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AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**New wolf culling policy
(Switzerland)**

-COMPLAINANT REPORT-

Prepared by Verein CHWOLF and Avenir Loup Lynx Jura (ALLJ)



Verein CHWOLF
Nüburg 1
CH-8840 Einsiedeln

Avenir Loup Lynx
Jura
(ALLJ)



Verein CHWOLF · Nüburg 1 · CH-8840 Einsiedeln (SZ) · Schweiz

Bern convention
Council of
Europe Avenue
de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Einsiedeln, 30 april 2026 / cs

Complaint No. 2023/3, Possible File, Switzerland: New wolf culling policy

Additional information April 2026

Dear Sir or Madam

In your letter dated December 19, 2025, you gave us the opportunity to provide an update on our last report. We are pleased to send you our supplementary information regarding further developments in Switzerland's wolf culling policy.

Abstract

This statement contains information on the third management period (September 2025–January 2026), a section entitled “The deadly experiment: Why wolf management is missing the mark” by Peter A. Dettling, details of the latest parliamentary motions, and an examination of current livestock protection practices.

There has been no improvement in the catastrophic situation regarding the political and administrative handling of the wolf in Switzerland. The contrary assurances and reports from the FOEN do nothing to change this. The renewed political initiatives clearly show that Switzerland's approach to the wolf is, in fact, tending to deteriorate further.

We must stand by the points of complaint we have raised on numerous occasions, as set out in our statements in 2025. We have also had to conclude that any efforts on our part to clarify the exact circumstances surrounding culls are being completely blocked, both administratively and legally, by the cantonal and federal administrations.

Switzerland must return to a technically sound, reliably structured and scientifically supported wolf management approach that operates primarily using non-lethal means in order to meet the common requirements of effective international species conservation.

1. Information on the 3rd management period from September 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026

Cantonal authorities continue to exploit the legal options available to them to the fullest extent - and even beyond - despite all the criticism. The FOEN approved the preventive culling of 9 entire wolf families and two-thirds of the pups from 21 packs. This amounts to over 100 wolves and roughly one-third of the entire Swiss wolf population.

In total, 76 wolves were actually shot by the cantons during the 3rd regulation period as a result of this senseless regulation.

(Appendix 1: Graphic “CHWOLF wolf distribution map”, as of December 2025, showing packs that were permitted to be culled)

Since the new hunting law came into effect on December 1, 2023, over 230 wolves have already been shot in Switzerland. Most of them had never killed livestock. (February 2026)

Implementation in the Canton of Graubünden

The FOEN authorized the Canton of Graubünden to cull three entire packs (Moesola, Muchetta, and Sinestra). In addition, two-thirds of all pups in every pack were permitted to be culled as part of so-called “basic regulation,” even if the packs were completely unobtrusive. This affected another seven packs. In Graubünden alone, 35 wolves were shot, 7 of them by hunters. None of the three packs authorized for complete culling could be fully eliminated. In all three packs, one parent animal was shot in addition to the pups. It remains to be seen what effects this destruction of pack structures will have on behaviour and damage to livestock.

DNA analyses have revealed that there were four cases of mistaken shooting: In the Älpelti pack, the alpha female was accidentally shot instead of a pup, and this occurred as early as September 1, the first day of the culling. At that time, the pups were just four months old, making such a mix-up difficult to explain. In the territory of the Frisal pack, a wolf that did not belong to the pack was shot by an unauthorized hunter. Similarly, one wolf not belonging to the pack was shot in the territory of both the Sinestra and Muchetta packs.

Comment by CHWOLF: Despite the culling of 35 wolves and a massive investment of financial resources and time, the number of wolf attacks in the canton of Graubünden rose slightly in 2025 to 217, compared to 213 in 2024. The argument that preventive culls are absolutely necessary to prevent future damage is therefore unfounded. Future damage can only be effectively prevented through well-implemented herd protection measures, not through arbitrary culls.

Hunting by amateur hunters increasingly leads to misfires and the uncontrolled destruction of packs. The authorization by cantonal authorities of private amateur hunters to cull wolves is irresponsible, unprofessional, and unacceptable. As a reminder: In 2023, the number of livestock kills decreased by 25% nationwide and by 50% in the canton of Graubünden thanks to improved herd protection measures, and this was before the first culling period took effect on December 1, 2023. Since wolves can be culled preventively, the number of attacks has remained stable at around 1,000 nationwide. (Appendix 2: CHWOLF Document “Number of kills per wolf is declining sharply”, January 2026)

Implementation in the Canton of Valais

The FOEN authorized the Canton of Valais to cull three entire packs (Simplon, Salatin, and Chablais). In addition, two-thirds of the pups from three other packs were permitted to be culled as part of “basic population control.” A total of 24 wolves were culled as a preventive measure,

five of them by hunters. None of the three packs authorized for complete culling could be fully eliminated.

DNA analyses revealed that there were seven mistaken shootings: All mistaken shootings occurred within the range of the three packs designated for complete culling. Of the 17 wolves shot in these ranges, seven did not belong to the packs. Among others, the alpha male of the Dent d'Oche/St.-Gingolph pack, which lives in neighbouring France, was shot. (However, the authorities do not count these kills as mistaken kills, since when eliminating entire packs, all wolves within the culling perimeter may be shot.) Suspected poaching: In the Mattertal (VS), one female and one male wolf were found dead in February and March 2026, respectively. The public prosecutor's office is investigating whether these were the wolf pair known to inhabit the area and whether the two animals were poached.

Comment by CHWOLF: The boundaries of a territory do not follow a rigid line and are dynamic over time. The hunting perimeters designated by the cantons always include the entire home ranges and thus also the buffer zones shared with neighbouring packs. All wolves in this area are shot indiscriminately, regardless of whether they belong to the pack authorized for culling or not! By choosing culling perimeters that are far too large, the cantons are thereby facilitating and "legalizing" many mistaken killings.

Implementation in the Canton of Vaud

The FOEN authorized the Canton of Vaud to cull the entire Mont Tendre pack. Despite enormous efforts by game wardens, the pack could not be completely eliminated. A total of 10 wolves were shot, including the alpha female.

