

Cody Erickson

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

25

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Spokane and Pend Orielle

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 classification/status

Wolf-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

Wolf-human interactions

Wolf hunting

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

As someone who is helping to fund Washington's fish and wildlife management it is becoming increasingly frustrating every year that I head out to hunt (in Pend Orielle county) that I see more wolf sign and even hearing wolves is more and more common, but seeing ungulates is a rarity. Listed in your wolf conservation and management plan it states that part of the plan is to maintain a "healthy and robust ungulate populations in the state that provide abundant prey for wolves." And yet this year during archery elk season I saw more wolf tracks and ended up seeing a wolf BEFORE I even got into what little elk can be found in Pend Orielle county. And the time I was camping and hunting I didn't see a single deer. With the wolf population increasing at an average of 28% each year, there won't be a "healthy and robust" ungulate population to prey on, for any predator, not just the wolves. This state will continue to lose money from hunters like myself who are becoming increasingly frustrated about not being able to fill our tags which are getting more and more expensive. Washington needs to be more proactive with population control, not just waiting for a cattle/wolf interaction. There needs to be a season on these animals, not an open season but a controlled season, I think Washington would be wise to model it after Idaho's system. They still have a healthy population of wolves in Idaho, but the ungulate populations aren't suffering like they are in Washington. Ask any hunter, you will get the the same answers or comments from most, we just aren't seeing the deer and elk populations we saw even just a few years ago. Yet I still hear the state claiming that populations are still where they should be and are healthy. This is 100% inaccurate and it's frustrating that a lot of fish and game funding comes from us hunters, but you guys listen to the urban people on the west side of the state that hate hunters and do have a clue on what we do to help the conservation of nature. It is something that all hunters are proud to say they do. We care about nature and the animals in this state. We want to see a healthy balance of the wildlife and also not have to eat expensive tag soup every year. I look forward to seeing what comes of this and hope the voice of the public(especially the ones that actually contribute to wildlife conservation) are heard. If ungulate populations continue to get worse and nothing proactive is done about the increasing wolf population, I will be taking my hard earned money to a state where they manage their wildlife and I have a better chance to harvest an animal.

