

From: FRANKLD@FOSTERFARMS.COM
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:55:10 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I appreciate the effort contributed by the Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on a plan meant to re-establish a naturally producing and viable wolf population in the state of Washington and to minimize impacts to livestock owners in a way that will not impact the recovery of the wolf.

However, considering the impact that wolves will have on elk and deer population within the state of Oregon and Washington, I respectfully want to keep wolves out of the state.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
Linda Franklin
5417 NE 286th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

From: kabobert@up.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:50:09 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Keep the wolves out!! The deer and elk populations in other parts of the country where wolves have been introduced has been drastically reduced!

Sincerely,
Kenneth Bobert
17815 NE 72nd Street
Vancouver, WA 98682

From: [M Postit](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 4:01:34 PM

Hello,

My concise comments:

I feel the balance of efforts should be in favor of the wolves. The rare trumps the common. Billions of humans and their domesticated lifefoms can afford to give some space to wildlife. Indeed must, if we are to retain life beyond mere survival.

Thank you

--

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From: [Mark DeLaurier](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: (DEIS) and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 1:25:59 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to comment on the wolf conservation and management plan for the state of Washington. I was born in Washington state and have lived here for 28 years. I live in rural Grays Harbor County.

I have several concerns regarding the draft of the plan. For the most part, these concerns center around the sense that Washington's plan for handling wolves is too similar to plans from states that only try to manage wolves by wiping them out. This is discouraging for a number of reasons. First, I had hoped Washington would produce a much more wolf-friendly plan than states like Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, which have atrocious records when it comes to wolves. Second, the people who have developed Washington's plan need to keep in mind that polls have shown strong support among Washingtonians for the presence and protection of wolves in this state. We are not Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, or even Alaska.

Unfortunately, this document looks as if it has been developed to placate the small minority of individuals who oppose wolf protection. The Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to remember who it works for: all of the people of Washington, not a few special interests who have no desire to do anything for the benefit of wolves. How much influence can a few conservative ranchers have in this liberal state?

My specific concerns about the draft of the plan include the following: First, the recovery objective of breeding pairs needed for down-listing and delisting is too low to ensure a viable wolf population in this state. It makes no sense to protect these animals just long enough to ensure some are around to kill off again. This is the same strategy used by Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and it is appalling.

Second, the lethal kill provisions for livestock owners and private citizens whose livestock or domestic dogs are attacked by wolves while wolves are in threatened or sensitive status are too liberal. Those phases of recovery represent critical early steps in wolf recovery, and the current provisions stand to impede that process. As evinced by the recent illegal killings of wolves in Washington's Northern Cascades, when it comes to wolves, the real threat in the issue is the one posed by people to wolves, not the other way around. Yet the Department of Fish and Wildlife's plan gives people like the criminals who poached those wolves last year plenty of openings

to legally continue their extermination of these animals. These provisions are just the excuses such people are looking for. Thus, they do little to encourage people to limit contact between their animals and wolves. In reality, providing incentives and resources to limit such contact represents a key component in managing relations with any major predator. On the other hand, giving people too many chances to kill wolves in retaliation for the loss of domestic animals is a counter-productive measure, especially when wolf populations are at their most vulnerable.

Finally, the Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to pay more attention to the translocation of wolves from places in Washington that have healthy populations to areas that need new populations. This will speed up recovery and allow wolves to once again occupy the full extent of their former range, at which point, Washingtonians in all areas can enjoy the presence of the animal they have waited so long to see return.

Please consider improving your plan by addressing these concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark DeLaurier

From: rivermandan2698@yahoo.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 12:38:20 PM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Please do not bring back wolves, We killed them off on purpose. In Idaho, wolves are decimating the Elk herds as they target pregnant cows, eating or often just killing the unborn fetuses. I do not want to see any of my tax dollars spent on this insanity. Kill the dam things and forget it. Quit trying to play God. Species have been going extinct forever and they will continue to go extinct when we are gone.

sincerely

Daniel J. Alsup
rivermandan2698@yahoo.com

From: siberman88@aol.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Sunday, December 27, 2009 1:17:55 PM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I have already mailed a letter to comment on the Washington Wolf Plan, but want to add one thing. Along with implementation of the Wolf Plan, there needs to be a massive public education program about wolves. This needs to include the very low incidence of any direct harm to humans caused by wolves, deprecation compensation programs, how to protect livestock and pets, how to react if wolves are encountered, and the penalties for poaching.

Thank you.

Steve Foster
siberman88@aol.com

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#); [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management"
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 3:20:11 PM
Attachments: [RE I support Alt. 1A The Responsible Approach to wolf management.msg](#)

FYI..... *Irene

From: Commission (DFW)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 1:43 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: FW: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management"

The Commission Office responded to Mr. Crowley's email (see attached).

From: Mark W. Crowley [<mailto:tp.announcer@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:33 AM
To: Commission (DFW); Director (DFW)
Subject: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management"

I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management and request that you approve this alternative.

Mark Crowley
PO Box 751
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Hotmail: Trusted email with powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:21:24 PM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

From: Bob & Janie Rose [mailto:roseranch@willapabay.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management

WDFW Director, Phil Anderson,

We support Alternate 1A, The Responsible approach to wolf management.

Sincerely,

Robert P. & R. Jane Rose

From: [Chuck Largent](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:13:13 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

The fact that we now have grey wolves in Washington is a statement about this animal's adaptability. They were not re-introduced here, like Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, yet they are now here and breeding. Idaho opened hunting of grey wolves this past season in an effort to

reduce their numbers. They have impacted native populations of deer and elk, some herds drastically. And Idaho, Wyoming and Montana have much, much more open space and wilderness areas than Washington.

I am writing as a concerned hunter and fisherman. I have been hunting in this state for 50 years and the current populations of deer and elk are not that strong.

Can we afford another predator such as the grey wolf ? Our cougar and black bear populations are very high, with too many conflicts with humans. We are encroaching more each year into their country. We are in the process of spending \$1million to fence portions of

Highway 97A between Wenatchee and Entiat to protect big horn sheep from motor vehicles.

Our State is shrinking and wildlife will be impacted.

If we are to manage the grey wolf population, keeping their numbers and range areas reasonable must be a priority. Hunting, although not a popular method of control works to not only control their numbers, but it also demonstrates that humans are to be stayed away from ! They are intelligent animals, and at the top of the food chain. If they have respect and fear from humans, conflicts can be limited. Good luck in developing these plans. Chuck Largent, Wenatchee.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chuck Largent
911 Gehr St
Wenatchee, WA 98801-3654
(509) 663-2353

From: [Barbara Moore-Lewis](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\); Director \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf conservation plan
Date: Sunday, December 27, 2009 10:41:23 AM

Please choose Alternative 3 for your final plan to reestablish a viable wolf population across a significant portion of their former range in Washington.

- the goal of 15 breeding pairs is too low. Scientists suggest 30 to 60 breeding pairs would be a more realistic number.
- if you take reintroduction from out of state wolf populations off the table, the draft plan severely limits the chances for recovering wolves on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Olympic National Park. Naturally dispersing wolves from the Cascades will not survive crossing the I-5 population corridor.
- non-letham methods, including translocation, should be used in dealing with problem wolves that interfere with livestock operations.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Barbara Moore Lewis
PO Box 303
Brinnon, WA 98320

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: I support ALT 1A the responsible approach to Wolf Management.
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:20:39 PM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

From: Arlene Vessey [mailto:arlness@hughes.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:37 AM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: I support ALT 1A the responsible approach to Wolf Management.

We are avid Hunters and Cattlemen in this State and we fear the wolf coming into our state. Thank you. Allan Lougheed and Arlene Vessey.

From: [Robert Sullivan](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 4:59:31 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

As more and more natural species are disappearing permanently because of human mismanagement, I feel very strongly that we must make all efforts to preserve the ones we still have left.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Sullivan
1538 S 69th Ave
Yakima, WA 98908-5506
(509) 965-0558

From: [Dianne Thurlow](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Fw: I support Alt. 1A., the responsible approach to wolf management
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:44:17 AM

THIS IS OUR WRITTEN TESTIMONY - BERNARD, DIANNE, AND SEAN THURLOW

--- On **Sun, 1/3/10, Dianne Thurlow** <thurlowranch@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Dianne Thurlow <thurlowranch@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fw: I support Alt. 1A., the responsible approach to wolf management
To: director@dfw.wa.gov
Date: Sunday, January 3, 2010, 11:07 AM

--- On **Sun, 1/3/10, Dianne Thurlow** <thurlowranch@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Dianne Thurlow <thurlowranch@yahoo.com>
Subject: I support Alt. 1A., the responsible approach to wolf management
To: commission@dfw.wa.gov
Date: Sunday, January 3, 2010, 10:43 AM

Hello,

We will add that we do not want wolves at all.

Livestock are our nation's food resource animals, and we cannot take livestock for granted.

It takes one year to produce a crop, if there are no disasters, such as drought, forest fires, freezes, tornados, pest problems, regulatory interference, (to include limiting or denial of water, or crime/terrorism, domestic or foreign.

It takes two and one half years to raise a beef, and a lifetime to care for, improve, and protect a home-raised cow herd.

100 years of work can be destroyed by 20 signatures partnered with a nonprofit environmental group gathering and operating on donations.

It is no wonder our country is having economic problems.

We also feel that the less suffering, the better. Why allow wolves to propagate where they will only have to be killed? Why allow brutal, pack driven attacks on deer, elk, wildlife, domestic animals, and livestock?

Do you realize that enemies of our country would like nothing more than for us to be stupid enough to destroy our own food resources.

Finally, the reason we have the luxury of protecting our wildlife and enjoying them is directly related to the fact that we can feed our people. We have the ability to produce safe food for ourselves and for others in the world.

Let us strive to protect our nations food resource animals. By doing so, we strengthen our country, and protect ourselves.

Bernard, Dianne, and Sean Thurlow

From: [Yvonne Kuperberg](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 9:58:57 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

Attn: WA Fish and Wildlife:

- 1) We must have enforceable protections to keep our state wolves thriving.
- 2) We must adopt scientifically-based goals that account for factors such as illegal poaching, genetic isolation, disease and other potential mortality events.
- 3) We must invest in education programs to prove the beneficial role wolves play in our ecosystem.
- 4) We must ensure their survival!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Yvonne Kuperberg
14714 Bethel Ln SW
Vashon, WA 98070-3520
(206) 567-4005

From: [Kevin Gilbert](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 9:58:57 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

Gray Wolves are welcome in Washington. I am a hunter and feel that they should be a game animal once they reach the 250 population range. Other states allowed them to get very populated before putting permits out and gathered too much negative attention from both sides of having gray wolves within their state.

Kevin Gilbert
3909 Burch Mtn Rd.
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Gilbert
3909 Burch Mountain Rd
Wenatchee, WA 98801-9643
(509) 662-6195

From: [Kathryn Lindsay](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 8:28:38 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

I urge the Department to invest in programs that educate Washington

citizens about wolf ecology, including the fact that they are native to our great state and play a beneficial role overall in our ecosystem. I

would love to know that my almost-two year old grandson will be able to celebrate the recovery of this wolf population.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathryn Lindsay
PO Box 2535
Friday Harbor, WA 98250-2535
(206) 762-2931

From: [Michael Gan](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 7:29:21 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

As an educated and concerned resident of Washington State, it pains me to think of any group of animals being punatively discriminated and subjected to torture and death. My sincere hope is that people can embrace tolerance and understanding and let go of irrational behaviors.

As we embark on yet another exciting decade in human history - perhaps

the most exciting that has ever come to pass - let us do what we can to help those that have no voice of their own and simply wish to live in peace, no different than the desire many of us share. Please count my

voice as one that is calling for a return to protections for wolves and

the adoption of a morally and scientifically ethical framework on which to build a lasting ecological future for these magnificent animals.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Gan
8714 W Falls Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336-1007
(509) 396-7827

From: [Benjames Derrick](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 6:57:16 PM

Jan 6, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

Please allow wolves to establish themselves in this state.

Sincerely,

Mr. Benjames Derrick
145 NW Larry St Apt 3
Pullman, WA 99163-3573
(509) 334-3674

From: [Alda Siebrands](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 8:59:57 AM

Jan 7, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

Wolves are a part of the ecosystem and nature is providing the proof of their necessity. People need to be educated on the long term value of their presence in Washington.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alda Siebrands
326 Township Line Rd
Port Angeles, WA 98362-7434
(360) 452-9864

From: [Ashley Court](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 7:59:56 AM

Jan 7, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

I'm not sure why I received this from the Sierra Club but since I did I'm going to take advantage! I've hunted for several years in Central Idaho and since we began going in the early 90's the wolf was introduced into that area and our game numbers have plummeted! One of the very first wolf kills I encountered was a beaver found in the middle of a trail I had walked that morning only to find the partially devoured fresh skull when I returned that afternoon surrounded by wolf tracks. So non game species have been impacted as well! Since that time the game animal numbers have dropped dramatically, especially the elk.

Here in the Methow where we have only deer as a natural large game food source, I can only imagine the devastation any population of wolves would do to them. After the deer numbers are depleted then, the next

logical food source is cattle (but that has started already!) and then domestic pets and other small game.

The wolves we encounter in Idaho are extremely wary. A good number of the wolves found here in the Methow act like their someone's lost pet! I have heard numerous reports of people living in the the area of this "new" pack that animals have actually come up on their yards acting like they expect handouts!

Because of the remoteness of our area, I have no doubt that there are wolves that have migrated to this area from places that do have a legitimate wolf population and they remain in the high country far removed from civilization. I don't think that is the case with our "main" pack! It is my understanding that some other areas

that have had wolf recovery programs were supplemented by private individuals or groups raising wolves and releasing them. I think that when these groups found out that there might be a hunting season imposed in those areas, they found someplace to release them where the

wolf would do good without worry of them being legally shot and I think the Methow was the recipient!

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashley Court
660 Lester Rd
Winthrop, WA 98862-9607
(509) 996-2234

From: [Howard Ferguson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on the WDFW Draft EIS for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Monday, December 28, 2009 5:06:10 PM
Attachments: [Wolf Plan Response Dec 2009.doc](#)

Hi

Here are my comments on the Wolf Plan:

Of the four alternatives I would prefer Alternative 3 – **with the changes suggested below (see table below):**

ALTERNATIVE THREE

This option provides has a "higher probability of achieving and maintaining a long-term viable wolf population in Washington compared to the other alternatives." It includes a fourth recovery region in the Pacific Coast, is the most conservative in managing conflicts with livestock, and offers the largest compensation package. Conservation Northwest supports this alternative with the addition that a higher number of breeding pairs should be achieved before delisting.

Recovery numbers for wolves is too low. I think at the current proposed levels the management actions would be stalled for years due to law suits for not having scientifically sound numbers.

I suggest actually increasing the number of recovery regions to 5 – so you would have not just Eastern WA, but NE WA and SE Washington. It doesn't make a whole lot of ecological sense to have NE WA and the Blue mountains all one region – they are very biologically distinct and the wolf populations of those areas will have very different sources/interactions. NE WA will interface and depend on connectivity with BC, Canada, and NW Idaho, whereas Blue Mountains will have SW Idaho and NE Oregon connections and interactions, with likely little or no interaction between the two. In addition, it appears likely that we already have 1 pack in each area and that would then satisfy the alternatives 1 and 2 already even for delisting. These two areas may become the two of possibly three primary sources for wolf expansion through the rest of the state (with the N Cascades pack).

I also would recommend the payment for confirmed livestock depredation be only "**Full value** for each confirmed depredation on all parcel sizes" and "**Half value**

for each confirmed depredation on all parcel sizes”, and in each case only on **Private Lands** as suggested in Alternative 1. I think there is no reason to exaggerate the compensation in WA over the other states, and double payment will just take away needed management funds from WDFW.

I think WDFW is responding to the loudest voice which is the cattlemen/ranchers which is actually a very small minority in the overall state budget and population. After all, it was probably cattlemen and ranchers, in large part, why we have to spend all this money to reestablish these animals in Washington now; perhaps they should be paying part of the bill!

Suggested Changes to Alternative 3.	
Element	
Downlist to Threatened (10 successful breeding pairs)	2 in NE Washington 2 in SE Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascades 2 in Pacific Coast
Downlist to Sensitive (15 successful breeding pairs)	3 in NE Washington 3 in SE Washington 3 in North Cascades 3 in South Cascades 3 in Pacific Coast
Delist (20 successful breeding pairs)	3 in NE Washington 3 in SE Washington 3 in North Cascades 3 in Southern Cascades 3 in Pacific Coast; and an additional 5 anywhere in the state
Translocation of wolves from one area of Washington to another to establish a new population	Be more aggressive and actually plan in translocations once certain areas reach the above state number of packs and other regions have none or less than stated objectives.

Manage for landscape connectivity	Instead of - Expand existing efforts to maintain and restore habitat connectivity for wolves – Go ahead and add active cooperative planning and management with WADOT to identify important highway crossings and if necessary install “crossing devices” to minimize wolf mortalities.
Payment for confirmed livestock depredation	Full value for each confirmed depredation on all parcel sizes. Losses covered on private lands only.
Payment for probable livestock depredation	Half the full value for each probable depredation on all parcel sizes. Losses covered on private lands only.
Wolf-ungulate conflict management	After wolves are delisted, if research determines that wolf predation is a limiting factor for at-risk ungulate populations, could consider moving of wolves, or other non-lethal control techniques in localized areas ADD --- Emphasize non-lethal techniques for management, including the use of guard animals and predator deterrent fencing

I think it is very enlightening what some of the research shows, but here is one of the most recent and most comprehensive:

In Glacier Park, a researcher named Eisenberg is proving that the presence, or absence, of wolves sends dramatic ripples throughout the food web.

Eisenberg's work shows that before wolves were killed out, about one in every six aspen trees grew to reach the canopy. When wolves were absent, perhaps one in 300 made it.

Aspen ecosystems are considered some of the finest and richest songbird habitat on the continent, second only to river-bottom riparian zones. Remove the wolf, and you remove the songbirds. Remove the songbirds, and the bugs move in. Everything changes, top to bottom, right down to the dirt.

Tree-core samples from each study area make clear the impact of *canis lupus* on aspen - without wolves, elk will stand around eating until they've browsed young aspens to the ground.

Some had thought drought or disease or insect infestation was killing young aspens, but fences to keep out the elk helped show heavy browsing was a primary culprit.

Likewise, birders have offered many reasons for avian species' decline, but Eisenberg's songbird counts have shown that while there are only a half-dozen species in the old aspen groves where wolves are absent, the younger stands driven by the keystone predator are home to four or five times as many.

Remove the wolves, she said, and the coyotes fill the niche. The coyotes eat the ground squirrels, and so the meadows don't get "plowed," and soil productivity declines.

Remove the wolves, she said, and the deer eat the river-bottom willows, and the bull trout lose both their shade and their food, as insects no longer fall from overhanging brush.

That matters because the places with greatest biodiversity are the places most resilient, most able to adapt to, say, changing climate. That also matters because birds eat bugs and beetles, which are killing entire Western forests. And it matters, she said, because courts have been consistently confounded as to how to determine an endangered species "recovered."

Hunters, of course, prefer elk that aren't quite so wily, but trophic cascades work both ways in wildlife management. Remove the wolves, and elk are easier to find. But then coyote populations explode, eating their way through the local game-bird population. Enhance one hunting opportunity, and you affect another.

Her findings: Wolves increase biodiversity; wolves affect elk behavior more than elk populations; and aspen growth in elk winter range is directly related to wolves.

From: Kchapps21@gmail.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 6:51:01 PM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

The idea that the continued absence of any animal that was once common and widespread in Washington during historic time, one whose absence is a direct result of human activity including but not limited to targeted extermination, could be tolerated is reprehensible. Wolves are as essential to the balance of the ecosystems they belong to as sea stars are to a tide pool, and to even consider continuing to exclude them from Washington's natural environment is to invite a future rife with ecological imbalance on practically all fronts. I strongly urge you to proceed with the most proactive wolf reintroduction plan possible and to hold fast against childish and unfounded fears of this animal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Kent Chapple
Kchapps21@gmail.com

From: cowihecows@aol.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Wolf Plan
Date: Sunday, January 03, 2010 2:51:06 PM
Attachments: [Comments on Wolf Plan.doc](#)

Attached is a letter concerning the wolf plan for Washington State.

From: diane_weinstein@msn.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: DEIS and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 3:43:25 PM

Subject: DEIS and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Dear Sir/Ms.:

As a concerned citizen, I would like to submit the following comments concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington:

1. The DEIS and Wolf Conservation and Management Plan reflects the pro-hunting biases of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). As for example:
 - The WDFW Director appointed the 17-member citizen's advisory group or Wolf Working Group (WWG). State wildlife agencies have historically been run by hunters for the benefit of hunters. WDFW is no exception.
 - The WWG does not reflect the makeup of the general public.
 - At least 11 of the 17 member WWG are pro-hunting or represent hunting organizations, ranchers, farmers, cattle producers, and private forestland owners. WDFW has an established close working relationship with these groups to promote hunting activities.
 - The above groups have openly professed the philosophies of "The only good wolf is a dead wolf" and "Shoot, shovel, and shut-up."
 - The WWG also included a board member from the Safari Club International. This extremist group's purpose in life is to encourage and help its members to kill the most animals and the greatest numbers of species possible; the more rare the species, the better.
 - Reintroducing wildlife from other states is a commonly used technique, yet the option to reintroduce wolves was flatly ruled out prior to the start of the project.
 - The criteria for delisting wolves is ridiculously low and there is an apparent rush to delist ASAP so that wolves can be legally killed and hunted ASAP.
 - The DEIS and final draft plan with the preferred alternative were released before a blind scientific peer review was conducted. This indicates that politics and bias are playing a major role and that scientific opinion has already been discarded. This does not bode well for public comments, especially from those who do not hunt or are not members of the cattle and livestock industries.

- Plans are already underway to start hunting wolves as indicated in the May 19, 2008 Group of Four Proposal to Address Outstanding Issues Doc. According to this document “just prior to wolves reaching the population level for moving from Sensitive (Phase III) to Phase IV, WDFW would prepare a proposal to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to reclassify them from nongame to a game species” and set harvest strategies. It goes on to state that “As wolves remain near the sensitive trigger it is very likely that wolves would be harvested on a limited permit-only basis much as is done for species such as bighorn sheep and moose. As numbers begin to reach population goals it (sic) likely there would be a more general season on wolves.”

2. To offset the bias and to provide any semblance of balance, an additional 11 positions would need to be added to the WWG and filled with members of PETA.
3. The DEIS Fact Sheet states that “the expansion of a currently small breeding population of wolves in Washington is expected as a result of increased dispersal of wolves from recovering populations in Idaho and Montana, and dispersers from British Columbia.” With the all out war on wolves going on in these areas, there probably will not be many wolves left to disperse into Washington.
4. Building upon the above questionable fact of continuing dispersal, the DEIS goes on to wrongly conclude that wolves would continue to disperse into Washington and therefore reintroduction of wolves from out of state was not necessary.
5. Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 use the target numbers of 6, 12, and 15 breeding pairs to down list from endangered to sensitive and from sensitive to delisted. These numbers are ridiculously low and are even lower than those originally suggested by WDFW. These numbers are also inconsistent with the USFWS recommendations. Some scientists think there should be three times these numbers. Even the DEIS states that these numbers are “considered minimal or barely adequate for achieving population viability and recovery.” A number of factors including rabies, distemper and other diseases; poaching; and genetic isolation could easily wipe out a breeding pair or the entire pack. Why purposely disregard science and set such a low standard?
6. The alternatives require the target numbers to be met for a period of three consecutive years. No changes in status should occur until the target numbers have been met for a minimum of five years and then only after ensuring that genetic diversity and connectivity have been accomplished.
7. Only Alternative 3 includes a Pacific Coast Region. A Pacific Coast Region is essential to bringing back wolves to this area and restoring the ecosystem of Olympic National Park, which is a perfect area for them. In addition, the Pacific Coast region has been hard hit by reductions in the forest industry and could use the additional

tourist dollars that the wolves would bring. According to the DEIS, “wildlife watchers outnumbered hunters and anglers combined by nearly three times in Washington.”

8. Reintroduction and translocation should be used for the recovery of wolves especially in areas such as Mount St. Helens and the Olympic Peninsula where it would be difficult for wolves to spread because of major barriers to their movements and dispersal.

9. The DEIS states that “it is unusual to include lethal management strategies in a plan for recovery of a listed species” but it was included to “build public tolerance.” This minimizes the wolves’ chances of recovery and underscores WDFW’s bias in favor of the hunting groups, ranchers, etc. The DEIS also states that “human mortality is the single most important factor influencing recovery of wolves.” The decision to include lethal management strategies is based upon bias and politics instead of science. Prevention and non-lethal methods need to be emphasized and used instead.

10. Most wolves in Idaho and Montana live on public land. This would most likely be true in Washington. The use of non-lethal injurious harassment and lethal take of wolves on public land is unnecessary and unacceptable.

11. Education, prevention, and non-lethal control methods should be used to prevent depredation.

12. The alternatives include overly generous compensation packages for confirmed and probable depredations as well as unknown losses. This is unacceptable for the following reasons:

- The cattle and livestock industries are just that, they are businesses and should not be subsidized with taxpayer money.
- Other organizations, such as Defenders of Wildlife, are already reimbursing owners for livestock depredation.
- The cattle and livestock industries should buy insurance just like everyone else to insure against losses. They should not be given special treatment.
- It is absurd to pay for livestock depredation if it occurs on public land. The cattle industry is already being subsidized with exceptionally cheap grazing leases and taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for their losses as well.
- It is even more absurd to use taxpayer monies for unknown losses.
- There is no good reason to financially support those who defy the law and openly profess, “The only good wolf is a dead wolf” and “Shoot, shovel, and shut up.”

- Taxpayer money should not be used to support an industry that does so much damage to the environment. The World Watch Institute has issued a report showing that 51% of all global warming is caused by livestock agriculture and meat production. This industry now occupies 30% of all the ice-free land on the planet.
- Taxpayer money should not be used to support an industry that does so much damage to public health. The high consumption of animal products has created an epidemic of obesity and has contributed to high levels of heart disease, cancer, and many other diseases.

13. Hunting of ungulates should be restricted in wolf recovery areas to help restore wolf populations. Maintaining harvest opportunities for hunters should not be done at the expense of wolf recovery. It is a matter of life and death for the wolves, but only a “sport” or killing for the fun of it for hunters. In addition, the DEIS states that only 3.8% of Washington residents age 16 or over hunt. Surely, they can afford to give up some of the fun for the sake of restoring an endangered species.

14. Hunting of ungulates should also be restricted in wolf recovery areas to prevent the “Shoot, shovel, and shut up” group from killing wolves.

15. Also according to the WDFW on the annual elk harvest, hunters take 59%, poachers take 15 % and predators take 2 %. Regardless of the alternative chosen, rather than worrying about wolf predation, WDFW should focus on enforcement and stopping poaching.

16. Lethal action against wolves should not be an option for managing at-risk ungulates. Translocation and other non-lethal control techniques should be used instead.

17. Alternative 2 was chosen as the preferred alternative. Yet, according to the DEIS, Alternative 3 “places the greatest emphasis on protection and restoration of wolves” and it “is predicted to have a higher probability of achieving and maintaining a long-term viable wolf population in Washington compared to the other alternatives.” There is no logical explanation other than politics and bias as to why Alternative 2 was chosen over Alternative 3.

18. It also does not make sense to choose Alternative 2 when we cannot depend on a continued flow of wolves from British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. Nor can we count on the presence of connectors from outside and inside the state. The wolves could also be seriously affected by tribal hunting when removed from the Federal Endangered Species List.

19. Alternative 4, the No Action alternative “emphasizes protection and restoration of wolves using existing programs.” This alternative is superior to the chosen

Alternative 2.

20. According to the DEIS “humans are the greatest cause of wolf mortality in the western United States” and that in the northern Rocky Mountain states, 10% of the wolves die from control actions and 10% die from illegal killings. The DEIS also states that: “it is anticipated that increased outreach and education efforts would help reduce wolf-human conflicts.” Since the greatest source of mortality for wolves is people, the emphasis on outreach and education should be the highest priority and the same across all alternatives, yet it is only considered a high priority item under Alternative 3. It is not that costly and it should be given a high priority status under all of the alternatives.

21. The USFWS has documented high levels of wolf poaching in the Northern Rockies. Regardless of the alternative chosen, protecting wolves from poaching needs to be a top priority. Strict enforcement is needed and fines and penalties need to be increased.

22. The DEIS and plan should also include protections for wolf dens and rendezvous sites.

23. In choosing an alternative, WDFW should err on the side of caution instead of choosing an alternative with minimal chance of success. This is especially true when dealing with people who openly profess the philosophy of “The only good wolf is a dead wolf” and “Shoot, shovel and shut up.” Compromising with them is not in the best interest of the wildlife and goes against RCW 77.04.012 to “protect, preserve, and perpetuate” our state’s wildlife.

24. The DEIS and plan completely removes all protections for wolves once they reach the required number of breeding pairs. This abrupt removal of all protections for a threatened species is not supported by science and makes for poor policy. Minnesota used a phased approach and protected wolves for five years after delisting, which allowed them to ensure that the population had adequately recovered. Similar protections should be in the plan for Washington.

25. The outright slaughter of wolves in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana underscores the need to continue to protect wolves after they become delisted. The DEIS and plan needs to include protections so an all out war on wolves does not occur here. Aerial hunting, trapping, use of motorized vehicles and poisons should all be banned.

26. The plan states that “with regard to hunting, Mitchell et al. (2008) recommended that consideration should be given to protecting wolves in some core habitat areas (e. g., in large blocks of public lands) to maintain pack size and structure, thereby potentially retaining successful breeding pairs and reproductive output.” This recommendation should be incorporated into the plan.

27. Why the rush to delist? According to the minutes from the WWG June 7 meeting “Goal – get to delisting of wolf ASAP through use of a range of management tools.” Instead of a true goal of wolf recovery, the goal was to delist ASAP. This was most likely done to allow hunters, those in the cattle and livestock industries and others the right to start shooting wolves ASAP.

28. The targets set by the WWG represent a compromise meant to appease the cattle and livestock industries who are only concerned about losses. However, there are far greater benefits to having wolves return to their proper place in the ecosystem.

29. Wolf recovery is important to the residents of Washington as shown in the recent survey that showed that 75% of the residents supported allowing wolves to recover. Wolves are also needed for our ecosystems to resume their proper function and balance. The chosen alternative and plan does not provide a proper framework for a successful recovery and should be rejected.

Please advise that my comments have been received and will be taken into full consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Weinstein

From: [Art & Sandi Meikel](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: EIS process
Date: Sunday, December 27, 2009 8:51:27 PM
Attachments: [WDFW wolves.doc](#)

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: I support ALT 1A the responsible approach to Wolf management
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:34:39 PM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

From: Arlene Vessey [mailto:arlness@hughes.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:41 AM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: I support ALT 1A the responsible approach to Wolf management

We are both avid Hunters and Cattlemen and we fear the reinterduction of the Wolf. There was a reason that they were exterminated years ago. We fear for the lose of our wildlife and our Cattle. The deer are becoming scarce here already without the Wolf. Thank You Allan Lougheed and Arlene Vessey

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan DEIS
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:35:08 PM
Attachments: [Final DRAft Wolf Plan 12-28-09.doc](#)

Forwarded from the Director's email.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Duncan [<mailto:huntabig1@eburg.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 11:13 AM
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW); Director (DFW); Commission (DFW); Mankowski, John (GOV)
Subject: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan DEIS

"Wolf Conservation & Management Plan DEIS"

The (DEIS) alternatives 1, 2 and 3 for wolf recovery and management are unacceptable and Alternate 4 "no plan" is also unacceptable.

I support Alt1A (see attached) The Responsible Approach to Wolf Management for Washington State.

Thank You Dave Duncan, 4636 Weaver Rd, Ellensburg, Wa. 98926
ph. 509-899-1629

From: [Dusty & Sunni Appleford](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Fw: wolves
Date: Sunday, January 03, 2010 10:41:51 AM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: To: Dusty Appleford <d_appleford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sun, January 3, 2010 7:27:03 AM
Subject: RE: wolves

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to support "Alternative A" which sets the goal of eight breeding pairs statewide. I am the son of a rancher. Our family runs about 150 head of breeding cows. I also hunt on our farm. I am not in favor of wolves at all but I also see the big picture and support a plan that is both biologically and socially acceptable.

Wolves are considered an apex predator so humans will be the only thing that will hunt them. I support "Alternative A" because it is high enough to support the genetic diversity within the wolf population but at the same time will remove wolves from protection and allow active management which includes hunting healthy packs. Eight breeding pairs still equates to a healthy population of wolves. Once again I support Alternative A as well as I fully support the Washington Cattlemen's plan to not have the 3-year period.

Sincerely,

Dusty Appleford

Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)

From: [Ted](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\); hewitt.mike@leg.wa.gov; nealey.terry@leg.wa.gov; Walsh, Maureen;](#)
cc: [David Porter;](#)
Subject: Gray Wolf
Date: Thursday, December 31, 2009 5:04:42 PM

DO NOT introduce breeding Gray Wolf pairs into the forests of Washington State. If the goal as proposed by the "Environmentalists" is to control the deer, elk and moose populations do it with hunters, who can be controlled, and not wolves. Once introduced wolves will deplete the species in one area then move to another and when the deer, elk, and moose are wiped out (or before) they will switch to livestock. Lets not duplicate what was done in Yellowstone National Park as when wolves were unchecked the elk population was cut to a third.

Ted A Nichol
215 N 8th Ave
Pasco, WA 99301-5416
509-492-6874

From: [Samantha Everett](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: gray wolves
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 8:49:58 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I read about the gray wolf conservation and management plan in the Seattle Times. I strongly support a wolf management plan that is strong enough to ensure wolves fully recover—to a population healthy enough to effectively resume their role as top predators in our state's ecosystems.

I am for Alternative 2.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Samantha Everett
707 30th Ave Uppr
Seattle WA 98122
206-632-7808

From: [Becky & Charles Cox](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Grey Wolf Recovery Plan
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:21:46 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to make general statements regarding the importance of wolves to our state's ecosystem. I traveled with a small group of people with a naturalist to Yellowstone Nat'l Park. The wolf is the most popular animal in the park! I am sending you a picture of what happens when one wolf is sighted on a far hill. Our group saw the wolf and within 10 minutes the area looked like the most famous person in the world had arrived. We also learned that during hunting season, the elk move from Montana to the park. They would rather take their chances with the wolves than the hunters! The hunting enthusiasts are sure the wolves have taken their elk--no so!

Wolves can add a great deal to the ecological health of our state as well as making "wolf sightings" a popular tourist activity.

Becky T. Cox
15725 25th SW
Burien, WA 98166

206-243-4236



From: iginama@comcast.net
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Nick Broman"s Public Comment for The WDFW Draft Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 6:49:30 PM
Attachments: [Washington Wolf Management Plan Comment.doc](#)

The attached is the word file for the following comment:

My name is Nick Broman ([Iginama@comcast.net](mailto:iginama@comcast.net)). I was raised and have lived the majority of my life in Washington State, have earned my B.S. in biology at the Evergreen State College, have been a volunteer in animal care for Wolf Haven International in Tenino, WA and for the last 18 months, have worked as a field technician for the Yellowstone Wolf Project and for a trophic cascades study involving wolves, elk, and aspen in the Glacier National Park system. I have read through and have had time to process the DEIS and Public Review Draft and thank the department for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington.

First I want to congratulate the department on taking a very objective and balanced approach towards wolf management and applaud the amount of consideration and foresight presented in both the DEIS and the draft management plan. Alternative 2 does represent a thorough degree of compromise between heavily conflicted human interests and presents many reasonable approaches towards managing wolves, especially in respect to dealing with projected livestock losses. However, there are several components of alternative 2 that if modified, may better suit the recovery of the species at large within the state of Washington and I would like to present the following considerations to the WDFW before a final draft of the plan is initiated;

The numbers of breeding pairs proposed for state delisting criteria which the wolf working group settled upon may not adequately represent the health and status of the state's wolf population at large. These arbitrary numbers should not constitute the basis by which the WDFW lists wolves in the state unless there is a sound scientific population model available to support their inference. I agree with the WDFW's original suggestion that "specific numbers [of breeding pairs] be excluded from the plan until after some wolf packs had settled in the state" for the same reasons the WDFW have given in regards to establishing scientifically-based estimates for determining adequate delisting criteria of wolves which are based on current population demographics and wolves' use of available habitat in Washington with respect to genetic connectivity and consideration of the stochastic effects of disease throughout their geographic acquisition in the state.

If the primary goal of the department is to "restore the wolf population in Washington to a self-sustaining size and geographic distribution that will result in wolves having a high probability of persisting in the state through the foreseeable future (>100 years)", then the WDFW should adopt population models that will be the most likely to support this objective. "Assessments by both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (1994) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1999) concluded that isolated or partially isolated wolf populations with 300-500 individuals should have a good probability of maintaining long-term population viability." In addition, "No wolf population of this size and distribution has gone extinct in recent history unless it was deliberately eradicated by humans (Boitani 2003)". Those scientifically supported premises

would indicate that the sheer number of wolves present, not the number of breeding pairs, are a sound measure for population viability, as each individual wolf is a potential breeder given that resource availability and the right social, temporal, and environmental conditions are present. If “Experts [also] concluded that [population] viability would be “enhanced by higher (500 or more wolves) rather than lower population levels (300) and longer (more than 3 years) rather than shorter (3 years) demonstrated time frames [because the] more numerous and widely distributed a species is, the higher its probability of population viability will be” (USFWS 2008a)”, than I suggest the department should set such numbers of wolves (500 or more wolves for ≥ 3 years) in place for delisting criteria instead of basing delisting status on a highly variable population model founded upon given numbers of breeding pairs (public review draft pg. 49, table 3).