DNA analyses revealed that there were 4 mistaken kills: 4 of the wolves shot were not part of the pack. Among them was the female wolf F259 from the neighbouring, transboundary Risoud pack, which had been collared by KORA for the "Wolf and Cattle" research project. (The authorities do not count these kills as mistaken kills either, since when eliminating entire packs, all wolves within the shooting perimeter may be shot.)

The Canton of Vaud Wants to Have the Effects of Wolf Management Objectively Assessed

Many Incidents - Despite Investments: Last year, six employees and around twenty auxiliary gamekeepers were engaged in wolf management in the Canton of Vaud. According to a statement from the canton, this was partly at the expense of other important tasks. Despite significant investments, Vaud continues to record a high number of incidents involving wolves. For this reason, the canton wishes to have the effects of wolf management objectively assessed through a study conducted by KORA.

Media release from the Canton of VD <https://www.kora.ch/fr/actualites/apres-plusieurs-decisions-de-tirs,-le-canton-de-vaud-souhaite-objectiver-les-effets-de-la-regulation-du-loup-1016>

Comment by CHWOLF: The same issues arise here as well: uncontrolled destruction of pack structures with unclear consequences and hunting perimeters that are far too large, leading to accidental killings or "legalized" killings of wolves not authorized for culling.

Implementation in the Canton of Schwyz

The FOEN authorized the Canton of Schwyz to cull two-thirds of the Chöpfenberg pack as part of so-called "basic population control," even though it is the only pack in the canton and has behaved completely unobtrusively thus far. Although CHWOLF filed a supervisory complaint against the culling order and a report of illegal feeding with the canton (as we previously reported), the three pups were culled. The canton has so far refused to grant us access to the culling dossier. We must therefore assume that the culling conditions set by the FOEN were not adhered to.

Implementation in the Canton of Ticino

The FOEN authorized the Canton of Ticino to cull the entire Carvina pack. In addition, two-thirds of the pups from six other packs were permitted to be shot as “basic regulation.” A total of five wolves were actually shot. DNA analyses revealed that one mistaken shooting occurred: In the Lepontino pack, the alpha male was accidentally shot instead of a pup.

Report on the Situation in the French-speaking part of Switzerland

The report by Avenir Loup Lynx Jura (ALLJ) on the situation in the French-speaking part of Switzerland can be found in Appendix 3: “ANNEX_Rapport_ALLJ_29-04-2026_FR”.

Further information and the implementation details for the other cantons can be found in the KORA list.

(Appendix 4: KORA liste: Loups régulés en Suisse au cours de l'année de monitoring 2025/2026)

2. The Deadly Experiment: Why Wolf Management Is Missing the Mark

Expert Peter A. Dettling Warns of the Destruction of Swiss Wolf Families

A new analysis by Graubünden-based wolf researcher Peter A. Dettling paints a grim picture of “proactive management.” Since the revision of the Hunting Ordinance at the end of 2023, Switzerland has undergone a radical shift in policy regarding the “wolf issue.” What is being marketed nationwide as “proactive regulation” with the stated goal of capping populations, making wolves more wary, and laying the groundwork for coexistence - proves, upon closer examination, to be an experiment that is ineffective, disastrous, and extremely costly in every respect. The example of Graubünden serves as a warning sign for all of Switzerland. Current practices threaten to destabilize the social fabric of nearly all wolf families, thereby intensifying precisely the conflicts that cantons and the federal government actually seek to prevent.

(Appendix 5: Analysis by Peter A. Dettling, “The Deadly Experiment - Why Wolf Regulation Misses the Mark”, March 2026)

Comment by CHWOLF: Peter A. Dettling’s analysis reinforces our serious concerns regarding the poor conservation status and genetic diversity of the Swiss wolf population. Under the current culling policy, entire packs are being killed without regard for genetics, and pack structures are being irreversibly destroyed. In Switzerland, most wolves are descended from the Italian population. So far, only a few isolated wolves have migrated to Switzerland from the Dinaric-Balkan population or the Central European population. The genetically valuable and inconspicuous Fuorn pack, which was completely eliminated around the National Park during the second culling period, had Italian and Dinaric-Balkan roots. If these genetically valuable wolves are shot - and for no good reason at that - the vital genetic mixing will be slowed down or completely prevented. A favourable conservation status is not defined solely by the number of packs per area, but also by genetic diversity, the health of the population, and species-appropriate living conditions. If, every year, a so-called “basic regulation” is carried out across the board and arbitrarily on all packs - involving the preventive culling of two-thirds of all pups - and if the natural mortality rate of pups and young wolves is factored in, there will be fewer and fewer young wolves dispersing. This will lead to genetic impoverishment, and a favourable conservation status will thus hardly be guaranteed anymore. The analysis by Peter A. Dettling also confirms the allegations repeatedly raised by CHWOLF in the present case, namely that the proactive wolf management practiced in Switzerland violates all scientific findings and the provisions on species protection under the Bern Convention, Articles 1, 2, 3(1), Art. 4(4), Art. 7(1) and (2), Art. 8 with Annex IV, and Art. 9, and furthermore completely misses the mark in terms of its purely politically and economically motivated objective.

3. Parliament Calls Again for Further Relaxation of Wolf Protection

After the two motions “Allow the shooting of wolves in hunting-restricted areas” ([Motion 25.3715](#)) and the call to shoot wolves year-round without closed seasons, “Problem wolves living in packs. Action must be possible!” ([Motion 25.3549](#)) were approved by Parliament, another motion has already been submitted. The proposal is to introduce an upper limit on the wolf population.

New legislative initiative: Upper limit on wolf population “Introduction of a legal basis for the regulated culling of wolves when a predefined threshold is exceeded” ([Motion 25.4464](#))

The motion calls for: *Once a certain number of wolves is reached in Switzerland, surplus animals should be culled. Currently, there is a minimum population threshold for wolf packs. If this threshold is exceeded, wolves may be culled preventively to avoid problems. Culling decisions are assessed on a case-by-case basis and must be approved. However, Ticino National Council member Fabio Ragazzi wants faster, less bureaucratic culls. The threshold for the wolf population would be agreed upon in consultation with the cantons. According to Fabio Ragazzi, “As low as possible. But a careful assessment must take place.”*

The motion is supported by the Federal Council and was already approved by the Council of States on March 19, 2026. Now the National Council must still vote on it.

