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Imagine you were dying from cancer, but had shown some improvement. Instead of saying it's great that you're on the right track, your doctor came in and said: "great! Looks like you're all better, let's start planning what you'll do now that you're all better." Washington is still nowhere near meeting the goals set forth in the current recovery plan. Just like the doctor who should be focusing on treating his ailing patient, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife must focus its attention on current wolf-management needs. This includes a number of things that will actually help with post-recovery planning: 1. Figure out how to resolve conflict between humans, livestock and wolves via nonlethal means. As the wolf population rises, so will the number of encounters. Test run non-lethal measures now while the population is lower so you'll be prepared once the population meets recovery goals. 2. Teach the public about wolves. People fear and mishandle what they don't know about. Experts say public education is the single most important action to take for successful wolf conservation. As such, this could wind up being quite the money-saving measure. The current plan emphasizes education, but little has been done. 3. Develop further plans through a science-based, public rule-making process that results in transparent, rational and enforceable strategies. In summary: (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.