In order to achieve a self-sustainable wolf population, I stress that Washington State needs an ecologically and genetically effective core source population in area for wolves to distribute from which contains an adequate prey base and minimal chance for human disturbance if it is determined that wolves are not distributing successfully on their own. The southern cascades and the Olympic peninsula fit the model and I would fully support translocation efforts of multiple wolves into these regions to supplement for the potential disparity in population connectivity in the state.

I do firmly support the WDFW in not placing a limit on the numbers of wolves that will be “allowed” to live in Washington unless serious conflicts arise related to high population densities. Given that northeast Minnesota has lived with 3,000+ wolves in relative stability, serious conflicts are not all that likely to arise here in Washington.

Genetic connectivity with populations in Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Oregon is seen a quitesential basis for the WDFW plan to endorse the 15 breeding pair target set for delisting. In addition, the Public Review Draft on pg. 45, lines 43-45 states that “Any management programs that significantly reduce wolf numbers in Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Oregon through regulated public hunting or other large-scale control actions will likely reduce rates of dispersal into Washington.” As the 2009 wolf hunting season has decreased the wolf population beyond target quotas for Montana and as Idaho is seeking to drastically reduce its wolf population, Washington’s state own recovery objectives may continue to be compromised by the control actions of these states. I encourage our state to address this concern with neighboring states and present our own recovery objectives as consideration for ceasing any further public wolf hunts in areas adjacent to Washington until our state’s recovery objectives have been met.

Before any consideration of a wolf season for hunters commences within Washington State, I would hope that all residents would have the opportunity to be well-informed about the prospect in order to give due time for the people of Washington to respond and make an informed choice of whether or not to allow the hunting of a non-food source animal. If the legal hunting of wolves in the state eventually occurs through significant public approval, I would strongly encourage the department to follow Minnesota’s model of waiting five years after delisting before public hunting is allowed and to establish a population “buffer” of at least 30% above the target levels set for state delisting of wolves. In addition to rebounding from projected illegal

and lethal take from management activities (estimated at $\geq 23\%$ of the GYA population annually) and otherwise (road fatalities, interspecific strife, ect), a recovered population must be substantial enough to rebound from the effects of disease outbreaks such as canine parvovirus, sarcoptic mange, and distemper. These density dependent diseases (contracted inter and intra-specifically through other carnivores and domestic dogs) have been linked to extremely low pup survival rates and declining wolf numbers in outbreak years among the Yellowstone wolf population. 2008 and 2009 are such years and current wolf numbers are down to 103 (from 171 in 2007 representing a 40% decline) with only 6 breeding pairs park-wide at the years end. The findings of Fuller et al. 2003's referenced study (giving evidence that "once established, wolf populations can withstand high mortality rates provided that reproductive rates are also high and immigration continues") should not be purposefully used as reason for the WDFW managers to test the low end of population resilience within our state.

I recognize the inclination of the department to lump the Pacific Coast recovery region in with the Southern Cascades region to hasten wolf recovery objectives as the wolf population will likely encounter great difficulty and take much time to expand west of the I-5 corridor between Vancouver and Olympia. I propose that the state should consider creating a Pacific Coast recovery zone which would remain independent of listing status elsewhere in the state to encourage/facilitate wolf dispersal through zone specific legal protections while wolves eventually colonize the Pacific Coast. Through the creation of an independently protected zone, the proposed recovery goals can be more feasibly met in the remains of the state to satisfy the objectives outlined in the plan. Additionally, wolves making their way west of the Cascades into an area of both high human use and prey density will experience fewer disturbances from management activities to increase their likelihood of colonizing the region. As is seemingly recognized in the WDFW plan, the success of wolf dispersal into the Pacific coast would be highly dependent on expanding efforts to establish wildlife corridors along I-5 from Vancouver to Olympia. I would like to see more specifics in the plan as to what "expanding existing efforts to maintain and restore habitat connectivity for wolves" exactly entails. Existing problems with landscape connectivity and potential impedances to dispersal are outlined in the draft however, the proposed solutions are not.

I do encourage the department to provide for legally binding and enforceable protections for wolves against illegal take through all stages of the proposed recovery objectives. As the public review draft states, "effective enforcement against illegal actions harming wolves [is] also key part of achieving conservation goals." The public should be clearly notified in the public information campaign as to what those legally binding and enforceable protections are proposed to be. I would suggest that these enforceable protections against purposeful illegal take of wolves would result in very high fines and felony charges to provide ample protection against the historic pathological and psychological hatred towards of wolves engendered by a subset of our society.

I agree with placing high priority for the WDFW staff to conduct public outreach and education programs however, I believe the department should seek to share this effort with local non profit organizations like Wolf Haven International and Conservation Northwest who are equally committed to presenting balanced public information campaigns and who are aware of the myriad of perspectives and issues facing wolf recovery across our state. Using local

organizations that are composed of resident volunteers will reduce agency effort and expense, reach a broader audience across the state, and will actively engage more members of the public into informing themselves well enough to deal conservation issues and engage others into doing so as well.

There was no discretion in the plan as to revealing den site locations to landowners on public or private land and having worked on a few studies involving wolves; I view this information as highly sensitive in areas outside of protected National Parks. People are often curious and irrational, and I do not trust all members the public to obey posted signs or rules against disturbing these highly sensitive sites throughout the denning season. Providing information to landowners as to where nearby den sites are located should be seriously reconsidered unless the den site resides on the landowner's own parcel.

There are minor components of alternative 3 that appear to be more reasonable than the equivalent component offered in alternative 2 that I urge the department to reconsider:

I agree with alternative 3 in that if an at-risk ungulate population's survival (such as the mountain caribou and the Columbia basin black tail deer subspecies) owes a limiting factor to wolf predation (and this correlation is supported through sound science), then translocation or other non-lethal control techniques would serve the interest of the WDFW in meeting population sustainability goals for both species, and the WDFW should consider such alternatives before lethal control in the given areas which at-risk ungulate populations reside.

The lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking a dog: This circumstance is not all too likely to occur if people practice a basic degree of responsible pet ownership. However, I agree with alternative 3 in that the lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking a dog should only be allowed by private citizens on private and public land when only when wolves are delisted.

I do agree with alternative 2 in regards to non-lethally hazing wolves which show signs of habituation towards humans and human inhabited areas or are testing livestock throughout all recovery stages. Habituated wolves often end up being lethally taken through management control actions or otherwise, so any non-violent means we implement to reduce wolf-human conflicts early on will help to behaviorally adjust wolves to humans across the landscape of our state.

I thank the department again for the chance to respond to the objectives and material presented in the Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington. If the department has any questions or would like to address any of the material I presented in this comment, I would be more than happy to respond and provide additional input.

References:

Boitani, L. 2003. Wolf Conservation and recovery. Pg. 317-340 in L.D. Mech and L. Boitani, editors. Wolves: behavior, ecology, and conservation. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.
Fuller et.al. 2003. Wolves and humans. Pg. 289-316 in L.D. Mech and L. Boitani, editors. Wolves: behavior, ecology, and conservation. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.
NPS 2009. Wolf Project Annual Report. Yellowstone Science.
Most all other quotations taken from directly from the Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington.

From: [Dana Larson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Our beautiful wolves
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 8:14:42 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

As a citizen of Washington, I value our wonderful wolves and their positive effect on ecosystems (see Yellowstone, WOW). My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that our wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems. Let us be an example for states like Idaho, Wyoming and Alaska on how to properly treat our natural treasures.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to further strengthen the working group's plan:

* PLEASE increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed, or provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions and details on how connectivity will be improved over time. A significant number of scientific reviewers believe that the department's numbers for delisting were low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery.

* Please provide separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives (imagine the Olympic National Park with wolves!).

* Please eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery. Using the honor system with many individuals simply will not work because of their harsh feelings regarding the topic.

* Please support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plan.

Thank you for making sure Washington state's plan is visionary, pragmatic, and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone,

including the wolves.

Thank you very much,

Dana Larson D.D.S.

From: austinariz@aol.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: re: public comment
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 2:55:30 AM
Attachments: [Mauricio"s Wolf Letter.doc](#)

Good Day,

Attached you will find a letter of public comment concerning your wolf management plan.
Thanks for your time.

Mauricio Austin

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [The Sidewinder](#);
Subject: RE: Wolf plan
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 10:31:37 AM

Dear Mr. Snively:

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission welcomes your interest in wolf recovery and management.

A three-month long process is now underway to seek comments from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) entitled: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington. The DEIS and the draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Preferred Alternative 2) will be open for public review until January 8, 2010.

Both documents are posted on the following agency website:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

You may already have provided testimony or other information to the Commission. However, **to include your comments in the official record of this DEIS review, you must submit your comments by January 8, 2010**, in one of following ways:

- by postal mail to:
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
- through use of the online survey form provided at the above website;
- by direct email submission to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov; or
- during a public meeting listed in the meeting schedule.

The Department's preferred alternative evolved from more than two years of collaborative deliberations by the Wolf Working Group, a citizen panel appointed by the Director to advise staff in developing the draft plan. The draft plan will be subjected to an independent blind science peer review organized by the University of Washington. The outcome of the peer review will be shared with the public and considered by the Wolf Advisory Group in making its final recommendations to the Commission.

In 2007, the Commission voted to assume responsibility for the final decision regarding the content of the Wolf Recovery and Management Plan. The comments and recommendations that emerge from the public comment period, from the peer review process, and from the final meeting of the Wolf Advisory Committee will be conveyed to the Commission early next year.

Following a careful review of the materials compiled by staff, the Commission will conduct one or more of its own hearings to seek public comments. While we have not set a definite schedule for the Commission's public hearings on wolf recovery and management, we expect that one will be held before next summer. The Commission deliberations will all be conducted in public in strict compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Prior to adoption, the Commission has the authority to make changes to the recommended plan.

The Commission greatly values the views of the citizens we serve. We encourage the active involvement of dedicated citizens like you in shaping the future of wildlife management. Thank you for taking the time to express your views and for making your comments count.

Sincerely,

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Phone: (360) 902-2267
Fax: (360) 902-2448

From: The Sidewinder [mailto:sidewinderwa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2010 8:18 PM
To: Commission (DFW)
Subject: Wolf plan

Our game population cannot take the hit that the wolves will kill. Wolves kill just to kill and not just to maintain themselves. I understand (but do not agree with) that we have to have a minimum population of mated pairs of wolves. We should be able to remove all the wolves above that number, with special permits as the population grows over the minimum. The reduction of hunters buying licenses due to the poor hunting and the cost of reimbursing the ranchers for the loss of sheep, cattle, goats, chickens, etc. the state will take a big loss in revenue. It will not be a "Yellowstone" situation here to draw tourist to see wolves. What park would that be??? I work in a sporting goods store and have not heard one customer that was in favor of wolves coming into Washington. Since the hunters are the ones that PAY for most of the Wildlife bill, you would think that we would have a bigger say in what happens or how the money is spent. Seattle will not have to put up with the loss of income from lost livestock or have their pets eaten and killed due to the increase in predators in the state, the rural communities will. They are not afraid to go on outings without a gun to protect themselves from predators, as we do now. We sell lots of guns to people that live or recreate in the rural communities that have had close calls with dangerous wild animals. Why add more???

Hal Snively



From: [Dimitri Bader](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\); habitat_program@dfw.wa.gov; kittitas field and stream club;](#)
cc: [Douglas Parkinson; Rick Brigham; Rick & Patty; Justin Bader;](#)
Subject: REVISING MY COMMENTS ON THE STATES "WOLF MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN AND DEIS"
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2010 6:02:01 PM
Attachments: [WOLF PLAN REVIEW.doc](#)

HI TERESA, I WAS IN A HURRY WHEN I SUBMITTED MY COMMENTS TO YOU BY DEADLINE TIME LAST FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010.

SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CORRECT SOME OF THE ERRORS AND INCOMPLETE SENTENCES, ETC THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND SINCE THEN.

THE ATTACHED IS A COPY OF MY REVISED VERSION. IT WILL BE THE COPY I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO CERTAIN LEGISLATORS AND COMMISSIONERS, ETC.. I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THE UP-DATED VERSION.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

SINCERELY YOURS,
DIMITRI BADER

From: [Carol Anderson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Connie Gallant;](#)
Subject: The Olympics needs wolves
Date: Saturday, December 26, 2009 5:35:05 PM

Please bring wolves to the Olympics. Alternative 3 is my preference. The Olympics would be a great habitat, shrub layer could recover some from elk overgrazing and goats could be controlled recovering some high altitude habitats. Besides wolves are beautiful and awe inspiring. Dave Moore Seattle (and Duckabush.)

From: [Mark/Debbie Baumann](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WA WOLF CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT PLAN Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 9:58:14 AM

Good morning,

Here is my feedback regarding the Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan:

1. The recovery objective numbers of breeding pairs needed for down-listing and eventual delisting of wolves is too low to ensure a viable wolf population in WA.
2. The lethal kill provisions for livestock owners and private citizens whose livestock or domestic dogs are attacked by wolves while wolves are in threatened or sensitive status are too liberal during the critical early phases of wolf recovery and could slow recovery.
3. Translocation of wolves from areas within WA with healthy wolf populations to other areas to establish new populations is an important tool and will speed up the recovery and delisting process.

Please keep these items in mind prior to finalizing the plan. It is crucial to ensure the survival of wolves in Washington. Without your support, the population will not continue to grow and be appreciated by future generations.

Thank you,
Debbie Baumann
Resident of WA

From: [Juanette or John](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Washington Wolf Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 4:17:16 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept my comments which follow when establishing a plan for the management of the wolf population in Washington State.

Emerging science shows the importance of a viable predator population to the health of an ecosystem. With top predators all but missing from the web of life, all levels of suffer. Ungulate populations stress the plant communities which then cannot support those populations depending on them - including the ungulates who are browsing vegetation to an unsustainable level.

Certainly the state of Washington can sustain a wolf population greater than 15 breeding pairs. Having adequate numbers to ensure a diverse gene pool for the continuation of healthy wolf populations in the Northwest is key. Arbitrarily assigning numbers does little to serve the overall good. Hard science must be implemented.

The east side and the west side of Washington are two very separate and distinct ecosystems and should be treated as such when establishing recovery objectives. Connectivity corridors, both across the state and into adjoining states, must be identified, developed and protected.

Ranchers need to be educated to employ appropriate animal husbandry practices. Carcass piles should be outlawed with stiff penalties when discovered. This practice draws scavenger populations and habituates predators to the area. Non-lethal controls should and must be utilized: e.g., dogs, llamas, ranch hands, fencing, fladry, night pens, feeding appropriately to discourage midnight birthing, alternative pastures, and more.

Strict controls must remain in place against lethal measures employed by the ranching community. Abuse of loosened restrictions would be devastating to current wolf populations.

Thank you for your considerations. Best wishes on the successful implementation of a truly enlightened wolf management plan for the state of Washington -- one that could inform your neighboring states.

Sincerely,
Juanette Cremin
805 N Avenue
La Grande OR 97850

From: [Sue Maret](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Sunday, December 27, 2009 1:52:12 PM

We wish to register our comments in favor of Alternative 3 of the WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The plan's stated goal is to reestablish a viable wolf population across a significant portion of the animal's former range in Washington. But the plan's Preferred Alternative #2 would make it nearly impossible for wolves to return to the Olympic Peninsula and the Olympic National Park - the best habitat for wolves in Washington State.

We would like to see wolves translocated to the Olympic Peninsula and established here before they can be removed from the endangered species protections.

Olympic National Park offers the best habitat, the largest unmanaged elk population, and the least chances for wolf-human conflicts in the state. Returning the park's keystone predator - the only species missing from Olympic National Park - would benefit the entire ecosystem from endemic Olympic marmots to streamside forests. And the presence of wolves would bring lasting economic benefits to surrounding Olympic Peninsula communities.

Non-lethal methods, which can include translocation, should be used with any problem wolves that interfere with livestock operations.

Wolves need the Olympics, and the Olympics need wolves!

Sincerely,
Susan and Robert Maret
92 N Rhododendron Dr
Port Townsend, WA 98368

From: [Brenden, David V \(Redmond\)](#)
To: SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov;
Subject: WOLF COMMENTS
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 12:05:40 PM

To the wolf committee:

This is short and to the point..If wolves coming into Washington are not part of the reintroduction program, I believe they should be here. If they are, in any way, from the

Montana/ Idaho packs, they should be removed by any means required.

Washington State government does not have the money to fund any support programs for wolves.

Wolves in Washington should not receive any greater support or protection than the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, and the mountain caribou, our other endangered animals.

There should be no transplanting/ moving wolves from one part of the state to another--for any reason.

I believe the Wyoming plan, which protects wolves in national parks, makes them a big game species

on national forest lands, and a predator/ varmint on private land and can be shot on sight, is the best plan

that allows our wildlife populations to be maintained at the numbers we, the sportsmen and women of the

state of Washington, have put our dollars and support to increase and maintain.

Thanks You

Dave

Dave Brenden
1004 HARVEST RD
Bothell Wa. 98012

dave.brenden@rocket.com

From: [Sharron Sherfick](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:39:47 AM

Sirs:

We just learned of the proposed plans to re-introduce wolves to Washington State. After reviewing the four alternatives, we would like to see Alternative 3 approved to allow wolves on the Olympic Peninsula.

Thank you for the time and effort put into this project, we wish you success with this project.

Mike & Sharron Sherfick
21 Rainier Lane
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

From: [Richard Curtis](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 12:39:48 PM

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comments
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Dear Ms. Eturaspe:

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington State. I am very interested in maintaining and protecting healthy, balanced ecosystems and for commenting on the Plan. However, I feel very strongly that an important segment of the citizens of Washington were precluded from an opportunity to participate in a hearing on the DEIS/Plan and providing comments in response to presentations at the hearing..

Public Participation

As you know, citizens living in the area between Seattle and Vancouver were denied an opportunity to attend a local hearing regarding the return of wolves to Washington. In particular, when we requested a local hearing during the first hearings in August 2007, we were promised by both Dr. Jeff Koenings, the director of the WDFW at that time, and Rocky Beach, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager, that a meeting would be setup to obtain public input from the large population base living in the lower Puget Sound area. However, that promise was never kept and we lost an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process at that time.

Then we were promised that in the next set of hearings in 2009, a local hearing would be setup for our input and to provide us with information on the DEIS/Plan. However, we were once again misled in spite of requests by many organizations and individuals. The actions of the WDFW clearly did not provide equal opportunities for public participation by a large population base currently living in the very area where wolves must migrate to reach the Olympic National Park, Mt. St. Helens National Monument and Rainier National Park. The offices of the WDFW are in Olympia and a meeting could easily have been arranged in Olympia at or near the Headquarters of the WDFW at very low cost to the

taxpayers of our state. Instead, meetings were held in sparsely populated small communities in remote areas of the State. Unfortunately, there was not an equal opportunity provided to the large population base living in a key wolf migration corridor. The process was clearly designed with a bias towards involving individuals in selected areas with special or personal interests in the decision process while denying the broader public interests equal opportunity and access to informational hearings.

This failure not only prevented our participation in an educational and open forum but also corrupted the public hearings process and will have an adverse impact on informed decision making. The goal of the hearings should have been to ensure a fully informed and well considered decision as informed decision making is fostered by informed public involvement and participation. Clearly and above all, we must ensure scientific integrity is a key element of the DEIS/Plan. All stakeholders must be engaged and have an equal voice in the development of a Plan to ensure the restoration of wolves to Washington and especially the national parks that grace our state. The actions of the WDFW precluded that outcome and were not only discriminatory but antithetical to the process of gathering public input and informed decision making. .

What was the justification for discriminating against the large population base living in the lower Puget Sound area near key migration corridors for wolves to our national parks and a national monument?

What actions will the WDFW take to provide an equal opportunity for the citizens living in the Olympia and southern Puget Sound area to be involved in an educational public forum on the return of wolves to our state?

Thank you for considering my comments and making them part of the public record.

Richard Curtis
PO Box 451
Ethel, WA 98542
(360) 266-9905

From: [M. Anderson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Draft EIS
Date: Saturday, December 26, 2009 1:58:16 PM

Please choose Alternative 3 for the final plan to create a Pacific Coast recovery region. For a variety of reasons it would be beneficial to return the wolf to the ecology of the Olympic peninsula. High among those is the re balancing of the predator/prey relationship in the Park and surrounding forest. I would like to see wolves translocated to the Olympic Peninsula and established here before they can be removed from the endangered species protections. Alternative 3 is noted in the draft EIS as "predicted to have a higher probability of achieving and maintaining a long-term viable wolf population in Washington compared to the other alternatives". That seems to me to be the best reason for its choice.

Thank you,

Mike Anderson
Quilcene, WA



From: [diana moore](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf conservation and management plan
Date: Sunday, December 27, 2009 10:30:42 AM

Please choose Alternative 3 for the plan to create a Pacific Coast recovery region for wolves in Washington state. I hope that wolves can be translocated and established on the Olympic Peninsula.

I believe wolves would be a healthy "re-addition" to the Peninsula.

Thank you,

Diana Moore

From: [Janet Oja](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf conservation and management plan/ public comment
Date: Friday, January 01, 2010 3:23:18 PM

I read your plan and think that Alternative three should be chosen. It includes the Olympic Peninsula and the National Park which are the most wolf friendly areas and the areas where there would be the least interaction between wolves and man in this state. There are stable elk and deer populations which would be healthier with wolves in the mix and having wolves in the wild backcountry of the park would assure that there would be less predation on domestic cattle and sheep than in a more populated area. I live on the peninsula and hike in the park and would find it very wonderful to hear wolf howls while in the woods. I think that it would bring more hikers and visitors to our area which would benefit our area and the state as a whole.

Please consider Alternative 3.

Thank you.

Janet Oja, janeto@olyphen.com

From: [Benjamin Derrick](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 5:55:17 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

As a citizen of Washington, I value wolves and their positive effect on ecosystems. My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

The presence of wolves will increase the biodiversity in Washington by lowering elk, increasing populations of willow, aspen, cottonwood, and improving habitat for many animals including beavers, dragonflies, ravens, moose, and foxes. Many species of plants and animals depend greatly on a strong presence of wolves in their ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Derrick
145 Northwest Larry Street
Apartment #3
Pullman, WA 99163

From: bluecamaslily@aol.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 8:25:10 AM

Dear Sir/Madam:

My wife and I want to strongly urge the adoption of Alternative 3 for wolf conservation in Washington state, with the following modifications:

(1) the goal of 15 breeding pairs before de-listing the wolf from state and federal protections is much too low a goal. Knowledgeable scientists have determined that at least 30-60 pairs is a more realistic number.

(2) by removing from consideration re-introduction from non-Washington wolf populations, the draft plan seriously limits the chances for recovering wolves on the Olympic Peninsula and/or Olympic National Park. It seems obvious that expecting naturally dispersing wolves from the Cascades to survive crossing the I-5 population corridor is ridiculous.

(3) non-lethal methods, including translocation, should be used in dealing with any 'problem wolves' which interfere with livestock operations.

Olympic National Park provides the best habitat, the largest unmanaged elk population (thus helping the forest), as well as some of the best chances for minimal wolf-human conflicts in the state.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Dvid Gladstone

From: [Jim Jacoby](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf deis
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 7:22:15 PM
Attachments: [wolf.doc](#)

Attached are comments to the Wolf Recovery Plan DEIS. Please acknowledge receipt. Thank you

From: [Impara, Peter](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf EIS
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 1:21:38 PM

I have reviewed the draft EIS and alternatives, and I am in favor of option 3 as having the greatest chance of wolf recovery in the state.

I do feel that the number of wolf mating pairs in each plan needs to be increased to assure the continued viability of each population. IN addition I feel that some of the controls, such as caught in the act, are too open to misuse and abuse, especially given the history of wolf poaching in western states. I believe that non-lethal deterrents would be more suitable, as option 3 allows. Finally, please include in your plan funding for wolf trans-location, especially to the Pacific Coast region, as the lack of a top-predator has led to poor herd conditions.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Impara, PhD
Sem II D3102
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway
Olympia, WA 98505

imparap@evergreen.edu
360.867.6543

From: [Rena Hollis](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Management Plan comments
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:45:48 AM

My daughter-in-law and I attended the Wolf Management Plan public meeting, in Vancouver, this fall. Unlike many of the people in the room, my husband and I actually live in the State of Washington and have lived within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (Wind River valley) most of our lives. Our children are now raising their children on the same road. In recent years we have become concerned about the drastically reduced deer populations in this valley and in other areas around Skamania and Klickitat counties. The population reduction became most noticeable when the restrictions on trapping and hunting cougar and bear were passed by Initiative in the State of Washington. We now have a resident elk herd that passes through our property nearly every day. This spring there were 22 new calves with the herd – we now have 11. During hunting season 4 full grown cougars were spotted within a couple miles of our house and we recently spotted one in our back pasture. Last spring we routinely spotted 4 different bear on a 3 mile stretch of our road. Predation has already taken its toll in this area, as well as the rest of the State of Washington.

We appreciate the effort to work with stakeholders to develop the wolf plans and recognize the need to develop a plan with delisting as the ultimate goal. We support the carrot of compensation in Plan 2 that makes it more attractive to livestock owners than Plan 1, however there is no compensation for loss of wildlife populations, pets, or perhaps, human life. The recent report of a woman in Canada killed by a pack of coyotes highlights the very real risk – even normally shy wild dogs will kill in a pack. Domestic dogs will readily kill when they run in a pack. Wolves are the ultimate pack animal.

According to the information available, wolves range hundreds of miles and aren't too picky about where they live. In the well populated State of Washington, there are few places where wolves will not interact with people. The risk to both populations seems apparent. Considering the historic conflicts between wolves and people, we would not support any additional breeding pairs (more than 15) to delist. Wolves reproduce in litters and have no natural predators. We also feel that the population distribution in Plan 1 (larger "anywhere in the state" numbers) is more reasonable considering the close proximity of well populated areas on the west side of the State. Once wolves lose their fear of people, they will range closer to populated areas, as coyotes have everywhere.

We would not support translocation.

We also support the ability to use lethal control where real threat exists. Part of the public outreach component should include self defense and awareness while living

and recreating within wolf range.

In summary, we do not want to see wolves in the State of Washington – we feel that they will further decimate the already distressed ungulate populations, as well as be a real threat to rural communities. However, bearing in mind that wolves are moving across State lines naturally and that, without a Plan, the Endangered Species Act eliminates our ability to control the population, we could support Plan 2, particularly if it included breeding pair distribution language in Plan 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Clifford and Lorena Hollis
492 Szydlo Rd
Carson, WA 98610
509-427-7768

From: [Nancy Pennington](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Management Plan
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:20:50 AM

I am a concerned citizen who strongly objects to the (DEIS) and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington. I also object to the WWG's bias in favor hunting and am appalled that a member of Safari International is included in this one-sided group. These people don't represent me. Who are your animal advocates? I would like to know why you have know representatives to defend the wolves.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pennington

From: grammy-c@comcast.net
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf management vote
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 7:01:56 AM

Dear Ms. Eturaspe,

I would like to put in a vote for the wolves, but I can't seem to get through where it says "summit comment", my computer says it will help me make a monkey form of some kind. Time is running out so I will e-mail you my vote my own way..

I want to vote for alternative #3 (three). It seems to be the kindest of all the choices, for our magnificent wolves. I hope you never use the "three strikes and you are out" lethal method, it has almost destroyed all our Mexican wolves and it might be they won't recover. How very sad.

In fact, I hope you will not do any lethal shooting until the wolves are well established. I hope you will never use the Wildlife Service killers. They take great joy in chasing and gunning down any wildlife, and they seem to have extra joy at shooting wolves, by the packs!!

I hope you will never accept a farmer or rancher saying it is a "probable" wolf depredation. There are too many wolf haters in the other states who have left dead wildlife out where a predator (wolf) will come along so they can shoot it. They bait the wolves.

I believe you should not lease any public forest land for livestock, especially the livestock that is put there and then left for a month or two. Unattended. They are the first to scream when they cannot find some of their livestock, and want the wolves shot. They need to take responsibility for their livestock, EVERY DAY! Plus, if they still are allowed to lease public land, they should be charged a hefty cost, much more than \$1.00 per head!! Plus they need to clean up the mess left behind when they finally take their cows or whatever they had, home.

I hope I sent in my vote and commits correctly.

Sincerely, Ginny Clerget grammy-c@comcast.net

From: [Anderson, Julia L \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Mgt. Plan letter
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 4:03:35 PM
Attachments: [20100105160328.pdf](#)

Hi Teresa,

Mr. Freeborn was afraid his letter would not make it to you by Jan. 8, so he asked me to send it for him electronically (he doesn't have e-mail). Attached is he letter. He will be sending a hard copy in the mail tomorrow, so you might still get it before Friday.

Thank you,

Julia Anderson
Customer Service Specialist
WDFW Region 3
509-457-9305
509-575-2474 fax

From: [MacKay, Paula](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Commission \(DFW\); Long, Robert;](#)
Subject: wolf plan comments
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 4:37:39 PM
Attachments: [MacKayLong_comments_submitted.doc](#)

Dear Ms. Eturaspe,

Please find our attached comments regarding the draft wolf management plan.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Paula

Paula MacKay
Research Associate
Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University
P.O. Box 1654
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.933.1340
paula.mackay@coe.montana.edu
www.westerntransportationinstitute.org

From: [Richard Curtis](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Recovery DEIS Comments
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 10:11:02 AM

January 7, 2010

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comments
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept my comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington State. Thank you for an opportunity to comment. As a farm forester, I have witnessed first hand the impact overpopulation of species can have on a tree plantation and an ecosystem. As a fisherman, hunter and hiker, I am very interested in maintaining and protecting healthy, balanced ecosystems. For that reason, my interest in seeing the return of wolves to our ecosystems is very high. However in reading through the DEIS I have several comments and concerns that have been presented below.

Benefits of Natural Predators

The benefits natural predators have on the ecosystem are well known and have been documented in many respected scientific journals by many researchers for many years. The primary goal of restoring wolves to Washington must be that wolves attain a genetically viable population on our public lands and in our national parks. In a recent article in "BioScience: The Journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences", December 2009 issue, a group of distinguished academic biologists discuss the important role the wolf plays as top predator, preventing overpopulation and the over-browsing by ungulates that have adversely impacted ecosystems in many areas such as Olympic National Park. Researchers in Yellowstone National Park have documented and provided excellent examples of the beneficial effect the recovery of wolves has had in dramatically reversing the negative impacts of elk on the riparian areas, especially in places like the Lamar Valley. The authors make it clear that adequate protection of natural predators is required to restore balance to the ecosystem. As one of the authors of the article, Dr. Brad Bergstrom said, "We are fighting myth, prejudice, and even a

visceral hatred of wolves among some parts of society to convince people of the value of this 'keystone predator' to the health of its native ecosystems."

Other researchers have shown that wolves increase biodiversity through changes in elk behavior more than elk populations. Without wolves, deer and elk tend to browse and eliminate river bottom willows and other riparian vegetation. This in turn results in salmon, trout, bull trout and other native fish losing both their shade, resulting in higher water temperatures, and their food, as insects no longer fall from overhanging brush. Also without wolves, elk tend to camp out in meadows and riparian areas adversely impacting the growth of natural vegetation and habitat essential to songbirds, mammals and other species. Remove the wolves and there is an adverse impact on fisheries, songbirds, game birds and native vegetation. The effect is called a trophic cascade and WDFW biologists must take that into account in managing predators such as wolves. A recent study "Wolves, Trophic Cascades, and Rivers in the Olympic National Park, USA", 2008, by Robert L. Beschta and William J. Ripple at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, documents the cascading effect resulting from the extirpation of wolves from the current Park area in the early 1900s. The study may explain some of the problems the Park is experiencing. The wolves were removed in the misguided opinion that the ecosystem would be better without them and to improve hunting opportunities as well. However, by focusing only on increasing hunter satisfaction through the removal of wolves, the elk were more comfortable hanging out along streamsides and lowlands perhaps making hunter success higher.

However, trophic cascades work both ways in wildlife management. For example, when wolves are removed, coyote populations will likely increase, adversely impacting game bird populations. Riparian areas are over-browsed as well with adverse impacts on the fisheries. Enhance one opportunity, and others are adversely affected. Balance is the key to a healthy ecosystem. Clearly and above all, we must ensure scientific integrity is a key element of the Plan. All stakeholders must be engaged and have an equal voice in the development of a Plan to ensure the restoration of wolves to Washington and especially the national parks that grace our state.

How will WDFW Plan take into consideration the overall impact of predators, balancing the beneficial impacts of wolves on the ecosystem as opposed to the hunter perception that elk numbers will be reduced? How will the Plan ensure that the latest scientific research is utilized to manage wolf recovery? Will scientific research be the ultimate tool used for decision making or will political pressures

dominate?

Target Population Numbers

Wolf population targets are too low and inconsistent with either the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations or the latest scientific research. According to a new study by University of Adelaide and Macquarie University, scientists have shown that populations of endangered species are unlikely to persist in the face of global climate change and habitat loss unless their population numbers are much higher. The findings have been published online in a paper 'Pragmatic population viability targets in a rapidly changing world' in the journal "Biological Conservation". To quote the authors -

"Conservation biologists routinely underestimate or ignore the number of animals or plants required to prevent extinction," according to lead author Dr Lochran Traill, from the University of Adelaide's Environment Institute. "Often, they aim to maintain tens or hundreds of individuals, when thousands are actually needed. Our review found that populations smaller than about 5000 had unacceptably high extinction rates. This suggests that many targets for conservation recovery are simply too small to do much good in the long run."

The focus of species restoration programs is often the '50/500' rule that at least 50 adults are required to avoid the damaging effects of inbreeding, and 500 to avoid extinctions due to the inability to evolve to cope with environmental change. Again to quote one of the authors of the research –

"Our research suggests that the 50/500 rule is at least an order of magnitude too small to effectively stave off extinction," according to Dr Traill. "This does not necessarily imply that populations smaller than 5000 are doomed. But it does highlight the challenge that small populations face in adapting to a rapidly changing world."

It would appear that the current Target Wolf Numbers in the Plan are clearly not based on science and removing protection for wolves while ignoring the latest scientific research is unacceptable.

Inbreeding problems with wolves in Yellowstone have been noted such as rat tails on wolves and diseases such as distemper and perhaps the mange outbreaks. How were the Target Wolf Numbers in the Plan established in light of recent research? How will genetic variation be monitored to assure a healthy population of wolves?

Olympic National Park

The DEIS does not adequately address the reestablishment of wolves to Olympic National Park or the public lands surrounding the Park. In particular, the geography itself presents a problem as the Park sits on the far end of a peninsula and there are no obvious migration corridors through the existing intense urban development and highway infrastructure in western Washington and the Puget Sound area. It is also unlikely wolves will be inclined or able to swim across Puget Sound to reach the peninsula. The migration impediments are substantial and multilayered. For example, if a wolf managed to survive an encounter with I-5, I-90, Hwy 101 or other high speed highways, they would most likely be spotted by rural or urban residents and quickly removed by either lethal, non-lethal, or shoot, shovel and shutup methodologies. To expect sufficient numbers of wolves to magically levitate through the I-5 and I-90 corridors and the urbanized Puget Sound region and form a healthy gene pool in Olympic National Park in any reasonable or acceptable timeframe is simply ludicrous. The deadly moles now imposed by extensive human development will effectively preclude access to the Olympic Peninsula without human intervention and translocation.

However, the restoration of wolves to the ONP must be a priority as they played a key role in preserving the natural ecological functioning of the Park. We have seen the beneficial impact the wolves have had in Yellowstone National Park and research has indicated that the role of predators historically was essential to a balanced ecosystem in ONP. The Mission of the National Parks is among other things to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein..." How can the Mission of our National Parks be achieved when one of the key natural predators has been extirpated by humans? Clearly, wolves must be reintroduced into the Park and translocation is the only logical way to bring that to fruition. Alternative 2 of the Draft Plan recommends (Section 3.2.2 Alternative 2 - line 17) translocation, "if needed". However the term "if needed" is never defined. The DEIS/Plan also states in the same paragraph under Translocation that "translocation would be used if wolves fail to reach one or more recovery regions through natural dispersal.", but again neither a timetable nor numbers of wolves are identified. A plan without a timetable and measurable objectives is not acceptable and gives the appearance that the whole management exercise is a hollow sham. The wolves were returned to Yellowstone and the intermountain area on a predetermined schedule and the result has served the environment well and significantly advanced the science and understanding of predator/prey relationships.

What are the probabilities that a pair of wolves will successfully migrate through the Puget Sound area and cross I-5 or I-90 on their own? What are the safe migration corridors available for wolves to migrate to ONP? What will happen to wolves that are captured if they are trying to migrate through the Puget Sound area? Will a specific timetable be set for returning wolves to ONP? If not, why not? What is the timeline for returning wolves to the ONP ecosystem? Since there are so many unforgiving hurdles to migration of wolves to ONP, what is being done to ameliorate the hurdles? Will translocation of wolves to be a part of the Plan for the ONP?

Livestock depredation

There are many ways to protect livestock from wolves that can and should be used when domestic animals are on private lands and when we permit them to use our public lands. For private lands, fencing, guard animals, fladry and other deterrents have been found to be very effective. On public lands it must be remembered that the individuals that elect to use those lands are there only because they are granted that privilege and not because they have a birthright to the land. When you borrow a dog, you also get the fleas as part of the bargain. Therefore we should not be spending public funds to further subsidize the usage of our public lands by destroying the natural predators that also depend on those public lands. Ranchers must be mandated to use accepted methods of protection for their livestock. Ranchers must also be required to promptly remove the carcasses of livestock that have died to eliminate the attraction of wolves.

What methods will be required by the state to protect livestock in areas frequented by wolves? How will these deterrents be monitored to ensure they are being used? What requirements will be mandated for ranchers to remove dead livestock to eliminate the attraction of predators? What resources (money and personnel) will be provided by the state for enforcement? What are the probabilities that livestock will be killed by a wolf in comparison to the probabilities that it will die of other causes?

