

## Amanda Varona

WDFW, I cannot tell you how furious and disappointed I am with the State's decision, over and over, to kill wolves in Washington, often at the behest of one ranching family whom we all know does not act in good faith. Ranchers are obligated to do everything in their power to co-exist, and if they refuse to do that, they should find another line of work, or face legal consequences.

In addition, hunting wolves is barbaric and will result in a loud public outcry and hopefully loss of some state wildlife officials' jobs, because it would be outrageous, purely political, and in opposition to good science. To classify wolves as "game" is 1880 thinking and is probably illegal by today's standards and is certainly immoral. Besides, what kind of "fun" is it to shoot and kill the cousin to man's best friend? To invite a child to participate in that is abuse and traumatic.

It is MUCH too early to de-list wolves, because if you think 127-130 wolves in Washington state is "recovered," you need to go back to school and study not only biology and ecology, but the English language.

In other states where wolves are protected, the ungulate population is doing JUST FINE. The canard that wolves threaten those populations is false and is promulgated by hunters who don't want the competition. WE ALL KNOW that if we want a healthy ecosystem, wolves are vital to that. If you don't like what wolves eat naturally, take it up with God. In the meantime, we will be watching the Department closely.

Finally, I want to extend a sincere thank-you and appreciate to Gov. Inslee for speaking out against the killing of wolves by the State. I hope he is prepared to do more and I hope AG Ferguson is prepared to join him. Wolf tourism – the ability to see and hear a wolf in the wild – could bring in lots of money to Washington. Thank you. amanda

