

WESTERN JUSTICE



WOLF Delisting Coalition

Wildlife Oversight & Land-Use Front

Western Justice Initiative: Standing United to Delist the Gray Wolf

Our Mission

Western Justice is leading a national effort to delist the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This effort is based on science, not politics.

The gray wolf population has exceeded recovery goals by more than threefold since reintroduction. Yet, despite clear biological recovery, federal protections remain, creating economic loss, livestock depredation, and frustration across rural America.

Our mission is two-fold:

- **Delist the Gray Wolf** - The ESA's purpose is recovery and removal from the list. The milestone has been reached. It is past the time for federal policy to reflect that reality.
- **Ensuring States Follow a Federal Management Mandate** - Different state laws have wreaked havoc on appropriate management and ranching communities. States need to meet or exceed federal management mandates to ensure consistency throughout every state, since wolves do not follow state boundaries.

Our Strategy

1. Forming a Nationwide Coalition – WOLF

Western Justice is building the Wildlife Oversight & Land-Use Front (WOLF Coalition), a unified alliance of county commissioners, sheriffs, livestock and agricultural associations, independent ranchers, businesses, sportsmen, and rural stakeholders across America.

Together, this coalition will:

- Speak with one voice demanding the federal delisting of the Gray Wolf.
- Demonstrate broad, bipartisan support for science-based wildlife policy.
- Coordinate outreach, education, and public engagement across all affected states.

Only through unity can we achieve this historic goal.

2. Local Leaders Taking Action

Western Justice is organizing formal letters and resolutions from County Commissioners, Sheriffs, and other local elected officials across the West representing the communities most directly affected by unchecked wolf depredation. These letters will be delivered to Congress and the Administration, underscoring the widespread agreement among local leaders that the Gray Wolf has fully recovered and that continued ESA protection is no longer scientifically justified.

This unified effort shows that rural America stands together, strong, informed, and determined to restore balance between wildlife and working lands.

3. Reforming Depredation Claims

Western Justice is also working directly with the Administration to reform wolf depredation claim programs, ensuring ranchers receive timely and fair compensation for livestock losses. We are pushing for a transparent, standardized process that serves rural producers rather than state and federal bureaucracy.

4. Building the Western Justice Legal Fund

We are establishing the Western Justice Legal Fund to challenge the continued federal listing of the gray wolf through targeted litigation, scientific review, and policy advocacy.

Your support fuels:

- Legal action to compel delisting under existing recovery standards.
- Scientific and policy analysis proving the wolf's full recovery
- Strategic engagement with Congress and federal agencies

Every dollar helps restore fairness and scientific integrity to wildlife policy.

5. Public Education

We have assembled an experienced, Emmy Award-winning team of filmmakers to document the devastation created by the wolves and the issues with a patchwork management scheme. Our team will start filming the first week of November. We will be interviewing ranchers, county commissioners, sheriffs, tribal members, wildlife biologists, and depredation officers. This effort will be crafted into a variety of messaging pieces suitable for distribution over social outlets.

Our Team

- Dave Duquette, President of Western Justice

Dave Duquette brings over 20 years of experience uniting ranchers, producers, policymakers, and advocacy organizations to effect meaningful change in agricultural and wildlife policy. His deep understanding of rural America and his proven ability to build coalitions across state and Federal levels. He is a trusted voice for balance, fairness, and science-based wildlife management.

- Shawn Burtenshaw, Western Justice

Shawn Burtenshaw is a key part of the leadership team driving outreach, coordination, and grassroots engagement for the WOLF Coalition (Wildlife Oversight & Land-Use Front). His experience working directly with producers and rural communities helps ensure Western Justice's mission stays connected to those most affected by wolf depredation and federal policy decisions.

- Bill Shannon, Shannon Ranch

Bill Shannon is a fourth-generation rancher operating a cow-calf operation in the Central California Foothills, based in Terra Bella, Tulare County, California. Shannon brings generational experience, practical insight, and a strong commitment to preserving both ranching traditions and balanced wildlife-management policies that sustain rural livelihoods.

- Gary Cardoza, O'Neal Ranch

Gary Cardoza represents a sixth-generation ranching family located in O'Neals, California, and Sierraville, California. The O'Neal Ranch has operated a cow-calf operation since 1878, maintaining a proud legacy of family-run ranching and stewardship of working lands. Cardoza's continued leadership reflects the resilience and deep-rooted values of America's ranching heritage.

- Tim Ritschard, President of the Middle Park Stockgrowers

Tim Ritschard is a fifth-generation rancher managing his family's cow-calf operation in Colorado's Middle Park, which is the epicenter of the state's wolf reintroduction. Tim represents producers across Colorado, advocating for policies that protect ranching families, livestock, and the rural way of life we all know and value.

- Jeff Flood, Wildlife Specialist

Jeff Flood serves multiple Washington State County Sheriff's Departments as a Lead Depredation Investigator and Predator Control Officer. Acting as a liaison between ranchers and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, Jeff brings essential expertise in wildlife-conflict resolution and on-the-ground predator management, bridging the gap between enforcement agencies and rural producers.

- Senator Todd Nash, Oregon State Senator

Oregon State Senator Todd Nash is a former County Commissioner and Past President of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Nash is a respected rancher and advocate for rural Oregon. He was the rancher involved in the first confirmed wolf kill in Oregon, giving him unique firsthand experience with the realities of wolf depredation. His decades of leadership in both ranching and policymaking make him a vital voice for balance, accountability, and fair management.

- Aurelia S. Giacometto, Contract Counsel for Western Justice

Aurelia S. Giacometto is a partner at Earth and Water Law and Contract Counsel for Western Justice; she brings over 20 years of distinguished experience in both the corporate and administrative sectors. Giacometto has served in presidential and gubernatorial appointed positions and corporate roles that shape the public and business regulatory landscapes. She is 22nd Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Trump-45) and 14th Secretary of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (Governor Jeff Landry). Her areas of expertise include environmental law, regulation, and fossil fuel policy, agriculture, wildlife and conservation policy, and the Second Amendment. Giacometto holds a master's in Molecular Genetics and is a licensed attorney in Kentucky and Washington, D.C.

How You Can Help

- Donate to the Western Justice Legal Fund - fuel the legal and policy fight to delist the gray wolf.
- Join the WOLF Coalition - add your organization, county, ranch, or business to our growing alliance by emailing Dave Duquette at dave@westernjustice.info.
- Share our message - educate others that the wolf has recovered and the time for delisting is now.

Donations to the Wildlife Oversight & Land-use Front (WOLF) may be directed according to your preference. Tax-deductible contributions supporting education, outreach, and media initiatives may be made through the Western Justice C3 arm, while donations supporting the legislative process to delist the gray wolf may be made to the Western Justice Legislative Fund (C4).

Western Justice Legislative Fund (C4)

A Non-Profit, 501(c)(4) Corporation
Internal Revenue Code: EIN #85-1738984
Registered in Cheyenne Wyoming
P.O. Box 454, Hermiston, OR 97838

Disclaimer: *Contributions to the Western Justice Legislative Fund (WJLF) are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business. Please consult with your tax adviser.*

Western Justice (C3)

A Non-Profit, 501(c)(3) Corporation
Internal Revenue Code: EIN #85-1713764
Registered in Cheyenne Wyoming
P.O. Box 454, Hermiston, OR 97838

Disclaimer: *All donations are deemed tax-deductible, absent any limitations on deductibility applicable to a particular taxpayer. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. **Donation Information & Disclaimers***



Dave Duquette
President, Executive Director
dave@westernjustice.info
cel 541-571-7588
www.westernjustice.info