

## Rose M

I live in Oregon now, but have been a Washington native for over 50+ years, 30 of it over in NE WA, where I was born & raised. With that being said, if McIrvin doesn't want range riders, and refuses to use deterrents, then it's his loss, and should "not" be compensated by the state. It's bad enough the WDFW are doing the wolf killing for this rancher. The public needs to be educated (especially NE Wa residents) on how the wolf as a predator can help us with CWD, sooner or later it will hit there. Education, coexistence is essential. Either that or put in the WDFW budget to relocate some packs to the westside of the state. Although I can guarantee that if you pose education & coexistence with ranchers you will get negative feedback from these people. They are ignorant & set in their "old wild west mentality " and that needs to end! 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. Thank you for considering my comments.