

## Gary Feest

Washington's endangered wolves are nowhere near the recovery goals established in the state's wolf management plan. More than one-third of U.S. land is already used for pasture—by far the largest land-use type in the contiguous 48 states. Between pastures and cropland used to produce feed, 41 percent of U.S. land in the contiguous states revolves around livestock. A single cow releases between 70 and 120 kg of Methane per year. Methane is a greenhouse gas like carbon dioxide, but the negative effect on the climate of Methane is 23 times higher than the effect of CO<sub>2</sub>. We don't need to expand the area used to graze cattle. We need to drastically reduce it. We should be doing everything possible to reduce the causes of climate change. 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.