



## THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Angenie McCleary, Chairman \* Tom Bowman, Vice-Chairman \* Lawrence Schoen, Commissioner

Mr. Rodger Schlickeisen  
President, Defenders of Wildlife  
1130 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

January 24, 2011

Re: Wood River Wolf Project

Dear Mr. Schlickeisen,

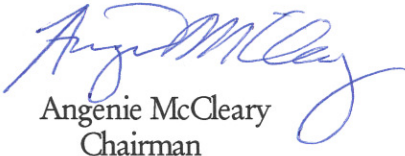
The Board of Blaine County Commissioners wishes to express to you its support of the non-lethal wolf management program that Defenders of Wildlife has facilitated in our County over the past three years. We also support continuation of the program, at least for a fourth year, including the possibility of expanding the project area.

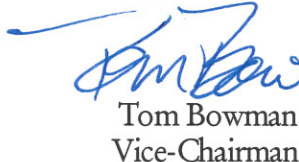
Non-lethal wolf management, as practiced in certain U.S. Forest Service sheep grazing allotments north of Ketchum and Sun Valley, Idaho has proven effective in minimizing and nearly eliminating wolf depredation on sheep in these allotments. Furthermore, it can be seen as a successful example of active cooperation between different interest groups, including livestock producers--who have the most to lose financially--local, state and federal government agencies, the non-profit sector and the general public.

While wolf re-introduction in Idaho certainly has been controversial over the years, we commend Defenders for the role it has played mitigating its negative economic consequences for livestock producers. Our Board strongly supports these producers. Likewise, it supports those who feel wolves have a place in a balanced and healthy, intact ecosystem. We highly commend those who have participated directly in this project, who by their actions have chosen to demonstrate to the world means by which men and wolves might co-exist.

On another note, in the absence of federal or state monies to support an adequate depredation compensation program for livestock producers, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners supports continuation of Defenders compensation program, whether or not wolves are a federally listed species. Compensation is rightfully a part of any wolf management program and is central to conflict-reduced co-existence.

Respectfully,

  
Angenie McCleary  
Chairman

  
Tom Bowman  
Vice-Chairman

  
Lawrence Schoen  
Commissioner

cc: S. Stone, Idaho Office, DOW; K. Nelson, KRD-USFS; J. Hansen, IDFG.