

Nancy Jacobs

What is your gender?

Female

Age?

75

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

King

Residential setting:

Urban

Do you identify yourself as any of the following?

Environmentalist

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 interactions with other species

Wolf-human interactions

Wolf hunting

Translocation

Land management

Habitat connectivity

Information and education

Research

Reporting and evaluation

Goals objectives strategies and tasks

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

I believe that wolf conservation and management in Washington still has a long way to go. I was impressed by the initial plan, devised after years of meetings and public comments from a wide variety of stakeholders. However, it seems to have fallen apart with the much publicized killings of entire packs which was justified, seemingly, by the killing of some cattle on public land often belonging to the same rancher. Based on the huge number of cattle, compared with the small number of wolves, that is not justifiable. Ranchers graze on public lands with small fees, and many responsible ones do everything possible to protect their cattle and prevent interactions with wolves or other predators. But some do not, and those are the ones that are the problem. Wolves are very intelligent creatures and have a primary place in our ecosystems as they keep them balanced. Their family structures are tight. The older ones in the pack teach the younger ones how to hunt wild prey. It does no one (wolves, ranchers, cattle) any good to have some ranchers refuse to make every effort possible to mitigate wolf interaction. It did our ecosystem no good to eradicate wolves in the first place. With the eradication of whole packs that has taken place, WDFW has taken the wrong approach. We must learn to live with wolves; we will all benefit from their presence in our lives. Their recovery is still fragile and must be protected so that they eventually can also establish a foothold in more parts of our state. Education could play a big role in that success, as people learn the real facts about wolves and their importance in the balance of nature, not the fable of the big bad wolf. Please pay attention to science on this.