

Penelope Campos

November 1, 2019 TO: WASHINGTON STATE GAME DEPARTMENT/FISH & WILD LIFE To Whom It May Concern: I write to inform you that I am a wolf advocate and that I am incensed that the Game Department is wiping out entire wolf packs in this State because a few cattlemen complain about wolf kills. Wolves hunt in packs and they prefer ungulates they find in the forests. They can carry their kill back to the den to consume at they need to. In addition, cattlemen that are using federal land to graze have no right to expect the Game Department to do their bidding and kill on those public lands that we, the people, own. My Group, The Center for Biological Diversity, is suing for protection of the wolves in Washington State and I support that endeavor. I also hope the Court fines the Game Department for not even attempting to find a non-lethal method of dealing with the few wolves that are responsible for cattle kill. Please help us to find a compromise to this problem. The wolf is a magnificent creature and we are blessed to have them reintroduced to our state. Wolves should be held in public trust for all the people and protected. . 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.