

Thomas Heckly

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

72

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Grant

Residential setting:

Suburban

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Hunter

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 management areas

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

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

I grew up and have been hunting in the Republic area for over 60 years. My son and his buddy have joined me in recurring hunting trips for close to 30 years. My grandsons have also joined us the past couple years. The past two years have been the worst for spotting game that I can ever remember. The numbers of game are but a small fraction of what we are accustomed to seeing. My brother still lives there. He hears wolf howls from his house which is not up in the high elevations. The resort where we stay when up there, has seen them on the Curlew Lake ice in front of their resort. The wolves are decimating the deer population and have moved to lower elevations to find prey. It's time to issue permits for wolf hunting in the NE portion of the state.

I have noticed a definite lower number of hunters as the opportunities to harvest a deer have declined. I am sure license purchase is beginning to lag for this area as there is not much sense in investing in the license and tags, when the success rate is declining. Doesn't the WDFW Dept derive much of their funds from licenses? Pretty soon there will be much less revenue just to keep the "wolf lovers" from the West side of the state happy.....There are plenty of wolves currently, let there be a balancing act to keep the wildlife numbers intact. If you can't sell deer tags (because there are no deer) issue wolf tags...of which there are plenty....The wolves are running out of game to feed on anyhow.