

katherine Seiler

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on WDFW wolf management. I am opposed to WDFW poisoning wolves, and to, killing individual wolves and/or elimination of wolf packs, without augmenting other management first, for several reasons.

1) Wolves are a keystone species. Are you aware this means that they are essential to the health of the ecosystem. Prey animals, as well as flora benefit from their presence. The health of deer and elk herds, vital to hunting in Washington improves with the presence of wolves.

2) As you are aware, elimination of pack members has been shown in studies to increase wolf predation on live stock. This doesn't get us to our desired end, cohabitation of both livestock, and wolves.

3) As you are aware, poisoning of wolves results in deaths of non-target species. Due to the documented death of non target species, poison should not be used.

4) Non-lethal management alternatives in Yellowstone and the surrounding areas, such as range riders have proven effective in protecting livestock. I would be interested in hearing what alternative management options both WDFW and livestock owners have used or considered, and if any such options have been implemented.

Thank you, Katherine Seiler