

## Jay Tudor

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 (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done yet, 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) Acknowledge the research and statistics of wolf protection; (2) Answer the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators (3) Use every opportunity to explain 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 there is a failure to explain that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. Thank you for considering my comments.