

Jeff McElhinney

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

67

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Stevens

Residential setting:

Rural

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Environmentalist

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-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf hunting

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

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

I identified as "environmentalist" in a preceding page after much thought, but I consider cattle ranchers and the ungulate populations as part of my environment, and I acknowledge the many factors germane to the recovery and management of Washington's wolf population. That said, I do NOT believe that your presented data supports the delisting of wolves anytime soon.

The delisting movement is open to reasonable suspicion that cattle and hunting interests are pushing it, along with some regional political powers (i.e. commissioners). The Stevens County Cattlemen's Association has been conducting a public relations campaign against predators in general, and wolves in particular, for the past few months. They have elevated a legitimate concern into fear-mongering. There is also a common perception that the above interests share blame for the recent decision by USFS concerning the Colville National Forest's wilderness proposal; this gives added weight to any suspicion that they want to control the landscape according to their own narrow interests.

Predators certainly need to be managed, but I believe that the data does not yet support delisting, and I am concerned that the push for delisting might be at the behest of a few interests.