

## DIANE Hendricks

Mr. Susewind , JT Austin and wildlife 'officials", Creating a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time is premature, as Washington is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Your agency has killed more than 30 wolves this fall and without having read all your ridiculous , arbitrary and monotonous regulations, even I understand that you simply are out to please ranchers. Particularly , Len MvIrvin. Your pie in the sky idea of changing pack behavior is asinine. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must instead focus its 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, despite the fact that all wolf experts say public education is the single most important action to take for successful wolf conservation. Additionally, under the current wolf plan and any future wolf plan, management guidance, policies and protocols — and especially those which could result in wolves being killed — must be developed through a science-based, public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. 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. 4) Find your humanity. You are supposed to be wildlife protectors. I see you as no better than poacher Please consider our very serious comments and stop bending to the will of Diamond M Ranch. 26 wolves for one person indicates VERY CLEARLY where the line is being drawn. 1.8 million people signed to get this criminal exploitation of wolves to STOP. And many millions more worldwide feel the same and are watching what you are doing