

Isaac Nequette

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

25

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

King County

Residential setting:

Suburban

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Environmentalist

Hunter

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

Translocation

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

Costs and funding priorities

Economic analysis

From: Isaac Nequette

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To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that delisting the Gray Wolf in Washington State is not appropriate until they have become established in the Southern Cascade and Northwest Coastal area. I'm concerned that their dispersal area is not large enough throughout the state to persist if a disease or disturbance were to occur. Currently, it appears, that most their population is in the Northeast corner of the state.

A study on infectious and parasitic diseases indicated that there are 10 viral, bacterial, and mycotic diseases and more than 70 species of helminths and ectoparasites (C. J. Brand, M. J. Pybus, W. B. Ballard, and R. O. Peterson, 1995). The mortality rate of the diseases seemed to have ranged from 0% to 50%. I'm concerned Eastern Washington's population of Gray Wolves will not be able to recover in the case of a disease outbreak. Additionally, with the economic pressures present in Eastern Washington of having packs removed due to depredation of livestock if a disease struck after packs are being removed I believe the Gray Wolf would be relisted if they do become delisted.

Originally the recovery objectives were to have 4 successful breeding pairs in Eastern Washington, Northern Cascades, and Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast for 3 consecutive years per WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan of 2011. Per the graph in WDFW scoping presentation slides of 2018, only Eastern Washington has met this goal, having 8, 13, and 12 successful breeding pairs in the last 3 years. The Northern Cascades has had 2, 1, and 3 successful breeding pairs in the last 3 years. While the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast has had none.

A possible solution I think would be translocating a few packs into the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coastal areas from Eastern Washington while continuing to monitor the Northern Cascade packs. This solution was actually one of the management tools considered in WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan of 2011 on Page 69. "Evaluation of

translocation efforts could begin when one recovery region had exceeded its delisting requirements by at least one breeding pair, while another recovery region remained unoccupied.” Eastern Washington has exceeded its delisting requirement by 8 successful breeding pairs as of 2018. I think relocating one of the Eastern Washington packs will also help with the economic pressures associated with that region. Additionally, I would suggest more studies be conducted on how disease and disturbances might impact the Gray Wolves population and their ability to self-sustain.

Link to WDFW presentation:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/Wolf%20post-recovery%20scoping%20presentation%20slides.pdf>

Link to WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan of 2011:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/00001/wdfw00001.pdf>

Link to study on 1995 Gray wolf diseases; “*Infectious and Parasitic Diseases of the Gray Wolf and Their Potential Effects on Wolf Populations in North America*”

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/research_pdfs/infectious_parasitic_diseases_gray_wolf.pdf