Every year in states where wolves are now present, far more livestock are killed by weather, both too hot and too cold, disease, dogs, injury, and other natural predators than by wolves. For example, during just one blizzard that hit Montana in April of 2009 thousands of livestock killed. The total probable deaths from wolves in 2008 were just 77 and those were reimbursed by Defenders of Wildlife. The question is why are we concerned about controlling wolves, a natural predator on our public lands, and unable to put that in perspective with other major causes

of livestock losses on public and private lands? In Idaho and Montana when wolves appear to be responsible for killing livestock, regardless of the circumstances, the wolf packs are routinely completely eliminated by lethal control methods including the use of aircraft. A recent example is the killing of the popular Basin Butte Pack living in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of Idaho. This was not an “incremental” control method as the Plan suggests is typical (Page 27, Line 22) of control efforts. Not only was the action very costly and wasteful for taxpayers but has outraged the people living in and visiting the area. The action was prompted by the possible killing of 2 cows, and calf over a three month period. The control costs far exceeded the value of the livestock

Does the WDFW plan to allow such draconian, wasteful, and costly control actions in Washington? What are the specific limits of lethal control methods for the Plan and where are they specifically identified in the Plan? What are the accepted control methods and do they envision the costly, risky, and obnoxious use of aircraft over public lands?

Recovery Regions

I am in complete disagreement with the proposed recovery regions in Alternatives 1 & 2. The establishment of a Pacific Coast region as recommended in Alternative 3, is essential as the region is decoupled from the other areas of the state by the Puget Sound and the I-5 urbanized transportation corridor. The Pacific Coast region has much different habitat, landscape, weather and environment that the other areas of the state. But most importantly the region contains our unique Olympic National Park located on the Olympic Peninsula. The maps in the DEIS are deceptive in not showing the Puget Sound waters penetrating over half the state in a north to south axis and largely decoupling the Pacific Region from the rest of the state. When the I-5 transportation corridor (both highways and rail lines) is factored in, the decoupling is complete. The DEIS and any subsequent plan must recognize and include a separate Pacific Coast Region.

What impact does the Puget Sound waterway have on migration of wolves to the Pacific Coast Region and the ONP? What impact does the I-5 transportation corridor have on migration of wolves to the Pacific Coast Region and the ONP? In view of the significant habitat, geography, marine environment and other differences, how does the DEIS/Plan justify not establishing a Pacific Coast Region?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS/Plan. Please consider my comments and include them as part of the hearing record.

Richard Curtis
PO Box 451
Ethel, WA 98542
(360) 266-9905

From: [Nancy Hogan](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WOLF RECOVERY IN WA STATE
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 1:50:04 PM

Hello!

This is just a note to state my support of Wolf Recovery in WA State!

It is a concern when livestock receives so much attention to the detriment of the recovery of wolves...surely intelligent people can work it out so that both can co-exist. After all, wolves were here first and are part of our natural eco-system. The one doesn't need to be sacrificed for the other.

I am appalled at the reports of the Wolf slaughters being held in Alaska, and other Western States near Yellowstone.

Thank you for your consideration!

Nancy A. Hogan
3315 Tahoma Pl. W. #1
University Place, WA 98466-1620

From: joaniebeldin@cablespeed.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Recovery Plan Comment
Date: Thursday, December 31, 2009 8:31:14 AM

To Washington Dept. of Wildlife:

This is an addendum to my testimony given in Sequim.

1. The minimum number of wolf breeding pairs needed to either downlist or delist is sorely inadequate. If the goal is to help re-establish viable and sustainable populations of wolves in this state, then we must develop a plan that allows them to grow in adequate numbers. The draft plan completely removes all protections for wolves once they reach the required number of breeding pairs. This rapid shift in management is not supported by science and makes for poor policy for the recovery of a threatened species.

Target Wolf Numbers are Inconsistent with US Fish and Wildlife Service's Recommendations – Federal scientific experts concluded that viability would be "enhanced by higher (500 or more wolves) rather than lower population levels (300) and longer (more than 3 years) rather than shorter (3 years) demonstrated time frames."

The only reason for downlisting or delisting is to open up the option for killing them. Targets set by the Washington wolf working group represent a compromise meant to appease livestock producers concerned about economic losses caused by returning wolves. Yet, in Idaho and Montana, the number of livestock loss to wolves in 2008 were only 1-2.7%. This is not a number significant enough to allow the livestock industry to dictate the wolves' future. Let us not repeat the Rocky Mountain wolf tragedy - where the wolves recovered and prospered only to be slaughtered as they now are.

2. WDFW is releasing the final draft plan before conducting a blind peer review. Blind peer review is the foundation of credible science, and it is essential to crafting a plan that will truly recover wolves in Washington. Without the independent scientific review that blind peer review requires, a plan that caters to the politics of the situation rather than the needs of the wolves is all too likely. Releasing the final draft plan before considering

the comments of the blind peer reviewers demonstrates the powerful role of politics in shaping the management plan.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Joan Beldin

From: [mark smaalders](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Recovery Plan Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 5:34:54 PM

I am a resident of a small rural community in Washington and actively hike, ski, fish, and observe wildlife on state and federally owned public lands in Washington. I am generally in support of **Alternative 3** in the “Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington”, as it provides the greatest probability that the wolf population in Washington will fully recover.

This support does come with some caveats. The plan as written reflects an attempt to forge a compromise between groups that support wolf recovery and those that do not. Actual recovery has nothing to do with political compromise, however, but is based on the ability of the wolves to disperse, reproduce and otherwise be biologically successful. The plan’s basic elements — and particularly the threshold numbers for downlisting and delisting, and the control methods that are to be employed — should be chosen based on the biological requirements of wolves, with a view to maximizing the potential recovery of Washington’s wolf population.

First, to ensure lethal control is used correctly, lethal control of wolves — at all stages of recovery, including when delisted — should be carried out by state or federal wildlife agents. Allowing livestock owners and hunters to kill wolves may lead to abuse and indiscriminate killing of wolves. It will almost certainly result in increased suspicion and distrust between conservationists and others who support wolf recovery on the one hand, and those who feel threatened by wolf recovery (e.g. livestock owners and hunters) on the other. I support providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package if wolves actually predate on their livestock, but believe that limiting the use of lethal control to state and federal agencies will significantly benefit recovery efforts.

Second, the number of breeding pairs proposed for downlisting and delisting is extremely low. According to the Public Review Draft, the targets of 6, 12, and 15 successful breeding pairs for downlisting and delisting that are used in Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 are considered “minimal or barely adequate” for achieving population viability and recovery. A number of scientists now

agree that the original population goals for wolf recovery in the northern Rockies were too low and would put wolves there at a higher risk of inbreeding, disease, and future extinction. In addition, recovery in Washington depends on migration from Idaho and British Columbia. Washington state has no control over the wolf populations in those states, and the assumption that populations here will be self-sustaining after 15 breeding pairs have been observed for three consecutive years is just that — an assumption. Ideally Washington State's wolf plan and recovery objectives should be based on the latest and most relevant science, but in the absence of requisite information, it should adopt a precautionary approach. I therefore support setting higher targets for breeding pairs until more research is conducted on the ecological and biological requirements of wolves in Washington State.

I strongly support undertaking an information, education and awareness campaign that targets all segments of the population (including hunters, ranchers, hikers and environmental groups), and provides non-biased information about the basic biology and ecology of wolves, the low risk of wolf attacks, actions that can be taken to prevent wolves from becoming habituated to people and livestock, the overall importance of wolves in natural ecosystems, and living with wolves.

The economic analysis presented in chapter 14 of the Public Review Draft indicates that a substantial proportion of Washington's population (40%) engages in wildlife viewing, and that the direct economic benefits that derive from wildlife viewing in Washington exceed those from hunting. It is likely that viewing of wolves would be very popular in Washington (as it has been in other states), thereby increasing the direct economic benefits associated with wolf recovery.

In summary, wolf recovery makes sense — ecologically, politically (a majority of Washington residents support wolf recovery in the state), and economically. I urge you to modify the proposed Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to increase the likelihood that recovery is successful.

Mark Smaalders
P.O. Box 1364
Eastsound, WA 98245
360-376-1042

From: [Tara Demers](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf reinstatement
Date: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 7:10:32 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I ask that you please choose Alternative 3 when it comes to reestablishing wolves in WA. This alternative creates a Pacific Coast recovery region where wolves must be present before they can be "delisted" in Washington. I would also like to see wolves translocated to the Olympic Peninsula and established there before they can be removed from endangered species protections.

In my opinion, Alternative 3 needs further modifications. I have listed them below:

- the goal of 15 breeding pairs needed to delist the wolf from federal and state protections is too low. Scientists suggest 30 to 60 breeding pairs would a more realistic minimum number.
- by taking reintroduction (from out-of-state wolf populations) off the table, the draft plan severely limits the chances for recovering wolves on the Olympic Peninsula and in Olympic National Park. Naturally dispersing wolves from the Cascades will not survive crossing the I-5 population corridor.
- Non-lethal methods, including translocation, should be used in dealing with "problem wolves" that interfere with livestock operations.

Olympic National Park offers the best habitat, the largest unmanaged elk population, and the least chances for wolf-human conflicts in the state. Returning the park's keystone predator -- the only species missing from Olympic -- would benefit the entire ecosystem, from endemic Olympic marmots to streamside forests. And the presence of wolves would bring lasting economic benefits to surrounding Olympic Peninsula communities.

Wolves need the Olympics, and the Olympics need wolves.

Thank you, Tara Demers

From: [Pearla Konig](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Al Zantua;](#)
Subject: Wolf Release
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:14:34 PM
Attachments: [Eugene Wolf Letter.doc](#)

Dear Sirs:
Attached, please find another student letter.

Sincerely,
Pearla Konig

From: [Tanna Skidmore](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 8:14:50 PM

I' am requesting the "sease" and "desist" of bringing wolves into Washington state, as well as, any other state.

My name is Tanna Skidmore, and I' am a Washington state citizen.

From: [wendy.jarvis](mailto:wendy.jarvis@sepa.wa.gov)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
Subject: Wolves in Olympic National Park
Date: Friday, January 01, 2010 9:58:46 PM

Dear WDFW,

Please consider Olympic National Park for the relocation of wolves into Washington state.

Olympic National Park offers the best habitat, the largest unmanaged elk population, and the least chances for wolf-human conflicts in the state. Returning the park's keystone predator - the only species missing from Olympic - would benefit the entire ecosystem from endemic Olympic marmots to stream side forests. And the presence of wolves would bring lasting economic benefits to surrounding Olympic Peninsula communities."

Please choose Alternative 3 for the final plan to create a Pacific Coast recovery region. I would like to see wolves trans-located to the Olympic Peninsula and established here before they can be removed from the endangered species protections.

Non-lethal methods, which can include trans-location, should be used with any problem wolves that interfere with livestock operations.

Wolves need the Olympics, and the Olympics need wolves!

Thank you,

Pat Jarvis
11 Brighton Ave.
Port Hadlock, WA
98339

From: [Phillips, Joshua E \(Redmond\)](#)
To: SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov;
Subject: Wolves in Washington State
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:14:20 PM

I am writing to let you know I oppose any introduction of wolves to Washington State without a plan to keep their numbers in check with the game the wolves require to sustain a population in this state. Eight of ten of Washington's Elk herds still haven't reached their desired number and if wolves are introduced, the elk herds will only shrink causing not only harm to the elk, but also the wolves as their population outpaces their food supply. Without a proper way to manage the wolf population, our elk herds will become unsustainable. The wolves will then go after cattle and other livestock severely impacting our states farmers livelihood.

Without a plan to allow for managed hunting of the wolves as their numbers increase as other states have done, I oppose any plan for wolf introduction into this state.

Sincerely,
Joshua Phillips

From: [Mike Stickney](#)
To: [wolf comments;](#)
Subject: Wolves infested with Hydatid disease tapeworm
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 9:47:16 PM
Attachments: [Outdoorsman Dec 2009.pdf](#)

Wolves and a serious threat from disease from 2/3's of the population.

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:
Outdoorsman Dec 2009.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

From: Mike Stickney
To: wolf comments
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 10:04 AM
Subject: Important wolf management plan in by 8th of Jan.

Washington dept. of fish and wildlife

Wolf management plan comments

I am adding a very serious footnote to this commentary on how the wolf needs to be micromanaged in Washington state. Some late breaking news that came across my desk yesterday is now on the front of the wolf making its way into Washington from Idaho. A full 65% of the wolves checked in Idaho test positive for Hydatid disease tapeworm. This is a disease that is very easily transmitted to virtually all species man included. This is a very serious disease that is hard to diagnose. This can kill humans and can only be cured via surgery to remove the cysts of these creatures from the lungs and liver of infected individuals. As I said this is breaking news a few days ago. I am attaching an article I received yesterday. This is a wind born, feces born, meat born parasite than can live in the dirt for years. Virtually all of the people and animals who have come into contact with deer or elk or wolf or feces from any of these and many more creatures could be carrying this disease. As I said a full 65% of the wolves checked in Idaho have this parasite. This needs to be looked into immediately. Again the known wolves that have apparently come into Washington need to be tested for this parasite and if found to be carriers need to be eliminated. This is potentially a very serious issue and cannot be swept under the table. I am carrying this to the governor's office today. Read the attached article. More from the www.saveourelk.com

I would hereby ask that the WDFW look very closely at the peace meal way the wolf has been managed in Idaho and also Montana and Wyoming among other states. Most of the blame needs to go on the politically correct Federal government, (at the huge expense of the western states involved and more importantly the huge expense born by all those who live in wolf country and are seeing their livelihoods, their livestock, their pets, and their freedoms taken away) This is being done without complete studies via the endangered species act. Minority groups of animal rightists have pushed this monstrous introduction of non native Canadian Gray wolves on them. They are using the endangered species act in a totally irresponsible way.

By introduction of a non-native species, the Canadian Gray wolf which is far larger than the once native timber wolf the eco system of Idaho is being changed before our eyes. Before the introduction of this menace from the north there were around 100 native, smaller, more timid wolves roaming parts of Idaho.

When the Canadian Gray was brought in, all these new comers were collared. As the federals were monitoring their new packs via aircraft, low and behold they were seeing many other wolves many of which did not have collars on. They were discovering too late that Idaho already had a population of wolf. These (native) wolves have since been eliminated by the new menace from the north.

I will use Idaho as my primary source for my comments. Washington is now seeing spillover along with Oregon of Wolves who are expanding their territories out of Idaho. In a mere 10 to 15 year period a small number of wolves have expanded to huge numbers. Dr. L. David Mech says the wolf population has expanded to over 3000 wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. And yet, some of the stubborn pro wolf biologists pander to their own agenda and refute this claim. I have heard reports there could have been up to 4500 wolves in Idaho alone at one point. The people who live where the wolves roam know better, these reports by the government are very conservative and only show the known numbers of wolves. In reality there probably are much larger numbers than are being reported. Any biologist worth his salt will tell you there is absolutely no way you can actually count every living thing that goes bump in the night!

There are approximate management goals of about 1100 wolves for those three states. Those numbers are too high in my opinion and the true numbers are much higher than that. These animals are big, bold Canadian gray wolves, not the somewhat timid timber wolf that once roamed Washington and Idaho's forests. This sub-species is far bigger and more aggressive than the smaller somewhat more timid timber wolf that used to roam here. I have talked to some very knowledgeable people who have witnessed an almost total annihilation of their ecosystem.

It's not just the ungulate populations that are suffering. This introduced Canadian gray is killing off virtually all of its competition, thus you have an eco system completely out of balance and fast turning into a desert of sorts. They have technically introduced a non native species. That is in direct violation to our laws against invasive species. These wolves are also sport killers, I don't care what you call it, sport or "surplus kill" as the biologists like to dumb it down. These animals will kill and leave at least 1 elk or deer for every one they eat. The general public has no clue how vicious these animals can be. If Washington is allowed to be turned into another Idaho in the end, the truth will come out and you are going to have a whole bunch of people who are misinformed right now who will be educated to the truth and will be looking for justice and the reasons why this was allowed to occur. Do yourselves a favor and view the website www.saveoure elk.com it will show you lots of pictures and articles from respected biologists on what is really happening with the wolf populations.

It shows where wolves have literally ripped the fetus out of deer and elk and eaten just the fetus leaving the mothers to die a slow painful death. That happens on a regular basis. It is not a rare occasion. It shows many documented sport kills also. And it is not limited to the ungulates. As an apex predator they are killing and driving out coyotes, grizzly and black bears and lions. By this introduction the eco system is in turmoil. I can also show you a sequence of pictures of a wolf that literally eats the hind quarters of a deer out while it is still alive and then leaves while the deer stands in a frigid winter stream which it went in to try and avoid the wolf to begin with. Of course it dies after some time.

There is evidence to suggest that there are some biologists in Idaho who are somewhat less than honest in their explanations of certain wolf kills. As I learn more there is evidence to suggest there are people in Idaho fish and game who have been on the take since this first started. Many times in order to draw attention away from the wolf they have stated wolf kills as being done by lions or bears. That kind of behavior is absolutely intolerable.

The people who live in the mountains, the people who raise horses, the people who raise cattle, the people who are amongst this introduced pest (introduced, not reintroduced) they are the ones who are taking the brunt of this atrocity. It is the big dollars from the anti hunting groups who are pushing this introduction. These people have lots of money, these people live in the big cities, these people will never have their pets or livestock harassed and killed by these apex predators. I am imploring you managers of Washington's wildlife to not let what has happened in the 3 afore mentioned states happen in Washington. The people who are ignored, the rural people now must carry guns for safety when mending their fences. They must carry guns whenever they are hiking in many areas. The wolves have killed off thousands of coyotes in there quest for supremacy. In turn, Idaho is seeing huge numbers of rattlesnakes and wild fluctuations of ground squirrels.

A girl I know who lives in Idaho has been bitten twice by rattle snakes in the last year. Please do not cow tow to the special interest groups whose true goal is to have the wolf decimate the deer and elk populations to a level where there will be no hunting by man. A statement made by one of the leaders of the anti hunting groups said that very same statement many years ago. They are very powerful and very rich. All to the detriment of those who live in wolf country. I wish I had saved the article but at the time it was so ludicrous I thought nothing would ever come of it. Well, it has come to it.

But that is just a by product. There true goal is to shut man out of the wilderness. That is no secret it has leaked out many times over the years. Any one who might possibly scoff at that statement is pulling the wool over their own eyes. I hope your agency is not a part of that. I watch as the state DNR shuts more and more land off to me every year. I watch as the national forest agency tries to do the same. They have been taken over by the environmentalist agenda. Don't let that happen to your agency also. Be bold, take charge of yourselves and work for the people and the animals the way your facet of government was originally set up to do. These so called animal rights groups and environmentalists don't care one wit about animals. All they care about is power. Follow their money trail; none of it goes to the animals all of it goes to keeping you and me out of the woods.

There is or was a huge pandering to the wolf in the Sun Valley area of Idaho. They are starting to change their tune as the wolf packs are chasing elk down into their subdivisions and slaughtering them there. Wolves are not so cute and cuddly as they are eviscerating and eating and elk live from the ass end first. They have no fear of humans as they will feed with humans talking and photographing within as little as a hundred yards. The elk are living in the cities where it is only slightly safer for them. Ask the mayor of Sun Valley what he thinks now of the introduction of the Canadian Gray. It is not a question of if but more a question of when a child is taken and eaten by a wolf pack that no longer has elk or deer around to satiate its blood lust. These animals have become habituated to humans and roam free knowing they will not be harmed.

I know people who have lived through the decimation of the elk herds in Idaho. Just look what less than 200 wolves have done to the elk herds in Yellowstone. An article by Janice loyd in USA today points out that since the reintroduction of the wolf to Yellowstone the wolves have decimated the wintering herd from 17,000 to around 6800. That is all in about 10 year period.

These apex predators left unchecked and left on the endangered species list which is what the pro wolf groups want and fight hard to attain through the courts will destroy virtually all the deer and

elk and their own ecosystem through no fault of their own. They have been thrust into their situation by man not by self introduction. The writing is on the wall folks. You need to manage all the wildlife and that includes not letting the wolf destroy our ungulate herds. That includes not letting the wolf destroy the other predators. The coyote, the bear, the lion will all fall to the surge of the Canadian Gray. That includes not allowing their numbers to get to unsafe levels where horrific parasites, such as the Hydatid disease caused by the Echinococcus granulosus tape worm thrive. The hunters are not going to spend their money on licenses and tags if there is nothing to hunt.

I know a husband and wife who has met wolves on hiking trails near where they live in the sun valley area of Idaho who had no fear what so ever of them and did not back down to them and their dogs. They have wolves patrolling the edges of their pastures. I implore you all to read a copy of the outdoorsman Bulletin number 26 Jan. - Mar. of 2008 this article shows how some of the biologists have deceived the politicians and the public on wolf recovery numbers and continue to do so today.

The complexities of the amounts of habitat and wild game required to sustain any marginal sized number of wolves is just being ignored. A must read article on this is from the outdoorsman which can be found on www.saveoure elk.com bulletin 35 July - Nov. 2009 This article featuring some very prominent biologists One Valerius Geist among others points out what happened with tragic results when wolves were introduced to coronation Island in Alaska in 1960. In a nutshell the wolves ate themselves out of house and home and then turned to cannibalism until there was only one wolf left. This long article points out many other factors which show that the federal government who was for this introduction, have basically rushed into introduction with out doing the proper studies etc. etc. All in a bid to be politically correct.

Now Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are suffering huge ungulate losses and may never get a handle on the situation if the anti hunting groups continue to run the show with lobby money. I don't want our state to be next. Read this excerpt below and take extreme caution in how management is taken of the wolf in our state of Washington. I implore you to stand your ground on this issue, stand up for Washington's citizens. Stand up for its native wildlife, stand up for the few native wolves we may have. Do not let the federal government or the wolf advocates let what has happened in Idaho happen here. Idaho has much more public land than Washington does and all of that is being taken over by the hoard from the north. Washington cannot afford this predator.

Please do not make the wrong decisions on this issue. In the end the truth will come out. In the end if you make the wrong decisions Washingtonians will suffer the wildlife will suffer the ecosystem will suffer horribly. The truth always wins in the end. People are not stupid. They will find out the truth eventually. Please make sure you do the right thing. For Washington's sake, and for all the wildlife's sake.

This is from The Outdoorsman Jan - Mar 2008 very interesting. By letting the introduced Canadian Gray to spill into Washington from Idaho will have swift and tragic results. Please do not pander to the wolf groups without doing the research. Study what has happened in Idaho very hard and look at the truths. Use sound biology not splinter group public opinion in your decision making. You also need to weed out any of your people with questionable ethics. I know they are there, do not pretend they are not.

On March 6, 2008, in an effort to pacify Defenders of Wildlife and other wolf extremist groups, the Idaho F&G Commission ignored the 15 breeding pairs (150 wolves) goal established by the Legislature and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Interior Secretary. Instead, the Commission adopted a bastard plan that has never been submitted to the full Legislature for approval or rejection as required by Idaho law. The 2008-2012 IDFG Plan agreed to manage for a minimum population of 518-732 wolves for five years and claimed that a death loss of 428 wolves from all causes would leave at least an estimated 520 wolves alive after the 2008 hunting season. Nobody knows how many wolves actually exist or how many die from all causes but the plan was based on the estimated minimum wolf population that could be documented, and on estimated wolf death losses, including hunter take, that also could be documented 70% Human Kill Needed to Reduce Wolf Population

Two months after the 2008-2012 F&G Wolf plan was adopted by the Commission, wolf preservationists petitioned Montana Judge Donald Molloy to halt the 2008 wolf hunt before it began. FWS wolf expert Dr. David Mech responded in a written statement to the court: ".28-50% of a wolf population must be killed by humans per year (on top of natural mortality) to even hold a wolf population stationary." (Emphasis added)

Mech's 22-page "Declaration Under Penalty of Perjury" continued: "Indeed, the agencies outside the NRM (Northern Rocky Mountains) which are seeking to reduce wolf populations try to kill 70% per year (Fuller et al. 2003). Such extreme taking of the kind necessary to effectively reduce wolf populations is done via concerted and expensive government agency (Alaska, Yukon Territories for example) programs using helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Normal regulated public harvest such as is contemplated in the NRM is usually unable to reduce wolf populations (Mech 2001)."

F&G Knew <20% Harvest Would Not Reduce Wolves Idaho biologists were aware that five scientists conducting a six year study of sport hunting and trapping of wolves in Alaska's Brooks Range recorded removal of only ~29% of the wolves each year in addition to all other causes of death. They also knew that the liberal hunting and trapping seasons with multiple bag limits did not even reduce the rate of wolf population increase.

In his testimony to the Court, Mech explained: "Every year, most wolf populations almost double in the spring through the birth of pups [Mech 1970]. For example in May 2008, there will not be 1,500 wolves, but 3,000! (Wolf population estimates are usually made in winter when animals are at their nadir [lowest number]. Here is another example of the thought process of these wolf lovers. If this does not tell you that these people have a screw loose then you all are a part of the problem also. Idaho is trying to pass laws so that they are responsible for all their wildlife and not the federal government through our constitutions clauses which endow states rights.

Many of the posters on one of Ralph Maughan's pro-wolf blogs castigate anyone who holds state's rights sentiments, calling them "reactive folk" "right wing fanatics" "don't believe in evolution," "Christian reconstructionist folks."

Another said, they are "why Montana is regarded as such a culturally retarded state." And it's not just statements like that. One of my sources in Idaho whom shall remain nameless has had death

threats against them because of the difference in beliefs between them and the wolf worshippers on the introduction of these creatures. Now what does that tell you about these animal rights people. They value animal life over human life. That is absolutely wrong.

My friends are the ones paying for their ill advised introduction of the Canadian Gray Wolf, they are the ones who are getting their animals attacked. They are the ones paying for this stupid introduction. They are the ones who now fear to hike in the mountains. They are the ones, not the city dwelling animal right extremists who are bearing the brunt of their folly. I believe most people are not animal right advocates but there are alot of misinformed people out there who do not know what is really going on with the wolf issue. When that truth is finally brought out to the masses and mark my words it will be brought out, you are going to see alot more "shoot shovel and shut up" mentality than you do now. Let us not have it come to that.

And here's another thought. Take away the boundaries of Countries, take away the boundaries of states, for wildlife does not recognize those boundaries. If you do that, then look to see that in all of North America right now there are well over 50,000 wolves. That my friends is a whole bunch of Apex predators. Does that sound like they are endangered to you? I thought not! There were lots of reasons the wolf was all but eradicated in the lower 48 my friends. "Those who ignore the past, are doomed to repeat it."

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not for total eradication of the wolf, just non native Canadian gray species.

Remember, this is not a native species that is being introduced. I've said it before and I will repeat it, this Canadian gray is a huge animal much more voracious in its habits than the timber wolf of old. If you must let them back in then do so very very cautiously. Take heed to the biologists who say in order to keep a population of wolves at a certain level, then up to 70% of them need to be culled. You cannot go about this in a politically correct way. You absolutely must to do this in a biologically sound way. One last thought, the accepted table in regards to suitable habitat and wolf numbers says that suitable habitat for 1 wolf is 400 square miles or a square 20 miles by 20 miles. Washington does not have a whole ton of "suitable habitat" to support wolves. The absolute minimum amount of meat a wolf requires just to sustain life is 6 to 8 pounds a day. That is just minimums not what they probably consume on a regular basis for vitality and supreme strength. If you start adding up the areas that can actually support wolves and this cannot include private lands then Washington cannot support very many wolves. I want to reiterate what I said at the very beginning of my statement. The problem with the more than 2/3 of the wolves checked have a very harmful and easily transmitted and deadly disease and that needs to be the very first thing your agency needs to look into on the wolves that are in Washington that have moved in from Idaho. I thank you all for listening to my thoughts.

Sincerely Michael D. Stickney

From: [Dave Woodruff](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolves
Date: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 3:58:25 PM

Returning timber wolves to the Olympic Peninsula by direct planting of two initial packs within reasonable territorial proximity of one another makes sense to me.

Dave Woodruff
1633 Water Street #8
Port Townsend WA 98368

I am using the Free version of [SPAMfighter](#).

We are a community of 6 million users fighting spam.
SPAMfighter has removed 412 of my spam emails to date.
The Professional version does not have this message.

From: [Kathy Allen](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 10:04:24 PM

Jan 8, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

I urge the Department to:

- make sure that wolves are protected, and allowed to survive and flourish in large enough, and scientifically viable enough, numbers before being delisted from the Endangered Species Act or allowed to be hunted;
 - and develop policies that allow for the live trapping and relocation of wolves should they conflict human settlements and the like, rather than killing them;
 - take every possible step to manage wolves in a stewardly and responsible way;
- and to take proactive steps to help the public understand that wolves are a vital natural part of the ecosystem and have as much right to life as other living creatures.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathy Allen
500 E Cherry Ln Apt C2
Ellensburg, WA 98926-3867
(509) 925-6825

From: [George Wooten](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 2:48:46 PM

Dear Sirs:

Please accept these comments Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington DEIS.

I personally value wolves and want Washington state to help re-establish self-sustaining populations throughout the state.

I support Alternative 3 because it provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be fully recovered in Washington. Alternative 3 has an advantage for management because it adds another recovery region that has both high quality wolf habitat as well as generally greater public support. It is worth noting that healthy coastal wolf populations have been recently been documented in Canada that have a prey base that does not conflict with ranchers and hunters. This is good justification why there should be a separate coastal region with its own recovery objectives.

In my home town, I have talked to numerous people who have seen wolves or their sign in the last few decades. Most of these people are excited about seeing wolves. In the Methow Valley, mule deer create a large number of conflicts, notably 400-500 vehicle collisions and one or two fatalities per year. Yet there is still overwhelming public support for both mule deer and wolves in the Methow Valley. If the state wants to be successful in recovery, the Plan should have an educational component tied to monitoring efforts.

People want managers to help avoid potential conflicts. The Plan has spent a great amount of time addressing livestock concerns. But in more suburban areas like the Methow, there should be more attention given to addressing potential conflicts with dogs. Both wolves and dogs have the potential for negative interactions with each other and with livestock and humans. In addressing livestock depredations the Plan should consider predator or mortality insurance

as another means of protecting livestock owners from losses. This would reduce the blame put on wolves when dogs and coyotes have been known to kill as many or even more livestock animals per capita.

This Plan is needed in order to better address wolf conflicts. As it now stands, conflicts are managed in an uncoordinated manner. A small population of wolves has been observed continually in the Methow over the last several decades. But lacking a management plan, these observations had no status and there was little impetus for the public to report these sightings. The animals were left to themselves with the result that the WDFW was unaware of any conflicts, and potential recovery and educational efforts were missed.

Lacking a plan, wolf protection defaults to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as the management authority, not Washington state. Because of the lack of a coordinated management plan to monitor wolf populations, a year ago, the USFWS had no official records of wolves in the Methow Valley, despite many sightings, including some made by Forest Service Biologists.

The management plan needs to specify that delisting efforts can proceed only after populations of established breeding pairs have increased. The Plan should describe the type of monitoring that would be necessary to demonstrate that wolves are increasing. The Plan needs to describe how the movements of wolves will be monitored in traveling between the different recovery regions. Now that wolves are established, the Plan should include a schedule for wolf translocation as a means of reaching recovery.

The movements of wolves in the Methow Valley are closely tied to the movements of mule deer. Mule deer populations in the Methow Valley are very high, and estimates range to over 30,000 animals. On years with heavy snows, deer die by the thousands. On the other hand, development within mule deer habitat limits the number of wolf packs that can live here. Claims that deer populations will be reduced don't take into account that there are far more deer than a realistic number of wolf packs could significantly reduce. I support the use of ungulate monitoring in the Wolf Plan to ensure that deer

and elk numbers remain within acceptable limits. The Plan should explicitly state how these numbers will be assessed and should be held accountable to provide those numbers. Also, the expectation that moose will provide part of the "main prey" base may be premature, considering that moose populations are relatively unknown at this point. Again, the Plan should include reasonable targets for the ungulate prey base.

It has been demonstrated in Yellowstone that healthy wolf populations can benefit the overall ecosystem, keeping riparian areas protected from overgrazing and maintaining the health of ungulates. In some ecosystems, wolves are a keystone species that determine how well the ecosystem functions. Different ecosystems however, may respond differently to the presence of viable wolf populations. The point is that the goal of wolf recovery goes beyond mere attainment of numbers. Different ecosystems will benefit differently from wolf recovery, and the exact nature of these benefits are still largely unknown. For this reason, it would be preferable to maintain viable populations over diverse areas, rather than merely attaining set numbers for a given time interval, as if this was just a zoo. These are reasons why Alternative 3 should be preferred.

Alternative 3 also is preferable because it does not allow for wolf killing based on so-called "caught-in-the-act" killings. In the spring of 2009, a number of false claims of wolf depredation were made, apparently to justify such a provision. There is just too much potential for abuse of such a provision, particularly considering the large range of non-lethal deterrents available. Even state-sanctioned hound hunters have been caught in the act of poaching. In the case of wolf poaching, this would cost the state large sums to try to recover animals that are being unnecessarily and sometimes secretly killed. It would be far better not to enable this provision in the first place.

Sincerely yours,

George Wooten
226 West Second Ave.

Twisp, WA 98856

From: [Harriett Cody](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 9:35:01 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I urge DFW to adopt Alternative 3 in the draft plan for wolf recovery in Washington State.

Background. I am a Seattle resident who is also a property owner in Okanogan County, Methow Valley, where I have resided approximately 1/3 of the year for the past 28 years. My family and I have followed the stories of wolf recovery in Washington State, both the Lookout Pack in the Twisp River Valley adjacent to our property, and the wolves documented in NE Washington State. We have been thrilled about the return of wolves to Washington State, and are very hopeful that Washington will adopt a recovery plan guaranteed to place TOP PRIORITY on restoration and permanent residence of many wolf packs in our state.

Reasons to adopt/support Alternative 3 in the draft plan:

1. Alternative 3 provides the greatest chance for full wolf recovery in WA state. It is the only alternative which provides separate population recovery goals for the Pacific Coast region, where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify this region having its own recovery objectives.

2. The management plan must increase the number of established breeding pairs before delisting can occur. The current number in these draft plans is insufficient to guarantee full wolf recovery, supported by a majority of Washington residents and available habitat for wolves in the state.

3. The plan must give a stronger evaluation of what measures can be taken to ensure that wolves will be able to move safely from northeast and southeast Washington to the Cascades, and from the Cascades to the Olympics.

4. DFW needs to eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision. Given the history of poaching in this state and potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery. Alternative 3 is the only alternative that provides for this.

5. At the endangered and threatened phases of wolf recovery,

translocation of wolves is an important strategy for speeding wolf recovery. A funding schedule for wolf translocation to the south Cascades and Pacific Coast regions will be needed -- given the current crisis in the state budget, target goals for this funding schedule should be included for one or two bienniums down the road, when economic recovery has occurred in the state. But such funding should be included in the current plan, even as a target goal for future funding.

We agree strongly with the editorial from The Wenatchee World, "These wolves are not optional." The return of wolves to Washington state has been the most hopeful reflection of conservation possibilities, and restoration of endangered and/or threatened species, in many years. Alternative 3 presents the best possible recovery plan NOW, to support and allow the small number of wolves currently in the state to increase and repopulate our Washington.

Please keep me on the e-list for all future mailings of DFW wolf recovery plans, hearings, and future opportunities to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

Harriett Cody
1721 35th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-3412

From: [Bart George](#)
To: SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov;
Subject: Wolf Plan Comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 1:58:32 PM

Washington Wolf Recovery Plan Comments

1. Divide the state into reasonably sized management units
 - Manage wolves within regions similar to big game units e.g. Northeast, Southeast, Olympic Peninsula.
 - Provide a method of delisting in an individual region within the state
 - Northeast Washington and the Methow (North Cascade) populations are growing quickly and recovery there will be handcuffed by slow recovery in other areas
 - By the time the Olympic Peninsula and Mt. St. Helens are recovered Northeast and North Central Washington will have suffered unacceptable losses to big game herds.

2. Determine what defines a 'native animal' before allowing translocation
 - Are the Wolves in NE Washington the same (genetically) animal as we have in the Methow?
 - Which wolf belongs in the Mt. St. Helens and OP ecosystem?
 - Should we open the door for the argument that we're moving "non native" wolves within the state?
 - Only the specific genetic subspecies should be translocated and only to historic range.
 - Research should be conducted to determine the historic native animal (genetically) before translocation.

3. Does the WDFW have a designated wolf biologist?
 - We need staff that has experience and expertise in wolf biology and management
 - In order to delist, we need to document reproductive success through January- how will we do that? Who are the partners in this project?

What survey techniques are suggested and what budget considerations are being made? Without adequate staffing how are these goals being met?

4. Wolf hunting should be the end result of wolf recovery. Please spell out what management tool(s) will be used for wolves in Washington (hunting, trappers, government hunters) more clearly.
5. Public sentiment will largely determine wolf recovery success in Washington. If the public is against wolf recovery and feels that the agencies are 'forcing' wolves upon them the chances of illegal harvest will be high. Having more reasonable recovery population goals may help the WDFW garner support from hunters or outdoor enthusiasts and lead to reliable sighting information or help protecting animals from illegal harvest. Additionally, making hunting the end result may garner support from hunters in the state.

Thank you,

Bart George
PO Box 56
Newport, WA 99156

From: [William Way](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [William Way;](#)
Subject: wolves
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:51:56 PM

to: Department of Fish and Wildlife

from: Bill and Linda Way

re: wolves

We support having a healthy wolf population as part of a balanced ecosystem as determined by science.

Bill Way
Linda Way

640 Dry Gulch Road
Colville, Wa 99114

From: [Bruce Barnbaum](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 1:06:14 PM

Jan 8, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

I support wolf restoration to the State of Washington, but the numbers of wolves to be allowed is absurdly--and outrageously-- low. Why is it that a state with 6 million residents, and a planet with

6.8 billion inhabitants refuses to limit its own numbers while claiming to be able to manage the number of wolves?

