

## Ashley Waldorf

We have to protect America's wolves. Instead your state is doing the opposite. This is absolutely disgusting. We have to do everything within our power to SAVE the wolves. We are encroaching on their homes and punishing them for it. First taking their habitats and then killing them? This is absurd and has to end! 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. AND If I were in charge I would simply tell the livestock owners: "Tough shit, you built a ranch in a place where you KNOW wolves make their homes, so that's your stupid fault and now you will just have to deal with them eating your animals. Sorry, but maybe next time don't put your ranch in the middle of predator country. They were here first. Leave the wolves alone!" Thank you for considering my comments! SAVE THE WOLVES!