

## Mary Chambers

I am a private citizen with a medical/science background. Evidence based practices are important to me. I hope that you feel the same as you have a very important job and a responsibility to the taxpayers of the State of Washington. All of us are depending on you to gather and interpret information in an unbiased fashion and with no political agendas. Thus far it is pretty clear that your wolf management group has not been successful in achieving this mandate and that a small group with a vested interest in this matter is managing the managers. 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. Please try to do better. The citizens of this state are deserving of your best efforts and continuing your current practices is unacceptable to a growing number of us.