One thing should be clear to all "managers": human beings are a total failure at managing anything, from the amount of fish that can/should be caught from our oceans, to the number of trees that can be logged, the the drawdown of underground aquifers, to destruction of whole mountaintops to extract coal from below, to the grazing of domestic cattle on open land. The claims of managing wolves with the low numbers proposed are equally absurd, and equally certain to fail. Wolves deserve to be returned to their historic realm in their historic numbers. Nothing less will suffice.

Bruce Barnbaum
31417 Mountain Loop Highway
Granite Falls, WA 98252
www.barnbaum.com

Sincerely,

Mr. Bruce Barnbaum
31417 Mountain Loop Hwy
Granite Falls, WA 98252-8597
(360) 691-4105

From: [tometichs](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Commission \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Mngmt. Plan DEIS
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 3:49:56 PM

I do not support any of the 4 alternatives currently proposed.

The plan has to many fatal flaws, to be considered. It needs to be redone, with better options.

Fatal flaws include:

1) Ch. 14 "Effects on Ungulates" p.162 starting on line 41, using 50-100 wolves to represent "15 successful breeding pairs" and its effects on ungulate populations is totally inaccurate and a deliberate distortion of the truth. At an absolute minimum there would be 30 adults and 30 pups for 60 total wolves. In table 3, Ch. 3, in small type it shows there would be 97-361 total wolves. Again this deliberate distortion of the truth continues this mistrust of the Olympia Wildlife Mismanagement Team.

2) Translocation- the "poison pill" of the plan. Public acceptance of wolves, is well documented, it is much more likely as wolves move on their own rather than being forced upon them. The plan states that if translocation is removed as an option, the Wolf Working Group will be brought back together.

3) The actual requirements to meet Federal delisting are not clear in this plan.

4) The states' delisting requirements are also not clear.

In conclusion, more accurate information needs to be brought forward to the public, so educated decisions can be made for a successful management of wolves.

Good tracking,
Dan Boeholt, Aberdeen. 532-

7046

From: [Jacob Pederson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 6:05:35 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Though I live in Oregon now, I grew up and went to college in Washington. I've been enthralled with the progress of wolves in Washington these past few years, and have even gone as far as to drive up and spend a few days near the Methow, though I did not hear any howling.

Research on the ecological role of large predators is still in its infancy, but scientists like Christina Eisenberg and others have thus far shown that the influence of these animals is great. The true value of a wolf in the woods becomes clearer most every day.

I strongly urge the selection of Alternative 3 for two reasons. First, no other option allows wolves sufficient opportunity to occupy viable habitat throughout the entire State of Washington. The Olympic Peninsula is not a part of Alternative 2's recovery plan. If we select Alternative 3 we will be keeping up with science rather than lagging behind it. It is time for our wildlife management policies to keep up with science.

Secondly, the existence of Wolves in Washington will be a boon to the biological diversity of its forests, from the bacteria and invertebrate populations that prey on a wolf's scat to the prey species themselves to the proper age distribution of tree species within the wolves' range. Why is this so important? After the conference in Copenhagen, it should at least be clear that we all agree that global climate change is bad for planetary diversity of species. Healthy, whole forests are simply better equipped for resisting the environmental stresses that come along with global climate change.

I admit that Alternative 2 is a skillful compromise that will not make either side of this argument completely happy but nevertheless to an O.K. job not making either side unsatisfied. However, those who would require no management or only violent management of wolves are doing nothing but advocating their fears and prejudices of the most misunderstood animal in history. Those who argue for Alternative 3 are arguing for science, smart management, common sense, and finally just a little bit of compassion for a predator that never takes more than it needs.

Sincerely,

Jacob Pederson

Jacob Pederson
4823 NE 18TH AVE
Portland, OR 97211

From: [J McLaughlin](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf plan comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 4:31:17 PM
Attachments: [wolf_deis_WDFW_jm.pdf](#)

Dear Madam or Sir:

Thank you for providing information about the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and associated DEIS, and for considering comments on the plan and DEIS. My comments are attached as a PDF file.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Washington's citizens and its wildlife,

John

John McLaughlin
Dept. Environmental Sciences
Huxley College of the Environment
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA 98225-9181 USA
Tel: 360-650-7617
Fax: 360-650-7284
E-mail: wildlife.wwu@gmail.com

From: [Karen Caspers-Curl](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Policy
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:08:20 AM

Jan 8, 2010

Teresa Eturaspe

Dear Eturaspe,

I am very pleased that the remarkable and endangered Gray Wolf is returning naturally to Washington State. I support a wolf management plan that will usher in long-term recovery of the species and allow future generations of Washingtonians to see the magnificent Gray Wolf in its native habitat.

In my area the Fish and Wildlife are capturing all hatchery fish due to their interference with the wild stocks, as if there are really any wild stock left. Could it be the genetic tampering went awry. As with the wolves, man's interference has almost lead the wolf to extinction. Ecosystems require diversity for health.

I urge you to support the re-introduction of this majestic animal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Caspers-Curl
PO Box 1
Naselle, WA 98638-0001

From: [john richmond](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 12:09:15 PM
Attachments: [WOLF DEIS Jan 6 reply.docx](#)

Coordinator:

The attached document, for your convenience, is an electronic copy (Microsoft Office Word format) of the paper cover and comments included in my January 6, postal mailing to the office of Teresa A. Eturaspe, via certified mail, return receipt requested.

If you have any questions about the additional 62 sheets included in the postal mailing, please contact me at 360-374-2414 or via email reply.

Sincerely,
John Richmond

From: [Justin Trosper](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 10:14:58 PM

To: Teresa Eturaspe, SEPA Responsible Official

Here are my comments on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS.

I would like to see the management choose Alternative 3 for the final plan. This would create a Pacific Coast recovery region, specifically one that encompasses Olympic National Park, as well as the Olympic National Forest Wilderness. The wilderness offers some of the best habitat for wolves. There is an ample supply of food in the elk population, as well as being one of the least likely areas to encounter human interests (livestock, hunting, etc). Bringing back the area's principle predator would only enhance ecosystem processes. Wolves should be translocated to the Olympic Peninsula and established there before they are removed from ESA protection status.

Please consider raising the amount of breeding pairs needed to delist the wolf from federal and state protection. Currently the plan has 15 pairs, whereas scientists have suggested 30-60 pairs as realistic minimum. Also non-lethal methods would be the preferred method for wolves that interfered with livestock.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Justin Trosper
361 SE Kamilche Shores Rd.
Shelton, WA.
98584
360.426.0253

From: [Harriett Cody](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments of Wolf Protection Draft Plan
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 9:33:07 PM

Attention: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Comments on Draft #1 Wolf Conservation Plan for Washington State:

From: Harriett Cody
1721 35th Avenue
Seattle WA 98122-3412

I urge DFW to adopt Alternative 3 in the draft plan for wolf recovery in Washington State.

Background. I am a Seattle resident who is also a property owner in Okanogan County, Methow Valley, where I have resided approximately 1/3 of the year for the past 28 years. My family and I have followed the stories of wolf recovery in Washington State, both the Lookout Pack in the Twisp River Valley adjacent to our property, and the wolves documented in NE Washington State. We have been thrilled about the return of wolves to Washington State, and are very hopeful that Washington will adopt a recovery plan guaranteed to place TOP PRIORITY on restoration and permanent residence of many wolf packs in our state.

Reasons to adopt/support Alternative 3 in the draft plan:

1. Alternative 3 provides the greatest chance for full wolf recovery in WA state. It is the only alternative which provides separate population recovery goals for the Pacific Coast region, where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify this region having its own recovery objectives.
2. The management plan must increase the number of established breeding pairs before delisting can occur. The current number in these draft plans is insufficient to guarantee full wolf recovery, supported by a majority of Washington residents and available habitat for wolves in the state.
3. The plan must give a stronger evaluation of what measures can be

taken to ensure that wolves will be able to move safely from northeast and southeast Washington to the Cascades, and from the Cascades to the Olympics.

4. DFW needs to eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision. Given the history of poaching in this state and potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

Alternative 3 is the only alternative that provides for this.

5. At the endangered and threatened phases of wolf recovery, translocation of wolves is an important strategy for speeding wolf recovery. A funding schedule for wolf translocation to the south Cascades and Pacific Coast regions will be needed -- given the current crisis in the state budget, target goals for this funding schedule should be included for one or two bienniums down the road, when economic recovery has occurred in the state. But such funding should be included in the current plan, even as a target goal for future funding.

We agree strongly with the editorial from The Wenatchee World, "These wolves are not optional." The return of wolves to Washington state has been the most hopeful reflection of conservation possibilities, and restoration of endangered and/or threatened species, in many years.

Alternative 3 presents the best possible recovery plan NOW, to support and allow the small number of wolves currently in the state to increase and repopulate our Washington.

Please keep me on the e-list for all future mailings of DFW wolf recovery plans, hearings, and future opportunities to comment on this issue.

Thank you very much,

Harriett M Cody

1721 35th Avenue

Seattle WA 98122-3412

(206) 324-2053

harrietcody@comcast.net

From: [Michael Estes](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Draft Wolf Management Plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:47:19 PM

I support scientific management of wildlife species in Washington. I have previously reviewed and commented on WDFW management plans for other species. What I perceive to be different about the management plan for gray wolves versus plans for species like elk or black bear is that recognition and consideration needs to be given for the political processes (lawsuits and injunctions) that are likely to delay the actual delisting of wolves irrespective of what recovery levels are set to trigger the delisting process. Unlike other species-specific management plans, WDFW may not (or more likely, will not) have the final say on the matter.

Even if scientific peer review supports a particular number of breeding pairs (perhaps 15 pairs) before starting the delisting process, I recommend starting the process earlier (when there are perhaps 12 identified breeding pairs) so that there is a chance of completing the delisting process before the target identified for full recovery of the species is well surpassed.

There will be delays in locating and confirming the presence of breeding pairs. There will be delays in confirming statewide distribution of wolves. As wolf numbers increase, so will distribution. By the time there are 15 confirmed breeding pairs there may actually be several more breeding pairs than that number. Wolf concentration will likely be much greater in eastern Washington than can be tolerated by the time the first wolf pack is confirmed on the Olympic Peninsula.

Then the litigation process gets tagged on and there are further delays before wolf population management can ever begin. Washington needs to apply the knowledge gained from the plight of other states like Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Whenever Washington gets ready to delist, there are likely to be lawsuits and injunctions from parties who oppose the proposed action. As we have seen in other states, it may take years to work through all of the legal issues.

Therefore, Washington should plan to begin the delisting process sooner than it might if the final decision were based solely on science and not hampered by politics.

If the decision is that wolves will be allowed in Washington, so be it. But they should not be allowed to increase in numbers to the extent that they adversely impact other wildlife populations for which WDFW also has responsibility. The Yellowstone elk herd in Montana and the Lolo elk herd in Idaho are just two well-publicized examples of how devastating wolf predation can be to elk numbers. I have hunted elk for twenty-five years south of Dillon, Montana on the East Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek. A few wolves began to show up in the area five or six years ago. In the past it was not uncommon to see hundreds of elk on each hunt. We had never had a hunt where we didn't have an opportunity to harvest one or more bull elk. The decline in elk numbers has been more noticeable each year for the last three or four years. This year was the worst yet. Six drainages covered in five days of hunting and not one elk seen by anyone in the party or by dozens of other hunters camped near the trailhead. Please don't read that to mean "no bull elk" to shoot; I mean not one single elk (bull, cow, or calf). It doesn't mean that all of the elk are dead. Some elk have left the mountains and are taking refuge on ranches in the valleys to avoid the wolves. Calf production is down, apparently because cow are re-absorbing the fetus due to continual anxiety caused by the wolves.

I understand and appreciate the need to make some space available for all of God's creations, so I can accept a limited number of wolves in Washington. But wolves must be managed and their numbers controlled so that they do not wreak havoc on our valuable game populations.

What is most troubling is that the State of Washington could help itself on this matter, but will not do so. Species are added to the state list of threatened or endangered species but are not removed even when local populations recover and even if the species are federally protected. The American White Pelican was the first species added to the state endangered species list, nearly 30 years ago. A recovery plan has still not been written. The argument can be made that the species has recovered on its own, with no help from or management by WDFW.

Now wolves are in the spotlight. The wolves are no longer federally listed in eastern Washington, but they are state listed. Then change the state listing to just western Washington and start managing the wolves in eastern Washington NOW! The draft EIS is not a wolf management plan,

it is a "wait and see" plan. I am terrified of the potential damage that uncontrolled and unmanaged gray wolves will cause to this state; it's wildlife and it's citizens.

Mike Estes
3419 South Jean St.
Kennewick, Washington 99337

From: [Donna](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Wolf Management Plan
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 6:23:16 PM
Attachments: [CommentLetter.doc](#)

Attn: Ms. Teresa Eturaspe

Please accept my comment letter attached for the Wolf Management Plan.

Note: I will also fax this 2 page letter to ensure delivery before the deadline.

Thank you,
Donna Snow
1250 Devon Loop NE
Olympia, WA 98506
Email: dsnow3@comcast.net

From: [Jack Field](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: comments on wolf plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 4:47:14 PM
Attachments: [Fish & Game Commission.docx](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Don & Shelley [mailto:ssiever@odessaoffice.com]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 10:05 AM
To: JFCattle@Kvalley.com
Subject:

I just found out I forgot to attach the letter. Here it is.

Shelley Sieverkropp

From: [Erin Moore](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments to Draft Wolf Recovery Plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 4:58:43 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a strong recovery plan for Washington's wolves. And thank you for the work the agency and members of the Wolf Working Group have invested in coming up with a timely plan to protect and manage gray wolves returning on their own to our state.

I am proud that we have wild country remaining in our state that supports wolves. I come from a family of hunters who all greatly value the role wolves and other top predators play in keeping herds of elk and deer strong. Some of them even hunt predators, but only when there are ample amounts of them thriving on the landscape.

Wolves are an emotional topic for many, but they don't need to be. We can live with wolves and cougars, and for a healthy and balanced landscape and wildlife, we need to.

I support Alternative 3 in the plan because:

*It provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be fully recovered in Washington State. It is the only alternative that provides separate population recovery goals for the Pacific Coast region, where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify the region having its own recovery objectives.

*It eliminates the "caught in the act" killing provision. This is especially important at the endangered and threatened phases of wolf recovery. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are highly effective practices.

I also urge:

*The management plan should increase the number of established breeding pairs before any delisting (removal from endangered or threatened status) is proposed. It should also give a stronger evaluation of what measures can be taken to ensure that wolves will be able to move safely from northeast and southeast Washington to the Cascades, and from the Cascades to the Olympics.

*Translocation of wolves is an important strategy for speeding wolf recovery. Please add a funding schedule for wolf translocation to the south Cascades and

Pacific Coast regions.

Please strengthen the plan to ensure recovery of wolves to Washington.

Sincerely,

Ms. Erin Moore
2835 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

From: [Mark Herke](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Fw: Comments To WDFW Wolf Introduction Plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:52:05 AM
Attachments: [WolfPlan1.doc](#)

My comments to the WDFW Wolf Plan

Mark Herke

(509) 930-5933 cell

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: I support Alt. 1A, the Responsible Approach to wolf management
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 2:43:41 PM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

From: Nancy Belsby [mailto:nbelsby@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 1:44 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: I support Alt. 1A, the Responsible Approach to wolf management

Director Anderson: I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management.

Thank you.

Nancy Belsby
2892 Belsby Road
Cheney, WA 99004

From: [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 10:57:19 AM

SEPA comments on wolf ...

From: Wildthing (DFW)
Sent: Fri 1/8/2010 10:44 AM
To: Allen, Harriet L (DFW)
Subject: FW: WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

For response

From: John [mailto:jvmini@nwcabulance.com]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 12:55 AM
To: Wildthing (DFW)
Subject: WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

From: John Arnold, retired military, business owner, hunter, fisherman, farm owner, EITW board member, concerned Washington state citizen.

Violet Arnold, business owner, hunter, fisherman, farm owner, EITW board member, concerned Washington state citizen.

No, to translocation.

No, to 3 consecutive non-hunting years.

Federal mandates did not cover Washington State, because they knew our resources' couldn't maintain the wolves. Someone in power wants to add more wolf packs than any other state has. Why?

We have wolves here, they never left even after the citizens of this great /state spent 30 years trying to terminate them. I think

we have attained a perfect balance. They exist and no one knows, personally I would like to keep it that way.

Is the numbers going to include the 6-8 breeding pairs/ satellite wolves we already have? Or are we going to add to them?

With even the lightest plan you have we will be out of elk and deer in 5 years. Then what are you going to do have wolf feeding stations? Put the kids waiting for the school bus in cages to keep them safe, like they do in Mexico? Make it mandatory for all hikers, boaters, campers to carry weapons to protect themselves? Or maybe we can just declare war like we did before and terminate all of them. Can see that law suit coming!!

We want things to be the way they are. We love spending time camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and watching the animals. It is the time we get to leave the structure of modern society and drink in the awesomeness' of this state.

Just say no!

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: Wolf Management Plan comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:03:36 AM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

From: Brian Cieslar [mailto:bcieslar@enfieldfarms.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 5:08 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Cc: Commission (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Management Plan comments

Dear WDFW,

Since you do not have a "No Wolves" option, I must weigh in with Alternative 1A, which seems to have been written with a bit of common sense. It would possibly allow hunting as a management option when target population levels are reached and exceeded, hopefully similar to what Idaho and Montana are doing. Hopefully the greenies will not pull the same b.s. as they did in those states, and renege on agreed-upon target levels once they had been reached.

It frightens me that pack-hunting carnivores are to be allowed to re-populate certain areas of the state. You have a plan to pay ranchers for lost cattle, but what will you pay a family who loses a child on a wilderness hike? Oh but these are sparsely populated areas, right? No plans to allow wolves in parks in Seattle or the Point Defiance Park in Tacoma? Gee, too many people, someone may get hurt.

The argument is that reports of wolves attacking humans are rare or fictional folk stories. There is a book called "Man is the Prey", written around 1970 that describes something entirely different. Check it out.

Brian Cieslar
310 Hawley St.
Lynden, WA 98264

From: [Dustin & Cami Browne](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Please Read: Wolf Comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 8:56:19 AM

January 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I believe establishing breeding pairs of wolves in the Blue Mountains and other parts of southeastern Washington would only result in the same problems that the state of Idaho is dealing with now. I know of people who have seen wolves north of the Blue Mountains (within a very short distance of our own property) in areas inhabited by livestock, wildlife, and people. These sightings have been very recent (in late 2009). This tells me that wolves are already in the area and obviously already covering a lot of ground even outside the mountains.

Where there were groups of deer totaling 80 head, you now can't find a single one. I wish I was exaggerating when I say this. I know wolves haven't killed them all, but they have moved them out of this area. As a hunter who loves deer season and counts down the days until it gets here in the middle of October, I am worried about the deer population (or lack of population). One day this last fall about a month after deer season I went to water our cattle and there were two coyotes. I grabbed my deer rifle and went to water the cows. The coyotes ran through the field where the cows were and into a bordering field that we have seeded to winter wheat.

In this field there was a group of about 50 deer and in it was a really nice buck that had survived deer season! At the same time a nearby field had three small groups of deer that totaled about 30. So at one time I could stand in one spot and see a group of 50 deer and then turn to my left and see 30 more. Most of these deer had been in the same area since the summer either grazing stubble ground following the 2009 harvest, the neighbors alfalfa fields or recently, the seeded wheat. The deer we had seen day in and day out are now simply gone. We haven't seen a deer on our property (~3500 acres +), neighbor's fields or the hundreds and hundreds of WDFW property that border us in a month or longer. There have always been deer around. I don't think it is a coincidence that in the same time frame there are wolf sightings in our area, the deer have disappeared.

As much as I love deer season, I also love raising livestock, especially sheep. I will turn 30 this month and have raised sheep all throughout 4-H (3rd grade - high school graduation) and have had them ever since graduating from Washington State University in 2001. Throughout those 17 years of raising sheep I have had problems with coyotes and love the chance to shoot one thinking that hopefully that will prevent me from losing more livestock. On May 21, 2009 I shot a coyote that was practically in our driveway when it was coming back to eat on an 82 pound lamb that it had killed the night before. In addition to the sheep my dad and I have about 45 head of cows that calve every spring and graze our property throughout the year.

While it is often difficult to protect our livestock from coyotes, it is possible. Now with the threat of wolves being in our pastures, as well as backyard it is practically impossible. Wolves are protected, can apparently remove herds of deer, and will wipe out livestock.

Wolves are already in the area and strong consideration needs to be taken towards this issue. I think a study should be done over the course of a few years regarding this issue before rash decisions are made. Requesting comments from hunters and livestock producers would be very valuable. These comments coming from people within the livestock industry and sportsmen who are out and about during various hunting seasons are valid points that should really be considered. Neighboring Idaho would also be a valuable place to look for information before something drastic is done. They opened up wolf season after having the population explode.

I will let you know how the livestock business is and how the hunting seasons have been over the next few years (watch hunter harvest reports closely!). If the livestock are gone just as the deer seem to be than at least it was nature and not people in Washington State that are to blame. We can learn a lot from Idaho.

In addition to people at the WDFW and state legislative representatives, I will be emailing this to friends and family I know and having them forward it on to reach as many people as possible to make them aware of what has happened here locally with the wildlife and what is likely to take place with the livestock in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Dustin
Browne

Asotin, WA

From: [Larry and Barbara Rymon](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Public Comment on Gray Wolf Conservation and Management
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:17:42 PM

January 8, 2010

WDFW-SEPA DESK
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

I attended the public hearing in Nov. 09 in Sequim where I spoke briefly in support of Alternative 3. As a retired Professor of Wildlife Ecology I have over 40 years of teaching and field work upon which to base my opinion.

I initiated two successful reintroduction programs in Pennsylvania during my tenure at East Stroudsburg University, between 1976 and 1997. The first was the River Otter, whose population (approx. 375) had remained static. Although protected by state law since 1952 it had not dispersed from the extreme N.E. corner of the state to repopulate a vast number of formerly occupied watersheds. The restrictions of human population and habitat fragmentation appeared to have been the limiting factors. Our answer was to undertake a large reintroduction effort by bringing in a very large number of otters from several states. These were telemetered and monitored for several years after release. They were released across the 300 mile width of Pennsylvania, thus allowing them to exploit watersheds quickly. This method also provided a large and diverse gene pool in contrast to a slower natural expansion over a longer period. The literature shows the results of this method. (Serfass, T.L. 1984 and onward)

The second was the Osprey Reintroduction program. Much like the otter program, our focus was on rapid dispersal and a divergent gene pool. (Rymon, L.M. 1989) The restoration of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) to breeding status in Pennsylvania by hacking (1980-1986) pages 359-362 in B.U. Meyburg and R.D. Chancellor [Ed.] Over 110 nestlings were reintroduced from the Chesapeake Bay area. In the next 20 years the Pennsylvania population grew from none in 1979 to over 90 nesting pairs and our hacking techniques have been adapted by over a dozen states.

Therefore, based on the success of our programs, I strongly support Alternative 3. A thorough Environmental Suitability study and a strong public education program should precede the release of wolves as per the Yellowstone method. I don't wish to infer that the programs cited above are models for Gray Wolf management, but I do wish to ask you to consider the value of concentrated and relatively rapid releases rather than a long term program of supposed natural dispersal.

Respectfully,

Larry M. Rymon, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Biological Sciences
East Stroudsburg University of PA

Home address: 214 Timberline Drive
Sequim, WA 98382
Tel: (360) 681-6399
E-mail: docnbarb@olympen.com

From: [Rick Wyckoff](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Re: Wolf Program
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 1:06:07 PM

To the wolf committee:

Having hunted in Washington state for the better part of my life and having had the privilege to hunt in other states numerous times I just have to wonder why the Washington department of Fish and Wildlife who has never been able to work with the Tribes, the PUBLIC, and or a good program to provide correct wildlife resource management to the benefit of ALL users of the resource would invite yet another drain on our states wildlife resources by allowing wolves of any form to exist in our state, the ones already here should be open season on site. Have you not learned any lessons of what can happen to non predatory species such as deer when cougar populations remain unchecked because of bs rules regarding the hunting and or pursuit of such species? I have hunted in other states numerous times not because I like to drive... I hunt in other places where the agencies in charge have a clue about resource management. It makes for a more pleasant experience when you can hunt more than 6-10 days and have a choice of animals to take instead of hoping to see an animal to harvest as is usually the case in Washington state. I love the beautiful state I live in here but fear the time has come more me to consider spending ALL of my sporting dollars elsewhere. I know many fellow outdoorsman that feel the same way and maybe you will be able to get PETA, the Grizzly reintroduction folks, the wolf reintroduction folks, the anti hunters, and maybe even the Tribes to start footing the bill for YOUR department. I doubt you will be able to manage the wolf population or the damage that will result from any increase of the amount of wolves already here any better than I have seen this state manage the populations or fair use of the deer, elk, steelhead , salmon.....

For an validation of what I am saying, call Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, or any other states wildlife management agency from your home, do not tell them where you work or who you are- just ask their managers, or biologists what they think of how Washington's wildlife is managed, and you'll find out that a lot of what is done here is a JOKE. I know, I have made those calls.

Rick Wyckoff
C 425-478-8256
Email bambislayer1@verizon.net

From: [Erik Wilber](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: WA Wolf Management Plan Comments
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 8:55:39 PM

January 7th, 2010

Comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington.

To whom it may concern -

My name is Erik Wilber. I live in Chehalis, WA, and have been a resident of Washington state all my life. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft wolf management plan. I also appreciate all the effort that is going into developing a plan for wolves in this state. Wolves were a native species at one time in Washington, and the restoration of a self sustaining viable population is an important element in the ultimate goal of a healthy ecosystem here.

I support the preferred alternative, Alternative 2, with three notable exceptions:

Breeding pairs required for downlisting are too low.

Under Chapter 3, Section B, it states, "This plan's conservation/recovery objectives for Washington are below those thought to be needed for long-term persistence of an isolated population (30 or more successful breeding pairs containing 300 or more wolves in a metapopulation)." With wolves only entering Washington from British Columbia, Idaho, and portions of Oregon, it is important that this state have a big enough population to deal with the inevitable genetic issues resulting from a reduced number of outside source populations. Thus, I believe the number of breeding pairs required for downlisting and eventual delisting be increased.

The pacific coast recovery region needs to be included.

I believe a "significant portion of former range" for wolves in Washington must include the Olympic peninsula. There is a vast amount of available wolf habitat in this area, and it is important that wolves be able to again re-colonize this area. The Olympic peninsula could easily become a significant source population.

Lethal take of wolves (in regards to livestock/domestic animal conflicts) by livestock owners in the early stages of delisting is too liberal.

As wolves will only be entering from other states, it's critical that the initial re-colonizing wolves be able to establish a 'foothold' in Washington. The lethal take of

wolves by livestock owners during the threatened and sensitive status of wolf recovery is too soon. Such lethal take in the early stages could result in delaying the eventual delisting by possibly years, and in turn cost much more in the long run.

In addition to the above:

I support translocation as a tool in the management of wolves in this state.

I support increasing the amount of education and outreach to the public, as would be done under alternative 3.

I support creating ways for the public to contribute financially to the program (i.e. wolf license plates, with funds going to the program).

Thank you for allowing the residents of Washington to comment on the proposed plan. Thank you also in your time reviewing my comments.

Erik Wilber
1464 SW Snively Ave.
Chehalis, WA 98532
Hotshot_128@hotmail.com

From: [Catherine Ries](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Washington Wolf Plan comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 12:45:18 PM

I support Alternative 3 in the plan because it provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be fully recovered in Washington State and make the following comments regarding the plan:

- We made mistakes in the past by almost wiping out many kinds of important wildlife in the West, including the wolf, and now we are learning just how important they are to maintaining a healthy, functioning balance of predator and prey in the wild. We have the responsibility to restore wolves and find ways to live with them in their native lands here in Washington.
- Wolves have had a tremendous benefit to other wildlife and plant communities in Yellowstone National Park and elsewhere where they've been recovered, and a healthy wolf population in Washington will have benefits to our natural heritage here as well.
- A significant number of scientist reviewers believe that the department's numbers (15 breeding pairs) for delisting are low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery. The Department should increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed or provide a stronger evaluation of what measures can be taken to ensure that wolves will be able to move safely from northeast Washington to the Cascades.
- Many scientists now agree that the original population goals for wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies were too low and would put wolves there at a higher risk of inbreeding, disease, and future extinction. This miscalculation is behind much of the controversy over federal delisting of wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. We don't want to make the same mistake in Washington—our wolf plan and

recovery objectives need to be based on the latest science.

The final plan should include separate population recovery objectives for the Olympic Peninsula, where high quality wolf habitat and public support justify it having its own recovery objectives.

- The Department needs to eliminate the reckless "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could drag on recovery efforts and eventual delisting. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)

From: [STANLEY R. JEAN A WILSON](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: WDFW Wolf Conservation Public Comment
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 9:50:34 PM

The minority report on pages 202 and 203 of the wolf management plan should have been included as an alternative.

I realize wolves are coming to Washington State and cannot be stopped but the minority report option gives the state the best opportunity to manage without adverse affects.

Stan Wilson
snjwilson@msn.com

From: [Jane Ely](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wold Conservation & Management Plan DEIS
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:24:55 AM
Attachments: [Wolf Plan Comments JE.doc](#)

Please see attached file.
I'd appreciate it if you would acknowledge this email submission.

Thanks,
Jane Ely

From: [Dimitri Bader](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN-DEIS COMMENTS
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 10:50:34 AM
Attachments: [WOLF PLAN REVIEW.doc](#)

HI TERESA, I HAD TROUBLE FINDING YOUR ADDRESS AND FIGURING OUT HOW TO ATTACH MY COMMENTS TO THIS E-MAIL. HOPEFULLY THIS WORKS.

IF YOU DO RECEIVE IT, WOULD YOU PLEASE RESPOND AND LET ME KNOW THAT YOU DID RECEIVE THEM.

THANKS,
DIMITRI BADER

From: [Terri Wentworth-Davis](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf DEIS comment letter
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 8:26:37 PM
Attachments: [wolf comments.doc](#)

I have attached my comments on the Wolf Management and Conservation Plan DEIS.

Terri Wentworth-Davis
2781 S. Maple Tree lane
Camano Island, WA 98282

From: [dtryon](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf management plan comments
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 4:16:56 PM

To: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and other interested parties.

From: Don Tryon, P.O. Box 7, Addy, WA 99101, 509-685-9276, xyz@plix.com

Issue: Wolf Management and Wolf Management Plan, January 2010

I became involved in Washington wolf management when the state began to develop the Wolf Management Plan Working Group. I exchanged several letters and e-mails with the WDFW Director concerning the nature and scope of the working group, which initially seemed badly conceived. My involvement since has been modest, largely because the issue has become so ridiculous.

I just want to make a couple of points:

1. We are a nation of law.
2. The state has a responsibility to recover the species.
3. Despite commentary to the contrary, this is a molehill issue.
4. Predators and prey have lived together since the beginning of time. It is mother's modus operandi.

Everything government does in this country is authorized and controlled by the rule of law. And in our society the creation and interpretation of law is an adversarial process. We count votes and there are winners and losers.

There are obviously folks in Washington who love wolves and would like to see lots of them roaming the countryside, and other folks who hate the idea of even one wolf calling the state home. Count me among those hunters, bird watchers, hikers and general nature lovers who believe large predators, including wolves, have a role to play in the natural dynamic. Seeing or

hearing a wolf is a big deal, an experience worth cherishing. The critical issue: What does the law require? The law requires viable species recovery and that is where I recommend the state focus.

Throughout most of the 20th century federal hegemony expanded. But while that trend continued in recent decades, four of our previous five presidents were governors and states have made some headway in reclaiming local power. The Endangered Species Act is a case in point.

I have lived in several western states and had some to considerable involvement with the various state wildlife agencies. Generally, they are staffed by qualified and dedicated people fully capable of managing fish and wildlife. Unfortunately, all of the states I have lived or worked in have had a game species bias and that will not change anytime soon – certainly not until state legislatures rationalize the process of wildlife management. And the management of wildlife at the state level is frequently corrupted by the biases of politicians, especially governors.

In the case of wolves, some western governors have already made comments that have harmed state credibility. If state management falters, appears inadequate, fails to meet the tests of science; or if states simply fail to adequately protect the animals, we will see the federal government reclaim this issue. And maybe a welter of other issues; can states manage water, education, welfare, land? We have all been witness to those debates. Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding.

Personally, I don't think states can treat wolves as vermin and recover the species. Until they are recognized as a legitimate game species, important component of the ecosystem and critter with rights, species recovery will be in jeopardy.

It has become common for government agencies to substitute process for product. Two examples: Some years ago a planning effort in the Columbia gorge was challenged in court. A US Forest Service spokesperson whined to the press that the agency had worked so hard to balance the competing uses. Well, that wasn't what the law required. More recently a Spokane River planning effort was legally challenged. A petulant Washington Ecology representative complained to the press that the planning effort had been the

result of collaborative effort. The law requires meeting water quality standards, not collaboration.

At some point in the future the state of Washington may be in the process of increasing or decreasing wolf numbers in accordance with social objectives, as is done with deer, moose or elk. We are not there yet. First, the species has to be recovered. The scientific data I have seen suggests fifteen breeding pairs is not adequate. I strongly suggest the state error on the side of caution. It is easy to reduce wolf populations after it has been demonstrated recovery has been achieved. If the state fails to achieve viable population recovery because they were trying to balance interests or mollify collaborators, it will be too late. The state will have proven itself untrustworthy, incapable of implementing due process.

Predators and prey have coexisted forever, even Native Americans got along with wolves and other large predators for thousands of years before white people arrived. The notion wolves are going to destroy game herds, eat children, and generally unravel the fabric of society is just silly. Wolf management will require some effort. A few ranchers will suffer significant losses, not unmanageable.

If you poke around in small town museums in southern Idaho, you will see old photographs of people standing around mountains of clubbed to death jackrabbits after coyotes were poisoned.

My family was involved with mining and when I was a boy I hiked into one of the Salmon River properties to do camp chores for the crew. The patriarch of the group was an old prospector who told stories about the game commission flying over the backcountry in years past and throwing poisoned horsemeat out of airplanes to kill predators. The old man, no tree hugger, literally shook with rage when he told of extensive food chain deaths caused by the poison, about how at first game species did increase, then destroy riparian areas and when the big winter came dead and rotting carcasses piled up in the canyon bottoms. He was there, bore witness, never forgave government for such awesome stupidity and malevolence.

Decades ago, I lived near a famed trout fishing reservoir, also favored by cormorants. I was out with an older fellow one day and he told me how

years before sportsmen shotgunned all the cormorants they could and were surprised when rough fish populations substantially increased and trout fishing got worse.

Some day we will have modest numbers of elusive wolves in our woods. Scientists will generally praise the role they play in the natural order of things. A few people will hate them but most folks will consider themselves blessed if they see them, or hear them or see their tracks in the snow, as we are excited now to see cougar or bear tracks in the snow, as we feel honored to see eagles in the sky.

Future generations will be amazed to learn we once were so hopelessly amoral we spent a lot of money and energy destroying predators, as younger Americans now are amazed by slavery and segregation. Increasingly, young folks are shocked to hear just decades ago people smoked tobacco almost everywhere. Mostly, the problem wasn't ignorance; leaders just didn't have the courage to do what was right.

Compared to something like habitat loss, for instance, wolves are insignificant. There are huge issues most Americans seem largely unconcerned with. Some day, hopefully soon, young Americans will be amazed we tolerated over forty thousand deaths a year in automobiles, and hundreds of thousands of serious accidents – every year.

Finally, I encourage politicians to refrain from masquerading as biologists and biologists from pretending to be sociologists or politicians.

Do good.

Sincerely,

Don Tryon

From: [Nedra P. Reed](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf plan
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 1:47:32 PM
Attachments: [January 8 wolves.docx](#)

the url address as listed in the PA Daily News is not valid, I have sent my comments by e-mail, 360-374-6680
Nedra Reed

From: [Swampdog](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf recovery
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:23:21 AM

I support an actively managed wolf recovery plan for Washington State. I prefer Alternative 3 because I would like to see wolves returned to the Olympic Peninsula although WDFW's preferred alternative, Alternative 2, is a good one also. Thank You.

Coleman Byrnes
P.O. Box 32321
Port Angeles WA 98362
360-928-1032

From: [dennis & karen](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolves
Date: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:41:41 PM

To whom it may concern:

We do not agree the number of wolves should be increased in Washington state . The land areas are relatively small considering the distance wolves will travel. Our state is too populated by people, pets, and domestic livestock, the latter having to do with our families way of making a living.

Dennis & Karen Jessup
Rock Bottom Ranch Inc.
19114 Rock Bottom Loop
Wilbur, WA. 99185
509/647/5601

From: [echo daphne](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: reintroducing Wolves in the Olympics
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2009 9:46:08 AM

Hello,

I am a farmer of sheep and poultry very near the Olympics. My husband and I spend all of time we possibly can in the Olympics, it is our place of worship.

We welcome these great predators back to their rightful place in the wilderness! We feel it is a great injustice that they were ever exterminated. We are exceptionally pleased that contemporary humans are beginning to embrace the facts about wolves and overcome the ignorance of the past, leading to their reintroduction.

I suggest anyone concerned about the welfare of their livestock to first focus their efforts on secure fencing, and second to employ Livestock Guardian Dogs. We have not lost any animals to predators since the dogs came to our farm (we have cougars, bears and coyotes all living close by, who used to dine here). I have a very relaxed attitude towards the wild animals... WE are displacing them, not the other way around.

Thank you for your efforts!

Jeanne Ball, Chimacum, WA

From: [Kevin Gallagher](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: "Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan" Commentary
Date: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 8:03:58 PM

Hello.

Pertaining to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) "Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington", I support a wolf management plan that is strong enough to ensure wolves fully recover to a population healthy enough to effectively resume their role as top predators in our state's ecosystems.

