Lisanne Freese

#1. Please do not kill any more wolves. I am disgusted and disheartened by the way Washington State has murdered loving family members of several packs. Shame on you. #2. Consider giving equal weight to the wishes of non-ranchers when deciding to slaughter wolves. Killings should be put to the general public for vote, otherwise, we're living in a "ranch-ocracy" not a democracy. #3. Instead of creating a post-delisting plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should focus on current wolf-management needs. This includes: (1) Resolving, through nonlethal means, conflicts between livestock and wolves, taking place in some of the best habitat for wolves; and (2) Conducting extensive public education on wolves. This is emphasized in the current plan but has not been done, 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 plan, management guidance, policies and protocols — especially those that 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: (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 on behalf of the surviving wolves.