

Julia Winchell

What is your gender?

Female

Age?

65

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Snohomish

Vacation home in Chelan County

Residential setting:

Rural

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-human interactions

Wolf hunting

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

Costs and funding priorities

Economic analysis

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

I've always questioned allowing cattle ranchers to use our public lands to graze, and feed, their livestock. This really doesn't seem prudent now, especially if the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is reintroducing wolves to these areas. I've also wondered why the cost of grazing cattle on these lands is so minimal. "The Federal grazing fee for 2018 will be \$1.41 per animal unit month (AUM) for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and \$1.41 per head month (HM) for lands managed by the USDA Forest Service. The 2017 public land grazing fee was \$1.87." Source: BLM website This fee is ridiculously small! Also, why did the fee decrease from 2018 to 2017? I'm sure the state spent more in 2018 on killing wolves than it did in 2017. Why then decrease the fee? "The figure is then calculated according to three factors—current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production." Source: BLM website This method of fee calculation doesn't make any sense either. If these are, in fact, public lands, why don't I, as a member of the "public" have a say in the use of these lands? Why should some archaic calculation method still be used?

Now that our state is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to “manage” or kill wolf packs annually, why has the grazing fee not been raised to reflect the huge sums of money spent on killing wolves? Did we reintroduce wolves to our state simply to eliminate entire packs one at a time? The state is losing money on this endeavor I’m guessing. What does it cost to find and kill a wolf pack? What amount of revenue is generated each year by the grazing fees the cattle ranchers pay? How do those two figures compare? Why can’t ranchers graze their cattle on their private lands or buy grain to feed their cattle? If that would make beef too expensive, that’s fine. Studies have shown that the consumption of beef may not be sustainable anyhow.

Washington State should simply disallow the grazing of cattle on our public lands. I’m guessing that not all the cattle ranchers are employing the techniques suggested by Fish and Wildlife to discourage wolves from preying on their cattle herds. I’ve heard stories of ranchers placing salt licks for their cattle near wolves’ dens. If true, that sounds like wildlife baiting. When the state kills a wolf pack due to predation of cattle, what proof do we have that the ranchers followed the suggested protocol for deterring wolves? The problem could be solved, in part, by disallowing the grazing of cattle on public lands.