Thank you.

Kevin Gallagher

From: [WB Kukes](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf recovery
Date: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 7:01:57 AM

Why, would anyone in there right mind want a predator that kills indiscriminately, without always eating that prey, one that will reek havok on livestock producers, at sportsman expense and wdfw, especially since your on such tight bugetary constraints. Imagine what the winter elk feed lots will look like with a pack taking up residence in the area?? This whole idea is totally sickening and completely demoralizing as a sportsman and a business man.

Kelly Kukes

From: [Kathy L.](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf recovery
Date: Friday, October 16, 2009 7:43:51 PM

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,

Wolves are a keystone species. They're presence is an important part to healthy ecosystems in Washington state.

I wish that in my life time I will be able to hear a protected stable population of wild wolves howling in my state. If that happens while I'm alive I will be able to rest peacefully, till then I will work towards it for my kids and all future generations and the betterment of all wildlife viability in Washington state

My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat. I can't imagine a healthy temperate rain forest without them. The right thing to do for the big picture, the future of our state and even for tourism, is to protect wolves to full extent that current laws enable and then strengthen those laws some more. Wolves face the most danger from deep pocketed special corporate cattle interests who want the land for grazing and the ignorance of a very few people who fear what they don't understand. Corporate interests attempt to capitalize on that fear. The majority of people in this state want wolves to recover to levels that benefit all of us, even though they will probably never come close to the numbers they were before we decimated and drove them to extinction in the lower 48. It's time now, to bring back wolves!

Thank you for your consideration
Kathy Lane Seabrook

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

From: schmit2000@comcast.net
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Cooney, Jim \(Work\); Kirchner, Gary \(Work\); Kirchner, Kyle; McCabe, Pat; McKinsey, Steve \(Work\); Sonderen, Mark \(Work\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Wolf Management Plan
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009 8:26:09 AM

Dear Wolf Management Team, after attending the public meeting in Spokane this week, I just wanted to encourage you to include the "minority opinion" as an alternative in your plan. In my view, having a lower number threshold of breeding pairs in each wolf management area would lead to delisting sooner... and the stated goal is delisting so the state can then take control of the management of wolves in Washington State.

Again, I am in favor of the "minority opinion".

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wolf Management Plan.

Michael Schmitt
schmit2000@comcast.net

From: [Stanley Jones-Umberger](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Draft EIS for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 11:29:06 AM

I support a wolf management plan that is strong enough to ensure wolves fully recover—to a population healthy enough to effectively resume their role as top predators in our state's ecosystems. I don't care about hunters or "livestock" owners. The state should stop spending tax money supporting their sick and depraved lifestyles. These people are no different than the DC Beltway sniper.

Stanley Jones-Umberger
37425 SE 39th Street
Washougal, WA 98671

From: [Andrew Reding](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington
Date: Monday, November 02, 2009 7:25:43 AM

I am a resident of Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula.

I am writing in support of Alternative 3.

I would even support reintroduction of wolves to the Olympic Peninsula from British Columbia.

Andrew Reding
4360 San Juan Ave
Port Townsend, WA 98368

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: We SUPPORT Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to Wolf Management
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 11:47:30 AM

Forwarded from the Director's email.

~Tina

From: Robyn Rose [mailto:jrrose@willapabay.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 9:27 PM
To: Commission (DFW); Director (DFW)
Subject: We SUPPORT Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to Wolf Management

We support Alt. 1A the Responsible Approach to Wolf Management.

James and Robyn Rose
Rose Ranch
South Bend, Washington

From: [Director \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Anderson, Philip M \(DFW\)](#); [Stohr, Joe S \(DFW\)](#); [Davis, Tom \(DFW\)](#);
[Brittell, Dave \(DFW\)](#); [Pozzanghera, Steve \(DFW\)](#); [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#);
[Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: Wolf Recovery Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 1:01:33 PM

FYI... copy of an email sent to legislators regarding the Wolf Recovery Plan.

***Irene**

From: Dale Magart [mailto:lightsandbikes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2010 6:41 PM
To: jacobsen.ken@leg.wa.gov
Cc: Ranker, Kevin; Bob Morton; fraser.karen@leg.wa.gov; hargrove.jim@leg.wa.gov; Hatfield, Brian; stevens.val@leg.wa.gov; swecker.dan@leg.wa.gov; gary douvia; Larry Guenther; Joel Kretz; Short, Shelly; Director (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Recovery Plan

Dear Senator Jacobson:
January 2010

11

I would like to address a couple of my concerns regarding the wolf recovery issue that the Natural Resources Committee will be discussing in the near future.

I am sure you are being bombarded from both sides of the fence on this contentious matter. I will be brief and let others speak about the impact wolves will have regarding their predation on our elk and deer herds, livestock and the compensation involved, and public safety (may I suggest you read an article in the Winter 2008 issue of Range magazine by Will Graves). This article rebuts the argument that wolves do not kill humans. Another characteristic that the pro-wolf people want to deny (for instance, Suzanne Stone of the Defenders of Wildlife said she never heard of such a thing) is the killing just for the sake of killing that wolves will do. My brother's father-in-law (Mick Carlson-a large sheep rancher near Riggins, Idaho) lost 80+ sheep in one night. Mz. Stones comments were taken from a story from The Missoulian newspaper which was reporting on 120 purebred rams killed near Dillon, MT.

Therefore, in light of the above and due to the fact that "no wolves" is not an option, I urge you to consider an option that is not included in the IES draft, the minority opinion of the Wolf Recovery Group. Lest we forget, wolves for all practical purposes are no longer endangered. Even in this state I wonder why they are considered as such. I think, in one instance, you can compare the wolf recovery to the bald eagle recovery. That is, that if man just quits killing them they will recover.

Once enough time has elapsed for an adequate trial and after review it is decided the number of wolves recommended in the minority opinion is too low, it would be easy to rectify. On the other hand, if the majority or other option is implemented and ten or so years down the road it proves to be a mistake and too costly for terms already stated....let me just say, if an error is made, I would prefer in this instance that it be made on the side of caution.

Thank you for your consideration; sincerely,

Dale Magart
5384A S. Wallbridge Rd
Deer Park, WA 99006
(509)276-5586

cc: All Natural Resources Committee members, Representatives Joel Kretz and Shelly Short, County Commissioner Larry Guenther, Game Commissioner Gary Douvia, F&W Director Phil Anderson

From: [Richard Curtis](#)
To: [Beach, Rocky \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Hearings on Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 11:57:38 AM

Dear Mr. Beach:

I am reading through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The document states in Section 2.2 (Page 9) that only "311 people attended the meetings and provided comments" during the previous hearings that were held. Unfortunately you neglect to inform the readers that the hearings were not announced or held in the most populous areas of the state, namely Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia. During the last round of hearings in August of 2007, I and others requested hearings be held at a location convenient for our participation. Perhaps you have forgotten but at that time both you and Dr. Jeff Koenings committed to providing us with an opportunity to participate in a local hearing. However hearings were never held in our area in spite of being held in other significantly less populated areas of the state.

The DEIS published on October 5, 2009 identifies several small towns where a new round of hearings will be held and once again the populous Olympia area, where wolves will most likely need to migrate through to reach their historic homeland in Olympic National Park, has been omitted. While I commend you for at least holding a hearing in the Seattle area this time, leaving out the large population base between Vancouver and Seattle would seem to be untenable and unwarranted. In a telephone call to you earlier this month, you once again indicated a willingness to hold hearings in our area if there was enough interest. I understand you have received a show of interest from conservation organizations that have members in the area as well as myself and other individuals. Why are we not being provided a opportunity to participate in a special hearing similar to those being held in other areas?

Richard Curtis
PO Box 451
Ethel, WA 98542
(360) 266-9905

From: [Chavre, Daniel N](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 3:00:26 PM

No Wolves (more) in Washington

Dan Chavre
206-544-7837

From: Dhal9000@aol.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
cc: Dhal9000@aol.com;
Subject: Re: Wolf Recovery Plan
Date: Monday, October 26, 2009 8:33:10 PM

I would like to add my comments to the Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS:

I fully support efforts to reestablish gray wolf populations in Washington State. These animals belong here as a part of naturally functioning ecosystems. Their extirpation, brought about by thoughtless hunting and anti-predator policies of past generations, was based on fear and ignorance, and now is the time to correct that problem with reason and education.

I support Alternative 3, because of its high level of protection for wolves and its compensation for ranchers whose livestock are taken by wolves. Damage to stock caused by predation should be borne by all of us, collectively. This is fair to the livestock owner, and I believe compensation and education will greatly reduce opposition to wolf recovery.

I believe that non-lethal means should be used to minimize problems between livestock and wolves. Dogs, fences and, when those fail, compensation, are the best tools to address conflicts and still support the goals of wolf recovery.

I do not believe that prey species such as deer and elk should be protected from wolves. These animals have found their balance without assistance from us for thousands of years, and that interaction has made both species stronger. Wolves go a long way in reducing the negative effects of "reverse Darwinism" created by hunting, where the taking of the strongest, healthiest ungulates leads to survival of the sickest and weakest. If some are worried that this will reduce their populations, then we need to look at how to make more ungulate habitat, not less wolf habitat.

I want to see viable, widely distributed wolf populations across the state that will ensure the long term health and success of the species. I do not believe that 12 or 15 pairs statewide are enough to downgrade or delist wolves as endangered or threatened. Protecting for long term viability means taking into account outbreaks of disease, poaching, road kill, starvation, infertility and whatever other variables that can unexpectedly reduce the population. I'd prefer to see at least 15 successfully breeding pairs per *county* before downgrading or delisting is considered.

I am opposed to all hunting of wolves. Lethal force should only be used in extreme circumstances where no other means is available, such as to destroy a rabid wolf or to stop a wolf from attacking a person or their dog or horse.

Donald R. Shank
5114 S. 3rd Ave. Apt. A
Everett, WA 98203
(425) 303-1835

dhal9000@aol.com

From: [Susan](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Save the Wolves
Date: Monday, October 19, 2009 12:17:50 PM

Enclosed is a letter I sent out to numerous Wolf Centers to ask if they would band together and volunteer to take in more Wolves and help save and protect the Wolves being slaughtered. Please Please if you can help to get the word out to the Wild Life Foundation to make attempts to capture any Wolves they can. I have already received a response back from a Wolf Center saying they will take in 8 Wolves. Please get the word out

Thank you for your time. Susan

We can take in 8 if that will help to save them.

Howling Acres Wolf Sanctuary

Sherrie LaBat, CEO

555 Davidson Rd

Williams, OR 97544

541-846-8962

wolves@howlingacres.org

----- Original Message -----

From: Susan

To: wolves@howlingacres.org

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2009 7:17 AM

Subject: [Norton AntiSpam] save the wolves

To Whom It May Concern:

I am deeply saddened by what is happening to the Wolves in Yellowstone and Idaho. How can this be stopped? What can we do to help keep the Wolves protected?

I am sending this letter to as many Wolf Centers I can find. My hope is that the Wolf Centers will band together and offer their help by asking the WLF to first, stop the killing, but also to offer their assistance by offering to house a few Wolves to keep them safe. If the WLF would make attempts to capture as many Wolves as they can, and if the Wolf Centers would kindly volunteer to house as many as they can, this would be a win win situation.

I understand they can not capture and save all the Wolves. Let's do what we promised the Wolves, and that's keeping them safe and protected.

Thank you

Susan Reiss

Serenitylady55@gmail.com

From: [Ed & Bonnie Schein](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
cc: [MarkMiller](#); [Schaetzel Dick](#);
Subject: Wolf Plan Scoping
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009 3:09:16 PM

Thanks for working on a plan to recover wolves in WA State. I have been following the saga of the Twisp and Pend Oreille packs, the poachers and various opinions. I also just finished reading "Three Among the Wolves" by Helen Thayer.

Therefore I believe any arbitrary pronouncement of "15 breeding pairs or 30 breeding pairs" as a conservation goal without understanding or having scientific knowledge in hand about how wolves would use Eastern and Western Washington is not good. Also, illegal poaching, genetic isolation, disease and other potential mortality events need to be included. Delisting CANNOT be considered until genetic diversity, genetic connectivity, and genetically viable population goals have been met for at least five years. Also plans must include the moving or translocation of wolves to appropriate wilderness habitat within the state. Non-lethal techniques for management, such as the use of guard animals and predator deterrent fencing must be emphasized.

The bottom line is that WA State citizens need to be educated in wolf ecology and reminded that wolves are native to our great state and play a beneficial role overall in our ecosystem.

Thanks for passing on my comments.

Ed Schein
20427 NE 162nd St
Woodinville, WA. 98077-9456

From: [Stacey Cooper](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf reintroduction plan
Date: Friday, October 30, 2009 10:50:18 AM

My comments regarding Washington wolves reintroduction plan.

As a long time conservationist, zookeeper, and citizen, I strongly support a wolf management plan that is strong enough to ensure wolves fully recover—to a population healthy enough to effectively resume their role as top predators in our state's ecosystems. This insures a natural balance in our fragile and damaged ecosystem. There are quite a few non lethal and extremely affective options that would deter wolves from livestock. These options would require cooperation from the local ranchers and in this way that helps them to be aware and involved in wildlife management. As we all should be.

Thank you so much,
Stacey Cooper

From: [Katie Judd](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on the new Washington Wolf Management Plan
Date: Thursday, November 05, 2009 10:53:34 AM

To our friends at the Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing this email to you in regards to your plan on wolf management. I have been reading about your new plan in the local paper and I am concerned that not all issues are being taken into consideration.

I have lived in this area all of my life and was raised on a farm. My father, grandfathers, and all of my uncles are loggers, ranchers, and hunters. They have spent their whole lives out in the wilderness, with many different kinds of animals, and they have passed their knowledge of the outdoors on to their children and grandchildren. They may not have spent four or more years at a college studying about wolves and other predators, but they have lived among them and seen first hand the amount of damage that they can cause.

Our family has lived in the area since the 1800's. We have lived off of the land for generations, hunting and fishing, and we have noticed that in recent years the numbers of deer, elk, and moose have dwindled significantly. You used to be able to drive from Colville to Northport and count numerous whitetail and mule deer. Now you are lucky if you see five or six whitetail. You almost never see mule deer, and this is with out the presence of large numbers of wolves.

If you succeed in bringing the wolves numbers up to what you are projecting, my fear is that the amount of cougar, coyote, and wolves in this area will completely obliterate our prey animals. If this happens then what will the wolves have to hunt? They will start preying on our livestock, our pets, and ,worse yet, our children. Wolves are among the most efficient hunters in the world, and if the people are not allowed to hunt them, or at least protect their livestock, the wolves will become unafraid of people. This would create a very dangerous situation.

I sometimes wonder if any of you fish and game officers have ever really watched the way a wolf pack hunts. They surround their prey and confuse it, forcing members from the safety of the herd to isolation. Once the prey is with out the safety of the herd, the wolves take turns at it. One wolf will bite at it's prey's face while another wolf chews through the tendons on its back legs. Then, they each take a part in ripping the prey animal from limb to limb while the animal is still alive

and screaming in pain. It is a gruesome and horrifying end that many elk and buffalo meet in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. We, here in Washington, do not have the numbers of elk and deer to be able to feed the amount of predators that we have now, let alone if the wolves continue to grow in number. Eventually they will start to hunt other prey including people. Imagine the scene that I described above, only instead of it being an elk that they are tearing apart, imagine a child. Perhaps it will be your child or grandchild. Is this really a future that you want for our state?

Also, our area depends on the revenue brought in by our local ranchers. Bringing in more wolves would cause them to lose thousands of dollars every year due to a loss of calves. It is a known fact that one of a wolf's favorite meals is veal (that's a baby cow for those of you who don't know). Many of our ranchers are barely scraping by as it is. A loss of several thousand dollars could result in many of our top producing ranches shutting down or going elsewhere. This would mean less tax dollars to pay your wages. By bringing the wolf population up you might as well be shooting yourself in the foot.

I urge you to listen to the ranchers in our area. They have lived here for generations, and their knowledge does not come from sitting in a classroom. Instead it comes from seeing first hand the damage that can be done by these most efficient of predators.

Sincerely,

Katie Judd

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From: randschenck@msn.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Monday, November 09, 2009 9:18:37 AM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Please know that I am sending this as a personal comment on the Washington Wolf Plan. I strongly support every effort to bring wolves back into their traditional range throughout Washington. Wolves have an important role to play both in the biodiversity and health of the region. As a frequent user of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, I am especially excited about the prospect one day of hearing a wolf howl. I believe that Gifford Pinchot, were he alive today, would as well support the return of wolves to these lands.

Their recovery in Washington State could lead to more resilient ecosystems at a time when land managers are struggling to find ways to create ecosystem resilience to combat predicted climate-induced changes.

I would like to see the following changes incorporated because I think they are essential for true wolf recovery in Washington. The plan should increase the number of established breeding pairs before delisting is proposed. A significant number of scientists believe that the plan's target number of 15 breeding pairs is too low to provide for a sustainable wolf population.

The Department should provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions of Washington and detail plans to improve habitat connectivity over time to allow the natural dispersal of wolves throughout the state as indicated by the plan.

The "caught in the act" killing provision at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery should be eliminated. Given the history of poaching in this state with two wolves already confirmed killed within the last year and the high potential for misuse, this provision could negatively affect the plan's overarching goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck

Rand Schenck
randschenck@msn.com

From: [Habitat Program \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: Not buying tags next year unless!!!
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 10:10:09 AM

Electronic comment on the wolf issue. Thanks.

From: Jason Bolser [mailto:jasonbolser@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:14 PM
To: Director (DFW); Commission (DFW); Public Affairs (DFW); Wildthing (DFW); Habitat Program (DFW); TeamMillCreek (DFW)
Subject: Not buying tags next year unless!!!

I am up set with the way the WDFW has been handling the "RE-Introduction" of wolves into this state.. I think the department has been disingenious with the hunters of this state. The dept has held wolf meetings during hunting season... The dept has changed from using color photos of wolves to black and whites... Making it harder for hunters to keep WDFW accountable as to the numbers of wolves the state has knowledge of . WDFW agents moved around the perimeter of the audience at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds meeting, taking flash pictures of the audience and speakers when they were allowed to speak. I believe the Dept has kept known numbers low on purpose taking a longer time to delist wolves. The WDFW has worked closely with anti hunting interests like Defenders of Wildlife & Wolf Haven International. Are actions like these meant to show the hunting community that the WDFW has our best interests at heart?

The dept has its priorities mixed up! Funds, cash, your paychecks come from hunting dollars! I can tell you right now, if Washington, does not get the minority plan for wolf reintouction, or a plan that uses hunting for management I will stop giving the WDFW money to make hunting worse. I would like to tell you that I'll quit hunting if you adopt this nonsense, but I can't. What I can promise you is that I will only buy my deer and elk tags. No more special draws, permits for bear, cougar etc. I will help organize a boycott to make hunters voices heard, and educate fellow hunters how the Dept has been selling hunters short with their own money. I will hit you in the pocket book with a 10 pound sledge hammer! Think long and hard if you want to make your customers angry! I have been unhappy with the way the fishing program has been run so several years ago I gave up fishing....

You may not have to listen to this one letter, but as your funds from licenses dries up you will have to face the reality. I hope the WDFW does the right thing for the hunters of this fine state.

Jason Bolser

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From: [Josey Paul](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Josey on Wolf Conservation Mangement Plan DEIS
Date: Sunday, November 08, 2009 10:03:16 PM

Thank you for drafting plans to allow the return of wolves to Washington. I live in a remote, off-grid location 12 miles west of Joyce that is promising wolf habitat. I am likely to be directly affected.

I would prefer Option 3, which includes restoring wolves to the Olympic Peninsula, although this option would restore wolves at too slow a pace.

The preferred option is not acceptable, because it all but precludes the return of wolves to the peninsula. It's important that we not just allow the return of wolves, but actively encourage and support their reintroduction.

In general, wolves need to be restored to the Olympic Peninsula ecosystem as soon as possible, and we need to accept them numbers far higher than the limited breeding pairs envisioned in the DEIS.

It's not clear, in a scientific sense, why relocating wolves from Canada or other states is not an option. It should be.

Josey Paul
PO 44
Joyce, WA 98343

360 928-0116
joseypaul@starband.net

From: [DALE FLESHMAN](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Modern Fire Arm Hunting
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 6:07:35 PM

To whom it may concern,
I have a few comments about this State and its unfriendliness towards hunters. Unlike several of the Western States our game hunting dates are set up so the success rate is near 0 in most areas. From what I have read approx 60% of the hunters in Washington hunt out of State because of these hunting dates. One of the other problems I see is the multiple tags given to Indians which from what I can see at least in the Packwood area is wiping out the Elk population. Poaching is a huge problem in that area also as there seems to be no law enforcement!

My deer hunting experience is about the same and has been. Your seasons for the East side Mule Deer should be in 2 seasons one early and one late. Your seasons seem always to be 2 - 3 weeks early and way too short.

There is no doubt that the people in charge of setting hunting dates ect are non hunters and for sure Liberal Tree Hugging granola crunchers! Probably a sea of Subarus in your parking lot!

Keep the damn wolves out of our State! They are decimating the Montana Elk and Moose populations and from what I am told are doing the same thing to Idaho! We killed them off for a reason, we don't need them!

There is one bright spot and that is your Muzzle Loader seasons. These need to be expanded and hunting dates extended.
Seriously get to work!
Dale Fleshman

J. DALE FLESHMAN
Cell: 425-327-3969
Email: jdale55@msn.com
Email: dale@materialsinternationaltrading.com
Web site: www.materialsinternationaltrading.com

From: [Paul Wittrock](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Recover WA Wolves! - Draft Plan
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2009 10:45:53 AM

Dept. of F&W,

You get all the facts & figures from biologists & enviro orgs as to what is needed for wolf recovery.

Please do all in you power to accellerate their recovery.

I wait to hear their cry near Carnation along with the coyoties in MY lifetime (I'm 56) so you'd better get busy!

The wolvs were here before the ranchers, so ranchers needs come 2nd in my view.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Wittrock
10810 298 ave ne
carnation, WA 98014

From: [Wendy Friedrichs](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: STOP THE WOLVES
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2009 12:33:56 PM

I have hunted for eight years in Idaho and have seen first hand what wolves do to the population of deer and elk. They are killing machines, I have found deer and elk kills where the wolves didnt even eat a quarter of the animal. They just kill to kill! the animal they get after doesnt have a chance. Call Idaho or another state and ask them what they think about having wolves. I guarantee they will tell you they wish they were all gone! I hope you think hard about the reprocutions these wolves will bring with them. From killing livestock to pets to wild game, with them will come nothing but problems. I hope you will do the right thing and keep wolves out of washington state.

John Friedrichs a concerned sportsman.

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From: vha@icehouse.net
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WA Wolf Conservation and Management
Date: Friday, November 13, 2009 4:10:05 PM

I wish to commend the Wolf Working Group for the inclusive approach used to achieve the draft environmental impact statement. Also the presentation I attended in Spokane was effective and the representatives from WA Fish and Wildlife answered questions clearly.

I would prefer to see Alternative 3 implemented, but I can see where Alternative 2 would be more politically doable. There is some question among conservation advocates as to whether 15 breeding pairs is too low a bench mark because of a higher risk of inbreeding and disease. I urge you to consider increasing the number of breeding pairs.

The plan included in the executive summary to compensate livestock owners for livestock losses due to wolves would seem to eliminate the need for the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners.

Lastly, I am proud of our state for working hard to draft a science-based management plan for the wolves who have and are returning to Washington. Restoring the ecological balance is very important. I'm so pleased that wolves are returning on their own and hope that they will prosper under the draft plan.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Vivian Adams
3526 S. Cook St.
Spokane, WA 99223

vha@icehouse.net

From: [Sue Chickman](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 3:58:40 PM

November 10, 2009

WDFW: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS. Thank you for your department's extensive efforts for this plan and all the research expended on it.

I support Alternative Three with the following amendments/comments:

1. Simply, one size does not fit all parts of the state. Under any of the alternatives, it would be close to impossible for the animals to naturally re-inhabit the north Olympic Peninsula, where wolves once were. They need to be re-introduced, or at the least, translocated to Olympic National Park. Interstate 5 cuts the northwestern corner of Washington off from the rest of the state, as does Puget Sound. It would be a century before any wolf could find its way to that area.
2. Reintroduction should be conducted on the north Olympic Peninsula as soon as possible. In a 1980's National Park Service study, the Olympic National Park was identified as the Number Two park for wolf reintroduction, after Yellowstone. The Olympic National Park's ecosystem has not been whole for more than 70 years because of the loss of wolves and other extirpated wildlife. Fishers have recently been re-introduced successfully; next should be wolves. Why do we need to wait any longer?

3. Wolves do NOT attack or kill people very often. What is the statistic – one known case of death in the past 60 years? How many human deaths have been recorded by domestic dogs during the same period? This isn't a logical stopper.

4. As for the other quadrants, your current plan sounds fine.

5. 2:1 repayment for killed domestic animals seems a bit high – perhaps adding the words “up to” 2:1 could work better.

6. The number of breeding pairs recommended (15) for the state prior to de-listing status is very low. I'd recommend using numbers that are the WDFW's scientifically-based estimated numbers needed for transitioning from threatened to sensitive, which is 15; not complete de-listing at 15. I'd double the number of pairs for de-listing to 30.

7. I am not in favor of wolf hunts in the future. If the ecosystem is healthy, then the numbers should remain in check.

8. Economic reasons alone could support reintroduction/recovery. Fully 3-1/2% to 4% of the people who come to Yellowstone come just to see the wolves there. That represents approximately 350,000 or more added visitors to the Olympic National Park and added revenue to the local

economies, since approximately the same number of people visit ONP as Yellowstone.

My husband and I have had two wonderful wolf encounters in Canada that has had lasting positive impacts on our lives. Surely there should be some important intrinsic reasons for bringing back wolves for enhancing the human spirit.

Let's do it...let's bring back the wolves via the proposed Alternative 3 plus the changes noted above.

Please accept my comments as part of the public record. Please also confirm that you have received my letter.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment.

Sue Chickman

Sequim, WA

organicallysue@olypen.com

From: [Markus Stein](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington
Date: Friday, November 20, 2009 3:08:54 PM

I am a Washington resident currently living in Vancouver, WA and with property in Port Townsend. I expect PT, and the Olympic Peninsula, to be my permanent home within the next year.

My academic background is biology and I have spent many hours involved in field data collection, research and analysis.

I am encouraging the WDFW to include in its Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan restoration of a self-sustaining wolf population on the Olympic Peninsula. Because of human impediments, natural migration back into this former wolf habitat is unlikely.

The Olympic Peninsula is sparsely populated with people, but well populated with prey species, including elk and deer in abundance. The limited number and size of livestock operations on the peninsula also favors restoration of active wolf packs on the peninsula.

Wolves belong on the Olympic Peninsula and I think their return would be a source of local pride.

Markus Stein

From: wcrimi@comcast.net
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolf management plan
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2009 2:54:04 PM

To whom it may concern,

I have sat by and watched the as wildlife managers have reacted with glee at the news of the return of the wolf to Washington state. I see on the hunting website there is literature from the defenders of wildlife included to help ranchers deal with wolves in a non-lethal manner. Of course you probably know this organization is responsible for stopping the wolf hunts in three western states numerous times even though the recovery has far exceeded any managers expectations. All this even though there are parts of the all those states that have had their big game populations decimated by the wolf. In western Wyoming they once had moose tags for resident hunters. That changed to a drawing several years ago, and then no season shortly after that. Elk will change to a draw next season for residents in a state that used to have more elk than people. Idaho mentions on its website the elk population has been reduced in some areas north of I-90 by 90%. This may well be the beginning of the end for big game hunting in the western states, although I am not so sure that isn't the idea. With the wolf slowly dwindling the big game populations in the west, what need will there be for hunters? I just hope the same wildlife managers who are so thrilled with the wolf and his return end up out a jobs as a result. Although as with most government jobs I suspect that will not be the case. You will simply justify hiring more people and spending more taxpayer money to "monitor" game populations. In addition to the lost revenue from tag and license sales, we will create a new entitlement for the ranchers as the dead livestock start to pile up in years to come. This will prove to be unbelievably expensive for all the western states. To the defenders of wildlife and the state of Washington for endorsing their propaganda, well done.

Sincerely

William Crimi

From: [Karen Jurasin](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Commission \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Management
Date: Friday, November 20, 2009 12:50:21 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife and Commissioners,

Well, I've been doing a lot of research. I never support something strictly on an emotional basis. I've read the proposal alternatives and also read the minority report. I've seen statistics for both sides. Not being a rancher I have not had to find my cattle or sheep or herding dog ripped apart and certainly if I had a gun in hand and a wolf was attacking my dog I would probably shoot it. That would certainly be my emotional response not thinking about what the "threatened or sensitive" status of the wolf happened to be at that time. Of course I am not a hunter and I do not own a gun. I have read newspaper articles about ranchers that have had huge losses due to the increase in wolves at Yellowstone. I do believe in colaboration and consideration for the information and opinions of both sides. Perhaps with a bit more consideration for those that may be directly impacted by the wolves as I am not. I have been reading personal accounts.

I think wolves are beautiful and important to the natural order of things just like bears and cougars. I also agree that they are part of the ecosystem taking the weak animals in a herd and keeping balance in nature. The information about how they affect elk and also the plant life is fascinating. I am glad to see a plan in action to protect them. The photos (I have several on my walls) are of noble and intelligent animals but they are also predators not just killing for food but killing because it is their nature. I have only seen one wolf in the wild and I was thrilled. I cried when they killed the wolf in Dances with Wolves ;-). They should live and prosper where there is enough land for habitat - and to that end we also need to protect enough land for habitat. They belong in the wild areas of which there are not enough.

However:

I would not be opposed to hunting as an eventual management tool. I am not a hunter, could not just kill an animal unless threatened, but hunting is a management tool for wildlife. We are the only real predators of the large carnivores and play a part in balancing nature too. I would not be opposed to the shooting of a wolf in the act of killing a dog, cow, sheep, calf etc. We protect what is ours. They would certainly kill a dog for that. As to population both sides disagree and show statistics or give information to support their view. I know that wolves are in the dog family and dogs are very sucessful breeders as evidenced by the number in shelters. The wolf packs in Idaho and Montana seem to be doing well and there is evidence of packs in the Methow Valley and in Pend

Oreille County. Wolves hunt in packs unlike bears or cougars and can certainly do more damage in their territory than a single bear or cougar. That can be a serious threat to a rancher trying to make a living.

There is also a financial burden here that it would be hard to estimate. The reimbursement to ranchers and relocation of wolves could cost Washington in a time of financial difficulty. I did not see a provision in the plan for financing this.

So, I would support consideration of the minority report.

Sincerely,
Karen Jurasin
Spokane, Washington

From: [Brian & Carole Reid](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf recovery plan for Washington State
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2009 3:15:36 PM

We attended the DFW informational meeting on wolf recovery held in Twisp earlier in the year and have been closely following the Department's planning efforts, but we were unable to attend any of the recent series of public meetings. The re-establishment of wolves in Washington is important to us because of the demonstrated benefits of their ecological roles in improving the overall health of ecosystems, as has occurred in Yellowstone Park, to cite one example.

We support Alternative 3 because it makes it more likely that wolves will be successfully established, but with the following caveats:

- 1- The number of breeding pairs should be increased well beyond the 15 currently proposed for delisting. If this is not accomplished, inbreeding, disease and future extinction become more likely.

- 2 - The "Caught-in-the-act" killing provision for livestock owners needs to be eliminated in both endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Non-lethal deterrent methods and fair compensation packages for livestock owners are a more effective approach to promote recovery.

Thanks for your attention to our concerns,
Brian & Carole Reid
17 Bryan Road
Winthrop, WA 98862
(509) 996-3212

From: [Rancho Con Muchos Nopales](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
cc: [Commission \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Washington State Department of Wildlife/Wolves
Date: Monday, November 30, 2009 8:28:06 PM
Attachments: [Washington State Department of Wildlife.doc](#)

Attached are my comments regarding the wolves in Washington State.

Thank you

Dixie Dringman
6551 Keane Grade
Rock Island WA 98850

From: [richard Vanblaricom](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf comments.
Date: Saturday, November 28, 2009 7:38:01 PM

I understand the conservationist view on "encourageing" wolfs in this state. However, we are already encouraging them by not allowing ranchers to shoot the wolfs that kill their herds. And when a farmer can prove a wolf kills one of his animals he gets money from tax payers via the government. Even though many area's are claimed to be wolf free, many outdoorsmen would disagree. Wolfs do not need a passport to come in from Canada. Outdoor enthusiest already have to deal with an out of controle cougar population in result from the "no dog's for hunting cougar" laws. I as well as many others in this great state would like to keep the wolfs out. Thanks for your time.

From: captainfidalgo@yahoo.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:18:21 AM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

These comments are on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife groups have worked hard on a plan meant to re-establish a naturally producing and viable wolf population in the state of Washington and to minimize impacts to livestock owners in a way that will not impact the recovery of the wolf.

I support Alternative 3, but with an increased target number of breeding pairs.

Wolves have a very important part to play in the balance of nature. Let them do that by supporting efforts to have a viable wolf population in Washington State.

Sincerely,
Richard Bergner
15515 Yokeko
Anacortes, WA 98221

From: [Susan](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolves in the Okanogan
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 8:52:02 AM

Dear People:

I am writing in support of the return of wolves to Washington State. Although the opposition to this action seems numerous, there are actually very few producing ranches in the area. Also the reimbursement for any loss to wolves seems adequate. It is clear that the majority of people in this State support the return of wolves. Please listen to the majority.

Thank you.

Susan Evans
434 Orondo Avenue
Wenatchee, WA. 98801

From: daviannsimages@yahoo.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Monday, November 30, 2009 4:20:15 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Please allow wolves to hold their rightful place in the wild. They are essential to a truly healthy eco-system. NOT only do they control the populations of prey animals from mice to diseased elk they also keep other predators such as coyotes under control.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
Davi-Ann Mason
26502 172nd Place SE
Covington, WA 98042

From: sallygrant@att.net
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:50:16 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I appreciate the effort contributed by the Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on a plan meant to re-establish a naturally producing and viable wolf population in the state of Washington and to minimize impacts to livestock owners in a way that will not impact the recovery of the wolf. Obviously a great deal of time and thought has been put into the plan and I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments toward its further refinement. I support Alternative 3, but with an increased target number of breeding pairs.

People and wolves have lived together in the Northwest for thousands of years and we can E#continue to do so. We share a responsibility to not let any wild species go extinct on our watch.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
sally grant
1213 JUNO SE
E Wenatchee, WA 98802

From: DIANNBRITT@HOTMAIL.COM
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:51:21 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

My husband, Bob Comer, is an active hunter and feels that introducing wolves in the Olympics is an unnecessary action. Having the wolves in the Cascades is enough. They will wipe out the Elk herds that are established in the area. He also feels they will not stay in the Olympics but will stray down in the valleys, killing domestic animals along the way.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
Diann Britt
517 Cloquallum Road
Elma, WA 98541

From: JMANKAUSKAS@GMAIL.COM
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 1:50:56 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

I am very much opposed to wolves in Washington State. NO WOLVES IN WASHINGTON! PLEASE.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
J Jankauskas
5912 92nd Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

From: [T K](#)
To: [SEPADesk \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Washington Wolf Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 8:12:18 AM

We made mistakes in the past by almost wiping out many kinds of important wildlife in the West, including the wolf, and now science has taught us just how vital they are to maintaining a healthy, functioning balance of predator and prey in the wild. We have the responsibility to restore wolves and find ways to live with them in their native lands here in Washington.

I support Alternative 3 in the plan because it provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be fully recovered in Washington State.

A healthy wolf population means a balance returns to our ecosystem.

Let's follow sound science.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Teresa Kurtzhall

PO Box 143

Elk, WA.

99009-0143

From: [S B](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: · RE: the wolf plan -
Date: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 10:23:54 PM

· I hope you
will

· 1 -Eliminate the "caught in the
act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and
threatened phases of recovery.

· 2 - Increase the number of
established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed

· 3 - provide a stronger evaluation of
the state's habitat connectivity to other regions

· 4 - provide details on how
connectivity will be improved over time.

· 5 - Provide separate population
recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and
increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives. 6-
Support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to
speeding recovery

SCOTT.

From: [Estes, Michael L](#)
To: [Novack, Anthony J \(DFW\)](#); [Tayer, Jeff J \(DFW\)](#); ["madonna.leurs@dfw.wa.gov"](#); [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
cc: ["Marilyn Steele"](#); ["GAYLORD PYLE"](#); ["Emanthos@aol.com"](#); ["Legmyg@aol.com"](#); [eiwoh3@verizon.net](#); [Schielke, Dale R](#); [Myers, David A \(Dave\)](#); ["Stan Brogdon"](#); [PFKISON@aol.com](#);
Subject: Input to Wolf Plan: Montana Wolf-Elk Issues
Date: Monday, December 07, 2009 10:02:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Washington has the opportunity to learn from what is happening in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Elk numbers are diminishing rapidly in several areas due to wolf predation. Based on information in the following article, the Gallatin Canyon elk population has already plummeted by 80% and wolves are expected to kill roughly one-third of the remaining elk by next spring. There are expected to be as few as 5 hunting permits for an elk herd that used to number nearly 1,500 animals.

How long do you think it will be before Washington begins to experience similar reductions in game populations and hunting opportunity due to wolf predation? Adoption of Preferred Alternative (2) in the draft Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan will ultimately result in the virtual annihilation of Washington elk and deer herds.

I recommend that WDFW downlist wolves in eastern Washington from endangered to threatened status NOW! (Wolves in eastern Washington are no longer federally listed so the state has sole authority to immediately initiate this action.) I also recommend that WDFW make decisions about when to downlist wolves in any (each) of the three proposed recovery regions in Washington independent of the status of wolves in any other recovery area.

