



Washington State Trappers Association

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Sorry I seem to be unable to use your form for these comments and get it to work via e-mail. I will also mail a paper copy to make sure you receive my comments.

With wolves increasing in population by an average 28% it would seem apparent that to keep a stable population some harvest will be necessary. A public hunting season should be used whenever possible to harvest surplus wolves. That being said, there are undoubtedly going to be instances where wolves are damaging private property, i.e. livestock. In those instances private Wildlife Control Operators (WCOs) should be used. There is no reason for the State to spend huge amounts of money to control problem wolves when we already have a system in place for handling nuisance wildlife. WCOs can trap problem wolves at minimal expense to the State. Add wolves to the list of animals WCOs can handle and allow Special Trapping Permits to be written for wolves where appropriate.

I would also like to comment on the scope of the expansion of wolves in WA. I believe that wolves in more settled areas are going to be a recipe for conflict. WDFW should endeavor to confine wolves to areas of lower human population and back country. A wolf in a more populated area will inevitably end up preying on domestic animals. WDFW should do this by setting long and generous season in most of the State with less generous seasons in areas where wolves will be less of a problem such as Wilderness areas.

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