

Elizabeth Husband

I am writing to express my support of the recovery and sustainability of wolves and their status as a protected and essential wild animal. I have read the issues and debates about the reintroduction of wolves; knowing that people can be passionate about wolves and their perceived contributions or detrimental effects. Research/science has shown that apex predators, particularly ones with a proven positive impact on the wild eco-systems bring a natural balance to their environment that benefits us all. I am encouraged that the WDFW and Commission are examining their procedures and protocols and their actions. Consider all the reasons that we have for supporting such an iconic creature and our reasoning /intent behind the Endangered Species act. I have seen wolves in the wild and those in sanctuaries and educational centers. These animals enrich our lives and our hearts. Please consider a fair, equitable response for both the humans with a financial motive and the wild animals that were almost eradicated in this country. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must have as its focus addressing current wolf-management needs. Using current science to resolve conflicts through nonlethal means combined with extensive education of the public on the essential value of wolves is crucial for all our state. Under both 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 and public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. Wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving!!!