

Story Warren

What is your gender?

Female

Age?

21

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Thurston County, WA and Missoula County, MT

Residential setting:

Suburban

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 hunting

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

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

WDFW should continue to work with all stakeholder groups, including conservationists, hunters, livestock producers, and outdoor recreationists/wildlife enthusiasts.

WDFW should consider an alternative for post-delisting management that does not include a general, indiscriminate public hunting season for gray wolves. Indiscriminate harvest removes wolves that are part of packs that may be living alongside livestock without causing major problems. While other western states have embraced liberal recreational public harvest of wolves, Washington should consider a different approach. Demographically and geographically, we are different from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and our wolf management policy should reflect Washington's wildlife values. Impacts to rural communities should always be a major consideration. However, Washington can and should be the state that pioneers managing wildlife in a more progressive and innovative way.

I grew up in Washington's outdoors and I now study wildlife biology. I have spent time recreating in Washington's wolf country since I was 15, and I have worked with wild wolves in Montana and Oregon. I believe that the intrinsic value of individual animals, along with the ecological value of pack units, should be considered along with general population conservation goals and public tolerance of wolves. Public education on wolf behavior and ecology - both for residents of rural communities and the general public throughout

Washington - should be made a top priority. There should be more opportunities for the public to engage with WDFW to ask and learn about gray wolves in Washington. This would increase the public's trust in WDFW and would likely increase public acceptance of wolves.

Thank you for considering my comments.