

Ann Bates

Hello,

I have been following the WDFW GRAY WOLF UPDATES for several years and was disturbed to read that the Togo Pack was going to be wiped out. I am a cultural anthropologist who studies the culture of the Native people of the Washington and British Columbia coasts. These Native people have tremendous respect for wolves. In my opinion, they honor wolves because, from observation, they see that wolves live in communities and take care of each other. Also, the wolves are worthy of admiration for their stamina and strength. In 18 years of contact with the Makah and BC groups, I have never heard of any negative human-wolf interactions. One elder told me of passing a wolf on a trail, only realizing it afterward when he saw it had a fluffy tail that it wasn't a dog. And they honor wolves with numerous wolf dances, more than any other animal. So, I think of these wolves who have come into Washington and successfully established their packs and contribute and bring balance to the ecology of their area as well as the artificial introduction of cattle and other domestic animals that Euro-Americans put such economic and dietary value on and urge the WDFW to help the wolves hold their place in our Washington environment. Please find a plan that goes easier on the wolves than the previous 2011 plan.

Very sincerely, Ann M. Bates, Ph.D.