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Can you see how it is premature to create a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time?

Washington is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, I respectfully urge the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to shift its focus and 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. All wolf experts say public education is the single most important action to take for successful wolf conservation. The current wolf plan and any future wolf plan, management guidance, policies and protocols — plus those which could result in wolves being killed — should be developed through a science-based, public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to: 1. Stop the dangerous practice of picking apart science — which is then used out of context — to justify wolf-killing; 2. Answer the global call by scientists to protect and conserve apex predators; 3. End current messaging and language that prioritizes livestock over wolves; and 4. Use every opportunity to extol the value of top predators in keeping nature healthy. 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 in advance for your ethical response to this important matter.