

## Cynthia Purchase

Wolves are a keystone species. Intact wolf packs keep the ecosystem in balance. Wolves are predators and cattle are easy pickings. Wolves lived on this land before people started killing them. As a society we can do better. If ranchers insist on grazing on public lands, they need to assume responsibility for living honorably with wolves. Implement effective, non-lethal ways to reduce wolf predation. Instead of creating a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should focus on current wolf-management needs. This includes: - Resolving, through nonlethal means, conflicts between livestock and wolves, which are taking place in some of the state's best habitat for wolves; - Conducting extensive public education on wolves. Wolf experts say public education is the single most important action for successful wolf conservation. The public will see no reason to coexist with wolves unless Fish and Wildlife explains that wolves are ecologically important and worth conserving. - Protect and conserve apex predators. Top predators keep nature healthy, Thank you for considering my comments.