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Post Delisting Scoping Comments

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Following are the elements that need to be in any alternatives developed by WDFW for the Post Delisting Plan. These are based on living in the area of the state (and county) most affected by wolf recovery and watching the impacts to the community.

- Every alternative must be completely evaluated by an independent body (WSU, UW or other university) as to the costs associated with that alternative. This would include economic impacts to the communities living with wolves and direct costs to WDFW.
- Management of wolves in the state should not be a “one size fits all”. Management should be at the Game Management Unit (GMU) level or individual pack level. Livestock density and available prey base need to be the first considerations in management.
- Wolf management should be in conjunction with overall predator management.
- Hunting should be part of any management strategy with the preference being a quota system to maintain the appropriate population level and pack size.
- All non-lethal activities and tools, including all costs, need to be the responsibility of WDFW. Any participation by producers would be voluntary.
- In areas of livestock production, wolf populations need to be maintained at a level that minimizes both depredations and indirect costs to producers.
- At least two wolves need to be collared in each pack with real time data shared with livestock producers.
- Incremental removal of depredating wolves needs to take place within seven days of the first depredation as prescribed by the research of Elizabeth Bradley in Montana.

- The science involved in wolf management must include actual population surveys of ungulate populations, not models. Scat surveys of predators should be done in conjunction with those surveys to determine both their population and impacts to prey.
- The use of the Wolf Advisory Group for developing policy needs to be abandoned in favor of regional advisory groups that are selected with a more transparent process.