Comment by CHWOLF: The political demands to further relax wolf protection continue endlessly. Implementing these three motions requires another revision of the Hunting Act. Setting an upper limit on the Swiss wolf population amounts to quota hunting. The fact that the Federal Council supports this motion shows that it has no interest in adhering to international agreements on species conservation. The two other motions already adopted ([25.3715](#)) and ([25.3549](#)), which allow hunting in hunting-restricted areas and throughout the year without closed seasons, will also massively weaken wolf protection once again. Arbitrary population control through quota-based hunting will not only further destabilize the wolf population but, in the worst case, lead to its renewed extinction. There is a risk of irreversible genetic and population-ecological damage that will affect the entire Alpine population. Poaching will also be massively encouraged, as the killing of protected wolves will effectively be legitimized. There can then be no question of effective species protection in accordance with Articles 2 and 7 of the Bern Convention in Switzerland.

4. Implementation of livestock protection measures

Livestock protection measures work when implemented consistently and properly

The fact that livestock protection works is demonstrated by the many alpine farmers who implement these measures fully, properly and consistently, and who now experience hardly any attacks. Most attacks on livestock today occur on alpine pastures or meadows that are either unprotected or inadequately protected.

Individual farm herd protection plans - implementation often leads to reactive culling

Many alpine pastures now have a so-called 'individual farm herd protection plan'. This is drawn up in accordance with cantonal guidelines and approved by the cantons.

Condition: In principle, herd protection measures must use herd protection fences or herd protection dogs. Where there is constant herding, it is also possible to operate solely with fenced night pens and bad-weather pastures. If part of the pasture area is classified as 'unreasonably difficult to protect', an emergency plan is required for this area. However, the animals may spend a maximum of 40% of the alpine grazing season on pastures covered by an emergency plan.

If an alp has such a herd protection plan in place, an additional contribution of CHF 250 per NST (1 NST = 10 sheep) is paid on top of the standard summer grazing and herd protection contributions. Implementation of the herd protection plan is entirely the responsibility of the alp owner.

According to the Office for Hunting and Fishing (AJF), 93% of the alpine pastures in the canton of Graubünden are classified as protected under such a herd protection scheme. As a significant proportion of these herd protection schemes classify a large area of pasture as 'unreasonably difficult to protect', rough estimates suggest that the area of pasture actually protected by genuine and effective herd protection measures amounts to no more than 30% of the total alpine pasture area.

The problem here is that, according to the cantonal authorities, such a concept means that all animals are considered protected at all times, even if in reality individual animals are occasionally outside the night enclosure or protection zone, or the entire herd is unprotected on the alpine pastures classified as "unreasonably difficult to protect".

In plain language, this means that many sheep spend part of their summer grazing season on so-called "unreasonably difficult to protect" alpine pastures and are thereby officially considered protected. We call this "paper protection" and it is NOT genuine herd protection.

Undermining of the Hunting Protection Act with devastating consequences for the wolf population

The declaration of "unreasonably difficult to protect", widely applied by the cantons, means that grazing animals are, so to speak, automatically deemed protected; consequently, damage arising from situations where they are not actually protected is nevertheless counted towards the damage quotas for wolves on the basis of this "paper protection". This inevitably leads to excessive reactive culling of wolves that did NOT have to evade herd protection measures.

Thus, reactive culling of wolves in areas with no or only partial herd protection is effectively "legalised". In our view, this interpretation and course of action by the authorities undermines the current Hunting Protection Act.

In the majority of livestock attacks in Switzerland, the wolves did NOT have to circumvent any protective measures, yet they are still shot on the basis of economically motivated and questionable herd protection schemes. We regard this as a fundamental breach of the Hunting Act, the Hunting Ordinance, the Animal Welfare Act and the Federal Constitution. Yet this so-called 'paper protection' is not only tolerated by the cantonal and federal administrations, but is actually mandated and promoted by them.

If their own ordinances and laws were interpreted and enforced in a way that made sense not just from an agricultural-economic perspective but holistically, very few wolves would be shot.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: Graphic "CHWOLF wolf distribution map", as of December 2025, showing packs that were permitted to be culled (German)

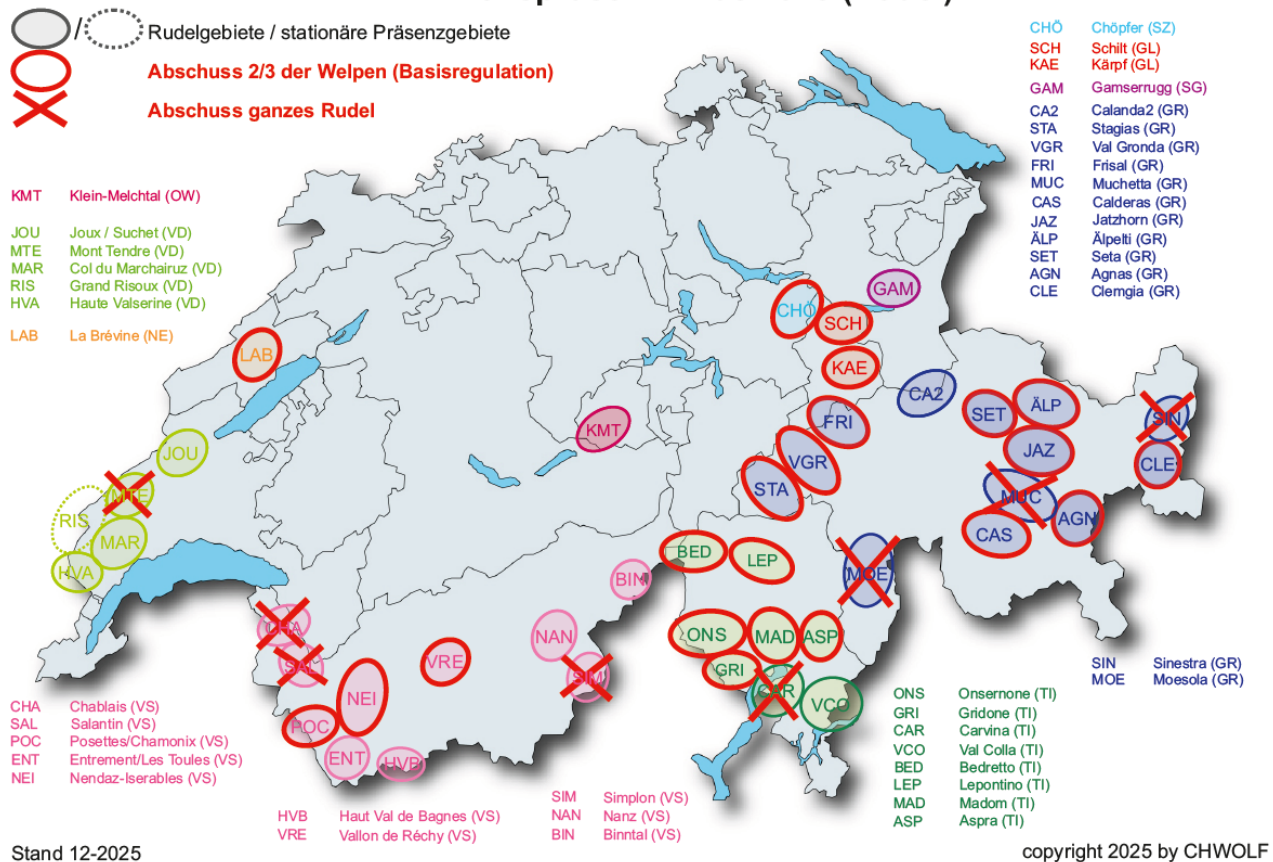
Appendix 2: CHWOLF Document "Number of kills per wolf is declining sharply", January 2026 (German) Appendix 3: "ANNEX_Rapport_ALLJ_29-04-2026_FR", by Avenir Loup

