

## Lawrence Gordin

Creating a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time is premature, as Washington is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Governor Inslee claims to be pro-environment, but a wealthy rancher has declared war on wolves, grazing his cattle on public land often intentionally next to wolf dens and even planting dead and dying cows near wolves to make them look like victims of wolf attacks. The state of Washington, including The Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and the governor have sided with this rancher over wildlife, including wolves. Grazing allotments on public land, welfare ranching and the ensuing environmental damage should not be allowed. We were considering more visits to Washington State, and even moving there, until it became obvious that the state is now anti-wildlife and at war with wolves. Wolves appear to be the best defense against Chronic Wasting disease, and can offer defense against brucellosis.

Additionally, evidence shows that often killing wolves and destroying the cohesiveness of a pack actually increases predation on ranch and farm animals. This is especially true when the younger inexperienced animals lose their teachers that help them learn about bringing down wild prey and resort to domesticated “easier prey”. It's a shame that wolves have more "humanity" than many or most people. Boycott Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan and Alaska as long as they allow or condone wolf killing. Stop eating beef. Ranchers are the prime impetus on the war on wolves. We also must vote the federal, state and local politicians out of office that support this slaughter. Let's make these cruel politicians endangered species (be they republicans or democrats). Cruel traps must also be made illegal. They inhumanely slaughter wildlife and pets alike. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must instead focus its attention on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Resolving, through nonlethal means, conflicts between livestock and wolves, which are taking place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves; and (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. Additionally, under 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; and (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.