

State Kills Four Wolves Within Hours of Court Granting Preliminary Injunction

State has now killed 25 wolves in the Colville National Forest on behalf of Diamond M Ranch

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, USA, August 16, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A King County Superior Court Judge granted a preliminary injunction ordering the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to stop killing members of the Old Profanity Territory (OPT) pack Friday, just hours after the state killed four of the five surviving members of the pack. The Center for a Humane Economy supported the legal action, brought forth by three Washington residents deeply concerned about the fate of wolves.



Wolves on the open range

“This is a bittersweet courtroom victory because the Department of Fish and Wildlife gunned down four more wolves on the very morning of the judicial proceeding,” said Wayne Pacelle, president of the Center for a Humane Economy. “The Department of Fish and Wildlife had a strong indication that its actions were not legally defensible, but they charged ahead anyway and all but eliminated another wolf pack.”

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Only a single wolf of a pack that had nine members at the beginning of July survives. Among the wolves killed were four pups.

Complaints from Len and Bill McIrvine and other members of that family operating the Diamond M Ranch have triggered 87 percent of the state’s wolf killing. The family has declined government payments to compensate them for lost cattle, and refuses to take commonsense measures

to protect its cattle from predators. Instead, it has publicly demanded the eradication of wolves from the area.

“The McIrvine family is baiting wolves with live cattle on our federal lands,” added Pacelle. “And then they complain when the inevitable occurs, and then plead with the state to still more wolves from helicopters.”

Wolves are classified as “endangered” under Washington law. State agents killed as many wolves this morning in the Colville National Forest as they killed all last year in the entire state.

"I am deeply disappointed that Governor Inslee ignored the requests of countless Washingtonians to intervene and stop the needless killing of these wolves," commented Jennifer McCausland of the Center for a Humane Economy. "He could have restrained the worst instincts and actions of his own wildlife agency but he stayed on the sidelines when we needed him most."

Robert Wielgus, a former Washington State University wildlife biologist who has studied wolves and other predators in eastern Washington, has pointed out that livestock losses to wolves were one-third of one percent (0.003) in wolf-occupied areas of Washington, except when it comes to the ranching operations of Len McIrvine, who has suffered 14 times the losses of other ranchers in wolf-occupied territory. The state has admitted that McIrvine and his Diamond M Ranch have never used quality range riding services, and in recent weeks they refused to allow the state to send a team of range riders in to protect their cattle. They have made clear that their intent is to kill wolves, not save cattle.

In recent weeks, the Center for a Humane Economy, Animal Wellness Foundation, and Animal Wellness Action have taken a series of paid advertisements to draw attention to the needlessly provocative actions of the McIrvine family and to urge the state to stop the wolf killing in favor of non-lethal management and more strategic public-land grazing. Wolves are slowly reclaiming small portions of their original range in Washington. The state is on a pace this year to kill a fifth of the state's wolves, which the Department of Fish and Wildlife officials had previously estimated at 125 animals.

The Center for a Humane Economy ("the Center") is a non-profit organization linked to the investment advisor Karner Blue Capital ("KBC") that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both.

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

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