

Karen Flood

The number of Wolves required in order to make the determination that they have "recovered " is arbitrary and primarily set in order to limit human and Wolf conflict. Primarily conflict with the desires of hunters and ranchers. Perhaps a better approach would be to limit the number of humans allowed access into Wolf habitat.

Until that happens hunters and ranchers should educate themselves as to the nature and behavior of Wolves and how essential they are to a healthy ecosystem. If ranchers had a better understanding of Wolf behavior, they may decide to stop releasing 200lb calves and protective cows into Wolf habitat. A 200lb calf is still a small animal and essentially bait for Wolves.

As Governor Inslee has stated, the current method of managing Wolves by killing them is not working. And as studies have shown, it doesn't work long term. *

If the WSDFW is incapable of finding more non lethal methods of Wolf management, perhaps this task should be placed in the hands of another agency.

Finally, it is long past the time where ranchers and hunters should be given preference over the lives of Wolves. All of us must learn to share our wild places with the animals who inhabit them, including predators.

Respectfully,

Karen Flood

* Stone 2017 and Treves 2016