Lynx Jura (ALLJ) (French) Appendix 4: KORA liste: Loups régulés en Suisse au cours de l'année de monitoring 2025/2026 (French)

Appendix 5: Analysis by Peter A. Dettling, "The Deadly Experiment - Why Wolf Regulation Misses the Mark", March 2026 (English)

Appendix 1:

Wolfspräsenz Ende 2025 (Rudel)



Appendix 2:

Anzahl Risse pro Wolf gehen massiv zurück

Wenn man die Anzahl Risse in Bezug auf die steigende Anzahl Wölfe betrachtet, dann sieht man, dass es pro Wolf immer weniger Risse gibt. Dies ist eindeutig das Ergebnis von immer häufiger und besser umgesetzten Herdenschutzmassnahmen und das Faktum, dass stabile Rudel grosse Gebiete besetzen und fremde Einzelwölfe, welche meist mehr Schäden verursachen, aus diesen Gebieten fernhalten.

2000 -	4 Wölfe -	255 Risse	(63.7 Risse / Wolf)
2009 -	10 Wölfe -	382 Risse	(38.2 Risse / Wolf)
2018 -	50 Wölfe -	525 Risse	(10.5 Risse / Wolf)
2020 -	120 Wölfe -	922 Risse	(7.7 Risse / Wolf)
2022 -	230 Wölfe -	1480 Risse	(6.4 Risse / Wolf)
2023 -	300 Wölfe -	1100 Risse	(3.7 Risse / Wolf)
2024 -	300 Wölfe -	ca. 1000 Risse	(3.0 Risse / Wolf)
2025 -	350 Wölfe -	bei KORA noch keine Daten verfügbar!	

Die Risse gingen bereits vor der Einführung der präventiven Abschüsse am 01.12.2023 massiv zurück. 2023 gab es trotz mehr Wölfen gesamtschweizerisch 25% weniger Risse als im Vorjahr.

Im Kanton Graubünden gab es 50% weniger Risse

Im Kanton Glarus sogar über 80% weniger Risse

RAPPORT DU JURA (VD, NE, FR, BE)

Canton de Vaud : Le canton de Vaud a autorisé, pour la période de régulation du 1er septembre 2025 au 31 janvier 2026, l'abattage complet de la meute de loups du Mont Tendre. Les cantons voisins n'ont émis aucune objection quant à l'élimination de l'ensemble de la meute. Justification : La meute a causé ces dernières années des dégâts importants au bétail, en particulier aux bovins. Les mesures de protection ne sont pas légalement obligatoires pour les bovins. Telle est la justification officielle. Cependant, « non obligatoire légalement » ne signifie en aucun cas « interdit ». Nous, ALLJ et CHWOLF, constatons avec consternation que presque exclusivement un seul et même éleveur était concerné, lequel refusait catégoriquement de modifier sa gestion des bovins.

La meute du Mont Tendre a ainsi eu suffisamment d'occasions de se spécialiser sur les bovins, en particulier les très jeunes animaux. Certains individus, notamment le mâle alpha M351, ont ainsi montré un comportement dit problématique envers les animaux de pâturage. M351 n'a toutefois pas pu être abattu, malgré quatre tirs manqués sur dix. La question reste ouverte : est-il mort des suites des blessures par balle subies l'année précédente ou a-t-il effectivement quitté la région ? Sa femelle (F186) a été abattue durant la période de régulation.

Concernant la meute Jougne/Suchet (CH/FR), l'OFEV a autorisé l'abattage de 2/3 des louveteaux. Selon KORA, aucun animal de cette meute n'a toutefois été tué. Une question reste en suspens : cette autorisation de régulation a-t-elle été coordonnée avec la France ? Le canton l'affirme oralement, mais aucun procès-verbal ni document ne nous est connu à ce sujet.

Canton de Neuchâtel : La meute de La Brévine s'y est installée. Dès la première année suivant la formation de la meute, le canton a autorisé, dans le cadre de la régulation proactive, le tir de quatre louveteaux. Ces abattages ont été effectués.

Cantons de Fribourg et de Berne : Aucun de ces cantons n'abrite encore de meute. À Berne, une louve gestante a été braconnée l'année dernière, empêchant la formation d'une première meute. Le braconnier n'a à ce jour pas été arrêté.

Au total, 14 animaux ont été abattus dans cette région, dont 7 louveteaux n'ayant jamais présenté de comportement problématique. Selon les directives actuelles de l'OFEV concernant la répartition du loup – non fondées scientifiquement – il resterait encore suffisamment de meutes dans la région de l'Arc jurassien (probablement 3 à 4). Actuellement, KORA estime que, outre la meute du Mont Tendre, la meute du Risoud a également été éliminée. Ont encore pu être confirmées les meutes suivantes : Haute Valserine (transfrontalière CH/FR), Marchairuz (CH), Jougne/Suchet (CH/FR) et La Brévine (CH). Selon l'OFEV, environ deux meutes dans l'Arc jurassien serait suffisante. Cette affirmation ne repose sur aucune base scientifique.

