

Marlene Penry

I am concerned that you are creating a post-recovery plan when goals in the current recovery plan are far from being met. You should be spending time on taking care of the present instead of projecting the future. This plan is premature.

I am dismayed that 126 individual wolves in the entire state is considered adequate recovery. Does your projection based on 15 breeding pairs include a projection of how many wolves or packs you will kill for ranchers? The current situation shows you killing almost as big a population as is expanding.

The current recovery plan is not managing wolf/livestock interactions in any manner other than killing wolves and packs. Before you think about post-recovery, you need to establish best management practices, based on science, for guiding ranchers where they can graze their livestock on our public lands. Why do you allow grazing to be expanded into known high activity wolf areas? Why do you allow salt-licks for livestock to be placed in forested areas? Why has the current recovery plan prioritized livestock over wolves? Isn't that working against the goal of recovering the population of this important apex predator?

You have too much work to do on recovery before you even think about post-recovery. Please postpone this EIS. It is premature.