

Alfred Higgins

In my opinion, the Forest Service as well as Fish and Wildlife need to proceed with re-establishing wolf populations in WA. There are multiple means available for minimizing wolf-live stock encounters, and recreational enthusiasts can use good practices to minimize wolf-human encounters. There is no justifiable reason for the public to support an unsustainable cattle industry through subsidized grazing on public lands. If cattle ranchers must continue to produce beef, in my opinion, they should do so on private land, and pay for protective measures from private funds. The argument related to maintaining family tradition and heritage because cattle ranching has been a family business for 100 years is hogwash. Beef cattle grazing on public land damages wild land, and cattle contribute enormously to greenhouse gasses and therefore to climate warming. In similar fashion, the argument against wolves based on reduction of deer and elk availability to hunters is hogwash. If those hunters must take their tag limit, they should not be provided with artificially inflated ungulate herds at public expense. I would personally prefer to see fewer road kills and more hunting in the far remote wild areas not frequented by day hikers and bicyclists.