

M Kathleen Condron

People who run the WDFW are employed by folks like me, the taxpayer, to CARE about and protect WILDLIFE. DO NOT de-list wolves. Keep protecting them. START really protecting cattle by enclosing them in areas that are safe, at their owners' expense. Stop allowing cattle to roam free in wild areas where wolves naturally live and cattle DON'T. Stop inviting potentially lethal interactions between wild and non-wild animals on MY public lands that ranchers "rent" for a pittance. The land belongs to the wolves. Stop setting the wolves up for failure and the cattle, for injury. Move the cattle. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must focus its attention on wolf- and cattle-management. This includes: (1) Resolving conflicts between livestock and wolves, which are taking place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves by moving the cattle; and (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done, 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. PLEASE: (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. DO YOUR JOB. STOP KILLING OUR WOLVES. WE NEED THEM. Thank you.