

Donald Tryon

**What is your gender?**

Male

**Age?**

71

**County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?**

Stevens

**Residential setting:**

Rural

**Do you identify yourself as any of the following?**

Outdoor Recreationist

**WDFW has identified a list of impact topics to include in the Plan/EIS. Impact topics are a means of organizing the discussion of issues and analysis of impacts. Impact topics can be thought of as chapter or section headings in the Plan/EIS.**

**Please review this list and add other topics, or items that fit under these headings.**

**Please check the topics you view as most important.**

Wolf conservation and monitoring

Habitat connectivity

Research

**Do you have general comments about the scope of Washington's updated wolf conservation and management plan?**

Yeah, this effort is premature. You already have a recovery and management plan. When you meet the goals of that plan and provide a reasonable amount of monitoring it will be time to reevaluate and make necessary adjustments.

So far, the bulk of Washington wolves live here in NE Washington. Management needs improvement. The livestock industry is having a fit but they are largely a dying breed here, despite good beef prices in recent years. A local "wildlife" group is upset but it isn't clear to me the members of the group actually know much biology. So far, I see little evidence of wolves where I hike, hunt, fish, drive around, except east in Pend Oreille Co. Two wolves have been killed (probably needlessly) by visitors to the Little Pend Oreille NWR. I just spent a week hunting on the Refuge and saw no sign of wolves. I spend quite a bit of time on the Refuge each year and have only seen one pile of dried up wolf scat.

I went hiking on the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail, took a relative from the Midwest to show how great our area is. Shortly we ran into a close by water trough and several cattle. The cattle ran along in front of us pooping frequently and couldn't be outflanked on the hillside. In no time we were cow crap from the knees down. The rancher is outraged that wolves have killed some of his cattle on the Crest. The Forest Service could probably solve some recreation and wolf conflicts by moving the water source.

Multiple use means balancing uses, not ignoring recreationists and shooting wolves. Wolf management will not work until ranchers recognize wolves are going to be here and they have to modify how they run their operations. For thousands of years domestic animals were herded, mostly by children, and the livestock and children were protected by fierce dogs. I was fishing in Montana, in an area with black and grizzly bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes. A flock of sheep caught up with me as I fished downstream. Nobody was with the sheep but they were kept company by two fierce dogs that made sure I stayed well away from the sheep! That's how you protect livestock, rather than expect the taxpayers to pay for aircraft and sharpshooters to gun down wolf pack members. It isn't clear wolf packs can tolerate that kind of management.

I am not interested in seeing wolves overrun the state, but they are a native species. Predation is a fact of life in the animal kingdom. summer before last we were overrun by yellowjackets and bald faced hornets, but a lot of pest insects were scarce. We have plenty of wild country in Washington to sustain our native wolves throughout the state. Don't backtrack on the project now that it is almost half done.

