

Wendy Paton

Hello

My name is Wendy Paton. I am a life long resident of Washington State and I own property in Skagit and Ferry County.

I am writing to tell you that I do NOT want Washington's wolves delisted and that it's inappropriate for the Department to pretend a state-listed endangered species that is NOT close to meeting state recovery objectives is in any way at a sustainable population levels.

I feel that if the state wants to allow ranchers to use PUBLIC lands to graze their cattle it is at their own risk and that the wild animals who live on these lands have the right to be there first. I do not agree with cattle grazing on public lands. They do more damage than it is worth to the eco-system. I do not think it is fair to the wolves, cattle or deer or elk. BUT if we are going to continue it must be at the rancher's own risk. It is almost like baiting the wolves and I have even heard that some ranchers come close to doing so as to push the wolves out.

I agree with Governor Jay Inslee that you - The Department of Fish and Wildlife - MUST come up with a better plan and quit giving in to the pressure of ranchers on "managing" (killing) the wolf population levels. And that answer can be pretty simple - leave them alone. Stop killing "OUR" wolves and do your job to protect Wildlife!

Sincerely,

Wendy Paton