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There are only 126 confirmed wolves in the state, it is simply premature for the state to begin post-delisting planning and the corresponding inevitable discussions of hunting. Your Governor used the facts, evidence and science to direct the state's fish and wildlife agency to dramatically rein in its wolf killing. "The status quo of annual lethal removal is simply unacceptable," Gov. Inslee wrote in a letter instructing the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to focus on finding nonlethal solutions for conflicts between livestock and wolves. Anything at odds with these instructions is inconsistent with law and guidelines required for such decisions.

Yet instead of addressing these concerns, and reevaluating the controversial lethal protocol, the Department is instead now focused on post-delisting management and expediting the hunting of wolves--which is totally inappropriate and unacceptable.

It is completely premature to discuss post-delisting wolf management. The Department should heed the Governor's advice and focus on fixing its broken lethal protocol to effectively resolve wolf-livestock conflicts without annually killing a large portion of the state's wolf population at the behest of the commercial livestock industry.