

Alex Zitterkopf

**What is your gender?**

Male

**Age?**

20

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

Walla Walla

**Residential setting:**

Rural

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

Hunter

Livestock Producer

**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-livestock conflicts

Wolf interactions with other species

Wolf hunting

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

Wolves are destroying our elk herds and livestock population. Please read article written by an individual who lives in a neighboring GMU.

Written by Zane Patton:

"I have lived in Dayton WA (162 GMU) my whole life (22) years. I have hunted elk during the modern firearm seasons, studied the elk in the spring when the bulls shed their antlers, and have kept an eye on the elk during the rest of the year.

During the last 3 years, the elk population has dropped dramatically in the 162 GMU unit and I predict that the numbers will continue to drop in the future. Until? We run out of elk or develop a better predator management plan. We have to help the cow elk keep their calves alive. And we shouldn't be shooting the survivors until the population has grown and stabilized. At least on public land.

I have read the proposed elk management plan and I don't like it because it is only a bandaid on a growing problem of predator overpopulation.

We have to, as humans and wildlife/game managers, help the calf elk survive. Period.

In 1992-1998 a study found that out of 240 calf elk that were collared, 113 did not survive their first year of life. Cougar predation accounted for 48.6% of the mortality, black bears 15.9% and so on. I chose to focus on these two BIG percentages but the rest can be found in the management plan.

Since 1998 the cougars have thrived in this area and I would wager that the cougar population has tripled since then. What does that do to the 48.6%?

The black bears have done very well too. And now wolf packs are starting to develop. The elk can't win this fight by themselves. And putting this "bandaid" of a elk management plan on top of a growing overpopulation of predators will not help enough in my opinion.

Let's face the real problem.

The cougar harvest limit MUST be raised in the Blue Mountains. And a permanent (no early closures) extended season January-March would be a great idea as well to give the elk some fast relief. To do this, the other regions of this state will have to give more control to the Eastern region (region 1.). Why not let each region control it's cougar population separately?

The number of spring bear permits should be doubled if not tripled. At the Dayton Elk Management Plan meeting I believe it was said that out of 25+/- spring bear permits issued, only 3+/- are filled. Remember bears were responsible for 15.9% of the calves killed in

the 1998 study. The bear population has surely grown since then and so has that percentage with it.

I'm not even going to bother with the wolf subject right now. I hope a plan is being developed though. Yay! Some of the calf elk survived! But wait, the plan said a single wolf can kill up to 17 elk every year. That doesn't sound good for the elk.”

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