

Alicia Malara

What is your gender?

Female

Age?

43

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Spokane

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

Wolf-livestock conflicts

Wolf-ungulate interactions

Wolf interactions with other species

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Research

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

I am concerned that the delisting of grey wolves is premature and could lead to the demise of a healthy wolf population in Washington State. Without a diverse gene pool, the wolves will inbreed and become more susceptible to disease. It is the strength of the wolf pack that keeps herd animals healthy, because they generally cull out the weak and unhealthy ungulates(they are easiest to catch). Much to our dismay, wolves are far better at managing wildlife than humans, since hunters tend to seek out the strongest animals from the herd. It seems to me that wolf management is less about what is good for wildlife and forests and more about politics. From what I have read regarding early American history, the wolves encountered by settlers were gentle and left people alone, even children. They have become so maligned, not because they are people eating predators(I have only found two incidents in the last hundred years that involved wolf aggression towards humans, far less than domesticated dogs, mind you), but because they occasionally eat livestock(notice this is always towards mid-summer a few months into the grazing season when the cattle have forced the elk and deer and moose to move on), they are under constant fire(literally). This is a very expensive political battle and I wish there were a law against livestock producers using our public lands for grazing cattle.