

Christopher Howard Howard

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

71

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Walla Walla

Residential setting:

Urban

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Environmentalist

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

Wolf classification/status

Wolf management areas

Wolf-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

Wolf-human interactions

Wolf hunting

Translocation

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

Costs and funding priorities

Economic analysis

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

I view wolves as an integral species in the natural wild environment. They are a keystone predator and necessary to have a balanced natural ecosystem. The truth of this was clearly illustrated in the way wolves restored the balance when they were introduced in Yellowstone National Park. At the present time Rocky Mountain National Park is very unnatural with chain link fences surrounding the aspen groves due to the over grazing of elk in the park. This over grazing is a result of wolves not being a natural part of the ecosystem. In Washington State wolves are also needed to maintain a natural balance as they are an original part of the ecosystem before they were eliminated in the early 1900's. When cattle ranchers choose to graze their cattle in historic natural wolf habitat they should expect to have to care for their cattle in a way that allows for the land to be shared with the wolves as well. I am ok with ranches being reimbursed for cattle killed by wolves if they have taken all the preventative measures. This should satisfy ranchers as they are raising the cattle to sell to slaughter and get money in any case. Hunters need to learn to hunt elk and deer with wolves as part of the

environment as was the case for native american hunters and early settlers.