected livestock [pg1], disease identified by positive cultural or serologic tests, immunization attempts not usually successful, control is based on isolation or elimination of effected animal, dog, [pg 2], treatment with streptomycin or gentamicin and tetracycline has been successful, neutering if infected dog is sometimes an alternative to euthanasia, [pg 2],

Others General:

* Ref: Montana Outfitters and Guides Association [MOGA] Position Statement on Wolf Delisting 2007, in favor of,

Diseases Specific-continued

* Channel 8, Missoula, Montana Television Fact Sheet on Ron Skinner Interview; Specifics: 2009 – 367 confirmed wolf kills, to date: 6 in 2010, loss of calf weight at sale 97 lbs/head=\$13,531.00 in gross income loss, sights: Willow Creek Pack, Gray Wolves = 15 prey on sheep and cattle of Hall ranchers, kills included special breeding stock, etc., dated: February 16, 2010,

* Ref: The Outdoors Bulletin Number 28, Dated: May 2008: Alaska-Brooks Range Study – “liberal harvest of 29% or less has no effect on Wolf population health, numbers increase [still increase], sights that 3,000 wolves exist not 1,850, Notes that in Denali National Park Study wolf population undercounted [est.] by 50%,total of 70% of wolf population of wolves must be killed annually to see a reduction in wolf numbers, 2007 Idaho estimate of minimum number = 732 [pg 2], hence, 508 would have to be killed be for the wolf population would see a decrease from 219 balance, Wolf Biologist Mech and Bangs “new even liberal hunting and trapping, even with liberal seasons and bag limits, does not stop continued annual increases in wolf population [pg 3],” Wyoming- 88% of land open to killing wolves as predators, 27% increase in Wolf Depredations from 2006 to 2007, Idaho WS spent \$387,000.00responding to complaints [pg5], 2007: estimated population of 750 wolves killed [confirmed] 422 sheep/84 cattle + .67 kills/wolf, mountain lions = 2,500 [est.] killed 220 [confirmed] sheep =.09 sheep/lion; 20,000 black bear killed 78 and 2 cattle [confirmed] = .004 kills/bear, conclusion wolves kill 7 times more livestock than lions and 167 times more livestock than bears [pg 6], HB 467 [2007/2008] allow \$500,000.00 tax credit for livestock losses [pg 9],

* Ref: Western Flies and Guides Publication: “The Wolf Pulled over our Eyes, by Bob, dated January 13, 2010 [published February 22, 2010], sights the current taxonomy identifies *Canis Lupus Irremotus* [pack size small 2 up to 4 or 5 will pups] a medium size gray wolf as the subspecies of Gray Wolf originally in Bitterroot, Idaho and Wyoming, and that the subspecies *Canus Lupis columbianus* and *Canis Lupus occidentalis* habited the Northern Rocky Mountain far to the north in Alaska, Yukon and that the Canadian subspecies “called the Super Wolf” is much larger more aggressive and runs in much larger packs [15 or more][pg 1], NPS maintain the integrity of indigenous species, (2) restore population with indeginious species, ensure...species does not pose a threat to persons or property outside park boundaries, (3) the species used in restoration most nearly approximates the extirpated subspecies or race; American Society of Mammalogists criticized project for lack of recognition and indifference- pointing out that wolves introduced into Montana, Wyoming and Idaho were 30% larger [super species]than original park wolves, were adapted to much colder climate [more aggressive and hearty subspecies] and questioned legality under Endangered Species Act {ESA} of “recovering a taxon of wolf by expanding its historic range..when more closely

Diseases Specific-continued

related founder stock still remained” [pg2,3], sights that millions of dollars of lost revenue and lost jobs in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming face with severely declining elk populations on public land,” [pg3],

* Ref: International Wolf Center of the World, Gray Wolf Timeline for the Contiguous United States, dated February 26, 2010, covers Wolf related event and activity from 1630 through 2008 with particular attention to man’s actions against wolves,

* Ibid, North American Wolf Species [Canis lupus] and geography, sights 2 species and 5 subspecies: Species 1 - Canis lupus [gray wolf], Species 2 – Canis lupus arctos [red wolf], subspecies 1 – Canis lupus arctos [arctic gray wolf], Subspecies 2 – Canis Lupus balleyi [Mexican Gray wolf], subspecies 3 – Canis Lupus nubilus [great plains wolf, timber wolf, buffalo wolf], subspecies 5 – Canis Lupus occidentalis [northern wolf]; gray wolf population in Alaska 8,000 – 11,000; in lower 48 States 5,500 [pg 2],

* ibid Gray Wolf Biology: reproduction, Pup survival, adult survival, pack and territory size, dispersal and ability to colonize new areas, habitat requirements, food requirements [from 2.5 to 5.0 lbs/day to survive, estimated to eat from to 10 lbs 20 lbs per {gorging} with new kill], Impacts on prey: 15-20 on average big game animals per year per wolf, 2003-04 in Minnesota: 3,020 wolves killed 45,300 to 60,000 adult deer each year [pg2], wolf populations general decline for up to two years after food source is in severe decline [hence, eat deer then cattle no decline but increase][pg 2], wolf populations decline if wolf kills by humans and other reasons is from 28% to 50% [also, food related at the time of reduction, i.e. 28% more likely with high food availability],

* ibid “Wolves of the World – Alaska” at a glance: Species: Canis Lupus, subspecies: Canis Lupus Occidentalis, Northern Wolf, 2007 population 8,000 to 11,000, diet: moose, caribou, Dall sheep, deer, beaver, mountain goat, cover 99% of Alaska[pg 1], covers biology, recovery/management, human interaction [pg 2],