

## Kelly( Dickey

I dont understand why you are even considering a 'Post Recovery' plan. Wolves are not recovered sufficiently to have reached the most bare bones goals for the survival of the species in the wild, much less for it to THRIVE! I think that this is way too soon to be talking about ANYTHING 'POST RECOVERY!' The species is not currently stable enough for ANY protections to be removed, and the thoughtless and irresponsible way that they are currently being 'managed' is pretty much guaranteed to ensure that they never will. The removal of the eldest, wisest, and most experienced pack member every time a rancher starts screaming that they have taken a calf is removing the knowledge from the younger members of the pack, making it more difficult for them to feed themselves and less likely that this years litter will survive. Wolves are extremely pack ( or FAMILY ) oriented. The adults and older pups all pitch in o care for, teach, and protect the young. They do not reach adulthood until they are a minimum of three years old, and that is just the physical maturity, they are extremely intelligent and learn all of their lives, but if the eldest pack members are removed then the rest of the pack loses all benefit of what these individuals could have taught the younger members, thereby losing much potential for the pack to thrive. It appears to many of us that you all are deliberately sabotaging wolf recovery. I really hope not, because I have lots of family in Europe that are still wanting to come over and observe them in the wild. Wolves are still VERY endangered, and deserve to be treated as such until the species is well established with ALL areas having at least the number of individuals that are in the stated 'goal ' for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration!

Kelly Dickey