

## Ryan Williams

Wolves are detrimental to Washington's wild landscape and rural farming and ranching communities. One look at what has happened in Idaho's Lo Lo elk herd over the past 20 years shows the devastating impact wolves have on native wildlife. The only elk left are huddled around communities like Elk City, drawing the wolves into contact with people and livestock. Plus the elk themselves cause significant damage to crops and personal property because they simply have nowhere else to go. If this trend continues the elk herd will not be able to recover.

Wolves are sport killers and continue to harass and kill livestock; this is well documented and is a huge problem in North East Washington State. Even when ranchers do everything right by wildlife department guidelines they are still losing cattle. Range riders, guard dogs, fencing still don't prevent predation. Even on Private Property! Worse than the actual predation is the loss of weight on harassed animals as well as loss of conception in mother cows. There is no program to compensate for this. Washington does not need wolves or at least not at the numbers targeted in the current Washington wolf plan. We need to use the tools available and lethally remove problem wolf packs. Washington needs to do a better job controlling its large predator populations, bear, cougar and obviously wolves have a place in the natural world but they have to be managed for both the other wildlife populations' sustainability and the people who actually live in the rural parts of the state.