Durant cette période de régulation également, nous constatons les problématiques juridiques suivantes, apparues depuis l'introduction de la « régulation de base ». L'OFEV et les autorités cantonales n'ont jusqu'à présent montré aucune volonté de les traiter conjointement avec les organisations concernées :

1. Abattage de meutes entières vs prélèvements ciblés individuels, avec toujours des tirs erronés dans d'autres meutes pour lesquelles aucune autorisation n'avait été délivrée. Il n'existe toujours pas de conséquences juridiques pour les gardes-faune ou chasseurs fautifs.
2. Utilisation persistante de moyens illégaux pour la chasse au loup (appareils de vision nocturne, caméras thermiques). Le canton de Vaud justifie leur usage en affirmant que la chasse au loup est une mesure de régulation des effectifs et non une chasse officielle. Une base légale et des ordonnances correspondantes font totalement défaut.
3. Absence persistante de définitions scientifiques claires du « comportement indésirable » ; il est toujours toléré que des agriculteurs récalcitrants favorisent sciemment, et probablement volontairement, la spécialisation des meutes sur les bovins. L'agriculteur ne subit aucune conséquence lorsque des bovins sont tués par des loups (voir ci-dessus : protection des troupeaux non obligatoire). Les animaux – bovins comme loups – paient de leur vie cette négligence humaine.
4. Protection des troupeaux vs abattage : nous remettons fondamentalement en question la légitimité des tirs, quels que soient les cadres légaux, en particulier lorsque l'agriculteur refuse de protéger ses animaux malgré un danger connu (violation de la loi suisse sur la protection des animaux, art. 4).
5. Protection des populations et engagements internationaux : la régulation reste en contradiction avec la Convention de Berne.
6. Exécution immédiate des décisions sans effet suspensif en cas de recours : tous les cantons appliquent ce principe afin d'empêcher de facto les recours des organisations et des particuliers. La loi prévoit un délai de recours, mais celui-ci n'a aucun effet suspensif, rendant la possibilité de recours juridiquement illusoire.
7. La situation juridique est compliquée pour les organisations concernées en raison du transfert de compétences de la Confédération aux cantons, car chaque organisation doit désormais justifier dans chaque canton son intérêt digne de protection pour pouvoir déposer un recours.

Conclusion : Dans la Suisse romande également, à travers l'Arc jurassien, le débat est intense, chargé d'émotions et soumis à une forte pression politique. Cela empêche une discussion objective et la mise en place de mesures adaptées pour faciliter la cohabitation entre grands prédateurs et agriculture.

Appendix 4 :

KORA Talgut Zentrum 5 CH-3063 Ittigen, +41 (0)31 951 70 40 info@kora.ch www.kora.ch

Loups régulés en Suisse au cours de l'année de monitoring 2025/2026

Au cours de l'année de monitoring 2025/26, qui s'est étendue du 1er février 2025 au 31 janvier 2026, 89 loups au total ont été abattus, dont 81 dans le cadre de régulations réactives ou proactives de meutes, et 8 autres lors des tirs de loups isolés. 60 des loups abattus étaient des louveteaux nés en 2025. Au total, 153 louveteaux ont été détectés. (Situation au 24.03.2026)

Meute	Canton	Régulation	Tirs effectués	Individus tirés
*transfrontalière dissoute				**Loup sans lien génétique avec la meute
Vallée de la Brévine	NE	- PR regulation partielle	- 23.09.2025: 1 louveteau - 01.10.2025: 1 louveteau - 07.10.2025: 1 louveteau - 23.10.2025: 1 louveteau	F304 (Vallée de la Brévine 2025) M611 (Vallée de la Brévine 2025) F323 (Vallée de la Brévine 2025) M579 (Vallée de la Brévine 2025)
Jougne/Suchet*	NE/VD	- PR regulation partielle		
Risoud*	VD			
Mont Tendre		- RE loup d'une meute - RE regulation partielle - Élimination	- 01.08.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 09.09.2025: 1 louveteau - 11.09.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 20.09.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 27.09.2025: 1 louveteau - 08.10.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 11.10.2025: 1 louveteau - 20.10.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 11.11.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 10.12.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte	F186 (Femelle reproductrice Mont Tendre) M598 (Mont Tendre 2025) M533 (Mont Tendre 2024) M550 (Haute Valserine 2024)** F316 (Mont Tendre 2025) F324 (Haute Valserine 2024)** M627 (Mont Tendre 2025) F331 (Mont Tendre 2024) F259 (Risoud 2023)** M381 (Risoud 2023)**
Marchairuz				
Haute Valserine*				
Gamserugg	SG			
Klein Melchtal	OW			
Kärpf	GL	- PR regulation partielle	- 18.01.2026: 1 louveteau	M641 (Kärpf 2025)

Chöpfenberg	SZ	- PR regulation partielle	- 14.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 17.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau	Inconnu M629 (Chöpfenberg 2025) F333 (Chöpfenberg 2025)
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			- 13.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau	
Schilt 2	SG	- PR regulation partielle	- 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 17.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M614 (Schilt 2 2025) F317 (Schilt 2 2025)
Binntal	VS			
Chablais		- Élimination	- 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 16.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 20.09.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 24.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 29.09.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 08.11.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 19.01.2026: 1 lou-veteau - 20.01.2026: 1 loup de taille adulte	M624 (Chablais 2025) F320 (Chablais 2025) F321 (Chablais 2025) F315 (Chablais 2025) M609 (inconnu)** F322 (Chablais 2025) M625 (inconnu)** M388 (Mâle reproducteur Dent d'Oche/St-Gingolph)** F354 (Chablais 2025) M650 (inconnu)**
Monte Teggiolo*				
Nanz				
Nendaz-Isérables		- PR regulation partielle	- 23.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 17.12.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 20.01.2026: 1 lou-veteau	F342 (Nendaz-Isérables 2025) M610 (Nendaz-Isérables 2025) F357 (Nendaz-Isérables 2025)
Posettes/Trient*		- PR regulation partielle	- 01.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 01.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M622 (Posettes/Trient 2025) M623 (Posettes/Trient 2025)
Salentin		- Élimination	- 06.01.2026: 1 loup de taille adulte - 20.01.2026: 1 loup de taille adulte - 08.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 31.01.2026: 1 lou-veteau	M658 (inconnu)** M426 (Mâle reproducteur Salentin) F355 (Salentin 2025) F314 (Seta 2025) M615 (Seta 2025)
Simplon*		- Élimination	- 23.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 13.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 19.11.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 02.12.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 05.12.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 03.01.2026: 1 loup de taille adulte	F338 (Seta 2025) F341 (Simplon 2025) M659 (inconnu)** M660 (Simplon 2025) F346 (inconnu)**
Les Toules				
Haut Val de Bagnes*				
Vallon de Réchy		- PR regulation partielle	- 17.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 17.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M607 (Vallon de Réchy 2025) M608 (Vallon de Réchy 2025)
Calanda 2	GR, SG			

