

## Geoffrey Richards

This hunting call for wolf hunting is untimely on account of the population not having fully recovered in the state. Rather than check to see if the environment was suitable for raising livestock, you instead rushed at the chance and are now intruding on the homeland that belonged to someone else and trying to eliminate them. Sound familiar at all? By not waiting for their numbers to heal and using safer alternatives for handling them, you're betraying the very rules and regulations you have sworn to uphold. Other wildlife departments have obeyed the rules of wolf conservation and found success through nonlethal means and science-based education programs, so why aren't you doing the same? I urge you to stop cherry-picking science to justify wolf-killing. Answer the worldwide call by scientists for apex predators to be protected and conserved and use every opportunity to recognize the importance of top predators in maintaining nature's health and to stop misinforming the public that livestock are more important than the shepherds. If the Department fails to clarify that wolves are ecologically essential and worth preserving, the public will see no reason to coexist with them. Thank you for taking my words into consideration.