



PUBLIC INTEREST COALITION



Sent via website: <http://wdfw.commentinput.com/?id=xDgH8>

November 14, 2019

Attn: Julia Smith and/or Lisa Wood  
 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 PO Box 43200  
 Olympia WA 98504-3200

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subj: Wolf Post-Recovery Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We believe WDFW's mandate to hold wildlife in the public trust is being ignored by the proposed "Wolf Post-Recovery Plan" in that it either diminishes WDFW's responsibility or becomes a defacto subterfuge. This proposal is not only premature, highly suspect and unacceptable but also potentially noncompliant with agency mandates. The time, energy, and tax-payer dollars being spent on an ill-timed "Post-Recovery Plan" are indicative of an unacceptable anti-wolf bias within WDFW's decision-making process.

WDFW could/should be focused solely on meaningful wolf recovery which is accepted and well-known as being far from accomplished. We have appreciated WDFW's excellent work in the field (the wildlife poaching ring bust that was nationally reported as well as others<sup>1</sup>) which has helped hold WDFW in high esteem. However, its ill-advised, manic rush to kill wolves before a TRO could be decided and insistence on killing more than 20 wolves in kowtowing to one rancher for multiple years who refuses to take proper livestock protection measures, and more, portend of a huge disconnect and/or potential corruption to now rush ahead with a premature post-recovery plan. In addition to being uncalled for, WDFW cannot be trusted with planning a post-recovery plan due to the agency's lack of proper protocol and bias when dealing with wolf/livestock conflicts—as evidenced by a consistent "just kill 'em" approach.

Because WDFW either cannot or will not protect wolves via non-lethal means and relies heavily on justification of killing wolves, then we strongly urge an outside panel of non-biased experts be engaged to make all decisions related to wolves, their recovery, and/or conflicts—with public input considered. Non-biased decisions would stress such measures as: protecting wolves as a high priority; disallowing livestock grazing in high-value wolf habitat; implementing in-depth public and rancher education which is long overdue; and insisting that all WDFW policy making be science-based, transparent, and enforceable.

Overwhelming evidence proves the value of apex predators related to healthy ecosystems. As humans move toward more plant-based diets and as wildlife viewing becomes increasingly popular (tourist dollars), livestock industries will continue their steady decline. It behooves WDFW to stop subsidizing private industry at the cost of wildlife.

Thank you for considering our views,

Marilyn Jasper, Chair

<sup>1</sup> [https://tdn.com/news/local/the-big-case-how-police-busted-poachers-in-the-gifford/article\\_85a08e1d-1b0d-5f59-90c4-30758638592f.html](https://tdn.com/news/local/the-big-case-how-police-busted-poachers-in-the-gifford/article_85a08e1d-1b0d-5f59-90c4-30758638592f.html) "The Big Case": How police busted poachers in the Gifford Pinchot