

Debra Hunt

We seem to be the only species who does not want to understand how to live in harmony and balance with predator species and the land that they reside on. This is shown by how we manage wolves and bears too, both on public lands in general and in areas that allow grazing permits.

Grazing Permits: We really don't need livestock on our public land which are not indigenous to the land, to be grazing in these areas where wolves reside. Grazing permits in wolf areas are plain ridiculous and are just asking for trouble. Cattle/Wolf conflicts are avoidable by eliminating grazing permits. This should be the goal as the only ones that come out well in these conflicts is the rancher who is paid back using taxpayer monies; while the cattle are killed and the wolf or wolf packs are gunned down. Predators are on earth by design, they serve a purpose. Humans disrupt that design and purpose when we set about to put vast herds of meat animals in wolf areas, again not indigenous to them, making them vulnerable to the predators. Seriously lame. There is no logic, no rationale to this management plan for grazing cattle in wolf territory. Grazing Permits in wolf territories should be eliminated.

Wolf Hunting: All species have a right to live. The natural balance of life existed before humans decided to intercede as predators themselves. However, humans feel that they have the right to hunt for sport and to hunt wolves not for food but for the fun of it, using high powered rifles with high powered scopes. This is not hunting as other predators do. This is using tools that other wildlife predators, including wolves, cannot protect against or even know is a threat before it's too late. It is not hunting...it is plain slaughter. I truly believe that the delisting of wolves was premature and reckless. I have no doubt this decision was based on rancher, hunter and gun lobby groups for their own interests not for the interests of the wildlife. We know that wolves have only just started to recover and with the current cattle/wolf conflicts and wolf deaths, wolf hunting should be banned from occurring. It does not do our wildlife any favors by predator hunting.

It is time to evolve in our "management" of apex predators, including the wolf. We no longer live in the 19th Century of blood killing and Good Old Boy attitudes of using wildlife for personal entertainment and gain. Cattle Rancher and Hunters must adapt from using public lands for their own gain, displacing wildlife and creating imbalance and disharmony. I expect and want our government agencies to use science-based planning for the best possible outcome for our apex predators and for the land they live on. It is time to evolve for all species to live in harmony and balance with each other and earth.