

Brad Laesch

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

58

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Okanogan

Residential setting:

Rural

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

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-livestock conflicts

Wolf hunting

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

I would like to see wolf populations in the state be managed to sustainable levels with the species recovered to a significant level-- such that they are noticeable on the landscape. The ranching industry has controlled this debate and managed this issue in such a way that a wolf in Washington state is as rare as a snowball in the Amazon. I would like this species around-- we have coyotes and cougars filling the role of top predator without any room provided for wolves. In my county we will live with black bears, cougars, (lots of) coyotes. But wolves are conspicuous only by their absence.

On the other hand we have cattle-- so much cattle. They're in the national forests completely decimating the riparian zones, they're decimating the local hiking trails, they're decimating the hillsides when they walk down from their upper range land to come to the valley floor where they wander around feeding next to houses and road.

I've completely gone off all beef consumption as has our family because I can't support this industry that dominates the landscape so completely.

I'm completely ready to co-exist with wolves. I'm ready to have less cow shit on the hiking trails, bike trails, gravel roads, neighborhood. I find the current status of wolf population to be as dismal as the resident orca population. Way too low.