

Diane Boteler

**What is your gender?**

Female

**Age?**

1

**County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?**

San Juan

**Residential setting:**

Rural

**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 management areas

Wolf-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

Habitat connectivity

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

I am concerned that Washington state is not using the best science to make decisions about wolf recovery in this state. The benefit to private companies and citizens who use public lands for profit at little cost and without evidence of environmental sustainability should not outweigh the concerns for recovery of an ecosystem long damaged by human intervention . I am concerned by the state's rush to delist wolves and develop a "post-recovery" wolf plan, especially in light of the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife's pattern of wolf killing in the same area of prime wolf habitat in the Kettle Range. I recommend that the state focus on restoring public trust, relying on the best available science and implementing effective non-lethal alternatives to alleviate wolf-livestock conflicts. The state should also work with federal land management agencies like the US Forest Service to reevaluate grazing allotments in prime wolf habitat – a crucial way to reduce a pattern of ongoing conflicts and wolf killings.

So far it has seemed that the State's wolf management plan has been driven by economic demands of those using state and federal land for private benefit and perhaps not making best efforts to deter wolf livestock interactions by non-lethal means. The balance must shift to look at the health of the entire ecosystem and not how wolf management benefits a few individuals.