

Sharon Burke

There has been too much killing of wildlife in our state. And the inhumane methods used are appalling. Not only is this mindless killing a moral issue, it denies the scientific evidence that proves that healthy ecosystems are wholly dependent on wildlife such as wolves, bears, cougars, deer and elk. We need healthy forests to combat climate change and wolves are a keystone species that protect our forests. In fact, PBS just aired an episode on Nature that demonstrated how vital wolves are to keeping forests healthy. When we put human desires over the needs of other species with whom we share this planet, we are endangering all life. We should keep cattle from areas where wolves live and we should always employ nonlethal methods to keep wolves from killing cattle. If the Masai in Africa can use nonlethal means to keep lions from killing their cattle, we should be able to do so, especially since we have more technology and resources at our disposal. I believe that if you held a referendum today, the majority of Washingtonians would enthusiastically choose to conserve our wildlife. We have voted to outlaw inhumane hunting practices in the past and if people really understood the methods you have employed, I believe they would be devastated. Thank you for considering my comments.