

Ronald Reed

What is your gender?

Male

Age?

67

County (or Counties) of Primary Residence?

Spokane

Residential setting:

Suburban

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-livestock conflicts

Wolf interactions with other species

Land management

Research

Costs and funding priorities

Please list other topics here. The next page provides space for general comments on the scope of the plan.

mitigating conflict between native wildlife and non-native domestic livestock

Friday, November 4, 2019

Ms. Julia Smith [<mailto:Julia.Smith@dfw.wa.gov>]
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
PO Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Re: Public Comments - Wolf post-delisting planning

Dear Ms. Smith

I've been to WAG and WDFW commissioners' meetings and have given input at both but I've been pretty disappointed in the result I saw. I felt my comments went in one ear and out the other... When I commented at the commissioner's meeting in Olympia last year, one of the commissioners, Jay Holzmilller decided to argue with me about my position and comments. His arguments were extremely weak and I felt that was a bit inappropriate when the commission was asking for public input...

It seems to me the WAG is mainly stocked with agricultural people (ranchers and farmers) who are openly anti-wolf and two of the four environmental orgs that are represented are more bent toward being ranching lobbyists than wolf and wildlife advocates. Conservation Northwest and Wolf Haven International have both blocked or attempted to block litigation efforts to stop the lethal removal of wolves over the past two years. Efforts that my wife and I were working in favor of.

As a retired business owner and Washington Taxpayer who was born here in Spokane and who has lived in Eastern Washington for most of my life, I am appalled at the actions of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife in regard to lethal removal of wolves in this state while doing nothing to mitigate the problem of wildlife/livestock conflict. This last summer WDFW killed eight wolves (four of them puppies) literally hours prior to issuance of a court order to stop the lethal removals. What's worse, these eight wolves were removed to protect the private ranching operations at Diamond M Ranch. I believe these most recent kills total 25 wolves that Diamond M has been responsible for. This is a significant majority of the overall count of wolves that have been killed by WDFW since 2008. It's a fraudulent waste of our tax dollars when a great majority of our citizens do not want wolves killed.

The problems we face with these wildlife conflicts are not that wolves are living in perfectly suited wolf habitat. The problems are that non-native livestock are being introduced into our very rugged terrain in our national public lands where our native wildlife will naturally reside. It's impossible for ranching operations to manage their livestock in these areas but instead of finding places that make more sense to place grazing allotments, WDFW kills our wolves. Why is WDFW not working to mitigate these ongoing conflicts instead of working to define "post-recovery" policies? This seems to me a colossal waste of time and our tax

dollars at this point? The two-million dollars paid to the “facilitator” at the WAG in 2018(?) was another example of considerable waste.

The way WDFW has and continues to manage these matters is a travesty! My tax dollars are being spent/wasted to fly helicopters with hired marksmen to kill families of wolves that neither I nor 70%+ of Washington taxpayers want killed! We want our wildlife to flourish. I hope my comments will be viewed with careful consideration.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Ronald D. Reed & Debra J. Reed
7510 S. Mountain Springs Road
Spokane, WA 99223-1816

cc:

Director Kelly Susewind
Governor Jay Inslee