

Fight Worth Fighting

by Ryan Benson <http://biggameforever.org>

Some have questioned whether our proposed legislation, S. 249 and H.R. 509, the American Big Game and Livestock Protection Act can get passed through Congress. With over 60 total cosponsors from 31 states, we strongly feel the answer is a resounding “Yes.” More importantly, I think a much better question is whether we can afford not to get it passed.

A couple of important facts to consider. Unmanaged wolves have been a major problem for wildlife in the West and Midwest. All of the “experts” who promised it wouldn’t be a problem were wrong. Take Idaho for example. The statewide elk harvest has been almost cut in half. Every wilderness herd has been reduced 45-85%. Moose are largely gone in many areas. Outfitter clients are down from 4,500 to 1,100 hunters. The anti-hunters are winning. Wildlife is losing.

Current proposals to “delist” by USFWS, do not turn power back to the states. But rather leaves important veto power in the hands of career bureaucrats. Perhaps the most important thing to understand about the wolf solutions being pushed by USFWS is that they do not represent an incremental victory. The clear intention is to do little more. A two state partial solution are intended to be END OF THE ROAD by many in Congress. They want to use this incremental approach to slow down and stop the momentum on S249 and HR 509. What does this mean? This means there are no guarantees that states will have primacy to manage wolves. There are no guarantees that this will be the end of the delays. There are no guarantees that this will be the end of the litigation. There are no guarantees that this will be the end of the frustration, the destruction or the federal micromanagement.

Now they want to spread the destruction to Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and across other states in the country.

Other than our proposed legislation, there are NO plans to allow state managers to protect elk, moose, deer or other wildlife in any of these states. There are NO assurances that these states will not end up like Idaho. The Center for Biological diversity has filed litigation to force the spread of destruction to all of these states. Without Congressional action, they will succeed.

S. 249 and H.R. 509 allow every state to decide. S. 249 and H.R. 509 are the only bills that end this aggressive litigation. They allow the best professional wildlife managers in the world to manage and protect with responsibility.

So do we fight for our future? Do we let the anti-hunting out-of-state special interest ruin the wildlife of more states? Big Game Forever will continue to fight tirelessly in Congress. With 60 cosponsors from 31 states we have already accomplished what many have said could not be done.

Join the fight for the future of wildlife. Email your representatives in [Congress at http://biggameforever.org/takeaction](http://biggameforever.org/takeaction). It’s fast, easy, and free.

Ryan Benson
<http://biggameforever.org>
ryandbenon@msn.com