

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU  
PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE PRESENCE AND IMPACT OF  
GRAY WOLVES IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of wildlife conservation and balanced environmental stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, the return and continued expansion of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) into Northern California has resulted in significant adverse impacts on rural communities and livestock producers, including hundreds of confirmed depredations in Siskiyou and neighboring counties; and

**WHEREAS**, across Northern California, there have been documented incidents of wolves preying on cattle near homes, highways, and public rest areas, raising growing concerns about public safety in rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Siskiyou County Wolf Liaison continues to monitor and investigate wolf depredations within the county, with 104 confirmed or probable cases recorded since 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, between January and October 2025, the Wolf Liaison investigated 35 cattle deaths, of which 21 were confirmed or probable wolf depredations; and

**WHEREAS**, these figures are considered a substantial undercount, as not all cattle losses are reported, some livestock go missing or are difficult to locate due to Siskiyou County's rugged terrain, and in some cases the cause of death cannot be determined; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wolf Liaison confirmed that in 2025 the alpha female of the Whaleback Pack, which dens in Siskiyou County, produced ten pups, demonstrating rapid population growth and indicating that wolf-related impacts on livestock and ranching operations are likely to increase in scope and intensity in the coming years; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued presence of gray wolves in and around Siskiyou County, combined with documented depredations and population growth, represents an ongoing threat to local livestock and public safety as cattle return to winter range; and

**WHEREAS**, ongoing wolf activity has imposed significant financial, operational, and personal strain on Siskiyou County ranchers, who must devote extensive time and labor to protecting their herds, often sacrificing rest and personal well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond direct livestock losses, wolves cause indirect economic impacts, including disrupted grazing patterns, reduced weight gain, and lower reproductive success, creating substantial challenges for local ranching operations; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, four Siskiyou County ranchers relocated their cattle from summer rangeland near Butte Creek to winter rangeland six weeks early to avoid potential depredation incidents, a move that cost the ranchers tens of thousands of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, some ranchers operate under conservation easements where cattle grazing is an essential component of the land management plan, and the inability to graze due to wolf activity places these landowners at risk of violating contractual obligations while simultaneously increasing fire danger due to the buildup of unmanaged vegetation; and

**WHEREAS**, these combined direct and indirect impacts threaten the long-term viability of ranching in Siskiyou County, a cornerstone of the local agricultural economy, and create broader economic consequences throughout the county, which already faces unemployment and poverty rates higher than the state and federal averages; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in gray wolf populations in the region has led to higher predation on big game species such as deer and elk, contributing to localized declines that may disrupt ecological balance and reduce hunting opportunities for local residents and visiting hunters, an important source of cultural and economic value for rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the legal protections afforded to the gray wolf under both state and federal law have created a significant imbalance, whereby rural residents, livestock producers, and recreationists have little to no recourse to protect property, livelihoods, or safety without risking criminal or civil penalties; and

**WHEREAS**, empowering locally elected officials, specifically county sheriffs, to assess and respond to specific wildlife threats provides a responsible, accountable, and community-based approach to managing these risks; and

**WHEREAS**, current California law allows for the removal of specific black bears and mountain lions that pose a public safety threat, and similar authority should be extended for the gray wolf.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors hereby declares a Local State of Emergency due to the public safety and economic threats posed by the growing presence of gray wolves in and around Siskiyou County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board respectfully requests that the California Fish and Game Commission, in coordination with the Governor of California and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, initiate immediate regulatory changes to grant sheriffs the authority to investigate wolf incidents and declare a specific gray wolf a public safety threat, thereby authorizing its removal under clearly defined and lawful procedures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board respectfully requests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the President, initiate immediate regulatory changes to grant sheriffs the authority to declare a specific gray wolf a public safety threat, thereby authorizing its removal under clearly defined and lawful procedures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution is not a call for widespread lethal control, but a request for the establishment of reasonable, focused tools that allow rural communities to respond to legitimate threats in a responsible and lawful manner.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou requests the intervention of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to address this rapidly evolving issue. Authorities are requested to provide funding for the Siskiyou County Wolf Liaison position, transmit cluster point data directly to the Wolf Liaison to support investigations, improve information sharing and collaboration with cooperating agencies, including access to collar frequencies and GPS data, and end the extended blackout on wolf tracker data once cattle occupy mountain rangeland. The County further requests timely review of depredation reports with prompt compensation to affected ranchers and sustained financial support for county staff and wolf-related mitigation activities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board is directed to agendize the Board's review of the need for continuing this local emergency at least once every 60 days until the Board otherwise takes action to terminate this local emergency.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Nancy Ogren, Chair  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
LAURA BYNUM, COUNTY CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy