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I respectfully urge the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to focus its attention on current wolf-management needs rather than racing to create a post-delisting plan,. First and foremost, this means conducting extensive public education on wolves. Despite being emphasized in the current plan and stressed by all wolf experts as the single most important action for successful wolf conservation, this all important step in the wolf recovery plan has not been pursued in good faith. With better education, it should also be possible to gain greater support for resolving conflicts between livestock and wolves through nonlethal means. It goes without saying that ranchers should also be fully and fairly compensated for their losses since they bear the brunt of the wolf recovery effort. 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. This would mean responding in good faith to the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators and using every opportunity to explain that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. Thank you for considering my comments.