I recommend that WDFW reduce from 3 to 2 the number of consecutive years that known breeding pairs are present before delisting begins. Much too much time will have elapsed by the time that WDFW locates wolves, confirms that there is a breeding pair, confirms that there are pups, confirms that the pups survived, etc., and then begin the delisting process.

Downlist wolves from threatened to sensitive when 6 pairs are present for 2 consecutive years anywhere in the state. The suggestion of requiring 5 pairs in the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast "region" to downgrade the species to sensitive is pure lunacy. By the time that happens, there will likely be hundreds of wolves in the state and wolf pairs and numbers in the eastern Washington region will have long, long exceeded the number at which viable game populations can be

sustained.

Delist wolves entirely when 8 pairs are present for 2 consecutive years anywhere in the state. Political realities assure that it will take decades after wolves are fully recovered in Washington for WDFS to fully delist wolves. The recovery targets need to be reduced so that the downlisting processes start sooner, to compensate for the extra time that will be added to the back end of the process to get the final decisions approved through the feds and the court system.

Mike Estes
3419 S. Jean Street
Kennewick, WA 99337

<http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2009/12/04/news/200elk.txt>

Elk hunters vent at public hearing

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

**BOZEMAN DAILY
CHRONICLE**
SERVING SOUTHWEST MONTANA SINCE 1911

Sunday, December 06, 2009

published on Thursday, December 3, 2009 10:28 PM MST
By DANIEL PERSON Chronicle Staff Writer

More than 100 hunters frustrated with the toll wolves are taking on the Gallatin Canyon's elk population packed a large garage at the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Bozeman headquarters, calling for the state to do more to address the wolf pack that is ravaging the herd.

“If you don’t deal with the wolves there, we’re not going to have an elk herd. You’ve got to deal with the wolves,” called one man in the standing-room-only crowd.

But wildlife officials said that while they have strong data showing the once-abundant elk population in the upper-Gallatin Canyon has plummeted in recent years, and data showing wolves are largely to blame, the politics of the predator prevent the agency from taking steps to curb the number of wolves in that area.

Montana established a conservative wolf quota for the state’s first ever fair-chase wolf hunt this year in hopes of keeping the animal off the Endangered Species List, Kurt Alt, wildlife biologist for the Bozeman region, said. Still, a federal judge is considering re-listing the wolf, making it difficult for wildlife officials to plan for how they will be able to manage wolves in the near future.

“The ball in the wolf world is bouncing around a lot,” he told the crowd from an aluminum ladder, with a hanging elk carcass as a backdrop. Instead, biologists here are looking at ways to reduce the number of elk taken by hunters. A proposal to the FWP commission would move hunting district 310, which covers the upper-Gallatin Canyon, from an unlimited, either sex elk permit hunt to a limited either sex permit n with a biennial quota of between five and 450.

While elk numbers in the Gallatin Canyon hovered around 1,500 between the 1940s and 2005, the wintering elk herd now sits at around 300, said Julie Cunningham, FWP wildlife biologist for the Gallatin and Madison valleys.

Cunningham said there are 16 wolves in the Gallatin Canyon, which will take 107 elk between Nov. 1 and April 30, at the fewest.

The limited elk permit plan will go before the commission next Thursday, then go out for further public comment.

Daniel Person can be reached at dperson@dailychronicle.com or 582-2665.

From: [d.g](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: wolves
Date: Thursday, December 03, 2009 7:09:31 PM

what is the deal here? its proven that the wolves are killing are deer and elk! tracks,kills,howls,encounters,no coyotes,radio collers! we "hunters" and the government both know they are around and they are killing are game. lets get this problem solved before "good people" get busted for shooting them and dropping puppies with parvo on all the ridges to get rid of them! are we going to have to get alot of people together and go walk around in the woods untill attacked by these stupid animals and kill them. that is whats going to happen if we dont get some signs of movement to get these wolves out of are land! josh weeks spokane valley 509-991-2949.

Chat with Messenger straight from your Hotmail inbox. [Check it out](#)

From: scrubgayle@yahoo.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 8:57:50 AM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Apparently we are still learning life's lessons the hard way. God put us here not only as consumers but as stewards of this planet. As stewards we have a responsibility to protect that which keeps this world in balance. We have no right, nor is it wise in the long-run, to try to re-arrange the eco-systems of our world. Every creature on earth has its purpose.

Please preserve all species....including the wolves in Washington. Maintain enough healthy packs to ensure their continued survival. It's the wise thing to do.

Sincerely,
Gail Miller
807 N. Cushman Ave
Tacoma, WA 98403

From: [HabitatsNW](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Fwd: WDFW News Release: Still time to comment on Washington's draft wolf management plan
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 1:17:24 PM

15 Wa packs, before delisting, in Wa is about three times what we should allow in (sec 3.1). Unlike other western states, Washington has a very high of human population and also intensive tribal hunters harvesting on our deer and elk herds already.

If we are stuck with 15 packs then the "preferred" Alternative 2 isn't too bad but there are elements of Alternative 1 that I prefer, specifically that Alternative 1 eliminates the option of WDFW managing undulates specifically to benefit wolves in certain cases.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "WDFW Public Affairs" <do.not.reply@dfw.wa.gov>
To: "Brad Johnson" <habitatsnw@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 9:48:38 AM GMT -08:00 US/Canada Pacific
Subject: WDFW News Release: Still time to comment on Washington's draft wolf management plan

WDFW NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

December 8, 2009

Contact: WDFW Wildlife Program, (360) 902-2515

Still time to comment on Washington's draft wolf management plan

OLYMPIA-The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will continue to accept public comments for another month on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a state wolf conservation and management plan.

Released Oct. 5, the draft plan is the preferred alternative among four presented in a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS was prepared under requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and is available on the WDFW website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/. Desk copies of the DEIS also are available at WDFW regional offices and public libraries. Those unable to view or download the DEIS from WDFW's website can request paper or compact-disc copies by calling (360) 902-2515.

Comments can be submitted through 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 8, electronically at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html, by FAX to (360) 902-2946, or by U.S. Mail to: WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Meanwhile, audio files of comments made at public meetings on the DEIS and plan are available on the WDFW website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/meeting_schedule.html. Twelve public review meetings were held in October and November, and were attended by

a total of 1,157 people.

The draft plan has been under development by WDFW staff since early 2007, with the help of a 17-member citizen advisory group. The draft plan has been reviewed by wolf experts and other scientists and is currently undergoing a blind academic peer review. Following the public and scientific review process, a final wolf conservation and management plan will be prepared for presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for consideration late next year.

There are no federal or state plans to reintroduce wolves into Washington.

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) was removed from the state by the 1930s through hunting and trapping programs, and remains federally protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the western two-thirds of Washington, and throughout Washington under state law (RCW77.15.120). Washington's first breeding wolf pack in at least 70 years was found in western Okanogan County in July 2008, and a second breeding pack was confirmed in Pend Oreille County last July.

This message has been sent to the WDFW All Information mailing list.

Visit the WDFW News Release Archive at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/>

To UNSUBSCRIBE from this mailing list: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lists/unsubscribe.htm>

From: jlcooney@jcooney.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: WA Wolves EIS
Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 11:12:30 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to see strict limits put in place on the target number of wolves planned in Washington and the ability to reduce the numbers if deer, elk and moose populations decline. We do not want to see what is happening in Idaho and Montana, happen in Washington. I have seen first hand what the wolves have done to the elk herds in the Idaho Clearwater area. I also call your attention to a recent article the Billings Gazette wherein the Montana Fish and Wildlife Dept confirmed that wolves are responsible for the crash of the Gallatin Valley Elk herd. In 2005 the herd numbers were at 1,500 elk. Today, as a direct result of wolves, that same herd has only approximately 200 elk remaining. Unless action is taken many believe that elk herd will be wiped out. Any plan for establishing a wolf population needs to allow for reducing the number of wolves BEFORE other animal populations significantly decline.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Sincerely,
James Cooney
10202 N Edna St
Spokane WA 99208

From: [Chavis, Scott -Potelco](#)
To: SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov;
Subject: wolves
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 10:36:53 AM

I am a life long hunter, I do not believe wolves are a good idea for our deer and elk herds. Its hard enough to be successful, now we get to compete with wolves along with the other predators in the wild and the poachers???? Doesn't make any sense!!!!

Scott Chavis

From: glen@olywa.net
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Monday, December 07, 2009 10:52:14 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Please accept my following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Thanks to the Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for working toward re-establishing wolves to be sustainable in our statae, while also protecting livestock's safety.

Alternative 3 seems best.

Would you please increase the number of breeding pairs? The number 15 seems too low. Much research suggests that 3 times as many might be needed for maintaining a viable population on a sustainable basis.

Would you please deal with the Pacific Coastal Region as a SEPARATE recovery area? Please designate the Olympic Peninsula and Mt. St. Helens area as primary translocation areas.

Thank you for all your good work!

Humans and wolves have lived together in this region for thousands of years. We can do so again.

Sincerely,
Glen a
5015 15th Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503-2723

From: spacepuppy@harbornet.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Monday, December 07, 2009 8:38:01 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I respectfully submit the following comments DO NOT DUMP WOLVES ON US.WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH BEARS AND MOUNTAIN LIONS,INCLUDING KIDS THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED. INSTEAD OF ACTING LIKE NO ONE LIVES HERE IN THE WEST,BE AWARE THAT THIS IS NO LONGER THE WILD WILD WEST. SO I SUGGEST WE DUMP THE WOLFES,BEARS,LIONS,IN THE PARKS IN NEW YORK, WASH.DC AND ETC. SOUND FAR FETCHED? WELL THAT IS WHAT YOU THINK IS OK TO DUMP THEM IN OUR PARKS,WHERE FAMILIES HIKE THROUGH.

WHEREVER YOU PUT AN ANIMAL, THEY WILL SPREAD OUT AND THEN MORE PEOPLE ARE HURT AND KILLED.

PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS. RAY DARRAH

Sincerely,
Raymond Darrah
6708 E M Street
Tacoma, WA 98404

From: [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 11:01:58 AM

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comments

From: Beach, Rocky (DFW)
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 10:47 AM
To: Allen, Harriet L (DFW); Wiles, Gary J (DFW)
Subject: FW: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS

Please make sure this makes it to proper place.

From: Richard Curtis [mailto:rlc314@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 10:37 AM
To: Beach, Rocky (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS

January 7, 2010

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comments
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept my comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington State. Thank you for an opportunity to comment. As a farm forester, I have witnessed first hand the impact overpopulation of species can have on a tree plantation and an ecosystem. As a fisherman, hunter and hiker, I am very interested in maintaining and protecting healthy, balanced ecosystems. For that reason, my interest in seeing the return of wolves to our ecosystems is very high. However in reading through the DEIS I have several comments and concerns that have been presented below.

Benefits of Natural Predators

The benefits natural predators have on the ecosystem are well known and have been documented in many respected scientific journals by many researchers for many years. The primary goal of restoring wolves to Washington must be that wolves attain a genetically viable population on our public lands and in our national parks. In a recent article in "BioScience: The Journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences", December 2009 issue, a group of distinguished academic biologists discuss the important role the wolf plays as top predator, preventing overpopulation and the over-browsing by ungulates that have adversely impacted ecosystems in many areas such as Olympic National Park. Researchers in Yellowstone National Park have documented and provided excellent examples of the beneficial effect the recovery of wolves has had in dramatically reversing the negative impacts of elk on the riparian areas, especially in places like the Lamar Valley. The authors make it clear that adequate protection of natural predators is required to restore balance to the ecosystem. As one of the authors of the article, Dr. Brad Bergstrom said, "We are fighting myth, prejudice, and even a visceral hatred of wolves among some parts of society to convince people of the value of this 'keystone predator' to the health of its native ecosystems."

Other researchers have shown that wolves increase biodiversity through changes in elk behavior more than elk populations. Without wolves, deer and elk tend to browse and eliminate river bottom willows and other riparian vegetation. This in turn results in salmon, trout, bull trout and other native fish losing both their shade, resulting in higher water temperatures, and their food, as insects no longer fall from overhanging brush. Also without wolves, elk tend to camp out in meadows and riparian areas adversely impacting the growth of natural vegetation and habitat essential to songbirds, mammals and other species. Remove the wolves and there is an adverse impact on fisheries, songbirds, game birds and native vegetation. The effect is called a trophic cascade and WDFW biologists must take that into account in managing predators such as wolves. A recent study "Wolves, Trophic Cascades, and Rivers in the Olympic National Park, USA", 2008, by Robert L. Beschta and William J. Ripple at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, documents the cascading effect resulting from the extirpation of wolves from the current Park area in the early 1900s. The study may explain some of the problems the Park is experiencing. The wolves were removed in

the misguided opinion that the ecosystem would be better without them and to improve hunting opportunities as well. However, by focusing only on increasing hunter satisfaction through the removal of wolves, the elk were more comfortable hanging out along streamsides and lowlands perhaps making hunter success higher.

However, trophic cascades work both ways in wildlife management. For example, when wolves are removed, coyote populations will likely increase, adversely impacting game bird populations. Riparian areas are over-browsed as well with adverse impacts on the fisheries. Enhance one opportunity, and others are adversely affected. Balance is the key to a healthy ecosystem. Clearly and above all, we must ensure scientific integrity is a key element of the Plan. All stakeholders must be engaged and have an equal voice in the development of a Plan to ensure the restoration of wolves to Washington and especially the national parks that grace our state.

How will WDFW Plan take into consideration the overall impact of predators, balancing the beneficial impacts of wolves on the ecosystem as opposed to the hunter perception that elk numbers will be reduced? How will the Plan ensure that the latest scientific research is utilized to manage wolf recovery? Will scientific research be the ultimate tool used for decision making or will political pressures dominate?

Target Population Numbers

Wolf population targets are too low and inconsistent with either the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations or the latest scientific research. According to a new study by University of Adelaide and Macquarie University, scientists have shown that populations of endangered species are unlikely to persist in the face of global climate change and habitat loss unless their population numbers are much higher. The findings have been published online in a paper 'Pragmatic population viability targets in a rapidly changing world' in the journal "Biological Conservation". To quote the authors -

"Conservation biologists routinely underestimate or ignore the number of animals or plants required to prevent extinction," according to lead author Dr Lochran Traill, from the University of Adelaide's Environment Institute. "Often, they aim to maintain

tens or hundreds of individuals, when thousands are actually needed. Our review found that populations smaller than about 5000 had unacceptably high extinction rates. This suggests that many targets for conservation recovery are simply too small to do much good in the long run."

The focus of species restoration programs is often the '50/500' rule that at least 50 adults are required to avoid the damaging effects of inbreeding, and 500 to avoid extinctions due to the inability to evolve to cope with environmental change. Again to quote one of the authors of the research –

"Our research suggests that the 50/500 rule is at least an order of magnitude too small to effectively stave off extinction," according to Dr Traill. "This does not necessarily imply that populations smaller than 5000 are doomed. But it does highlight the challenge that small populations face in adapting to a rapidly changing world."

It would appear that the current Target Wolf Numbers in the Plan are clearly not based on science and removing protection for wolves while ignoring the latest scientific research is unacceptable.

Inbreeding problems with wolves in Yellowstone have been noted such as rat tails on wolves and diseases such as distemper and perhaps the mange outbreaks. How were the Target Wolf Numbers in the Plan established in light of recent research? How will genetic variation be monitored to assure a healthy population of wolves?

Olympic National Park

The DEIS does not adequately address the reestablishment of wolves to Olympic National Park or the public lands surrounding the Park. In particular, the geography itself presents a problem as the Park sits on the far end of a peninsula and there are no obvious migration corridors through the existing intense urban development and highway infrastructure in western Washington and the Puget Sound area. It is also unlikely wolves will be inclined or able to swim across Puget Sound to reach the peninsula. The migration impediments are substantial and multilayered. For example, if a wolf managed to survive an encounter with I-5, I-90, Hwy 101 or other high speed highways, they would most likely be spotted by rural or urban residents and quickly removed by either lethal, non-lethal, or shoot, shovel

and shutup methodologies. To expect sufficient numbers of wolves to magically levitate through the I-5 and I-90 corridors and the urbanized Puget Sound region and form a healthy gene pool in Olympic National Park in any reasonable or acceptable timeframe is simply ludicrous. The deadly moles now imposed by extensive human development will effectively preclude access to the Olympic Peninsula without human intervention and translocation.

However, the restoration of wolves to the ONP must be a priority as they played a key role in preserving the natural ecological functioning of the Park. We have seen the beneficial impact the wolves have had in Yellowstone National Park and research has indicated that the role of predators historically was essential to a balanced ecosystem in ONP. The Mission of the National Parks is among other things to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein..." How can the Mission of our National Parks be achieved when one of the key natural predators has been extirpated by humans? Clearly, wolves must be reintroduced into the Park and translocation is the only logical way to bring that to fruition. Alternative 2 of the Draft Plan recommends (Section 3.2.2 Alternative 2 - line 17) translocation, "if needed". However the term "if needed" is never defined. The DEIS/Plan also states in the same paragraph under Translocation that "translocation would be used if wolves fail to reach one or more recovery regions through natural dispersal.", but again neither a timetable nor numbers of wolves are identified. A plan without a timetable and measurable objectives is not acceptable and gives the appearance that the whole management exercise is a hollow sham. The wolves were returned to Yellowstone and the intermountain area on a predetermined schedule and the result has served the environment well and significantly advanced the science and understanding of predator/prey relationships.

What are the probabilities that a pair of wolves will successfully migrate through the Puget Sound area and cross I-5 or I-90 on their own? What are the safe migration corridors available for wolves to migrate to ONP? What will happen to wolves that are captured if they are trying to migrate through the Puget Sound area? Will a specific timetable be set for returning wolves to ONP? If not, why not? What is the timeline for returning wolves to the ONP ecosystem? Since there are so many unforgiving hurdles to migration of wolves to ONP, what is being done to ameliorate the hurdles? Will

translocation of wolves to be a part of the Plan for the ONP?

Livestock depredation

There are many ways to protect livestock from wolves that can and should be used when domestic animals are on private lands and when we permit them to use our public lands. For private lands, fencing, guard animals, fladry and other deterrents have been found to be very effective. On public lands it must be remembered that the individuals that elect to use those lands are there only because they are granted that privilege and not because they have a birthright to the land. When you borrow a dog, you also get the fleas as part of the bargain. Therefore we should not be spending public funds to further subsidize the usage of our public lands by destroying the natural predators that also depend on those public lands. Ranchers must be mandated to use accepted methods of protection for their livestock. Ranchers must also be required to promptly remove the carcasses of livestock that have died to eliminate the attraction of wolves.

What methods will be required by the state to protect livestock in areas frequented by wolves? How will these deterrents be monitored to ensure they are being used? What requirements will be mandated for ranchers to remove dead livestock to eliminate the attraction of predators? What resources (money and personnel) will be provided by the state for enforcement? What are the probabilities that livestock will be killed by a wolf in comparison to the probabilities that it will die of other causes?

Every year in states where wolves are now present, far more livestock are killed by weather, both too hot and too cold, disease, dogs, injury, and other natural predators than by wolves. For example, during just one blizzard that hit Montana in April of 2009 thousands of livestock killed. The total probable deaths from wolves in 2008 were just 77 and those were reimbursed by Defenders of Wildlife. The question is why are we concerned about controlling wolves, a natural predator on our public lands, and unable to put that in perspective with other major causes of livestock losses on public and private lands? In Idaho and Montana when wolves appear to be responsible for killing livestock, regardless of the circumstances, the wolf packs are routinely completely eliminated by lethal control methods

including the use of aircraft. A recent example is the killing of the popular Basin Butte Pack living in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of Idaho. This was not an “incremental” control method as the Plan suggests is typical (Page 27, Line 22) of control efforts. Not only was the action very costly and wasteful for taxpayers but has outraged the people living in and visiting the area. The action was prompted by the possible killing of 2 cows, and calf over a three month period. The control costs far exceeded the value of the livestock

Does the WDFW plan to allow such draconian, wasteful, and costly control actions in Washington? What are the specific limits of lethal control methods for the Plan and where are they specifically identified in the Plan? What are the accepted control methods and do they envision the costly, risky, and obnoxious use of aircraft over public lands?

Recovery Regions

I am in complete disagreement with the proposed recovery regions in Alternatives 1 & 2. The establishment of a Pacific Coast region as recommended in Alternative 3, is essential as the region is decoupled from the other areas of the state by the Puget Sound and the I-5 urbanized transportation corridor. The Pacific Coast region has much different habitat, landscape, weather and environment that the other areas of the state. But most importantly the region contains our unique Olympic National Park located on the Olympic Peninsula. The maps in the DEIS are deceptive in not showing the Puget Sound waters penetrating over half the state in a north to south axis and largely decoupling the Pacific Region from the rest of the state. When the I-5 transportation corridor (both highways and rail lines) is factored in, the decoupling is complete. The DEIS and any subsequent plan must recognize and include a separate Pacific Coast Region.

What impact does the Puget Sound waterway have on migration of wolves to the Pacific Coast Region and the ONP? What impact does the I-5 transportation corridor have on migration of wolves to the Pacific Coast Region and the ONP? In view of the significant habitat, geography, marine environment and other differences, how does the DEIS/Plan justify not establishing a Pacific Coast Region?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS/Plan. Please consider my comments and include them as part of the hearing record.

Richard Curtis
PO Box 451
Ethel, WA 98542
(360) 266-9905

From: [Arlene Vessey](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: I support ALT 1A the responsible approach to Wolf management
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 2:57:39 PM

From: [Dave Duncan](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\); Director \(DFW\); Commission \(DFW\); Mankowski, John \(GOV\);](#)
Subject: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan DEIS
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 11:13:26 AM
Attachments: [Final DRAft Wolf Plan 12-28-09.doc](#)

"Wolf Conservation &
Management Plan DEIS"

The (DEIS) alternatives 1, 2 and 3 for wolf recovery and management are unacceptable and Alternate 4 "no plan" is also unacceptable.

I support Alt1A (see attached) The Responsible Approach to Wolf Management for Washington State.

Thank You Dave Duncan, 4636 Weaver Rd, Ellensburg, Wa. 98926
ph. 509-899-1629

From: [Mark W. Crowley](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management"
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:41:48 AM

I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management and request that you approve this alternative.

Mark Crowley
PO Box 751
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

From: [Cruse and Associates](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:29:29 AM

WDFW,

I have hunted MT and ID before and after the wolves have been re-introduced and it appears to me that wolf recovery is not the issue as the populations have exploded over the last decade but management of wolves should be the primary focus of this plan. I believe we need to downlist the wolf immediately to allow for WDFW and/or federal agencies to be able to manage the wolves in times of conflict. Most of the comments I have heard and read have been in reference to domestic stock but do not see anywhere WDFW can manage wolves if they are eliminating our fragile herds of sheep, moose , and goats or other threatened/endangered species the state has spent much time and money to establish and protect.

I attended the Yakima public hearing and have reviewed the draft plan and do not support this plan or any of the alternatives given for the wolf recovery plan. I would support a plan the allows for WDFW to be able to manage and control problem wolves immediately if needed. I am not stating that any wolves need to be hunted, destroyed, or removed but allow for management of problem packs if conflicts arise. Please contact me at the number below with any questions.

Thanks

Chris Cruse, P.L.S.

Cruse & Associates

217 East 4th. Ave.

Ellensburg, WA 98926

(509)962-8242

cruseandassoc@kvalley.com

From: [Todd Lambertson](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:40:59 PM

Hello,

My name is Todd Lambertson, and I'm an avid Washington State sportsman. I spend a tidy sum on licenses, gear, and all the other necessities that come with hunting and fishing in this state (gas, hotels, restaurants, etc.).

I am firmly against the reintroduction of the wolf here in Washington. I am having a hard time understanding the logic in bringing in another predator - one that has such a huge impact on the elk and deer herds.

Maybe at one time when our country was more rural, wolves took a more active role in the ecology. However, with urbanization comes barriers, and I don't believe the damage wolves will bring to farmers, ranchers, and the impact it will have on the wildlife in Washington State is worth it.

To be a bit more blunt, if the conservationists need to hear a wolf baying at the moon, they can vacation in Canada.

Thank you,

Todd Lambertson

From: [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management".
Date: Monday, January 04, 2010 2:49:04 PM

OK - Here's one...

From: Director (DFW)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 8:41 AM
To: Allen, Harriet L (DFW)
Subject: FW: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management".

Forwarded from the Director's email.

Thank you,
***Irene**

From: Joe Thomas [mailto:jthomas50@my180.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 8:36 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: "I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management".

Dear Mr. Phil Anderson:

I support Alt. 1A, The Responsible Approach to wolf management.

Thank You,

Joe Thomas
1958 Ibberson Road
Prescott, WA 99348-9607

From: [Barbara Guthrie](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: COMMENTS TO DRAFT PLAN-WOLF RECOVERY IN WASHINGTON
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009 12:11:54 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I'm one of the lucky ones...I've witnessed wolves in the wild. A couple of years ago on a winter trip to Yellowstone, we were treated to wolf sightings. While there, my husband and I learned of the ecosystem response and recovery that occurred when wolves returned as top predator to the region.

Now that wolves have made their return to Washington State, we need to ensure their continued presence and recovery in areas they formerly roamed. Just as the Yellowstone Ecosystem was made whole by the reintroduction of wolves, we need to support wolf recovery in our state to restore the Olympic and Cascade ecosystems.

Recently a study was released showing the degradation of vegetation and riparian areas in the Olympics due to overgrazing by Elk. The absence of wolves has changed the roaming and foraging pattern of elk., causing a reduction of vegetation and increasing erosion. We need to promote and support the return of the top predator to this region, to allow the healing and restoration of our treasured mountain landscapes.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to further strengthen the working group's plan:

* Increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed, or provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions and details on how connectivity will be improved over time. .

* Provide separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives.

* Eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective

approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

* Support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plan.

Thank you making sure Washington state's plan is visionary, pragmatic, and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone, including the wolves.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Guthrie

18531 Ashworth Ave N.

SHORELINE, WA 98133

From: [Hewitt, Sen. Mike](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: FW: Constituent: Wolf Management Plan
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009 11:12:09 AM

The following is submitted as public comment.

Senator Mike Hewitt
Senate Republican Leader; 16th District
360-786-7630

-----Original Message-----

From: bobwendi@my180.net [<mailto:bobwendi@my180.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 11:07 AM
To: Hewitt, Sen. Mike
Cc: Walsh, Rep. Maureen; Nealey, Rep. Terry
Subject: Constituent: Wolf Management Plan

HOUSE INTERNET E-MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE
SENATE INTERNET E-MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

TO: Senator Mike Hewitt

CC: Representative Maureen Walsh
Representative Terry Nealey

FROM: Mr. Bob Martin(Constituent)

STREET ADDRESS:
1960 Amelia St
Walla Walla, WA 99362-3605

E-MAIL: bobwendi@my180.net

PHONE: (509) 524 - 0183

SUBJECT: Wolf Management Plan

MESSAGE:

Federal Endangered Species Act protects wolves in only western Wash. Sloppily written RCW77.15.120 adds eastern Wash to the range of protection for this species. The RCW needs to be amended to reflect only the protection intended

by ESA.

The WDFW Draft Plan for wolf management requires a management region be established for eastern Washington and goes on to require a minimum of 2 breeding pairs plus a potential of six more breeding pairs in Eastern Washington (listed in the draft as anywhere in the state) to delist the gray wolf from protection under RCW77.15.120. despite the fact that ESA only addressed the species in the western part of the state.

The draft plan also provides for translocation of wolves to establish new populations presumably into eastern Washington since WDFW insists there are no wolves in eastern Washington.

Please! Stop the needless introduction and proliferation of wolves in eastern Washington by amending the existing RCW 77.15.120 to comply with the original intent of ESA. Thank you for your service and for your attention our concerns.
Bob Martin

NOTE: We are 99% sure that this constituent is in your district

RESPONSE REQUESTED: Mr. Martin has requested a response to this message.

From: [L Bergen](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Wolves in WA
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009 5:01:45 PM

Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

As a citizen of Washington, I value wolves and their positive effect on ecosystems. My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat.

I also believe that having a wolf population is a unique way of promoting tourism in this state. Personally I have taken numerous trips with friends and family to both Alaska and to Yellowstone National Park. In both those areas, I met many others who had expressly traveled there on vacation to see wolves. So there are a lot of us out here who enjoy knowing that wolves are re-populating some areas and are willing to spend our vacation dollars to see them.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to further strengthen the working group's plan:

* Increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed, or provide a stronger evaluation of the

state's habitat connectivity to other regions and details on how connectivity will be improved over time. A significant number of scientific reviewers believe that the department's numbers for delisting were low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery.

* Provide separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives.

* Eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

* Support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plan.

Thank you making sure Washington state's plan is visionary, pragmatic, and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone, including the wolves.

Sincerely,

Linda Bergen
820 Iowa Heights Rd
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

From: rkjarve.wa@netzero.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: wolves
Date: Friday, December 11, 2009 3:45:44 PM

With all due respect to wildlife in general (I am a hunter and viewer of wildlife), I cannot agree to an alternative plan that includes the interference of humans to help wolves reintroduce into other areas of the state other than where they have "reintroduced" themselves. Most people will argue that we must make right what we believe was a bad mistake by our ancestors. Wrong. Many of our neighboring states have just now been able to take control of their own wolf populations from federal control. In the mean time the wolves have been taking it upon themselves to impact the hunting industry in many areas. Wolves are very prolific. They don't need our help. Most people who would be in favor of giving wolves free reign will never travel into the wildness to enjoy the experience of seeing one anyway.

Quite frankly I don't believe our state is up to the challenge. I have been hunting deer in Idaho the last three years. There are a lot more issues the game department needs to address that being a nanny for wolves. I would rather see my money go to help deer and elk to be reintroduced, so we could at least have a "viewing" season.

The statistics on protected wolves in other western shows that wolf deaths come more from conflicts with humans than from natural causes. It is a very slippery issue to bring wolves back to areas that will by default push them into conflicts with humans. It's not fair to the wolves. It is irresponsible to make ourselves feel all warm and fuzzy for helping out a species that will ultimately be punished, with their lives, for the charity of those believing it is best for everyone. Leave the wolves alone. They haven't needed our help so far.

Rob Jarvis
North Bend

From: [Wiles, Gary J \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Eturaspe, Teresa A \(DFW\)](#);
cc: [Allen, Harriet L \(DFW\)](#); [Arocho, Cody M \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: FW: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan For Washington
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 11:33:08 AM

Teresa,

Here's a comment on the draft wolf plan that came into our "Wildthing" email address here at the Wildlife Program.

Gary

From: David M. Klinger [mailto:dklinger@nwi.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 7:37 AM
To: Wildthing (DFW)
Cc: David M. Klinger
Subject: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan For Washington

Re: Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan & EIS.

The following is a less disjointed account of my brief testimony before the Public Hearing you held in Wenatchee, Washington on 10 November, 2009.

My name is David M. Klinger, Leavenworth, Washington. I am an outdoorsman and I came to the state from Alaska 30 years ago. I have had contact with wolves in the wild and in each case it was a positive experience. We can tolerate wolves in Washington.

I favor the return of the wolf since I believe it will result in a more balance and healthy ecosystem in the state. We should be prepared to relocate wolves within the state. During the returning process we should provide complete protection until the maximum population objectives have been reached in all regions. There should be no quick delisting until the above populations have been achieved. We need to facilitate connectivity between habitat areas. The plan should include a fourth region covering the Olympic Peninsula with a separate objective different from the objective for the Northern Cascades. I do favor EIS Alternative 3. I believe that the presence of wolves will result in healthier deer and elk herds and improve the environment overall.

We can tolerate the wolf in Washington State. We just have to agree to do it. Education will be a key element of the plan. Thank you.

Additional comments:

Funding: This plan should not be implemented until adequate funding can be achieved. Without funding there can not be proper enforcement of the plan.

Livestock Farming: I can understand the concern of the local rancher but I believe that non lethal measures, such as guard dogs, can be employed. There should be a compensation program for proven wolf kills.

Hunting: I am not as sympathetic with hunters concerns as I think our deer and elk population will improve if the wolf is present. I see too many hunters riding around on our mountain road waiting for a deer to show up at the road. Those who get out into the bush and stalk their pray give the target a better chance to survive.

David M. Klinger
P.O. Box 537,
Leavenworth, WA 98826
(509) 548-5480
dklinger@nwi.net

From: [Debbie Carriere](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Help recover gray wolves in Washington
Date: Monday, December 21, 2009 5:31:27 PM

Now that wolves have started showing up in Washington—we have two confirmed packs in the state—it's important to make sure Washington's draft new wolf plan is visionary, pragmatic, and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone (including the wolves!).

Please visit Conservation Northwest, www.conservationnnw.org/gray-wolf, to see how you can weigh in for a visionary wolf conservation and management plan in Washington.

From: [Dave Shreffler](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Wolf Mgmt Plan
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009 3:22:24 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments. As I stated at the public hearing in Sequim, I support Alternative 3, but with higher population numbers than 15 pairs based on science not politics.

I begin with a few comments about the overall management plan, and then address some specific concerns about the preferred alternative.

Overall Plan

- One of the stated goals of this plan is:

Implementing conservation strategies that will result in the reestablishment of *a naturally reproducing and viable wolf population distributed in a significant portion of the species' former range in Washington*

- The stated goal of WDFW is to reestablish a *viable wolf population* and the goal of the livestock community is to have a population that does not require protection under the Endangered Species Act, the quickest way to achieve both of these goals is by **reintroducing** wolves into the state.
- I'm puzzled & frustrated by the repeated quotes in our local newspapers from the WDFW public information officer that *"Reintroduction is not going to happen. It's not in our plan. It never has been and never will be."*
- This "not now/not ever" statement sounds an awful lot like an ultimatum ... Why is WDFW conducting public hearings from a starting point of confrontation? From my perspective as a scientist, a wolf management plan that ignores reintroduction shouldn't even be presented to the public as a science-based plan; because a policy decision—no reintroduction—was made **before the best available science was ever considered.**

- The crux of the issue is that eliminating reintroduction significantly reduces the potential for genetic diversity in the state's wolf population.
- Reintroduction of wolves into Washington State should have been considered during the development of this plan, not thrown out before the process ever began.

Preferred Alternative

- The Olympic Peninsula certainly qualifies as “*a significant portion of the species' former range.*” Yet, given the many barriers wolves must cross to reach the Peninsula, they aren't going to get here without translocation or reintroduction.
- The preferred alternative, by ruling out reintroduction & limiting translocation to places other than the Olympic Peninsula, will likely have the overall effect of limiting the chances of wolves ever returning to the Olympic Peninsula.
- Limiting translocation of wolves to the Olympic Peninsula is exactly the opposite of what the science suggests, which is that the peninsula represents one of the best places in the entire state for wolves.
- The Olympic Peninsula should be identified in the plan as a **primary, preferred, and initial** translocation area.
- Why? Scientific documentation of the superb habitat & healthy prey populations in Olympic National Park & Forest, and low possibility of wolf/human conflict.
- Finally, the plan should have a **recovery goal specific to the Pacific Coast Region**. There's no scientific, or even common sense, justification for lumping the Pacific Coast Region with the Southern Cascades Recovery Region. These regions have different habitats, landscapes, and barriers to dispersal.

Sincerely,

Dave Shreffler

Dave Shreffler
Shreffler Environmental
3890 Lost Mountain Road
Sequim, WA 98382-7925
Work 360-582-1712
Cell 360-477-2558

*Research & Consulting in Fisheries Biology,
Nearshore Ecology & Ecological Restoration*

From: [Susan](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Wolf Plan for official record
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009 7:33:45 AM
Attachments: [Susan Hobbs Comments on Wolf Management.doc](#)

Please find my comments (attached) on the DEIS.

Susan Hobbs
P.O. Box 516
142 Heritage Lane
Ione, WA 99139
509-442-3578

From: [Bowen, James](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan comments
Date: Monday, December 21, 2009 8:48:46 AM

You are condemning all ungulate populations in this state to a painful and horrible death in exchange for allowing wolves to re-populate here. This will end all Big Game hunting as we know it. Since it's been shown that wolves hunt for sport and kill without need I can't see how this is a good idea at all. Just check with Idaho and how well their elk and deer populations are doing now that wolves are established there. I realize there is little you can do since Olympia governs what you do and since this is mostly a political and emotional issue there is no easy way to stop this from happening. It just saddens me that hunting will eventually be ruined in this state just like it's happening in Idaho. I'm a strongly against the wolf reintroduction in our state as I think the bad far outweighs any good that can come of it.

Even more important is the public safety issue as wolves have already been found guilty of killing people all over the world including Russia (3 this year alone) as well as a dozen or more this decade including a man in Saskatchewan in 2005. This plan does nothing but put hunters, hikers, campers, fishermen, mountain bikers and any other outdoor enthusiast at risk of attack and death. It's already unnerving enough to deal with Mountain Lions and our bear population but at least they don't hunt in packs and actively hunt humans like wolves do.

I see this as no different than releasing convicted murderers into our state as there will surely be deaths due to this plan sooner or later. There is a reason that wolves were removed from most of the world and there just isn't room for them to come back, especially since the rural areas are shrinking and more and more families are moving out to the "country" to live. When children are put at risk due to bad governmental decisions it really bothers me on a base level and I see this as just a step in that direction. As a father of 2 little girls stories of "The Big Bad Wolf" take on a whole new meaning when I now have to take this into consideration while deer hunting in Okanogan county with my 5 year old girl.

Please, please, please reconsider this plan. I think it's a horrible idea and will end in much tragedy and grief especially as they spread all over our state.

Sincerely,

James A. Bowen
Wenatchee, WA 98801

From: Scheel@Lacamasdental.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 11:15:05 AM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for working to create a strong conservation and management plan that will support gray wolf recovery in Washington State. Wolves play an important part in regulating ecosystems and supporting biodiversity, and their recovery in Washington State could lead to more resilient ecosystems at a time when land managers are struggling to find ways to create ecosystem resilience to combat predicted climate-induced changes.

