

Wolf Post-Recovery Plan Scoping

Please give us your comments!



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is inviting the public to comment on the scope of a post-recovery plan for wolves in Washington. Scoping helps us identify reasonable actions, alternatives, and impacts to be discussed in the plan. Scoping improves decisions and encourages collaboration, cooperation, and early resolution of potential conflicts. It is intended to narrow the focus of the plan to the relevant issues. **The public scoping comment period for this process is open from August 1, 2019 through November 15, 2019.**

Comments can also be provided electronically at wdfw.wa.gov/wolves-post-recovery-comments

* **Required fields.** Please print clearly.

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Completing this form will automatically add you to the mailing list for project updates and notices of document availability. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, check this box

Comments on the scope of the post-recovery wolf conservation and management plan:

See attached.

We have lost 2 calves during fall calving this year. We are pretty sure they were attacked by either coyotes or cougar. Based on the carcass we found on one calf we have been told by the look of the photos we took it was probably a cougar. We didn't report it because we didn't have a visual sighting. I know there are wolves in the hills surrounding our valley and I am concerned that they will venture down to the ranches and farms. Wolf population needs to be kept away from livestock and controlled.

Mail to:

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WDFW Habitat Program, Protection
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Privacy Notice: Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Persons with disabilities who need to receive this information in an alternative format or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes by phone (360-902-2349), TTY (360-902-2207), or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information, see https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html

10 Points for Acceptance of Wolves on the Landscape

1. The Department should maintain and control wolf populations at a sustaining level that can be properly managed, that also achieves healthy ungulate populations, and does not negatively impact livestock producers.
2. Due to lack of trust between the Department and rural communities, USDA Wildlife Services (APHIS) should be contracted by the state to provide wolf depredation investigations, lethal control and interstate data sharing.
3. APHIS must be given the authority to provide depredation investigations and to implement lethal control when two depredation events have occurred during a trailing 12-month window, with at least one depredation resulting in dead livestock. I also support continued incremental control of problem wolves that could result in pack removal if wolves continue to depredate.
4. The Department must place an emphasis on supplying and deploying to livestock producers any tools that have a negative stimulus on wolves and that prevent wolves from attacking livestock by changing behavior or that prevent habituation.
5. The Department should be required to have at least two collared (with best technology available) wolves in each pack. Sensitive collar data in real time must be shared year-round with livestock producers who have signed agreements.
6. The Department is required to maintain healthy and robust ungulate populations that provides abundant prey for wolves and other predators, as well as ample harvest opportunities for hunters. To accomplish this the Department must adaptively manage using an integrated predator/prey management policy. Predators including wolves cannot be managed successfully in isolation or without consideration of their affect on the prey base.
7. Hunting of wolves should be authorized in this SEPA EIS as a tool to control wolf population and as a Department revenue source.
8. The state should contract for and expand scat monitoring to determine prey species being consumed by predators and to better define wolf populations through DNA and that those findings be used as a management tool for the Department.
9. The state should provide a permanent funding source and a third party to manage a Livestock Compensation Plan to reimburse producers for direct and indirect losses caused by wolves.
10. The Department should educate state residents as to the above management practices that are needed to sustain a wolf population on the landscape.