

Alyne Fortgang

A single ranching family is subverting our state's wolf protection and management programs. The complaints of the Diamond M Ranch have led to the killing of 18 wolves in the Colville National Forest in recent years. If the ranching operation continues to graze cattle on this national forest, which offers poor grazing opportunities for cattle but ideal habitat for wolves, there will continue to be conflicts between ranchers and wolves. It's entirely predictable.

We hope the Dept will issue a directive to stop the killing of the Old Profanity Territory wolves. We also hope you will not lift the ban on killing wolves until this resource conflict in the Colville National Forest is resolved. The ranchers have other grazing lands they can use that won't produce these recurring conflicts. Also, we **MUST** use non-lethal methods.

The wolves are part of our environment, and deserve a more protective response from Washington's government. We can do a better job of managing conflicts between wolves and ranchers, but it must start in the Colville National Forest.