Agnas	GR	- PR regulation partielle	- 21.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M606 (Agnas 2025)
Älpelti		- PR regulation partielle	- 01.09.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 07.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 07.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 30.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau	F233 (Femelle reproductrice Älpelti) M596 (Älpelti 2025) F312 (Älpelti 2025) M645 (Älpelti 2025)
Calderas		- PR regulation partielle		M599 (Calderas 2025) M600 (Calderas 2025) M601 (Calderas 2025)
Frisal		- PR regulation partielle	- 05.01.2026: 1 lou-veteau (Tir accidentel par un chasseur non autorisé)	M654 (Calderas 2025)**
Jatzhorn		- PR regulation partielle	- 04.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 04.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 06.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 10.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M602 (Jatzhorn 2025) M603 (Jatzhorn 2025) M642 (Jatzhorn 2025) F335 (Jatzhorn 2025)
Lenzerhorn				
Moesola		- Élimination	- 06.10.2025 1 lou-veteau - 06.10.2025 1 lou-veteau - 06.10.2025 1 lou-veteau - 06.10.2025 1 lou-veteau - 06.10.2025 1 lou-veteau - 01.11.2025 1 loup de taille adulte	F319 (Moesola 2025) M616 (Moesola 2025) M617 (Moesola 2025) M618 (Moesola 2025) M619 (Moesola 2025) M327 (Mâle reproducteur Moesola)
Muchetta 3		- PR regulation partielle - Élimination	- 10.12.2025 1 lou-veteau - 16.12.2025 1 loup de taille adulte	F345 (Muchetta 2025) M565 (inconnu)**
Seta		- PR regulation partielle		
Sinestra		- PR regulation partielle - Élimination	- 06.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 06.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 30.10.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 16.11.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 30.11.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte - 14.12.2025: 1 lou-veteau	F318 (Sinestra 2025) M630 (Sinestra 2025) F219 (Femelle reproductrice Sinestra) F334 (Sinestra 2025) F246 (Lenzerhorn 2024)** F344 (Sinestra 2025)

Stagias		- PR regulation partielle	- 02.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 02.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau	M604 (Stagias 2025) M605 (Stagias 2025)
Valgronda				
Aspra	TI	- PR regulation partielle		
Bedretto		- PR regulation partielle		
Carvina*		- Autre - Élimination	- 09.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 09.09.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 19.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau - 19.10.2025: 1 lou-veteau	F311 (Carvina 2025) M595 (Carvina 2025) F328 (Carvina 2025) F329 (Carvina 2025)
Gridone*		- PR regulation partielle		
Lepontino		- PR regulation partielle	- 20.12.2025: 1 loup de taille adulte	M296 (Mâle reproducteur Lepontino)
Madom		- PR regulation partielle		
Onsernone*		- PR regulation partielle		
Valcolla*				

Lors de l'abattage de meutes entières, tous les loups présents dans le périmètre d'abattage peuvent être abattus. Seule une analyse génétique, réalisée au Laboratoire de biologie de la conservation (LBC) de l'université de Lausanne, permet de déterminer si un loup a un lien génétique ou non avec la meute. Au total, 15 loups ont été tirés, sans qu'il soit possible de les assigner génétiquement à la meute au sein de laquelle ils ont été tirés.

Si vous utilisez ces informations, veuillez citer le Laboratoire de Biologie de la Conservation de l'Université de Lausanne (LBC), les cantons suisses et la fondation KORA comme source de données.

Appendix 5:

The following is an excerpt from the annual report for the LUFS wolf project. By Peter A.

Dettling. © March 2026

THE DEADLY EXPERIMENT: WHY WOLF REGULATION MISSES THE MARK

CHUR / Switzerland, March 10, 2026.

Since the revision of the Hunting Ordinance at the end of 2023, Switzerland has undergone a radical shift in policy. What is being sold as a proactive regulation that helps to curb population growth and foster coexistence, proves under closer inspection to be an ineffective, disastrous, and exorbitantly expensive experiment. The case of Canton Graubünden serves as a cautionary tale for the rest of Switzerland and beyond. Current practices threaten to destabilize the social fabric of wolf families, thereby fueling the very conflicts that cantonal and federal authorities aim to prevent. A look at the raw data from Graubünden illustrates the sheer scale of this culling strategy:

A review of regulatory culls: The case of Graubünden.

Regulation period 2023-2024:	Number of wolves shot
Proactive regulation (Dec. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024):	12
Reactive regulation (Aug.–Nov. 2023 C Feb.–March 2024):	9
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>21</u>

Regulation period 2024-2025:	Number of wolves shot
Proactive regulation (Sep. 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025):	48
Wolves shot by local hunters as part of regulation	(4)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>48</u>

Regulation period 2025-2026:	Number of wolves shot
Proactive regulation (September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026):	35
Wolves shot by local hunters as part of regulation	(7)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>35</u>

These figures represent only the tip of the iceberg. When accounting for the total mortality rate from traffic collisions, culls, illegal poaching, and other factors within a single calendar year, the biological implications become more apparent:

- 2023: Of the 96 genetically identified wolves, 23 (24% of the population) died within the same calendar year.
- 2024: Of the 106 genetically identified wolves, 53 (50% of the population) died within the same calendar year.
- 2025: With a total population estimated at over 100, 43 animals died, representing a loss of roughly 40%. [1]

The truth behind the statistics: cryptic mortality

Population biology has proven that so-called cryptic mortality, i.e. hidden and unrecorded mortality, such as illegal killings, is massively underestimated. Studies show that the actual mortality rate in hunted wolf populations is around 1.2 to 1.5 times higher than officially recorded. Data from Scandinavia illustrate the dramatic extent of this unknown number. There, two out of three illegally killed wolves disappear without a trace and do not appear in any statistics. [2] [3]

For the Canton of Graubünden, this means that for every officially culled wolf, a significant number of unreported deaths including poaching, accidents, and other causes must be factored in statistically. If a wolf pack already loses two-thirds of its offspring to legal culling, this additional, invisible pressure will inevitably lead to the collapse of its social structure. The population avoids immediate collapse only thanks to a reproductive buffer, which is currently being systematically eroded by massive culling.