I would like to see the following changes incorporated because I think they are essential for true wolf recovery in Washington. The plan should increase the number of established breeding pairs before delisting is proposed. A significant number of scientists believe that the plan's target number of 15 breeding pairs is too low to provide for a sustainable wolf population.

The Department should provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions of Washington and detail plans to improve habitat connectivity over time to allow the natural dispersal of wolves throughout the state as indicated by the plan.

The "caught in the act" killing provision at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery should be eliminated. Given the history of poaching in this state with two wolves already confirmed killed within the last year and the high potential for misuse, this provision could negatively affect the plan's overarching goals.

The above is an obvious form letter that everyone has sent you. I hope you reconsider this move of introducing any wolves into our habitat in the state of WA. Our ancestors spent decades removing them for good reasons. Our deer and elk populations are already dwindling from lack of logging and the cease of using hounds for cougar control.

I worked for Gifford Pinchot National Forest early in my career on my way to becoming a doctor. I own one of the rare 60 acre pieces of land inside of the Gifford National Forest 6 miles out of Trout Lake. I have a degree in biology and I'm an avid sportsman. The introduction to the wolves would probably be one or a few steps in the direction of proving ignorance just like you did when you placed the spotted owl over logging. With idiots like Nancy

Ryke running our national forest I'm sure you won't listen to what anyone has to say but I am putting my two bits in.
Please wake up and learn from the other states in the Northwest that are living with their mistakes.

Dr. Gene W. Scheel DMD

Sincerely,

Dr. Gene W. Scheel DMD
Scheel@Lacamasdental.com

From: [Matt Hobbs](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Gray Wolf Comment for WDFW EIS
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 7:18:41 AM
Attachments: [Matt Hobbs official comment 12 15 09.doc](#)

Matt Hobbs, P.O. Box 516, Lone, WA 99139 would like to submit the following comments for the DEIS re: Gray Wolf Management.

Rather than offer these difficult to implement, maintain, and costly options, my suggestion would be the following. First, define what constitutes a problem wolf re: killing livestock. Then, allow those individuals who encounter problem wolves to shoot them (not poison, not trap), and require reporting of same. A penalty of such substantial size (perhaps \$10,000. and jail time) as to prevent abuse of the spirit of this simple plan, and rewards for reporting abuse should be widely broadcast.

If predation by wolves (once confirmed) finds the ungulate population dwindling to historic lows, only then should the DFW step in and implement a more aggressive plan.

Matthew J. Hobbs

From: [Jhuesemann](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Public Comment on Draft Plan for Wolves in Washington
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2010 6:38:21 PM

To: Commission (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Public Comments on Draft Plan

To the Department of Fish and Wildlife:

We support Alternative 3. Most citizens of Washington do.

The fact that DFW is supporting Alt. 2 shows that you made back room deals before you even held the hearings. The corruption involved is astounding, but perhaps, given rampant government corruption in this state and nationally, it should not be surprising.

Your "Wolf Hearings" across the state were deeply flawed . The vast majority of citizens prefer Alternative 3 and you know it -- at least you should know it. The corrupt official who was conducting these hearings was arrogant beyond belief and did not listen to or report many of the pro-Alternative 3 comments. Apparently he works directly or indirectly for the beef industry. We are, as a result, organizing a campaign to boycott beef both in the State of Washington and nationally.

We live near Olympic National Park on the WA Peninsula and want wolves translocated to Olympic National Park if in the future there are "too many" to suit the white trash cattlemen in Eastern WA. But even though the VAST majority of people on the Peninsula support Alternative 3, it was not favored in the report. This is disgusting beyond belief. If the white trash in Eastern WA do not want wolves, then let us have them in Olympic National Park. To deny us that is to condemn the wolf

**to
continuing persecution by the garbage inhabiting Eastern WA. A
tiny
minority of white trash welfare ranchers freeloading on the
public lands
should not be allowed to determine the future of
the wolf in WA.**

As citizens of Washington, we value wolves and their positive effect on ecosystems. My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to further strengthen the working group's plan:

- * Increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed, or provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions and details on how connectivity will be improved over time. A significant number of scientific reviewers believe that the department's numbers for delisting were low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery.
- * Provide separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives.
- * Eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

* Support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plan. Specifically, translocate to Olympic National Park.

Make sure Washington state's plan is visionary, pragmatic, and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone, including the wolves.

Dr. Michael and Dr. Joyce Huesemann
POB 998
P.O. Box 998, Carlsborg, WA 98324
Carlsborg, WA 98324

From: [Dr. Robert and Gail Stagman](#)
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 10:05:39 PM

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

My family and I have traveled widely to observe wild wolves including Yellowstone National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We have been overwhelmed by the majesty of these animals and extremely impressed by the strong economic stimulus provided to local communities by tourism to observe them. We strongly favor a vigorous effort to restore wild wolves to Washington.

We applaud the draft wolf conservation and management plan that you are now considering. However, there are glaring weaknesses in the plan that must be corrected to ensure that wolves are allowed to recover to a point of stable and healthy populations:

The department's numbers of established breeding pairs for delisting are too low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery.

Separate population recovery objectives should be provided for the Pacific Coast which has high quality wolf habitat and high public support.

The "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners during the endangered and threatened phases of recovery is a potentially lethal flaw in the plan with a serious risk of abuse. Far preferable would be provision of non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package.

The plan should support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plan.

Thank you for your efforts to assure a healthy and well tolerated wild wolf population for Washington.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dr. Robert and Gail Stagman
7401 92nd Place SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

From: profishguide@hotmail.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\);](#)
Subject: Comments on Washington State Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 10:44:56 AM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for working to create a strong management plan that will help a minimal gray wolf population in Washington State. Wolves were eliminated in Washington State for very good reasons and thier numbers should be kept at a minimun.

I would like to see the following: that the plan's target number of 15 breeding pairs is too high and will result in a large population in a short time.

The Department should provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions of Washington. If allowed the natural dispersal of wolves throughout the state and into areas where Wolves will cause problems with wildlife and domesticated livestock.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Frank Casey
 Vancouver, WA.
 Frank Casey
profishguide@hotmail.com

✓

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

We are lifelong residents and landowners of the Methow Valley, Twisp area.

In November of 2009 we could count 30 head of deer, both Mules and Whitetail, in our Twisp River alfalfa field.

We have cougar, bear, raccoons, wild turkeys, grouse, quail, chucker, and etc, in abundance in our area, also some lynx, bob-cats and badgers.

NOW WOLVES?

There is not a doubt these animals have been raised by humans, And been turned loose.

WE CAN'T BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT of FISH & GAME Would allow this to happen. You can't sell licenses and tags if There is No Game. Wolves are on top of the food chain. You will lose the deer herd, the turkeys and small game, all but the bear, will be depleted.

The local residents will suffer. All livestock and pets in the area will be unsafe. This will be a terrible blow to the farmers and cattlemen, who are just hanging on by a thread.

We feel the wolves should be trapped shipped out of our area. Maybe to the higher mountains. They are ranging too close to the town of Twisp.

Thank you for your time,

Charles & Billie Somerville

Charles Somerville
Billie Somerville

★
JH

Allen, Harriet L (DFW)

From: Director (DFW)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 7:58 AM
To: Allen, Harriet L (DFW)
Subject: FW: (no subject)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI..... *Irene

From: MChase0089@aol.com [mailto:MChase0089@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 5:00 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: Fwd: (no subject)

From: livestohunt@gmail.com
To: MChase0089@aol.com, tom.quailcreek@gmail.com
Sent: 12/12/2009 3:24:07 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
Subj: Re: (no subject)

On Sat, Dec 12, 2009 at 3:23 PM, Mark Pidgeon <livestohunt@gmail.com> wrote:

I strongly disagree with the the state's wof management plan. My first concern is that the state does not and will not have the resourses to manage the wolf population. With the huge budget deficit facing the state the Department of Wildlife's budget will be slashed. When it comes to critical stet services the Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget will feel the axe first and more heavily then other state agencies. The estimate is that the Department wil face a \$10 million budget cut. Keeping wolves in the eastern third of the state will be more cost-effective then over a broder range.

Secondly, there is no need to introduce them to other parts of the state. The wolf is nomadic by nature and will roam to other parts of the state on their own. Mother Nature is a better manager of natural resourses then any state agency.

Third, the wolf packs decimate elk and deer herds. The number one threat to elk herds is not over-hunting but the wolf. Mule deer herds are shrinking and they do not need another threat. Hibernating bears are killed by wold packs. Wolves are very predatory. Your wolf management plan is irresponsible to the prudent management of wildlife.

Fourth, there will be an enconomic impact to the Department of Fish and Wilflife by increasing the wolf's range. Whether you want to believe this or not, it is true. Hunters already have a negative image of DoFW and if this goes into effect you will see a decrease in lecnese fees. Hunters will know that there chance of harvesting game will greatly diminish if this plan goes into effect. Hunters know that they pay more in license fees then is allocated to the DoFW budget. With budget cuts looming, if you pass this you will see a huge decrease in hunting licenses and tag fees, and even greater loss in the Department's operating capital.

Fifth there is a public safety issue. By introducing wolves to the other two-thirds of the state you will see a greater chance of a hiker, camper, or backpage attacked or even killed by roaming wolf herds. This has happened in Canada. Sports Illustarted did a feature story on this. The last cougar kill was bicyclist in California. There are many popular trails in the Central Cascades and you are putting perople at risk by increasing the wolf's range. Your management plan is irresponsible to public safety.

Fifth, there will be an impact on the state's economy. Livestock, horses, poultry, and family pets are threatened with this plan. The rural economies in this state are really hurting and adding this stress to their livelihood is not fair, and in my opinion immoral. The first focus of the state should be to help people.

Finally, you have already seen what the ban to hunting bears and the cougar without bait and dogs has done. It has thrown nature out of balance. Man is a natural predator and hunting by man is part of nature's overall picture. The wolf can migrate on its own without help from the state, but CONTROLLING wolves and keeping them in nature's balance without hunting will not work. Hunting has to be part of any plan. Keep the wolf in their current domain and allow hunting of the wolf. Wolf packs will thin and wolves will migrate to new ranges on their own to avoid hunting pressure. Nature has equipped each animal with its own set of survival skills and if the equation is not thrown out of balance it works fine on its own.

Sixth, there will be an impact on the state budget. By moving packs to the other two-thirds of the state you will be paying more in wolf predation claims and opening the state to lawsuits.

On Sat, Dec 12, 2009 at 1:58 PM, <MChase0089@aol.com> wrote:

I strongly disagree with your wolf management plan. First we would like to see the state manage the wolf over population in the already over populated and delisted eastern third of the state. The wolves should be able to move on their own. I don't see the need to 'accelerate the process', what's the hurry. The over population of the wolves in eastern third is causing a harsh threat to livestock and deer herds. I strongly disagree with moving them to the other two thirds. This will not decrease the size of the packs in the east it will only spread the problem though the state at a faster rate. I would also want to see hunting documented as a management plan and not up for public discussion. We also would like to see total compensation for all livestock and domestic animals, a prize dog worth \$3000. is as important as a piece of livestock. We have already seen the cause of public discussion on bear baiting and hound hunting. The elk and deer herds are already in trouble because of the bears and cougars. I have seen the devastation they have done to the other states [Idaho, Montana and Wyoming] why can't we see this. I would like a list of the people that would like the wolves dropped off in their neighborhood. It does not matter how many pictures of pretty fuzzy wolves you show it remains no question that they are a carnivore and they kill whatever they encounter be it humans or animals. Keep an eye on your kids and pets they might be the wolf's next meal.

--
"The most powerful environmentalists I know are hunters, because they see firsthand--it is not an abstraction for them. They actually spend time in the outdoors. They want to take their children to hunt and fish in the same place that their father took them."

---Theodore Roosevelt

--
"The most powerful environmentalists I know are hunters, because they see firsthand--it is not an abstraction for them. They actually spend time in the outdoors. They want to take their children to hunt and fish in the same place that their father took them."

---Theodore Roosevelt

Allen, Harriet L (DFW)

From: Director (DFW)
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 4:30 PM
To: Allen, Harriet L (DFW)
Subject: FW: Plan to introduce wolves to state of Washington

FYI..... *Irene

From: Lorraine Kile [mailto:lkile11604@tumwater.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 3:16 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: Plan to introduce wolves to state of Washington

I just researched information in the most recent Journal of Wildlife Disease and found that 63 percent of the wolves in the state of Idaho and 60 percent of the wolves in Montana are infested with tapeworm disease-----I can't believe that you are naive enough to want to spread these wolves (disease infested) into the state of Washington to infest all of our native deer and elk with the same disease, which can also be conveyed to humans.

I suggest that you do some research on tapeworms and think twice before making the same stupid decisions made in other states. Perhaps you as the director needs to take a leadership role in researching your decisions before they are implemented. Thank you. I live in the state of Washington and appreciate the clean environment here. It needs to stay that way.

WPA

Commission (DFW)

From: Gayle Parker [wagapark@methow.com]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 9:04 AM
To: Wildthing (DFW)
Cc: Director (DFW); Commission (DFW)
Subject: Gray wolves introduction to Methow Valley

CC: COMMISSION
Harriet Allan

Acknowledgement letter
sent 12/10/09

Gentlemen: I recently attended the Wolf Management Plan meeting in Omak where we were invited to send written comments to you. I do have concerns.

Our valley is small and heavily populated not only at the valley floor but also in the surrounding mountains. It isn't any easier for us to accept wolves in our back yards than it is the people in the outlying Seattle area who recently had their pet dogs killed by "wolf-dogs" or have had cougar or bear sightings in their yards.

Our neighbors recently had a wolf in their yard. It apparently came down to the river; in doing so, it went through several yards in the neighborhood. This past May a pack of wolves ate a fawn they killed on the hill behind the house.

We understand from Game Department there are two known packs in the Methow Valley now. It is expected that these packs will rapidly multiply. It sounds as if the Game Department is relying on the wolves to decrease the deer population here with no thought given to the cattlemen, farmers, and general population of the valley. As evidenced by Idaho and Montana's wolf experience, there has been a rapid decrease in elk and deer population to the point a great many hunters do not bother going to those states where they hunted previously. In our small Methow valley a decrease or deletion of hunters coming would be a significant blow to the economy here.

Washington State currently is having financial difficulties and is being forced to drop many programs to help people. How can we justify the proposed expense for the wolf management.

The wolves have been introduced into our valley, so they're here. They can't be allowed to multiply and continue multiplying without some type of management plan. The plan needs to be in place Now. It is unfortunate a feasible plan was not in place previously. Supposedly they arrived in our valley on their own, so let them survive here on their own, without being on an endangered species list.

Walter Parker
183 Twisp Carlton Road
Carlton WA 98814

Jan 6, 2010

Ms. Tereasa Eturaspe
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capital Way, North
Olympic, WA 98501-1091

RE: Wolf Cons. & Mgt. Plan

Dear Ms. Eturaspe

I recommend postponing reintroduction of wolves into the Olympic peninsula:

- 1) Budget restraints for new programs
- 2) Cost of maintenance of the program
- 3) People are needed in more urgent priorities like timber sales, trails and road maintenance, etc.
- 4) When you take the Olympic National Park and Forest out of the center of the peninsula there is not much land left so urgency is not there.
- 5) The program is irreversible once started and more time is needed for consideration.
- 6) Deer populations are declining so food sources are inadequate from natural stocks and domestic sources will surely be affected.

Please wait.

Donald Hansen

Sincerely

Donald Hansen

117 W 2nd ST.

Port Angeles, Wash. 98302

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JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

★
JH

✓

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JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Box 485

Pateros, Wa

98846

Jan 5, 2010

WDFW SEPA Desk

600 Capital Way N

Olympia, Wa 98501

Re Wolf management Plan

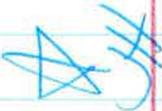
My input on the Wolf management Plan - absolutely do not let the wolves multiply or expand.

Wolves are just death on our deer & other wild animals in any area they are in. Just talked with a fellow from over in Idaho - has lots of wolves in their area & now no deer and they are having a big wolf hunt there.

Wolves are also a big threat to the ranchers & pets of people in Wolf areas.

I do not believe that the wolves just "arrived" in the Methow Valley "Lookout Area". I believe a pair was transplanted there in Alder Creek from a Wildlife truck.

Betty Wagoner



November 14, 2009
P.O. Box 1116
Moses Lake, WA 98837

REC
NOV 1
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

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NOV 16 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
S.E.P.A. Deck
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that you propose to introduce 55 pairs of wolves into Washington State.

What in the world are you thinking about? Surely not clearly.....Wolves multiply like mad.

WDFW has already placed many restrictions on deer & elk hunting to the citizens of this state.....and now you want to introduce predators....as if the explosion of the cougar population is not enough.

Plus, look at what is happening in Idaho and Montana. The ranchers and farmers livestock is suffering as a result of wolf predation. So a wolf hunting season has been introduced.

I am ADAMANTLY opposed to this action, and request that you do not do this.

Sincerely,

David A. Vining



Handwritten initials and date: JH 11-14



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NOV 17 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

November 14, 2009
P.O. Box 1116
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
S.E.P.A. Deck
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that you propose to introduce 55 pairs of wolves into Washington State.
What in the world are you thinking about? Surely not clearly.....Wolves multiply like mad.
WDFW has already placed many restrictions on deer & elk hunting to the citizens of this state.....and now you want to introduce predators....as if the explosion of the cougar population is not enough.
Plus, look at what is happening in Idaho and Montana. The ranchers and farmers livestock is suffering as a result of wolf predation. So a wolf hunting season has been introduced.
I am ADAMANTLY opposed to this action, and request that you do not do this.

Sincerely,
Phyllis A. Sievert
P. A. Sievert

KSH
11-16

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JAN 08 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Wolf introduction to the Olympic Peninsula

8 Jan. 10

Introduction/reintroduction/translocation of a dangerous predators, wolves, at taxpayer expense to the Olympic Peninsula is not only a bad idea, it is insane. (With modern Liberal Leftists REALITY IS OPTIONAL!)

Safety Reasons:

1. Reintroduced wolves in Michigan has resulted in a rapidly expanding packs that not only kill the ungulate but all canines including dogs. Hungry wolves would quickly learn children and hikers are easy prey. The family pets would be high on the menu. For some of us our pets are part of our families.
2. Our livestock is at risk. The Leftist answer is: don't worry livestock losses are reimbursed liberally. (Where do these bureaucrats thinks the money comes from? Obama's Stash? Who do these burcaucrats think are paying their bills?)
3. Because wolves would be Federally protected, the wolves would be safe until after they had done harm to citizens and their property.

Financial Reasons:

1. One reference source put at \$1,000,000/wolf transplanted. Our State is in debt. Our Country is in debt. Even if reintroduction of wolves were a good idea, we don't have the money.
2. Private property owners should have a say in how and what is put on their property. Wolves would generate another 'cost' to landowners.
3. Livestock and pets are our property. Even if they are paid/reimbursed for by the State (we the taxpayers), there are intangible costs that can never be repaid.

The reality is: this government proposed grief is entirely optional. It is totally unnecessary to impose this problem on 'we the people', against our own interest, with our money, by misguided, arguably insane, bureaucrats.

Karl E. Spees

Lifetime student of Natural History

Master Hunter - Washington State

BS Chemistry, Emory & Henry College

Recipient of Emory & Henry College Senior Science Award

MD- University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN

Dr. Karl E. Spees, MD

763 Strait View Dr.

Port Angeles, WA, 98362

☆ JH

29630 Hansville Rd. NE
Kingston, WA 98346
10/26/09 360-297-3943

RECEIVED
OCT 30 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Madona Luers
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capito Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

In making a decision on how to handle deprecation of livestock by wolves, you need to consider the relationship between ranchers and their animals. When someone puts a lot of work into raising livestock, and improving the herd, payment by the pound for a wolf kill is not adequate. If a person was allowed to roam the cities, randomly killing dogs and cats, but offering to pay the owners, it wouldn't take long to figure out the reaction of the owners. It is too late to turn the clock back to 1800 - predators have a place - but it isn't everywhere, and livestock owners should be able to defend their herds. We are not putting gizzly bears back in Iowa!

Sincerely



Archer Wirth



✓ JH 10/29

✓
WDFW
600 CAPITOL WAY NORTH
OLYMPIA, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED

DEC 3 12 009

HABITAT RESTORATION

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

As a citizen of Washington I VALUE Wolves AND their positive effect on ecosystems. I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to strengthen the working group's plan:

- ★ Increase the number of established breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed, or provide a stronger evaluation of the state's habitat connectivity to other regions and details on how ~~to~~ connectivity will be improved over time. A significant number of scientific reviewers believe that the department's numbers for delisting were low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery.

★
JH

★ Provide separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast where high quality wolf habitat and increased public support justify it having its own recovery objectives.

★ Eliminate the "caught in the Act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Given the history of poaching in this state and the high potential for misuse, this provision could seriously hamper recovery efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches at the early stages of wolf recovery.

★ Support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speed recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule in the plans.

Thank you for making sure Washington state's plan is visionary, pragmatic and strong enough to conserve and manage wolves in a balanced way that will ease the transition for everyone, including the wolves!

Sincerely,
TRAVIS HANEY

2512 Cherry St. Bellingham, WA, 98225
360 296 6989

RECEIVED

✓
WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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DEC 31 2009
DEC 31 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM
HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear DFW,

I am a citizen of Washington and I am confident that wolves are a valuable and positive part of our ecosystems. I wish to see their recovery in our state's wildlife & habitat.

The draft conservation & mgmt plan before you needs to be strengthened to ensure healthier populations and more stable growth so that they can remain top predators in Washington's ecosystem.

I urge you to strengthen the group's plan by:

- 1) Increase the number of breeding pairs before delisting is imposed
- 2) Eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners
- 3) Support translocation of wolves as a strategy to help speed up recovery.

AKG
JH

Thank you for your consideration in Making Washington
State's plan strong enough and practical in managing
Wolf populations in the future.

Sincerely,

Chas Eberle

900 High St.

Bellingham, WA 98225

505-379-2258

✓

RECEIVED

DEC 3 12009

HABITAT RESTORATION

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

To Whom It May Concern:

Wolves are predators. Their prey is anything they can catch and eat. Don't forget this. Wolves need vast tracts of land that is not fenced or planted with crops of any kind. They will eat their way out of an area and then move on to another area. They will kill and eat everything they can find before moving on. They will not discriminate between domestic animals and wild. The wolf will take cattle, sheep, horses, mules, dog, cats and anything else that is available. Also don't forget they will take deer, especially fawns and newborn, elk and elk calves. Do not believe that wolves only take the sick and old. They are pack animals and hunt down large game by their sheer numbers. They don't care if it is sick or old or in its prime.

Man has developed Washington State and there is not enough wild country left in which wolves would survive. They cannot co-exist with man. They are a vicious wild predator. You cannot let wolves move into farm and ranch country killing even one cow or horse or any other domestic animal. This is not acceptable. Once a wolf finds prey that is easy to catch, they will stay there until all that prey is gone.

Contrary to what some people would like us to believe wolves are not easy going, friendly, loveable pets. They are untrustworthy and do not make good pets or companions. They are a wild predator. Put a small pack in a zoo for those who want to see a wolf. You can keep them pure and under control in a safe environment.

Please reconsider allowing wolves to move into western or even any part of Washington. If you use Google earth and look down on Washington State, you will see that man has criss-crossed this whole state with towns, highways, farms and thousands of acres of agriculture lands. All of this would force wolves and man into confrontations and this we do not need. Wolves had their time in the past. Now the future belongs to man. We need the lands to feed the people. No one takes into consideration that no matter what, we are expanding into every nook and cranny of the state. Ask the farmers and ranchers in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming what happened when wolves were reintroduced. Wolves do not stay in one place. They move hundreds of miles. I honestly do not know how far into suburban areas they would move but I lived around wolves for 35 years in Alaska. I do know a little bit about how they live and move around. Wolves will come into the suburban areas when winter pushes them down and take domestic animals. I think it would be a big mistake to entice wolves back into Washington State.

Thank you,



Dennis Owens
PO Box 52
Satsop, WA 98583



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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JAN 07 2010

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * CHUCK KISNER P.O. BOX 630 MESA WA 98834

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: • WHY WASN'T THE MINORITY ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED?

• WHAT KIND OF ASSURANCES DO WE HAVE AN ACCURATE POPULATION OF WOLVES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR AND NOT DEPT. ESTIMATED?

• HOW MANY AVAILABLE EXPERTS WILL THERE BE AVAILABLE WITH SPEED? RESPONSE TIMES TO VERIFY WOLF LIVESTOCK KILLS?

• W/OUT REFERENCE TO THE PREVIOUS MENTIONED CONCERNS, WHERE IS THE FUNDING COMING FROM? (WITHOUT MENTIONING CONTROL AGENTS)

• IS WASH. ST. READY FOR CATASTROPHIC WILDLIFE DAMAGE THAT HAS OCCURRED TO IDAHO IN THE SELWAY AND SALMON RIVER REGIONS?

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

★
JHK

(LOVER)

- SOME IDAHO GAME OFFICIALS IMPLY WE HAVE STARTED A CANCER THAT HAS NO CURE.
- HAVE ALL THE TRIBES AFFECTED BEEN CONSIDERED AND INVOLVED IN PROCESS?
- THE YAKIMA NATION HAS A VERY VIABLE ELK HERD AND THEIR TOLERANCE OF WOLVES MAY NOT BE VERY WARM & FUZZY.
- THE DEER POPULATION IN OKANOGAN CO. IS ESSENTIAL TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF THE COUNTY DURING HUNTING SEASON. WITH DEER NUMBERS ALREADY STRUGGLING IN THE COUNTY. HOW CAN THE DEPT. JUSTIFY ONE MORE PREDATOR? WHO'S GUESS COULD BE THE FINAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR THE RESIDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES OF OKANOGAN COUNTY? WHAT AND HOW WILL THE DEPT. TELL THE SMALL BUSINESSES IF THIS WOLF PROPOSAL SPELLS 'OUT OF BUSINESS' (SORRY)

RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. I BELIEVE THIS WOLF PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN UPON LIGHTLY. WE MAY HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN.

CONCERNED CITIZEN
 Chuck Kiper

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Lee McTinch

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 3471 Deep Lake Boundary Rd -
Colville, Washington 99114

COMMENTS:

Our earlier folks knew what they were doing when they killed the wolves that were here many years ago -

If they were to turn wolves loose on the I-5 corridor from Seattle, Tacoma &lympia area down to Portland on those peoples kids & pets I'll bet there would not be so much support for "wolf recovery".

Out here our living is made where they will run & we do not need them on top of the bears & coyotes we have now.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

★
JH

✓
#3

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 07 2010

Name: * TOM MARKLEY HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 1937 WEST 5TH ST
PORT ANGELES, WA 98363

COMMENTS: Please bring them to the olympics!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

★
JH

✓
#3

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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JAN 07 2010

Name: * CHARLES WILLIAMS

HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** CW2143JW@LIVE.COM

COMMENTS: Bring wolves back to the Olympics!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

☆
JH

✓

From:
Kate Johnson Kiefer
1512. W. North
Bellingham, WA
98225

To: Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED

JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Department of Fish + Wildlife ~

I am writing you in regard to the Draft Wolf Conservation and Management plan. As a citizen of Washington State and Washington native, I feel that the Recovery of wolf populations is essential to the health of Washington's wildlife habitat.

The current draft of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan needs to be strengthened, according to the latest available science, to ensure permanent recovery of stable wolf populations throughout Washington State.

In the past, grave mistakes were made that allowed many important species of wildlife to reach the point of near-extinction. It is our responsibility to see the restoration of these species, and to ensure the healthy return of top predators, such as wolves, to allow ecosystems to retain their natural balance.

Science, as well as decades of observation, have shown that healthy predator-prey relationships result in healthy forests, less damaging fires, less overpopulation issues, and higher levels of biodiversity and ecosystem health. When this balance is disrupted, problems emerge that require costly human intervention.

JKH

I support Alternative 3 of the Draft Plan because it provides the greatest likelihood of permanent wolf recovery. I feel that the Department of Fish and Wildlife must increase the goal for established breeding pairs of wolves before even considering delisting them. It is now evident that the population goals for the wolf reintroduction programs in the Rockies were too low, and this encouraged a higher risk of inbreeding, disease, and possible extinction. The mistakes made in this area also led to the highly contentious delisting arguments that riled many citizens throughout Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Let's not make the same mistake here in Washington!

Before we seek to delist wolves, we must prove that there are more than adequate populations and breeding pairs, and that these populations can freely and safely move between Northeast Washington and the Cascades, to ensure healthy predator-prey balance. We must also encourage translocation of wolves to the Southern Cascades and the Olympics, to speed recovery throughout the state, and eliminate killing provisions for livestock owners.

Please ensure the permanent recovery of Washington's wolves ~ it is a move towards a healthier environment, and Washington as it's meant to be.

Sincerely,
Kate Johnson

12-16-2009

WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia WA 98501-1091

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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Dept of Fish & Wildlife

I have lived in WA state for 35 years. I have raised a family in north Whatcom County on 3 acres. We have raised four children and taught them to love the environment and all its inhabitants. We wish to see more recovery of our state's wildlife and habitat. In a typical day I see coyotes (right in my yard) swans, possums, crows, woodpeckers and many more! I like to think of the wolves recovering by asking you to help it by supporting the draft wolf conservation and management plan and strengthening it.

To strengthen this plan I urge you to.

* Increase breeding pairs before delisting is proposed.

* Increase the separate population recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast. There is high support by the public and there is high quality wolf habitat available.

★
H

* Eliminate the killing by livestock owners, especially where other non-lethal methods could be used to protect livestock. Help us provide livestock owners with a fair compensation package as a much more effective approach at the early stages of wolf recovery.

* Also, please support the translocation of wolves as a strategy to speeding their recovery by establishing implementation mechanisms and providing a funding schedule.

Thank you for your support of this issue. We love our wildlife, love our wolves. We want Washington to have a strong conservation and management of our wolves. I hope my grandchildren will see wolves!

Sincerely

Irene A Lawson
IRENE A. LAWSON
2405 W BADGER RD
CUSTER WA 98240

360 366 3592

RECEIVED

✓
RECEIVED

JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

January 5, 2010

To the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Nothing in the past year has made me feel better than the news that wolves have arrived in Washington State. It is so encouraging that animals that were wantonly wiped-out of their proper homes have re-appeared and begun the process of balancing and healing our ecosystem. It is a joyful occurrence and I am pleased that the WDFW is taking positive action to assist in this recovery.

With the return of wolves to the Pend Oreille and Methow areas, these ecosystems begin to regain the balance and truly natural appearance that disappeared when white settlers extirpated the wolves. The process of restoration is well displayed in the film "Lords of Nature" which should be seen by all the misguided anti-wolf activists. The film shows that when wolves are accepted as neighbors, on both public and private land, the local ecosystem is enhanced by the presence of these keystone predators. Landscapes and prey-species come into balance, and livestock can be protected by easily implemented herding and fencing techniques.

I encourage the WDFW to do all that is possible to support wolf recovery in Washington State by educating and compensating affected livestock raisers and by re-introducing wolves to

★
JH

historical wolf habitat. As the people of Washington become accustomed to the presence of wolves and are properly educated about the importance and benefits of these key predators, we will all benefit: streams and lakes, plants and prey-species, and the human population that has at last acted with wisdom and compassion to undo some of the harm done to our region in the past 200 years.

Sincerely,

Steve Schott

Mr Stephen Schott
867 Mingo Mountain Rd
Kettle Falls, WA 99141

Lynn R. Schott

Ms. Lynn R. Schott
867 Mingo Mountain Rd
Kettle Falls, WA 99141-9756

509-738-2135

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Mike and Pam Kelly

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** P.O. Box 45, Loomis, Wash. 98827

mikekelly@peoplepc.com.

COMMENTS: My comment which I doubt very seriously will even be read or considered is: No Wolves IS AN OPTION!

For many, many decades we have had no wolves. The pioneers of this area knew they were a threat to their livestock and families, so they got rid of them. Your actions to overstep Washington State Constitutional laws and ignore local government, in my mind is an act of sedition.

#1 If you say that these wolves migrated from B.C. How does their DNA compare to that of the B.C wolf packs? Why did they skip through prime habitat (Pasayten Wilderness) to end up in the Methow with collars? If they are from B.C. - Return them!

#2 How does their DNA compare to the Eastern Grey Wolf packs of N.E. U.S? If they are from the N.E. U.S. Return them!

My family includes my animals + livestock and I will not stand by and watch wolves take them down!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

☆
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Melanie Crandon

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** mcrandon@webtv.net

COMMENTS: I am a big supporter of a healthy wolf population in our state, using the latest and best science to avoid the extermination of the past. I am willing to pay (in taxes) to make sure there are programs that prevent their extinction in this state. 15 breeding pairs is ~~an~~ ^{an} arbitrary ^{number} and we need much more research to really understand wolf populations. We need to make sure decisions are not made based on political goals that ignore good science. Wolves have a right to survive, and delisting them as endangered in this state should not be done with only 15 breeding pairs - this does not leave a viable population but one that is vulnerable to factors

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

that may cause them to edge back towards extinction. This should be the last thing we allow!!

[Handwritten signature]

Print

Close

Draft Wolf Management Plan

From: melindash@hotmail.com
Sent: Wed 1/06/10 1:39 PM
To: (Unknown)

From: Melinda Hirsch
3836 134th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98005

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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Comments:

I heartily endorse Plan 3—it provides the best opportunities for wolf recovery and the best help to ranchers. I am also in favor of the coast area as a management area—there are certainly fewer ranches and lots of wild area.

Concerns: too few breeding pairs before delisting. Genetic diversity is important to keep the wolves strong and resistant to disease. Probably around 100 breeding pairs would be more appropriate so some disease doesn't wipe out the whole population.

One hundred pairs is not a large number when you consider only 40-60% of pups live through the first year.

Minnesota has over 2000 wolves with a similar land mass and population as Washington. They are living in relative harmony. With some education for everyone we should be able to do the same.

Thank you for all your time and effort on this project.

To: WA. DEPT. of FISH and Wildlife

FAX : 360 - 902 - 2946

★
JH

✓
Bob Aegerter
370 Sudden Valley
Bellingham WA 98229-4807
360-671-2652
boba@openaccess.org

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

December 31, 2009

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA Responsible Official
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: Draft Northern Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Dear Ms. Eturaspe,

I thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon the Draft Northern Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. I would like to offer the following comments.

I believe the WDFW staff is committed to basing decisions on best available scientific information and to reaching out to work with all parties to resolve relevant issues.

The Draft EIS does not adequately address the lack of consensus on how to apply existing scientific knowledge to wolf conservation. Further, there are major gaps in this scientific knowledge (especially at the Washington State level) that must be filled before a viable state wolf conservation plan can be developed in Washington.

I support a focused, rigorous, and transparent scientific review of the conservation goals included in the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan before the plan is voted upon. All comments should be evaluated and commented upon before presentation to the Board.

I urge the rejection of arbitrary goals (e.g., 15 breeding pairs) in favor of scientifically based goals that account for factors such as illegal poaching, genetic isolation, disease, and other potential mortality events.

I urge the Washington Department of Wildlife to adopt a final plan that includes scientifically based numbers and calls for distribution throughout the state including the Olympic Peninsula, Mt. St. Helens and the North Cascades. We support implementation of the moving or translocation of wolves to appropriate wilderness habitat within the state.

I support rules that ensure that delisting is not considered until genetic diversity, genetic connectivity, and genetically viable population goals have been met for at least five years.

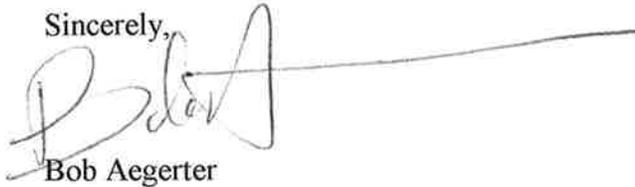
JH

I support an emphasis on non-lethal techniques for management, such as the use of guard animals and predator deterrent fencing where feasible.

I support investment in programs that educate Washington citizens about wolf ecology, including the fact that they are native to our great state and play a beneficial role overall in our ecosystem. Wolf conservation in Washington State will not be fully resolved during this one short comment period.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Aegerter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Bob Aegerter

12-01-2007

Wolves

CC: COMMISSION

Teresa G. 11/5/09

Act. Htr ✓

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I'm 9 years old and have seen a wolf but would like to see more wolves in Washington State. I think wolf population recovery needs to be science based. Alternative 3 is the best with more breeding pairs. Wolves are great, beautiful animals and should be left alone. Wolves should not be hunted and should be kept alone in the wild. I really do believe wolves should be wild and come back to Washington State.

Sincerely,

Jerusha Hampson
Jerusha

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JAN 04 2009
FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

3118 S. Windsor Rd. Spokane WA 99224



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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

JH

.....

Mark & Susie Appleford
10865 Montgomery Ridge Road
Anatone, WA 99401

Rocky Ridge Land & Cattle

December 31, 2009

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JAN 04 2010
HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

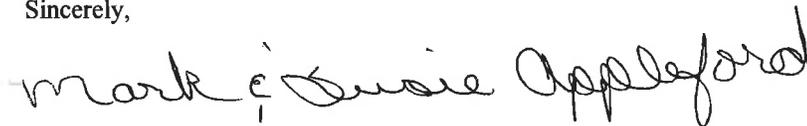
Dear Sir or Madam:

We are ranchers that reside in the Anatone area located in Asotin County, WA. We run a cow/calf operation of 150 head and spend everyday of the year outdoors to make this family farm a profitable operation.

In regards to the DRAFT Wolf Conservation & Management EIS & Plan, we would like to recommend Alt. A, (The Responsible Plan), 3BP's to down list to Threatened, 6 BP's to down list to State Sensitive, and 8 BP's to change to a Big Game Animal and eliminate the three year period as the plan of choice.

