



## ***Q&A - Environmental Review of a Request by the State of Oregon for an ESA 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit For the Management of Gray Wolves***

### ***What action is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service taking?***

The Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting an environmental review in response to a request by the state of Oregon for a “Recovery Permit” under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The permit would be issued to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to manage gray wolves in Oregon, where they are protected under the ESA as an endangered species. The Service will analyze the effects of issuing this permit in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The permit could authorize ODFW to manage wolves under some or all of the terms of the state’s Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, including the use of lethal techniques.

### ***Why do an environmental review?***

Under NEPA, a range of alternatives to a proposed project must be developed and considered in the environmental review, in order that decisions can be made with full knowledge of possible environmental effects. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the potential impacts of alternatives for managing conflicts with wolves in Oregon. The proposed action is to issue ODFW a permit authorizing the use of lethal wolf management techniques. An alternative will be selected and a decision made on permit issuance after consideration of all comments received in response to this Notice, and analysis is complete.

### ***What is a 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit?***

A permit issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allows any act otherwise prohibited by Section 9 of the ESA to be conducted for scientific purposes or to enhance propagation or survival of the affected federally listed species.

### ***Does ODFW need a 10(a)(1)(A) permit to manage wolves?***

Currently, ODFW is authorized through an ESA Section 6 Cooperative Agreement to conduct non-lethal gray wolf management actions. These actions include trapping, collaring, taking blood and hair samples, harassing, and other actions that are not reasonably expected to result in the death or permanent disabling of a wolf. Without this new permit, lethal take of wolves by the state is not authorized. However, any person may take a wolf in defense of his own life or the lives of others.

### ***What will a 10(a)(1)(A) permit authorize ODFW to do?***

A 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit could authorize, among other things, harassment that might result in injury or “lethal take” (the ESA term for killing) of gray wolves for the purpose of enhancing their recovery as a species, in accordance with the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management

Plan.

***How will authorizing lethal take of wolves enhance propagation or survival of the species?***

Application of a practical, responsive management program including lethal control is essential to the wolf recovery effort because recovery of wolves depends on establishing a population of wolves that function well in their natural environment. Wolves that develop habits involving chronic depredation of domestic livestock rather than their native prey discourage public acceptance of their presence. An established program to control wolves which habitually prey on livestock allows responsible agencies to resolve depredation problems, thereby encouraging cooperation from landowners in wolf recovery efforts. A timely response to depredations can help alleviate indiscriminate and illegal killing of wolves.

***What is “take”?***

The term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. The proposed 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit would include authorization to lethally take (remove, or kill) wolves under specific conditions.

***What is “control”?***

Control actions can include: (a) application of aversive (non-lethal) conditioning techniques to problem wolves; (b) capturing problem wolves on federal, state or private lands and radio tagging and releasing them on site so they can be monitored; (c) relocating problem wolves to unoccupied areas when possible; or (d) killing problem wolves.

***How long will ODFW need this permit?***

ODFW will need this permit for some of its proposed management actions until wolves are no longer listed under the ESA.

***How can I review the application and related documents?***

The state’s application is available at:

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/angered/recovery/default.htm>. The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan is available at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves/>

Other information and documents relevant to this permit are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a request for a copy of such documents to the address below, or calls 503-231-2063.

***Can the public comment on this proposal?***

Yes, publication of this notice in the *Federal Register* opens a 30-day comment period. Comments will be accepted until September 11, 2006. All comments should be sent to: Chief of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (fax: 503-231-6243). Please refer to “Oregon Wolf Permit Analysis” when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.