

## Colleen K

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. You know in my own state of Wisconsin, we worry about a disease striking the deer that seems to have no solution, one of the causes they think is overpopulation. Of course the fact that they have made a concerted effort over the years to kill off the wolves that hunt them doesn't seem to occur to anyone. In Texas they have an over population of wild boars that are incredibly dangerous. Again they have killed off the wild cougars to almost extinction. Is anyone seeing the pattern here? Predators are important, and there are examples! Time to stop acting as if livestock that is harming us, and the environment are the most important thing there is.. most people don't see profit from leasing PUBLIC LAND to those chosen few. The Planet's ECOSYSTEM is FAILING and WE ARE RESPONSIBLE. Stop hiding and do the right thing. Thank you for considering my comments.