

Tara Hershberger

What is your gender?

Non-binary/Third Gender

Age?

33

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Multnomah

Residential setting:

Urban

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

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

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

I love wildlife and believe that we have a responsibility to allow other species to survive, particularly a species that is as important to it's ecosystem as the gray wolf. It cannot be said that the wolves have truly recovered in Washington, in any sense of the word. I live in Oregon and am excited by the return of wolves to Mt. Hood forest. The public supports wolf recovery, and not needless killing.

Post recovery management should focus on growth and maintenance of sustainable gray wolf populations and handling conflict using pro-active non lethal means. Meeting recovery goals is the first step down that path, not the last. The Department should focus on continued population growth to reach sustainable population levels and restoration/preservation of gray wolf habitat as well as habitat connectivity allowing genetic exchange at a statewide level and beyond.

Once the gray wolf reaches recovery in the state of Washington, then the department should manage the gray wolf (and other carnivores) as a priority on our public lands, particularly in wild roadless areas, advocating for restoration of native ecosystems, at the federal and state level, and oppose government, state and federal, sanctioned killing or hunting of the gray wolf and other native carnivores.