

Terri Mitchell

**What is your gender?**

Female

**Age?**

64

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

King

**Residential setting:**

Other

Urban (primary) and Rural (secondary)

**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 hunting

Translocation

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

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

I am one of thousands of Washington residents who believe our state's approach to wolf recovery and management is seriously misguided. We protect them, then we kill them. We pay ranchers for their losses AND we kill the wolves on their behalf. This schizophrenic approach is not science-based, is not cost-effective, is not humane, and does a disservice to the tax-payers, the wolves, and the environment. The raising of meat for human consumption CANNOT remain our priority in this time of unprecedented climate change, environmental degradation, and functional -- if not complete -- extinction of species.

I fully support the following recommendations for post-recovery management of the gray wolf:

The Department will:

- \* Manage the gray wolf (and other carnivores) as a priority on our public lands, particularly in wild roadless areas, advocating for restoration of native ecosystems, at the federal and state level, and
- \* Oppose government, state and federal, sanctioned killing or hunting of the gray wolf and other native carnivores and,
- \* Outline and enforce penalties for illegal killing of gray wolves.
- \* Recognize zones of chronic depredation, areas of repeated wolf/livestock conflict; and no longer consider lethal management of wolves in these areas, and
- \* Work to coordinate interagency cooperation at the state and federal level into gray wolf and wildlife management plans to minimize

conflict and prohibit permitted grazing in zones of chronic depredation.

For example, collaboration with the US Forest Service Colville National Forest staff to discuss grazing modifications, suspensions and retirements on allotments with chronic depredations to ensure wildlife welfare is the top management priority, and Washington's wildlife is not negatively impacted by another government agency's policy, and

- \* Work to reform policy to prioritize management of the gray wolf (and other carnivores) over private interests on state and federal public lands. For example, when there is conflict between wolves and livestock, move the livestock and stop killing wolves. Wolves and other wildlife should be allowed to thrive on open public lands, and

- \* Plan to fulfill its paramount responsibility of preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's gray wolf population, for future generations. While mandated to provide sustainable wildlife recreational opportunities, these opportunities shall be secondary to preservation and promotion of resilient sustainable carnivore populations, healthy ecosystems, healthy watersheds, and healthy populations of native prey like elk, deer, and moose. Hunting is not necessary to control carnivore populations, they self regulate based on prey availability, and

- \* Manage native carnivores in the state of Washington using the best available science, and

- \* Oppose the use of taxpayer funds to lethally manage wildlife.

Thank you!