

Tim Hua

I greatly appreciate the Department's efforts to help wolf populations recover within our state, however, it is clear delisting them is not an option. Specifically, the repeated lethal removal of about 23 wolves in our state clearly shows something, especially in the eastern portions of our state, is certainly not working. I would kindly suggest the Department first re-visit what we can do there, before preparing to delist wolf populations state-wide. That would not be healthy for wolves, nor our ecosystems, nor for our communities. If we still need to kill wolves, after seven years, to prevent predation of livestock, it's clear we need a change in approach and can in no certain terms, move towards delisting. We should only consider delisting once such programs can be halted (which they should be, as indicated by the Governor of this fine State...) and balance and equilibrium have without a doubt been 100% obtained. We clearly have more work to do and have not yet reached that point. The balance between ranchers and wildlife officials is precious, and I recognize and appreciate that fact, however lines must be established, clarified, and the law needs to be followed. These killings help us keep the balance, but lest we not forget, wolves are STILL endangered, and killing them is in no uncertain terms, very heavily frowned upon. I might also add that the federal FWS is currently in the hands of cooperations and greedy lobbyists. We can not and should not trust their opinion on an important matter, such as this, when we've seen what happens when wolves are exploited (I.e. Yellowstone.) I also add that we are allowing stakeholders to voice their opinion on this matter. That is inviting corruption and non-scientific opinion into these matter, which certainly do not warrant such egotistical and cynical opinions, such as the authorization of wolf killing or delisting. After-all, all these folks want is money and wolf-pelt, and a tad bit of revenge.. I strongly urge the state to immediately cease the development of such plans, until the scientific and environmental communities give a clear and concise verdict that wolves are doing well in the state. Given the fact that we are still killing them, it's clear that point has yet to be reached. We should, instead, first find ways to reintegrate and better from ties between them, their ecosystems, and local ranching communities, as well as cease the use of lethal-force. Once we have had a sufficient grace-period of ceasing such action, then we can move on to consider next-steps, as that's when we can officially proclaim that wolves are doing well in our state. Let's not let stakeholders or the federal government determine what is best for our state, let's listen to the experts and the facts. These creatures and our state deserve nothing less. I implore the Director to cease this lethal approach without hesitation, and to find ways to reintegrate wolves into our communities. This hasn't worked in the past seven years, and it will not work now. We need a new approach.