

## Hannah Pick

We need to save the wolves. Creating a “post-recovery” plan for wolves is premature since Washington is far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must instead focus its attention on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Resolving, without killing, conflicts between livestock and wolves. These conflicts often take place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done by you, despite the fact that all wolf experts say public education is the single most important action to take for successful wolf conservation. Please help educate the public! Especially those calling for the euthanization of wolves. The current wolf plan and any future wolf plan, management guidance, policies and protocols (and especially those which could result in wolves being killed) must be developed through a science-based, public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. Therefore I urge you to: (1) Stop cherry-picking science to justify wolf-killing; (2) Answer the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators. (3) Use every opportunity to extol the value of top predators in keeping nature healthy, and cease current messaging that prioritizes livestock over wolves. The public will fail to see any reason to coexist with wolves if the department fails to explain that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. Thank you for considering my comments.