Janice Brookshier

I am vehemently opposed to removing endangered species protection from WA wolves, period. This is especially the case in our beautiful state of Washington where a handful of brave wolves have made their way back to re-establish themselves after decades of mass slaughter. How many is that? Oh, maybe 120 individuals? 120. This is a good start to developing a healthy gene pool. What happens when we eradicate wolves and other large predators? Biodiversity fails and systems collapse creating imbalances in other species that must then be managed (killed). Please, let's use science to understand how to live with nature rather than failing at our attempts to control it. Please use science and fact to build WA plans to balance nature's needs with business needs. Much of the land where wolves reside is public land, our land. Wolves should never be killed on public land. I am aware there has been wolf conflict with unfortunate cattle that have been knowingly put in harm's way on public land. This is sad for everyone: It seems cattle have been domesticated to the point of losing their instinctual survival skills. They are knowing pastured where wolves are knowingly trying to re-establish themselves. No one is happy with how this turns out. Please develop a plan that removes cattle from public land and that provides for non-lethal means to mitigate predation loss, should it occur. This can't be that hard. Lastly, let's get back to science, facts to drive our decision making. We need our wolves and apex predators to recultivate our healthy biosystems. Their populations must stabilize to maintain that health. We know this. Yellowstone is a perfect example. Thus, I say, wolves should never be hunted out of anger or for fun or trophies or contests. Please develop laws that protects them from this. America rightfully prides itself on its natural landscape and wildlife. Biodiversity is pivotal to restoring and preserving these assets. Please, let's try to protect and live in harmony with all creatures great and small. Wolves are the Wild. 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.