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**File Code:** 2670

**Date:** October 25, 2019

Ms. Lisa Wood  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator  
WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division  
P.O. Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Dear Ms. Wood:

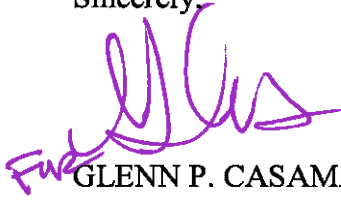
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as your agency starts its State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process for wolf post-recovery planning. Our agency manages approximately ten million acres in the state in which many of the existing wolf packs occur. Therefore, close coordination between our agencies is essential to ensure the continued recovery of this species in Washington State. We offer these initial comments as your agency gathers information through its SEPA process.

1. Early and frequent involvement by our agency will be important in your SEPA process. Please let us know how your agency will involve us and other stakeholders.
2. It's important for our agencies to work together on messaging and education so the public understands the interface between this natural predator and public lands management, ways to coexist with the species, and how to minimize conflicts as wolves repopulate portions of the state.
3. If anticipated, translocations are considered on or near national forest lands in the Northern Cascades and Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast recovery areas, choosing remote release sites with the least likelihood of human or livestock conflict will be essential for the initial success of any translocation effort. Our on the ground knowledge can assist you in selecting these areas if this occurs.
4. Translocations, monitoring (e.g. use of aircraft, etc.), and other proposed activities may require approvals by our agency if they were to occur in wilderness areas or behind closed roads, etc. It's important your agency understands Forest Service regulations and how we can work through subsequent approvals from our agency if required.
5. Finally, having timely information on the location of wolves in relation to our management activities remains important to achieve recovery. We would like to explore ways to access radio telemetry and other information without compromising this sensitive data.



Eric Johnston, Assistant Director for Natural Resources, will serve as the principle contact for the Region. He can be reached at [eric.johnston@usda.gov](mailto:eric.johnston@usda.gov) or 503-808-2922. Please have your staff reach out to him if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Glenn P. Casamassa". The signature is stylized and cursive.

GLENN P. CASAMASSA  
Regional Forester

cc: Marie-Louise Smith, Julia Riber, Tracy Tophooven, Eric Johnston, John Chatel, Josh Chapman, John Rohrer