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I am concerned that the department is prematurely planning for delisting of the gray wolf before populations have recovered to a sustainable level. Please make sure that scientists are the primary input as to when populations have reached a sustainable level. In addition, I have been concerned that management of wolves has been largely on the behalf of a few special interests in the state, in particular ranchers who have never supported return of wolves. However, the majority of the state has expressed motivation for wolf recovery, and wolves are existing primarily on public lands and should be managed for the interests of everybody. Ranchers using public lands for grazing should have to assume some of their own risk of loss rather than having subsidized risk by the public and against the interests of the rest of the state in maintaining healthy wolf numbers. Lethal management of wolves on public lands should not be part of the wolf management plan, especially when it is consistently on behalf of a very few interests in the state. Wolf recovery is certainly not without risk to people and livestock but the residents and administrators of the state of Washington have already decided that the benefit of wolves to our ecosystem, wildlife and wild lands exceeds that risk, and so they should be managed in a way that fully supports their recovery. Creating a “post-recovery” plan for wolves at this time is premature, as Washington is still far from meeting the goals set forth in the current plan. Instead of racing to create a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must instead focus its attention on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Resolving, through nonlethal means, conflicts between livestock and wolves, which are taking place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves; and (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done by you, 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. Therefore I urge you to: (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. The public will fail to see any reason to coexist with wolves if the department fails to explain that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. Thank you for considering my comments.