

RESOLUTION 14-022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF KETCHUM, BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO
SUPPORTING THE VALUES OF WILDLIFE CO-EXISTENCE AND RECOGNIZING THE WOOD
RIVER WOLF PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ketchum's 2014 Comprehensive Plan outlines its Community Vision and Core Values placing "great value on the exceptional natural setting and resources of the Wood River Valley" and the importance of being stewards of public lands and the need to conserve natural resources for future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the 2014 Comprehensive Plan states that these "environmental features and resources sustain our economy and are why many people choose to live in Ketchum"; and,

WHEREAS, the public lands surrounding Ketchum are for the most part natural and wild, offering habitat for deer, elk, moose, bears, mountain lions and wolves, but this landscape is also shared with recreational users, and sheep grazing which, since the 1880's, has been a part of Ketchum's history; and,

WHEREAS, the existence of Gray Wolves in Blaine County provide increased opportunities for wolf watching and tracking for residents and visitors alike; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ketchum values and believes that humans, livestock and predators, including wolves, can co-exist on public lands as demonstrated by the Wood River Wolf Project, a collaboration with Blaine County, Lava Lake Land and Livestock, Defenders of Wildlife, federal land managers, and wildlife experts. This effort, started in 2007, has proven how a suite of proactive non-lethal control measures has helped keep sheep and wolves alive while sharing the landscape. To date, less than 0.03 percent of more than 25,000 sheep grazed annually in the area have been killed by wolves. This is the lowest loss rate in high density wolf and sheep grazing range in Idaho proving that these methods can protect livestock, save ranchers' money, and reduce lethal actions against wolves; and,

WHEREAS, these values of co-existence and beliefs are not shared by Idaho Governor Butch Otter and the Legislature who in 2014 widened their war on wolves with the creation of the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board financing the killing of wolves to further reduce the statewide population, even though since 2011 more than 1,400 wolves in Idaho (Idaho Fish & Game Reports) have been killed through trapping, snaring, aerial shooting and expanded hunting seasons; and,

WHEREAS, the need for a viable wolf population has been recognized by conservationists nationally, including award winning filmmakers and Ketchum wolf experts, Jim, Jamie and Garrick Dutcher in a June 2014 New York Times article that states "these predators are critical components of the ecosystem, a so-called keystone species....they are true ecological assets, but not if they are reduced to ecologically irrelevant numbers"; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ketchum believes that the State of Idaho policies are negatively impacting Idaho's reputation, the City's stewardship values, the City's recreation and tourist economy, and undermines the Wood River Wolf Project's efforts to continue to show that predators and livestock can co-exist;

NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the City Council for the City of Ketchum to request the Governor of Idaho, Idaho Fish & Game, the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior to recognize the importance of recreation, tourism and wildlife to our citizens and economy, not expand lethal control of wolves, reconsider estimates of a viable wolf population, and to work cooperatively with the Wood River Wolf Project, and,

FURTHERMORE, the City Council for the City of Ketchum will transmit a copy of this resolution to the collaborators of the Wood River Wolf Project in order to acknowledge the success of non-lethal control measures, including, but not limited to, the Lava Lake Land and Livestock Company, Blaine County Commissioners, Defenders of Wildlife, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and,

FURTHERMORE, the City Council for the City of Ketchum will transmit this resolution to the Governor of Idaho, Blaine County's State Legislative Delegation, the region's Idaho Fish & Game Commissioners, U.S. Wildlife Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of the Interior to request their support of the collaborative work of the Wood River Wolf Project and to provide for the safety of our residents and backcountry recreation users by prohibiting trapping, snaring and aerial shooting of wolves on public lands in our region.

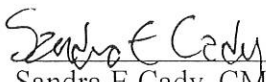
PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 15th Day September 2014.

CITY OF KETCHUM, IDAHO



Nina Jonas,
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra E Cady, CMC
City Treasurer/Clerk