

Klickitat County Natural Resources & Economic Development Department

Please find attached Klickitat County Natural Resources and Economic Development Department's comments. Thank you.

Regards,
Dave McClure



**KLICKITAT COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

127 W. Court St., Goldendale, Washington 98620
Telephone: 509 773-7060

November 15, 2019

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

RE: SEPA Scoping Comments Wolf Post-Recovery Plan

Dear Ms. Wood;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared to support development of a post-recovery conservation and management plan for wolves in Washington.

Much of the White Salmon River Basin, including the area around the Community of Trout Lake, is an elk concentration area. There are several organic dairy farms in and around Trout Lake. I have seen large numbers of elk in dairy farm pastures. It is my understanding that, to date, wolf pack territories in Washington are not in areas where there are concentrations of both elk and dairy cattle. The *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan* speaks to compensation for wolf-caused depredation, but I don't see where it addresses reduced milk production or other potential impacts to dairies that may result from the presence of wolves nearby stressing dairy cattle.

The EIS for the wolf post-recovery conservation and management plan should include an assessment of Trout Lake and other areas with concentrations of elk (or deer) and dairy farms. Are there special wolf management concerns and recommendations for such areas? Are there livestock management concerns and recommendations for dairies in elk concentration areas? How will impacts (e.g. reduced calf and/or milk production) on dairies be quantified and compensated? Is research needed to support adaptive management in areas like Trout Lake--if so, what?

I submit that, post recovery, wolf conservation and management should maintain a balance in the wolf population and its natural prey base. Post recovery, WDFW should consider objectives for deer and elk population levels when setting conservation and management objectives for wolf populations. What management tools will be available to maintain population objectives for multiple species and when will they be used?

I submit that, if a wolf attacks a human, it should be subject to immediate lethal control. Moreover, a wolf attack on a human would represent such an unusual and extreme event that pack behavior should be questioned and the offending wolf's entire pack subject to lethal control, unless there are mitigating circumstances that provide a very high level of confidence that no other wolf from that pack will attack a human.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David McClure", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David McClure
Director