melinda hirsch

It is premature to discuss management of the state's delisted wolves. The wolves have not even recovered and have not been delisted.

Over the last 6 years, the wolf population has ranged between 100 -120, depending on the year. That statistic is not a recovered population. Wolves are occupying less than 5% of available habitat in the state.

Instead, the state needs to update the science of its own wolf management plan. The public needs a massive public education plan regarding wolves.

You need to focus on resolving wolf-livestock conflicts, using non-lethal force. Lethal force should be used only as a last resort. Science has repeatedly proved this to be the most effective way to manage any conflicts.

Wolves should never be killed on public lands, and never killed when a conflict with livestock occurs on public lands. The public lands are held in trust for ALL the public, not just livestock owners. Further, eighty per cent of the public wants wolves on public lands, wants to see them recovered.

Lastly, there should be no designation of wolves as game or trophy animals. Wolves are an essential part of our ecosystem. The state must put environment and life itself over greed, misplaced hatred, and misunderstood wildlife. All our lives are at stake when we refuse to listen to the science. Thank you.