

Steve Kraz

**What is your gender?**

Male

**Age?**

41

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

Multnomah

**Residential setting:**

Urban

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

Environmentalist

Hunter

Outdoor Recreationist

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

With the explosion in wolf populations in WA what steps are being taken to manage the overall predator population that also rely heavily on ungulates for prey? Since outlawing the use of hounds for hunting cougars and bears in the 90s their respective populations have grow exponentially. And given the rapid growth in Wolf populations in a relatively short period of time, has any thought been given to open back up the use of hounds for hunting cougars and bears? And does WDFW plan to take a holistic view on apex predator management? I agree that wolves alone do not create a major issue to healthy ungulate populations, but when the combined impact of wolves, bears, and cougars is significant, especially when you consider how wolf pressure pushes the prey into more cougar friendly hunting terrain. The fact that name of your plan is "Washington's Updated Wolf Conservation and Management plan"

tells me you are not looking at this holistically and considering all the factors that are straining our low ungulate #s. And when you factor in other none predator related die off from hoof rot, blue tongue, CWD, etc the outlook for Washington's ungulate populations is bleak at best. Please consider the big picture and if you want to let the wolf population in WA grown unchecked, have you considered means of managing the other apex predator populations in an effort to balance out the impact wolves are having om our ungulate populations?