

November 13, 2019

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

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Dear Ms. Wood:

HABITAT PROGRAM

The following topics and details are those that I would like to see addressed in your EIS for the post-recovery plan for wolves in Washington.

1) **WDFW Land Management** – Please describe how and whether lands that were acquired by WDFW, specifically with federal funding through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund for the purpose of contributing to wolf recovery, will be used to conserve and protect wolves under the post-recovery plan. Identify whether any actions will be allowed on these lands which do not conserve and protect wolves; that is, actions that would result in deliberate wolf mortality. Describe impacts to wolves and to the wolf-viewing public if such mortality would occur.

2) **Ecotourism** – Please describe if, how, and where WDFW will cultivate ecotourism around wolf-watching by the general public. Can WDFW identify lands where viewing of wolves in their natural habitats would be highly likely given factors such as: WDFW-management which fosters wolf use and protection; surrounding compatible land uses; and current knowledge about wolves and wolf location in Washington state? This non-consumptive use most likely should occur on public lands that were acquired with the intent to conserve wolves and contribute to their recovery. If it is not, explain why.

Please identify how information about wolves and the potential for viewing them will be made available to the public interested in wildlife viewing. Also identify how wolves will be protected from harm if this information is made available to the public.

3) **Research** – Please address what research WDFW will conduct about wolf recovery and its application to post-recovery management. What on-going or new research will be used to improve decisions about hunting, depredation, and habitat enhancement -- relative to improving conditions for wolf survival and wolf pack success?

4) **Education/Outreach** – Please identify very specifically what WDFW will be doing to: educate and reach out to landowners to further minimize livestock-wolf conflicts; and to educate the general public about wolves, wolf ecology, reducing human-wolf conflicts, and minimizing wolf disturbance. How will these efforts be the same or different than what WDFW is currently doing?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Joanne Stellini

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