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I am an attorney in Washington State. I am a former chairperson of the Washington State Bar Association's Animal Law Section. My comments are my own and do not represent the views of either the Bar Association or the Animal Law Section. Over the past 35 years I have had many interactions with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and have found that, in general, they are no friends of wild animals. They view their jobs as being supporting hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as working to protect the interests of businesses. Their hostility towards wild animals is readily apparent. WDFW is wasting huge amounts of taxpayer dollars by its efforts to create a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time. Our state is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, along with the accelerated killing of wolves, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should be focusing its attention on current wolf-management needs. These are outlined below: (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) Actually engaging in public rule-making regarding state policies on wolves; and (3) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done by WDFW, 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 either ignoring or 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 is clear that WDFW is working to further the interests of ranchers and private businesses to the detriment of wolves. Why spend millions of dollars to reintroduce wolves when, once they have been reintroduced, you want to spend millions to wipe them out? This is a complete waste of taxpayer funds.