The flawed logic of pup culling

One could argue that the authorities do not intend to destroy the social structure of the pack, but are instead focusing on the removal of pups. However, there are two primary counterarguments to this position.

First, the natural life expectancy of pups is already low. Leading wolf research (Mech C Boitani 2003) estimates natural pup mortality at 30 to 50 percent, depending on food availability, disease, and social stability. Second, the general lifespan of wolves is relatively short. If pup mortality is driven up to two-thirds per litter by drastic regulation, it massively exceeds the natural range.

The result is significantly smaller wolf families, which become extremely vulnerable to the already high mortality rate. If only one-third of the pups survive the regulation phase and further animals are lost due to natural causes, there are hardly any young animals left to stabilize the wolf family. These are then missing to help raise the next generation, hunt large ungulates, or defend the territory against other wolf families. If illegal shooting of parent animals or the dispersing of surviving young animals are added to this, the family is threatened with complete disintegration.

While the wolf remains a protected species on paper, this status is being effectively undermined by the introduction of proactive regulation. The fact that culls can occur even without livestock damage renders its legal protection obsolete.

The Graubünden "experiment": A declaration of bankruptcy in species protection

The canton sees wolf regulation as a kind of experiment.[4] Whether it is an experiment or not, the fact is that the cantonal Fish and Wildlife Service has not communicated the family structure of the local wolf packs in the canton for some time. If the effects of culling on behavior and family structure are to be investigated, detailed knowledge of the social structure of each wolf family throughout the year would be essential. Since the canton of Graubünden has recently stopped publishing information about the structure of the various wolf packs, it must be assumed that those responsible either do not know or, for some reason, do not want to communicate this information publicly. Neither option is acceptable.

The fact is that science and my personal observations in the field, described in detail in my books like *Wolfsodysee* and *Wolfsdynastien*, show the negative impact of these regulatory interventions. Let me share a few thoughts on this:

1. The paradox of wariness: When experienced wolf parents are killed, disoriented young animals are left behind. Without guidance, they are forced to take greater risks in their struggle for survival, often becoming more visible to humans. Consequently, regulation often creates the very problem of "unwary" wolves in the first place. A similar issue arises when subadults—who serve as vital helpers to their parents—are shot. The resulting stress on the parent animals to maintain the pack increases, which can lead to riskier behavior, increased visibility, or a shift toward easier prey, such as livestock.
2. Biological chaos: The destruction of a pack's social structure can lead to either inbreeding or so-called double litters. When outside males join a destabilized family, they may mate with multiple females. Conversely, if no outside wolves join the pack, inbreeding can occur, which is a phenomenon that is virtually non-existent in stable wolf families. I have personally observed both inbreeding and double litters in Yellowstone and Banff National Parks as a direct result of such social disruptions.

The fact is that such constellations, brought about by humans through legal and illegal killing, can lead to genetic impoverishment on the one hand, or to an increase in pup numbers in the short term through double litters on the other. This in turn can lead to the division of family groups and thus to a higher wolf density in the area. This outcome is the exact opposite of what the proponents of regulation actually want to achieve. [5]

3. Legitimization of poaching: The massive rhetoric against wolves and the widespread legitimization of culling sends a fatal signal to parts of the population that illegal killings are a minor offense or even a necessary form of 'self-defense'. Studies show that when the state authorizes the shooting of wolves as intensely as is currently the case in Switzerland, the inhibition threshold for poaching drops dramatically. This reinforces cryptic mortality and ensures that official cull numbers no longer reflect the actual biological reality. [6]
4. Accidental kills and ethics: Proactive regulation inevitably leads to serious mistakes. In Graubünden, for example, three lynxes were mistakenly shot in November 2024 because game wardens misidentified them as wolves. Further accidental kills are unavoidable, as the case of the Moesola wolf pack shows. In that instance, game wardens shot the breeding male M152 because they believed him to be a subadult. This mistake cost M152 his life and robbed the family of their father, even though his removal had not been authorized. [7]

The situation of the Fuorn wolf pack in the Swiss National Park is particularly dramatic. When two dead cattle with bite marks were found at the edge of the national park at the end of August 2024, the fate of this relatively new and inconspicuous wolf clan was sealed. Even before DNA results were available, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) gave the green light for the elimination of the entire family. In the following months, a total of 15 wolves were shot, including twelve Fuorn wolves and three outside wolves that happened to be in the area. This completely wiped out the genetically valuable Fuorn pack, which had Italian and Dinaric-Balkan roots. The fact that the Fuorn wolves spent most of their lives in a protected area and were nevertheless destroyed so hastily, along with the associated "collateral damage," is nothing short of an ethical bankruptcy.

The ecological short-sightedness of this measure is particularly evident when looking at the immediate consequences. Following the elimination of the Fuorn pack, sheep kills in the area actually increased as a new wolf clan, the Sinestra pack, moved in. This new family exhibited much more conspicuous behavior than their predecessors and quickly became the focus of management efforts. Consequently, a request was made to eliminate the entire family including the parents and their seven pups. By the end of the regulation phase in January 2026, a total of six wolves from this new pack had already been killed. [8]

At the expense of taxpayers and democracy

In Graubünden, statements made by Arno Puorger of the Fish and Wildlife Service shortly after the first regulation phase highlighted the intensity of these operations. Almost the entire gamekeeping staff, approximately 50 out of 59 people, was exclusively occupied with wolf management for weeks. Puorger spoke of round-the-clock operations, which often took place under difficult conditions at night and in high-alpine terrain. A look back at recent years reveals the full extent of the problem: the workload related to wolves has skyrocketed from 8,628 hours in 2021 to over 18,430 hours in 2024. This represents more than a doubling of the hours in just three years. The figures for the Canton of Valais are equally stark, where game wardens worked a total of around 6,400 hours of overtime in 2024, nearly 1,000 hours more than in the previous year.

