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Creating a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time is premature, as Washington is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must instead focus its attention on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Resolving, through nonlethal means, conflicts between livestock and wolves, which are taking place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves; and (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done by you, despite the fact that all wolf experts say public education is the single most important action to take for successful wolf conservation. Additionally, under the current wolf plan and any future wolf plan, management guidance, policies and protocols — and especially those which could result in wolves being killed — must be developed through a science-based, public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. Therefore I urge you to: (1) Stop cherry-picking science to justify wolf-killing; (2) Answer the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators; and (3) Use every opportunity to extol the value of top predators in keeping nature healthy, and cease current messaging that prioritizes livestock over wolves. The public will fail to see any reason to coexist with wolves if the department fails to explain that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. Although I am a layperson from the perspective of conservation biology, even I have access to sufficient information to appreciate that the return of wolf populations is an extraordinarily important and even essential step in protecting and restoring what little remains of America's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Since you are nowhere near achieving this goal, I can only guess that you wish to promote post-recovery plans as a method of disguising your limited progress, or alternatively, in an effort to deceive the public as to the program's current status. Surely you are not attempting to reassure hunters and ranchers that they will be permitted to destroy the wolf population once again should it actually manage to recover to any appreciable extent. Please prove that my worst suspicions are unfounded by dropping this premature effort to declare victory and retreat from the field. You clearly have much work left to do that is actually necessary to a successful wolf recovery program, Thank you for considering my comments.