

Mark Pidgeon

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

59

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

King

Residential setting:

Suburban

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Hunter

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 classification/status

Wolf-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

Wolf-human interactions

Wolf hunting

Land management

Research

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?

1. The Department should maintain and control wolf populations at a sustaining level that can be properly managed, that also achieves healthy ungulate populations, and does not negatively impact livestock producers.
2. Due to lack of trust between the Department and rural communities, USDA Wildlife Services (APHIS) should be contracted by the state to provide wolf depredation investigations, lethal control and interstate data sharing.
3. APHIS must be given the authority to provide depredation investigations and to implement lethal control when two depredation events have occurred during a trailing 12-month window, with at least one depredation resulting in dead livestock. I also support continued incremental control of problem wolves that could result in pack removal if wolves continue to depredate.
4. The Department must place an emphasis on supplying and deploying to livestock producers any tools that have a negative stimulus on wolves and that prevent wolves from attacking livestock by changing behavior or that prevent habituation.
5. The Department should be required to have at least two collared (with best technology available) wolves in each pack. Sensitive collar data in real time must be shared year-round with livestock producers who have signed agreements.
6. The Department is required to maintain healthy and robust ungulate populations that provides abundant prey for wolves and other predators, as well as ample harvest opportunities for hunters. To accomplish this the Department must adaptively manage using an integrated predator/prey management policy. Predators including wolves cannot be managed successfully in isolation or without consideration of their affect on the prey base.
7. Hunting of wolves should be authorized in this SEPA EIS as a tool to control wolf population and as a Department revenue source.
8. The state should contract for and expand scat monitoring to

determine prey species being consumed by predators and to better define wolf populations through DNA and that those findings be used as a management tool for the Department.

9. The state should provide a permanent funding source and a third party to manage a Livestock Compensation Plan to reimburse producers for direct and indirect losses caused by wolves.

10. The Department should educate state residents as to the above management practices that are needed to sustain a wolf population on the landscape.

11. All dead wolves whether killed through lethal protocol, or natural causes should be tested for hydatid disease. The same holds true for wolf scat. Hydatid disease is highly contagious to both humans and other species and poses a significant risk.