

## Catherine Frizat

My name is Catherine Frizat, I am writing regarding the proposal to create a "post recovery" wolf management plan in Washington. I am a citizen who values nature and wild places, and for whom the protection of the environment and its biodiversity matters above all other current political issues. If humans are to survive as a species, we must stop our destructive path and re-learn to live in harmony with nature and all other animal species. Our natural spaces and wilderness areas have been severely impacted by the absence of wolves for too long. While they are slowly making a comeback, the existence of these apex predators is still fragile and we must take all necessary steps to ensure their survival as an essential species. Consequently I believe that the establishment of this plan is entirely premature. Washington is still far from meeting the current plan's goals. There are no wolves in the 3rd zone, annual population growth is stagnating, and the number of wolves per pack is small. Instead of rushing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must concentrate on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Implementing non lethal solutions to resolve conflicts between livestock and wolves as requested by Governor Inslee and (2) Increasing public education on wolves. This is outlined in the current plan but nothing has been done in that respect, even though all wolf experts say public education is absolutely essential for successful wolf conservation. In addition, for the current plan and for any future wolf plan, management policies must be established through a science-based, public rule-making process. Therefore I am asking you to: - Respect and answer the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators - Reject any initiative that prioritizes livestock over wolves - Reject any requests for state sanctioned hunting or trapping season on wolves, and any requests for designating the species as game mammals - Recognize that the state holds wolves in trust for the public Thank you for considering my comments.