

## joan milford

Ranchers who run their livestock on public land impose a huge cost on the public not only in terms of direct subsidies provided by the federal government, but also via indirect subsidies such as the lethal wolf control on our forest lands in Washington state. More importantly, the degradation of ecosystems, the displacement of native wildlife, the destruction of large carnivores necessary for a balanced ecosystem (including those protected under the ESA), the toxic runoff in our rivers and streams, and the trampling of riparian areas, are unacceptable consequences of livestock production on taxpayer supported lands.

It is also important to remember that while livestock grazing is a legally permitted use of public lands, that use is contingent upon livestock production not harming public values.

A new protocol must be examined to reduce conflict, one that does not include taking this sort of senseless lethal action, and one that does not violate the public's patrimony.

Progressive, science-based changes in wolf management, with an emphasis on changes that do not allow lethal removal of wolves on taxpayer supported public lands are sorely needed. In addition, I ask that you to urge the Forest Service to retire grazing permits near known wolf denning sites. Our public lands and ecosystems should not be sacrificed for the private profit of individuals.