

Vern Shaw

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

66

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Stevens

Residential setting:

Rural

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

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

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

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

I hike and snowshoe out my back door on a regular basis. I ride my bike on the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge as often as weather allows. I am 66 years old. I have lived at my residence, 15 miles east of Colville, since 1981. I hunt. My wife of 41 years and I raised two children in this wonderful diverse forested environment. It is what brought us here, and why we have persevered.

Our observations during our tenure here have taught us that the four-legged predators in our neighborhood are not to be feared. On the contrary, we have come to revere them, and just the knowledge that they are here enriches our lives.

While the multiple use objectives of area public lands include providing wildlife habitat for indigenous species, it has become evident that that objective does not compete well with objectives associated with commercial extraction. It is difficult to make money on wildlife that merely enriches someone's sense of ecological wholeness. We are a domineering species, and when it comes to sharing resources with species viewed as competitors, we rarely relinquish our top predator status.

This is where you come in. You have been granted the unenviable responsibility of managing our collective public lands for wolf habitat under the extreme duress created by fervent special interests whose sole objective is to eradicate this perceived threat to their commercial endeavors.

While my desire for a sense of ecological wholeness from my public lands certainly pales compared to the constant onslaught of anti-wolf howling, it is your responsibility to give it equal footing. I implore you to use the best peer-reviewed science available when you construct our post-recovery plan for this tenuous species. Many eastern Washington residents like me revere wildlife diversity.