[9] [10]

The financial implications

Wolf regulation is not only time-consuming but also extremely costly. The Canton of Graubünden incurs considerable expenses for additional equipment, such as night-vision devices and thermal-imaging technology, as well as for compensation for the massive amount of overtime. In order to alleviate the pressure in the long term, staffing levels have been steadily increased in recent years. For example, the 2025 budget includes an additional 2.9 full-time positions for game wardens and 2.0 positions for scientific staff to ensure enforcement in the field. [11]

Under these circumstances, it defies all logic that those responsible are even considering making the annual, extremely expensive "experiment" a permanent task, as has been communicated on several occasions, especially in times of cantonal and national austerity measures and, at the same time, growing financial demands in areas such as energy supply, military build-up, and climate adaptation [12]. This is particularly true when wolf damage is viewed in the overall context of sheep farming: while every wolf attack is highly publicized in the media and politically, tens of

thousands of sheep die every year on Swiss farms and in the Alps completely unnoticed by the public.

Sheep mortality

According to a report in “Schweizer Bauer” on January 11, 2025, a total of 56,838 sheep died across Switzerland in 2024 as a result of disease, accidents, weather conditions, or neglect.[13] In comparison, the approximately 1,000 livestock animals killed by wolves seems almost marginal: the wolf is thus responsible for less than 2 percent of the overall mortality. [14]

The fact that the state is spending millions on increasing the number of gamekeepers and hunting a species that statistically poses only a minimal risk, while the massive losses of livestock due to disease, accidents, or neglect are hardly debated politically, makes the "wolf cull experiment" appear increasingly disproportionate and extremely destructive symbolic politics. This is particularly true when the following facts are taken into account: by 2022, the number of sheep depredations in Graubünden had already fallen significantly, and losses across Switzerland had also decreased noticeably in cantons with wolf families. It is important to emphasize that this decline began before proactive regulation was even introduced.[15] This development clearly shows that consistent livestock protection is the decisive factor in reducing conflicts. The current culling program is therefore combating a problem that was already on the way to being resolved.

Taxpayers are thus financing a strategy that is unilaterally focused on decimating wolves, even though this approach is not supported by scientific findings, economic criteria, or animal welfare principles. Furthermore, at a time when democracy is under pressure worldwide, it must be emphasized again and again that the authorities are acting contrary to the spirit of the 2020 referendum. At that time, the Swiss electorate voted explicitly against such a far-reaching and preventive relaxation of wolf protection, which means that the current approach lacks direct democratic legitimacy.

Time to face reality

This extreme strategy of mass wolf elimination is biologically unsound, ethically incompatible with modern animal welfare standards, and – given that the 2020 referendum was ignored – an act of unprecedented democratic ignorance on the part of politicians. This deadly experiment serves neither the wolf, the sheep, nor the mountain farmers; it should be shelved in favor of seriously pursuing alternative solutions.

The first signs of critical self-analysis are emerging in the Canton of Vaud. Although the canton in western Switzerland has invested considerable resources in wolf control, the hoped-for decline in attacks has not materialized. In early February 2026, the authorities publicly questioned the effectiveness of the culls and commissioned KORA (the Swiss foundation for large carnivore ecology and wildlife management) to scientifically analyze the actual effects of these control measures.[16]

While there is nothing wrong with new, rigorous studies, we do not have to look far to find solutions that already work:

The Calanda Model (2012–201G): A blueprint for successful coexistence

The example of the Calanda wolf pack serves as a prime illustration of how stability leads to success. This was the only wolf family allowed to develop over many years without significant human intervention. It proved that well-established, professional livestock protection combined with a stable wolf family structure is the decisive factor for successful coexistence. Initially, a local sheep herd suffered significant losses until professional measures were consistently implemented. Following this, coexistence worked beautifully. For smaller herds where protection dogs were not used, well-maintained and consistently erected electric fences proved sufficient. [17]

The Beverin Model (201G–2022): A failure of massive human intervention

Contrary to the Calanda wolf family, the Beverin pack was subject to a very aggressive regulation effort even before the nationwide wolf cull began. The result was a destabilized family structure, which led to an unusually large family size and the highest conflict density in the entire canton. This occurred despite, or more likely because of, the constant culling, and it proves that massive human intervention often exacerbates the very problems it claims to solve. [18]

Conclusion

Constant disturbances and culls put wolf families under chronic stress, disrupt their social family structure, and impair the animals' health and behavior. A population weakened and thinned out in this way is particularly sensitive to unforeseen events, such as diseases that could threaten the entire population. This inevitably brings the ethical dimension to the forefront. Instead of investing enormous amounts of time, energy, and taxpayer money in a counterproductive, experimental, never-ending, and highly destructive wolf regulation effort, the focus should be on professional livestock protection measures, direct financial support for mountain farmers, and transparent, politically independent wolf research and communication. In this model, the offices for Fish and Wildlife could participate, but should not be given sole control or the final say.

This could create a situation in which not rifles, but knowledge, education, active support for mountain farmers, and empathy toward wolves create a win-win situation. Such a Swiss model would attract worldwide admiration and ultimately bring tourists to the country who want to experience this groundbreaking coexistence firsthand and report on it. In a world where polemics and ignorance often determine action, this path would be almost revolutionary. Yet, viewed soberly, it is easily achievable if the political will existed and popular referendums were taken seriously.

Instead, we are currently confronted with a wolf management system that is ethically questionable, very expensive, and ineffective in every respect. Above all, this results in unimaginable suffering for one of the most ecologically valuable and social animal species that this world has produced in the course of its long history. This is precisely why the words of world-renowned wolf researcher Paul Paquet are so important:

" Too often, conservation focuses solely on the maintenance of populations and their requisite habitat. We forget that wild populations are made up of individuals that can suffer the same stress and pain, which we deem unacceptable for companion animals that share our homes or those we farm to eat. Although suffering is clearly a feature of a wildlife, the human-induced suffering generated by [...] wolf culls is not. We can end it if the public fully understands what is being paid for with their tax money." [19]



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