

Hello. My name is Pat McLaughlin. I am here today to read you a prepared statement from William E. Chamberlain, Jr. He is the curator and director of operations of the United States Wolf Refuge. He has studied and interacted with wolves on a daily basis for over 25 years. He probably knows as much about wolves as anyone in the west, and certainly more than anyone in this room. He is renowned and well respected by thousands all across the country. He is unable to be here today and I volunteered to act in his stead.

To Nevada Division of Wildlife –

The Board of Wildlife Commissioner's policy statement on their list of purposes is highly commendable. However the subsequent purposes are in direct contradiction to it. They show that Nevada Division of Wildlife has no regard for verifiable science. They reflect a bias attitude that is based on prejudice and being uninformed, and one that is motivated by politics.

Items 5, 6, and 8 under the list of 8 purposes are definitely WRONG. The *opinion* stated in Purpose #5 is based on fable and myth and not on fact. It is not the opinion of the people of Nevada. The absence of the wolf has had absolutely nothing to do with the development of the heritage, culture, and custom of Nevada.

The scientific data referred to in Purpose #6 that alleges that wolf predation is a primary cause of mortality in ungulate populations IS NOT VALID AND IS VERY INACCURATE. Here is the real truth. The following statistics are verifiable by several governmental agencies. They come from the National Agriculture Statistics Service. They are not emotional embellishments put forth by those who have the unfounded belief that wolves are vicious, evil beasts – that belief is the root cause of this proposal here today.

Of all the livestock losses in America –

**Only .11 % are due to wolves**

Only 5% of all cattle losses are attributed to predators

Predators include bears – mountain lions – coyotes – wolves - domestic & feral dogs

Coyotes kill more than 22 times more cattle than wolves

Mountain lions kill 10 times more cattle than wolves

Domestic and feral dogs kill more than 5 times more cattle than wolves

**95% of all cattle losses are due to natural causes** which include respiratory problems, digestive problems, calving complications, disease, and injuries, and old age

And finally, NDOW states in Purpose #8 that they intend “to pursue all legal options to restore full authority and control over the management of wolves in Nevada” Throughout the country, state control of wildlife has proven to be quite problematic. Wildlife management must fall under federal regulation and control in order to be effective. The techniques that NDOW will employ to manage wolves will be any lethal means to prevent any natural wolf migration or colonization in Nevada. This is a direct contradiction to their policy statement and goes against the will of the vast majority of Nevada's population.

**It is a proven fact that where major predators exist, their prey populations are healthier, stronger, faster, with less genetic faults, have greater regions, and increased populations. NDOW's concern that wolves will decrease the populations of native wildlife is scientifically unfounded.**

**There is very little public knowledge of this proposal. This is a direct result of NDOW's minimal public notification of their actions. Their effort to develop transparency is in words only. If they were to utilize all avenues available to them to reach all of Nevada, they would quickly withdraw this proposal to negate the extreme public outcry that will result.**

**I strongly urge you to listen to ALL Nevadans, and to classify wolves in Nevada as they are classified federally – as endangered. Regardless of Nevada's classification of wolves, the taking of any wolf in Nevada will be a federal crime with significant fines and imprisonments.**

**Do the right thing! Reclassify wolves in Nevada as endangered. THANK YOU**

