

## Alexandra Edvardsen

We have been able to recover the Wolf population to a point now that we MAY see them completely recover and be able to sustain themselves and support the full ecosystem. However, it is only if we allow them to naturally become part of the ecosystem again. If we delist and allow them to be hunted once again, we will be in this cycle of repeating the same mistakes of the past. Future generations will need to protect them once again and then when they reach a level we think they are sustainable, we will delist and they will be hunted and the cycle just continues. We have an opportunity now to allow the wolves to become part of the natural system, but we need to allow nature to follow its own course. I understand farmers are concerned about their livestock. But, if farmers lose livestock due to a wolf, then the farmer should be reimbursed monetarily. There should be a fund to replenish their livestock whenever a wolf takes one. And, efforts should be made to maintain the wolves distance from livestock. Surely, there are ways to do this without killing the wolves. Let's not sacrifice nature more than we already have -- as we experience now what climate change is doing to our earth -- we must learn to conserve and preserve, as the planet is possibly at a point of not being able to sustain humans, let alone all the other animal species. The wolves, are just one piece of this puzzle, that if we leave it out even one piece, the full puzzle we consider EARTH, will not be complete. And if you have enough holes in the EARTH puzzle, how will it be able to stand up to anything. I fear if we delist wolves, and allow hunting, we are also killing the human species one blow at a time. This time it's the wolf, the Orca's, the many bird species that have been lost, the people of Flint, Michigan, (poisoned by their own water system), and on and on. When do we take seriously the destruction we are inflicting on ourselves. If we can look at every situation through the prism of how do we help this "sick" earth to get back it's health, we may have a chance for survival. If not, I fear we are killing this earth one species at a time. Including ourselves. The wolf situation is indicative of how we will approach the bigger, broader issue of how we will solve the most existential question we face for the future of this planet. How do we sustain life?