Nancy Siler

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. It's all been discussed and stated plainly already! I can only pray that your agency does the right thing and puts these wolves back under the protection they need to survive and thrive. People are watching your agency and the actions and non actions that you take! Please do the needful job your agency is expected and required to do! The planet is dependent upon your agency and how you deal with these issues! Do not let the root of all evil, specifically MONEY, be the determining factor here or on any issues when it comes to protecting our God given beautiful creatures. Wolves are necessary and play a significant role in the overall health of our ecosystem and thereby our planet! Thank you for considering my comments. I pray you read them along with all other such letters I'm sure your agency is receiving. Remember, citizens are watching your actions!