For four to five months a year, we winter our cattle in a secluded draw located away from our home. Coyotes are bad enough to contend with at calving season let alone add wolves to the scenario. This could be devastating to our cattle operation. We prefer zero wolves however, due to ESA and the WDFW requirements, zero is not an option. We are encouraging you to take the responsible approach by choosing the Alt. A, (The Responsible Plan).

Sincerely,



Mark & Susie Appleford

.....



December 27, 2009

Steve Foster
2209 NE 93rd Court
Vancouver, WA 98664

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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DEC 30 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

I attended the Vancouver hearing on wolf recovery October 28th and am writing to comment on the Final Draft of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I know the WDFW along with the Wolf Working Group has already spent great effort determining how to re-establish a naturally occurring viable wolf population in Washington State while minimizing impacts to livestock owners.

While I know the WDFW prefers Alternative 2, I would like to see Alternative 3 implemented to provide a better chance of a sustainable wolf population throughout WA State. I would also like to see the Pacific Coastal Region designated as a separate recovery region, with the Olympic Peninsula and the Mt. St. Helens areas designated as wolf translocation areas. I have personally seen huge elk herds along the Toutle River east of Mt. St. Helens in spite of regular elk hunting. Also, the Dark Divide area of the Gifford Pinchot National forest is another area where wolf translocation could be successful without major impact to livestock owners.

The target number of 15 breeding pairs for wolf delisting is too low and appears to be based on political concerns rather than scientific criteria. A goal of 30 breeding pairs or higher would be much more realistic for a sustainable population. Also, it would be more reasonable to focus on total recovered wolf population size by region rather than just breeding pairs. Any delisting should be scaled delisting by recovery region. Delisting wolves at relatively low numbers and then immediately allowing wolf hunting as done in Idaho is totally contradictory and a waste of taxpayer dollars. Also, consideration must be given to wolf corridors between recovery regions to discourage inbreeding.

In summary, I believe people and wolves can live together in the Pacific Northwest without undue conflict if rational minds prevail, and programs are put in place to compensate livestock owners for verified losses, perhaps giving the benefit of the doubt to the rancher. As you know, Defenders of Wildlife has had a successful compensation program in place for many years. I understand current WA wolf conservation plans include separate livestock depredation compensation programs, which is commendable.

Thank you.

Steve Foster

Steve Foster

DEC 3 12009

HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

12.16.09

Dear Dept. of Fish & Wildlife,

Wolves form an important part of our ecosystem and it is important to take the proper steps to protect them and ensure their recovery.

In order for the wolf population to be stable enough, I urge you to strengthen the plan by increasing breeding pairs before delisting is proposed. Please eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners, and offer them a fair compensation package instead. I also ask you to provide separate recovery objectives for the Pacific Coast due to the high quality habitat and high public support.

Thank you for your work to rebuild the wolf population.

Love,
Rachel Lawson

PO Box 1519, Bellingham, WA, 98227, 360 305 8456

JH

December 16, 2009

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DEC 31 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia WA 98501-1091

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing you to support alternative #3 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. As a guidebook author who covers wild areas all across the state from the Olympic Mountains to the Selkicks I understand all that fully how important it is to have healthy sustainable ecosystems. The recent natural introduction of wolf packs in Washington State is a testimony to the power of nature in how resilient it is in restoring its missing components. The wolves are an integral component to our wild and natural areas maintaining ~~healthy~~ healthy predator-prey relationships. Time is needed for healthy wolf populations to fully recover. While I understand that not all citizens welcome the return of the wolf, Alternative #3 addresses their concerns in livestock talks. The economic benefits of wolf recovery however compensate for any livestock loss in that an increase in tourism is eminent with folks traveling ^{from} all over the country to see these beautiful animals. People will spend good money to see the wolves as at the very least be content just knowing they are there. I thank-you for your time and I appreciate your support.

Sincerely, 

Craig Romano
Guidebook author
2611 Northward Loop Rd
Mans Harbor WA 98273
(360)848-6301

ADD
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Amy Trenner
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** atrenner@u.washington.edu

COMMENTS: I support only Alternative 3 of the Draft wolf management Plan!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * MATT LECORNU

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** lecornu@u.washington.edu

COMMENTS: I support only alternative 3 of the wolf management plan.

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**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Heather Kelsey

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** HETHURR@Gmail.com

COMMENTS: The only plan that adequately protects wolves that were once native to Washington State would be wolf plan #3.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

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Handwritten initials and star symbol

16 Dec 2009

WDFW S.E.P.A. DESK
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

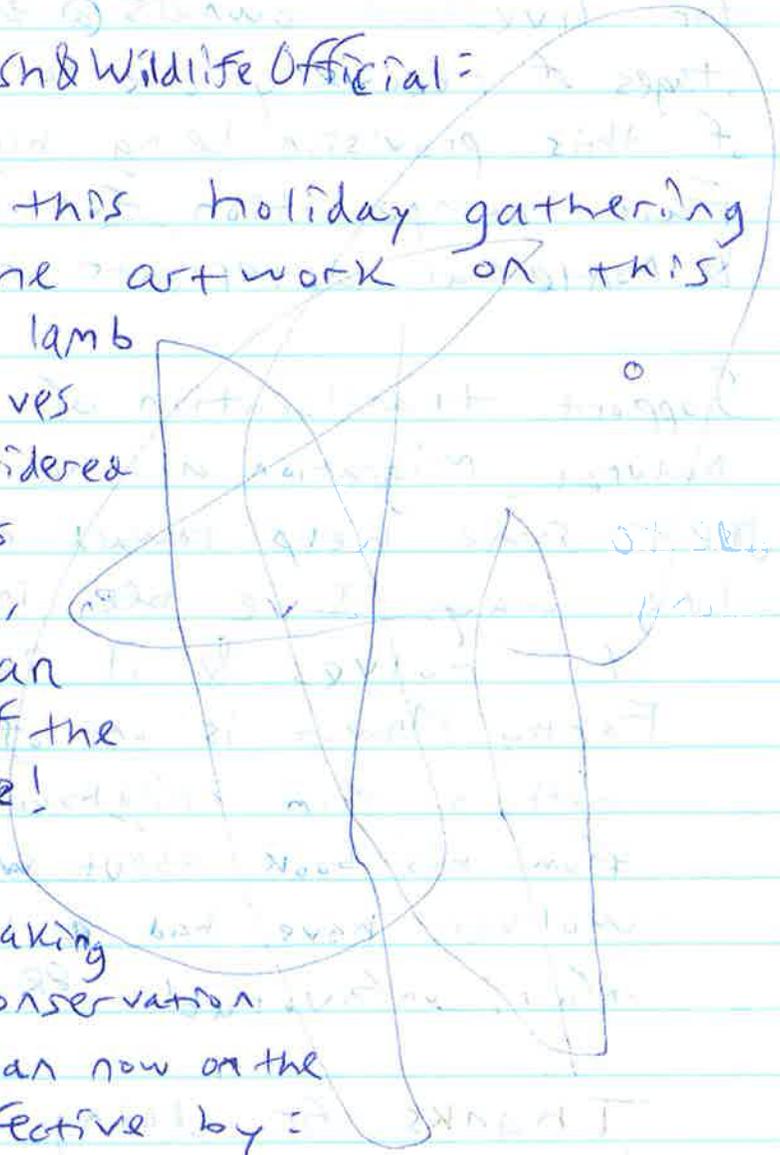
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JAN 05 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Official =

A child at this holiday gathering scribbled some artwork on this paper. I see a lamb and a star. Wolves aren't often considered to be as cute as lambs, however, they are still an important part of the fauna big picture!



Please consider making the draft wolf conservation and management plan now on the table more effective by:

* Increasing number of breeding pairs before delisting takes place.

* Provide separate population recovery objectives for Pacific coast where high quality wolf

(2)

habitat & greater public support justify it having its own outcome objectives!

* Eliminate "Caught In The Act" Killing provision for livestock owners @ endangered & threatened stages of recovery due to poaching & abuse of this provision being highly likely. Fair compensation for livestock owners & non-lethal deterrents are a better way to go!

* Support translocation of wolves, not just natural migration as has already happened, due to some help toward recovery going a long way. I've been in the vicinity of wolves & it never troubled me. Farley Mowat is one of my favorite authors from childhood & you know from his book about wolf society that wolves have had a lot of bad, unfair, unfavorable PR from fairy tales!

Thanks for doing your best to improve the big picture of wildlife in Washington State!

Bruce A. Kraig
2218 1/2 Jaeger
Bellingham, WA 98225-2114
(360) 647-0163

Sincerely
Bruce A. Kraig

WDFW
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia WA 98501-1091

December 26, 2009

Re: Protecting Washington's Wolves

Please register my "vote" for Alternative 3 in your draft conservation and management plan for wolves. I believe that alternative offers the highest likelihood that wolves will successfully reclaim some of their former habitats in Washington State. Wildlife is important to me and my family. Thank you for doing whatever you can to ensure that wolf populations thrive. I look forward to the restoration of healthy and diverse ecosystems, and consider wolves and other large predators an essential component.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Prezyna
2031 Fairview Ave E Apt A
Seattle WA 98102-3571
houseboata@gmail.com

cc: Conservation Northwest

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JAN 05 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

★
JH

✓
RECEIVED

JAN 05 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

December 16, 2009

Dear Department of Fish & Wildlife,

As a citizen of Washington and a lifetime hiker in the Cascades mountains, I value wolves and their positive effect on ecosystems. My family and I wish to see their recovery to our state's wildlife and habitat.

The draft wolf conservation and management plan now before you needs to be strengthened to ensure that wolves are given the chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations are healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems.

To ensure recovery of wolves, I urge you to further strengthen the working group's plan to increase the number of breeding pairs before delisting and adopt Alternative #3 to the management plan.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

David M. Lawson David M. Lawson

P.O. Box 103, Custer, WA 98240 (360) 366-3592

★ #

12-16-2009
WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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JAN 06 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Department of Fish & Wildlife,

The recovery of the wolves in Washington State is vital to Pacific coast habitat. It is our job as responsible citizens to eliminate the act of "caught in the act" killings.

Increasing the number of established breeding pairs is so important to ensure survival of these beautiful animals. Without some changes in funding this will not be possible.

Our goal should be to keep these amazing creatures alive for generations ahead of ours to witness their true beauty.

Sincerely,

Hayley Dustin

8638 Harborview Rd Blaine, WA 98220

360-318-4313

★ #

11/16/09

WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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JAN 06 2010
HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear DFW,

As a Washington resident, I value wolves and the role they play in our ecosystem. As such, I would like to see their populations preserved for years to come; their recovery and habitat preservation is vital to the wild Northwest.

Current wolf conservation measures are NOT enough! I urge you to strengthen these shortcomings in the current plan.

- Increase established breeding pairs to strengthen population survival rates.
- Support translocation of wolves to help speed up recovery process - help the wolves get started!
- Eliminate "caught in the act" killing for livestock owners and farmers. Make them liable!

Thank you for your measures in helping and strengthening wolf population recovery in Washington state. ★

Sincerely,
Dennis C. Stickler
900 High St. Bellingham, WA 98225 (425)443-2257

✓
12-16-09 WDFW Sepa Desk

Dear Dept. of Fish and Wildlife,

I would like to see the recovery of wolves in our state.

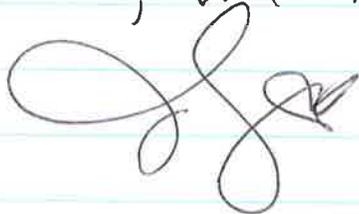
Please help to increase the numbers of wolves in the Pacific Northwest.

The elimination of "caught in the act" killing of wolves should be deterred and compensation for livestock should be given to ranchers.

Please think towards the future of our region and its inhabitants bio-diversity.

Sincerely

Jordan R. Lawson
#638 Harborview Rd.
Blaine, WA 98230



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JAN 06 2010
HABITAT PROGRAM



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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FEB 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * DARREL EASON

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 371 McCullough Rd
ELLENSBURG, WA. 98926

COMMENTS: JDEASON@FAIRPOINT.NET

Attached are some of my thoughts
and experiences on the wolf management
program for the state of Washington.

RECEIVED

FEB 11 2010

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

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I attended the yakima forum for the proposed wolf management plan. I debated with myself if taking the time to do these comments was going to be a worthwhile project. Did you hear what the crowd of 2 state Legislators, a couple of large property owners and some citizens that live in some of the higher elevations had to say? The people who spoke against the wolf program are the people who will be impacted by the wolves. The only person that I heard speak for the proposed wolf program was an environmentalist that had nothing to lose.

I'm a 68 yr old farmer who is fortunate enough to be able to be retired.

In 1984 I bought a string of mules and started hunting the back country in central Idaho. Over the years we hunted from the north fork of the Clear water down through the Selway wilderness to the Salmon River. What a time of beautiful experiences with plenty of game and wildlife for selective and trophy hunting.

Then come the wolves. First thing to go away were the whitetails, next were the elk, and then the moose. Back in the 80s there were moose every where.

This summer 6 of us horse back riders did a summer trip into the Selway wilderness. One evening there was a Idaho Fish & Wildlife game agent that stopped by our camp and visited for a couple of hours. He stated what a disaster the wolves have brought to the wildlife of Idaho - which we already knew. He stated that the winter survey of moose for the winter of '07 he could find 11 moose. The same survey, which he said he even looked harder, he could only find 3 moose for the winter survey of '08. He patrols a large area.

I could go on for some time about what I've seen, and my wolf experiences in Idaho, but let's move on.

When the committee recommended 15 packs of wolves for the state of Wash, this opens up a whole

new can of worms. As a former and irrigator I am enfolded with how bureaucries deal with fish enhancement, water rights, and broken promises. It's easy for an agency to say Oh! he's not here anymore and we're not going to do that anymore.

You as Wash Fish & Wildlife say today that there will be no effort to establish these 15 packs. It will have to be a natural migration. I believe you commissioners and employees of the Dept may really believe this, but as times get greener there will be transfers of wolves to develop new packs.

Another impact of the wolf program plan that needs to be considered before approval is our elk winter feeding program. I help feed the elk in the winter when an extra hand is needed. There is about 1500 elk fed in Joe Watt & Robinson canyons in the Kittitas county. Can you imagine the scattering of the elk herds with a pack of wolves feeding on

them. Wolves follow the game herds. The mile and Wenas winter feeding stations are even more venerable because of their remoteness. Remember the elk are fed to keep them out of the agriculture and residential areas.

Next have you a commissioners and employees of WFWW thoroughly considered the long term effect on the economic & funding of a thriving wolf program? For example, we as three Idaho hunters were paying about \$2500 a year for the privilege to hunt different species in their state. When the game went away we quit hunting there. That game warden that I mentioned earlier, stated this year that a lot of the Idaho outfitters are now having financial troubles for the lack of hunters. Back in the days when we hunted there we got to know many interesting hunters from all over the nation that came to Idaho to do back country hunting.

The wolf program will cost

W F & W money from two directions. First will be the labor of the agents and the actual depredation of livestock. But the most significant will be the decrease of sale of licenses and tags when hunters have had enough of the wolves and what they do.

At my age I'm putting my efforts in showing my thoughts and experiences for the preservation of the W F & W that I know that works towards protecting and nurturing of wildlife of the state of Washington, and for the hunters of coming generations.

Because of my experiences, I strongly advise the Wash. Fish and Wildlife to do nothing about the wolf management plan in the State of Washington.

Darrel Eason
371 McCullough Rd
Ellensburg Wa
98926

509-925-9663

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: *

Ron C. Poppe

Postal mail or e-mail address: **

RonPoppe@MSN.com

COMMENTS:

- ① why do we have to sacrifice ungulates/other critters to satisfy a federal mandate
- ② why do we have to have so many Breeding Pairs of wolves ^{eg. more} than Idaho - Montana - Wyoming - and we have less sq. mi. ? why
- ③ How does WA state expect to compensate or pay for the critters (stock) or Human life ??
- ④ This is such a "wood for finding" money agency → what is going to happen to the incoming funds when there are NO animals to have a Big Game season - Because of the wolves - NO Income
- ⑤ why does the sportsman have to (pay) ^{WOLFERS THIS} so the wolves may have dinner? The Herd objectives are below Average - The wolves will do even more damage to the Herds.

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Brett Browncombe

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: Be sure your compensation fund is not so limited.
By this I mean call it a "Livestock loss prevention and
compensation fund." Beyond this, allow the fund to
pay for the costs of non-lethal methods to prevent livestock-
wolf conflicts (ADG boxes, FlanAm, dogs, herders, other methods).
Prevention is the best defense, and is the best offense
in promoting social tolerance. Landowners/livestock owners should
be incentivized in providing a public benefit such as ~~the~~ recovery
of wolf populations. The fund should intentionally be structured
to ~~to~~ cover costs of non-lethal livestock loss prevention methods
and the State should intentionally distribute these funds in
paying for the implementation of these methods wherever wolves
are known to exist / wherever they are known to be colonizing.
I base this comment on my experience in working on the
creation of Oregon's Wolf Plan.

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10

✓

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan**

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * GARY BATES

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** GARYB@ALLWESTSELECTSITES.COM

14323 Riverbend Rd Mount Vernon, Wa 98223

COMMENTS: _____

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

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To WDFW Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

I have read your entire wolf management and as a cattle producer and a hunter, really don't like any of your alternatives - really think wolves are being forced upon us like it or not. Seems the only people wanting wolves are people who will not have to deal with them. That being said, I would like to cast my support for Alternative 1 - the least intrusive alternative.

Please look to your neighboring state of Idaho to see the devastating effect wolves have had on the deer and elk populations. Idaho has a quota system for non-resident tags. I used to buy one and you had to buy early as they were all sold out in early January just a few years ago. Now, after wolves were re-introduced these are the actual numbers of non-resident deer and elk tags still available in Idaho as of October 30 - well into or past many seasons

Deer tags left 4904 at a price of \$400.00

Elk tags left 2885 at a price of \$514.00

Do the math \$3,744,490.00 in revenue that will not come in to Idaho, because out of state hunters have been turned off by the lack of game animals since wolves were reintroduced

license #TA9

Wolves have completely wiped out populations of deer and elk in areas that ^{once} supported guides resident and non-resident hunters. Hunting big game animals in these areas is now a thing of the past. Sure Idaho now has a token wolf season - but in many of these remote areas, hunters no longer go there because there is nothing left to hunt.

I own property in the Idaho panhandle and have managed my 50 acres of timberland as best I could for whitetail habitat. I have spent a lot of time and money, selectively thinning timber, seeding in skid trails and purposely leaving thick tracts of timber for sheltered winter habitat. The whitetail population was robust and big bucks were maturing in the area.

In August 2008, three wolves were sighted in the area. As you know North Idaho recorded record snow last winter. I just spent a week over there in October, hiking hundreds and hundreds of acres. I saw 2 old piles of deer poop in 7 days and countless miles. I have hunted this area for the past 50 years and have never even come close to seeing less sign. North Idaho has seen huge snows before and has always had lots of deer. But when you add wolves to the equation - the deer loose - every single time



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Linda Bishop

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** lynsbishop@verizon.net

COMMENTS:

15 breeding pairs is too few to ensure genetic diversity. Our state is large. Surely we need more than 15 packs before we consider delisting.

Alternative 3
If wolves are to recover, outreach and education must be a high priority of WDFW

I oppose lethal control of wolves on public lands with the possible exception of leased grazing land

What is the status of the investigation into the poaching of the Okanogan pack wolf?..?

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Tracy Ouellette

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** tajenkins@pol.net

* CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE 3!

COMMENTS: Our state celebrates its wilderness, outdoor recreation and wildlife. The return of wolves spontaneously to Washington is a celebration of these values, and is a hopeful recovery of species in an era when many more species are being lost. These animals face an uphill battle, so our management plan needs to use the best available science to set target populations high enough to sustain genetic diversity especially given persecution in neighboring states.

Carrying capacity and healthy populations need to be studied, there needs to be very specific criteria for targeting wolves to preserve livestock and all available & researched means of resolving conflict non-lethally.

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to be available and fully funded. Include translocation to the Olympic peninsula - already a large protected area with little risk of conflict.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * WORTH ALLEN

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** WORTHALLEN@VERIZON.NET

COMMENTS: I BELIEVE WOLVES FILL AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR
ECOSYSTEM AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM THRIVE. AG INTERESTS SHOULD
NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER A COMPLETE ECOSYSTEM.

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Ben E Kirkpatrick - Rancher in Pend Oreille Co.

Postal mail ~~or e-mail address~~ ** 6052 Deer Valley Rd, Newport Wa.
99156

COMMENTS: friends in Idaho say wolves arrive, game goes
away. Some are afraid to use camp grounds
because wolves are so close.

I would rather be out of business than
see one of our cows suffer the terror of a
wolf attack.

We need to treat wolves as we do coy
otes without fear of penalty to the rancher
Need to protect our cows & calves

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Jade Nuyoll

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: First off I would like to say that it is inevitable that wolves are a part of our world. They are God's creatures. In light of that, there is no possible way to control and limit these beasts. You cannot fence them in, you cannot transfer them. It will not be a successful plan.

Another thing I would like to say is that they are a threat. They are carnivorous animals who don't care whether the dog they just killed was a valuable part of your family. Until those who say that they are not a threat are put into the situation of a lost animal or child, or cornered by the hungry animal itself, they cannot state that they have no human threat.

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Les Candler

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** sel_508@hotmail.com

COMMENTS: Curious as to why grey wolves are being used
in place of Timber wolves. Also it states that it
will keep excess ungulates under control. Does this
state have an excess? ~~How do~~ what are the
plans for letting the wolves cross the I-5
corridor naturally? And what are the benefits
of adding wolves to the area?

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

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✓
- - Comments of George Wooten
on Wolf Recovery Plan

①
George Wooten
226 West 2nd
Twisp, WA
98856

①
Farm
Duck
publi.
mtg

I support Alternative 3 because it provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be recovered in Washington state. Most of my friends in Twisp, Washington ~~are~~ support having wolves ^{living} near their homes. Many of my friends have seen wolves in the wild in the Methow Valley. Wolves have always had a scattered presence in the Methow Valley and even ranchers can appreciate the feeling of being in a natural environment, where all of God's creatures are valued. My folk's ranch in the Chilliwist had up to 500 cattle and 100 sheep at one point, yet they never lost an animal to predators, even though they had abundant cougar + coyotes on the ranch. Mom

(2)

George Wooten

Said this was because they

~~managed the herd by watching the~~ kept a close watch

on the calves during calving, ~~penning the~~ they penned the sheep at night, and ~~using~~ ^{they used} herddogs.

As good stewards of the land, we accept that there needs to be a balance between wildlife and farming.

~~Just as some of us~~ Wolves belong in Washington just as much as we do, whose ancestors came to North Central Washington only in the last couple of centuries.

We need a plan that provides the most options for conservation and management, and that preserves ^{the most options using both} ~~options for~~ lethal and

non-lethal controls. I believe

Our best chances for

May 27, 2008

Ms. Harriet Allen
Endangered and Threatened Species Section Manager
Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

The following represents a minority position held by the following members of the Wolf Working Group (WWG) Jack Field, Duane Cocking, Tommie Petrie, Daryl Asmussen, Jeff Dawson and Ken Oliver (We) on one critical component of the Wolf Working Group Plan; the number of Breeding Pairs (BP) of wolves that the state can support. We are "unable to live with" the proposed numbers in the WWG Draft Plan. We believe the numbers are too high and will result in direct conflict with the Livestock and Sportsman Communities.

Currently the plan calls for 6 BP's to down list to Threatened, 12 BP's to down list to State Sensitive and at least 15 BP's for 3 years before they can be considered for limited hunting(P.41 WWG draft). During this time period wolf populations could increase 24% per year (Bangs, conversation). Plus at the end of the 3 year time period, there is a very definite probability of one or more lawsuits as is now occurring after the Federal delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) area. It is estimated that it will take a minimum of 18 months for these challenges to work their way through the court system.

This same scenario will probably occur in this state. Consequently we could be looking at as many as 28 to 35 BP's before control measures could be taken to control their growth. All of this in a state with Washington's Population of 6,490,000 people and a population density of 97.5 people/sq mi (WWG Draft Plan). This is 5 to 6 times the human population density of the 3 principle states in the NRM area, MT, ID, and WY. (WA, WY, ID, and MT state web sites). According to the Federal Register, Feb.8, 2007, Vol.72, number 26 this state has only 297 square miles of suitable wolf habitat in the eastern third of the state (p.6117 Federal Register). It should be noted that this same source shows the following amounts of suitable habitat in each of the states comprising the NRM are, MT. 40924 sq. mi., WY. 29808 sq. mi., ID. 31,586 sq. mi., OR. 2556 sq. mi. and, UT. 1635 sq. mi. This same report indicates that if the 3 major states (ID, MT, and WY) can support 10 BP's for 3 years that the species can be considered to be fully recovered and can be considered for delisting (p.6107 Federal Register). That criteria was met in 2002 (p.6111 Federal Register).

The amount of suitable wolf habitat in the remaining two thirds of the state as depicted in the "Application of habitat models to wolf recovery planning in WA" by Carroll indicates scattered habitat in small isolated areas of the Okanogan, larger amounts of marginal habitat both North and South of Mt. Rainier, and a large area of habitat in and around the Olympic National Park, an area that strongly opposed wolf reintroduction several years ago.

Therefore we feel that the WWG's desired number of BP's is unrealistic given the lack of suitable habitat and the much higher human population density of this state and that the requirement of 15 BP's for 3 years (50% Higher than the USFW criteria for recovery in WY, MT, and ID,) defies common sense. This is further compounded by a recent recommendation from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commissioners to set the limit for a wolf hunt at 2005 levels which could mean 500 wolves could be killed this year. Idaho Fish and Game biologists estimate there are currently about 750 wolves in the state, but after the breeding season this spring they expect more than 1,000. The commissioners on the higher figures because they did not believe that hunting would bring the wolf population numbers down to the levels they wanted to see.

We therefore propose the following numbers of BP's statewide. 3 BP's to down list to Threatened, 6 BP's to down list to State Sensitive, and 8 BP's to change to a Big Game Animal. And we would eliminate the 3 year period since the state was not considered essential for recovery of wolves in the NRM (p.6119 Federal Register). This total number of 8 BP's or approximately 80 wolves would fit in the states economic analysis as outlined in Chapter XIII, "Economics" which states "Wolf numbers between 50 and 100 animals should pose little detriment to the states livestock industry as a whole...As wolf populations become larger and more widely distributed, financial impacts are likely to accrue to more producers" (p.23 WWG Draft). "Populations of 50 to 100 wolves should not have negative effects on big game hunting in Washington," (p.38 WWG Draft).

The advantages of going with a lower number of BP's are: The sooner wolves can be removed from endangered and threatened status, the more tools stockmen and rural residents will have at their disposal to deal with problem wolves.

The sooner we can get wolves de-listed, the sooner our Fish and Wildlife Department can begin to manage them, until then their hands are tied. The sooner we can get them listed as a Big Game Species, the sooner our Fish and Wildlife can turn them from a liability into an asset through the sale of raffle tags, permits, and Governors Tags.

We believe that these numbers are far too high and do not accurately represent the concerns that the livestock production community has with wolves. The livestock community has preferred zero wolves from the beginning however, due to ESA and WDFW requirements zero is not an option. We support the Minority Opinion Numbers of 3 breeding pairs to downlist to threatened, 6 breeding pairs to downlist to sensitive, and 8 breeding pairs to delist from sensitive and managed as a Big Game Species. The higher numbers that the WWG Draft Plan includes will result in far more individual wolves than Washington has habitat to support thus causing a severe negative impact on private land owners and livestock producers. Livestock producers must be able to protect their property regardless of the wolf's status. We are also concerned that the WDFW has not effectively demonstrated its ability to secure long term funds that will be a requirement in Management and Compensation. Without funding there is **NO Support** of any plan!!

The remainder of the WWG plan is acceptable to the supporters of the minority position.

Jack Field
Jack Field

Duane Cocking
Duane Cocking

Ken Oliver
Ken Oliver

Daryl Asmussen
Daryl Asmussen

Jeff Dawson
Jeff Dawson

Tommie Petrie
Tommie Petrie

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Carol Fugitt

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** P.O. Box 439 Republic, WA. 99166
Ferry County between Republic + Curlew, 20mi from Canada.

COMMENTS: Our property is near the Colville Nat. Forrest and
The Kettle Range. We see Wolves each winter.
We suspect they migrate to lower elevations
each winter. The wolves have caused no problems
for us yet, but have caused Cattle loss to
The Diamond M farm, which occurred near Oront,
WA. We are cautious if Wolf #s increase,
that Wolf-Cattle (livestock) problems will arise.

My main concern is for compensation
to livestock owners for losses, since
The wolves are protected. Washington voters did
not approve ^(several years back) compensation. I believe compensation
is only fair to the livestock owner. But who pays ---

Thank you for holding the meetings!
Alternative #2 sounds good.

Carol Fugitt

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Brian Osborne

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 835 7th Ave. S. Okanogan, WA 98847

COMMENTS: As a resident of Okanogan Co. I feel we do not need wolves to balance our elk, moose & deer herds. They are already managed by hunting by people & cougars now allowed to populate under a no pressure from humans system. No hound hunting, the only practical way to hunt cougars.
We are not going back to the 1300's

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * KAREN LEWIS

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** PO BOX 476, CARLSBORG WA 98324

COMMENTS: MY FATHER CAME HERE IN 1929. WHEN HE
HIKED THE OLYMPICS, NO RESERVATIONS WERE REQUIRED.
THE OBVIOUS ISSUE IS THE HUMAN POPULATION EXPLOSION.
VERY FEW FARMS EXIST TODAY ON THE OLYMPIA PENINSULA;
LIVESTOCK FARMERS CANNOT AFFORD TO LIVE HERE.
AMERICANS WANT TO PRESERVE SALMON & SEA LIONS;
WOLVES & COUGAR & ELK IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HUMANS.
IT'S JUST NOT RATIONAL. AS A NATIVE OF SEQUIM
BY BIRTH (IN 1945), THE EVOLUTION OF THE PREDATORS IS
ASTOUNDING. WE HAD FEW COYOTES, NOW WE HAVE PACKS
OF COY-DOGS. THE ONLY COUGAR I HEARD OF WAS
BROUGHT TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEAD, NOW THEY'RE
IN THE PAPER AT LEAST MONTHLY.

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * ALAN WANG

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: OUR FORFATHERS HAD A BAD TIME WITH
WOLF'S. ^{that} Fought HARD TO GET A BOUNTY PUT ON THEM.
NOW YOU ARE PLANNING TO UNDO ALL THAT
EVERY PLACE I'VE BEEN WHEN THERE WERE WOLF'S
THE PEOPLE TALKED VERY DISPARINGLY ABOUT THEM.
THEREFORE I BELIEVE YOU WOULD BE DOING THE CITIZENS
OF THE OLYMPIC PEN. GREAT HARM TO TRANS-LOCATE
WOLF'S TO O.N.P. OR THE OLY. PEN

BY THE WAY WHERE DID THE SOUTHWESTERN ~~EASTERN~~ PACK
COME FROM, WY IS IT THAT ALL THE HUNTERS AND
RANCHERS IN MONTANA SAY TO KILL EVERY WOLF YOU
SEE

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * R. LABRECQUE

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** SHARONLABRECQUE@G.COM

- COMMENTS:
1. Great idea - just no hunting after they take hold. Like Option 3 for Olympic Pen - increase #pairs to 50 before delisting
 2. ? How will they track the elk herds as some like Sequim have herds within town
 3. Wolves have as much rights as hunters + ranchers that lease public lands
 4. Iceland has too many deer - send pack over here
 5. Translocation great idea to move population around versus hunting to manage herds

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * DR. JOYCE HUESEMANN & DR. MICHAEL HUESEMANN

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** JHUESEMANN@OLYPEN.COM

COMMENTS: WE SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 3
- ONLY MORE WOLVES - LIKE 50-100
BREEDING PAIRS
(3000+ wolves)

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Name: * DON FAGER

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 1522 EAST MONT. E. WEN WA. 98802

COMMENTS: SUPPORT ALT # (3)

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WHY DON'T STATES FORM WOLF COMMISSION

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT WASHINGTON WOLVES VERSUS OTHER STATES. THEY ARE SPECIAL BING.

Name: *

Postal mail or e-mail address: **

I SHOOT FERAL GERMAN SHEPHERDS

COMMENTS:

OLYMPIC PEN. MOUNTAIN GOAT ELK INTRODUCED

LITTLE BOY CALLED WOLF

TELL FISH STORY

CAPT GROY - BOSTON WHALERS

TRAILING OUT DAMS

LARGER WOLF SMALLER ELK, ELK POP.

WINTER FEED STATION, NATIVE AMERICANS FROWN UPON ON KILLING, WOLVES WASTING

* FEED STATION

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SEPA APPLS TRAILING

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * John Krogh

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 8512 Fertile Valley, Newport, WA
99156

COMMENTS: I believe my ancestors reduced
wolves in 1901 when homesteading
After 108 years - we have seen the
damage wild turkeys have done to our
bottom line - we know it costs us \$2000⁰⁰
per month to feed them in the winter -
Wolves will soon cost that much per
month - My neighbors in Idaho have confirmed
calls losses of 8-10 head per year.
I fear you will have no budget
& be unable to confirm losses -
& therefore not pay -
THANK YOU -

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * KATHLEEN PROCTER

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: See attached

THANK YOU!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

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October 28, 2009

To: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Public Comment Meeting – Vancouver, WA

From: Kathleen Procter
22402 NE 85th ST
Vancouver, WA 98682

Dear Madam or Sir,

The Northern Gray Wolf is native to Washington State and belongs in the State as part of a healthy ecosystem. A sound wolf population in the State would contribute to maintaining healthy levels of other species such as elk and deer. I support a plan for conservation and management in order to re-establish a viable wolf population, particularly in areas of the State well-suited to successful population levels such as the Olympic Peninsula. 75% of Washington State residents support wolf recovery in our State, and many people believe wolves have added value in areas where tourism is a vital part of the economy. Yellowstone National Park is a prime example of the benefit wolves provide in ecotourism.

My concern with the current Draft Plan is that it does not go far enough to ensure a viable population because the goal of 15 breeding pairs for 3 years prior to down-listing from threatened to sensitive is too low. Down-listing should be based on sound, established science rather than arbitrary numbers. In addition, genetic connectivity should be maintained by excluding isolated pockets of wolves from wolf population totals used for viability quotas.

The Olympic Peninsula should be the primary preferred site for translocation and re-introduction of wolves as it is prime habitat for the wolf, considering the terrain and overall habitat. The area would also provide an environment that has a low possibility of both wolf-livestock and wolf-human contact.

Please take the above points into consideration when finalizing the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Thank you for this opportunity to state my concerns regarding the current Draft Plan.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Procter".

Kathleen Procter

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Frank Hendrix

Postal mail or e-mail address: **
433 Ames Road; Sedak, WA 98942

COMMENTS: _____

_____ printed copy attached _____

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October 22, 2009

Public Testimony on Wolf Introduction

I am Frank Hendrix resident of Selah, WA. I am a professor with Washington State University, but my testimony tonight does not represent WSU.

I ask for the smallest number of breeding pairs to be considered in Washington State wolf recovery. My suggestion would be a maximum of 3 breeding groups in the , state, to trigger a down list to "Threatened". Six breeding pairs would down list to "Sensitive" and nine breeding pairs would down list to "Big Game Management". This is a minority position, but seems to be a smarter alternate.

I also ask for no wolves unless a minimum of a \$14 million dollar compensation pool for damages can be established first.

I would like to point out a couple of problems:

- Every State that has introduced wolves has had serious problems. Minnesota established an annual \$2 million compensation pool. It is exhausted in February each year.
- Our elk in this region are not native to this region, many people do not realize this. They were introduced in 1913, and because of this there is no winter range for them. The elk are dependent on winter feeding stations for their nutritional survival. A pack of wolves in a feeding station will decimate the Eastern elk herds. The ones that are not killed outright will starve because there is no elk winter range. There never has been elk winter range.
- Washington has 6 times the human density population as other states introducing wolves. There is going to be some interaction and it won't be positive.
- If you calculate the annual consumption of 15 pairs wolves in your plan, it totals approximately 8,000 elk killed each year. That wolf consumption number is higher than allowed elk hunting in the state. After 20 years and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to support the elk in eastern Washington it sure seems simple-minded to bring in 15 breeding pairs of wolves.

I suggest a much smaller group of wolves has a higher level of common sense.

Sincerely,



Frank Hendrix

Selah, WA

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Gayle E. Green

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** gayle4119@comcast.net

COMMENTS: Alternative 3 of the Draft Wolf Management Plan provides the best protection for wolves in WA. Wolves were native to WA state until they were eliminated. Individuals need to become better educated on the wolves, starting with grade school. Address proactive measures with ranchers, in order for wolves and ranchers to co-exist. Biological diversity is mandatory in order to maintain a healthy park. There are huge ecological benefits esp (Yellowstone park ^{created healthier} (willows growing, beavers & beak, healthier elk herds), However a scientific approach is imperative to preventing inbreeding. (Please look at the science, not the politics.)

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Lola Frederick

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** lolakinf@hotmail.com

COMMENTS: see attached sheet.

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10-27-09

I wanted to come here tonight and comment on wolf recovery because biology and the outdoors has been a lifelong ~~passion~~ ^{form}, and this is a vital subject ~~to me~~.

I am thrilled to have our major predator back in Washington state. Nature had it right the first time and now it is up to us to bring back some balance.

On the subject of balance I am very concerned that the success and desisting from this wolf plan will be judged on having just 15 successful breeding pairs statewide. That number seems incredibly small to me.

I also wanted to comment on the proposed recovery regions. I think that Alternative 3, with 4 regions makes a lot of sense geographically, rather than the 3 recovery regions in the preferred Alternative.

I am pleased with the plans for public outreach and education. They may very well be crucial in recovery success.

I completely agree with full compensation to livestock owners for any losses. I am very uneasy about allowing the killing of wolves that might be attacking livestock. It could easily become a gray area. I fully support non-lethal methods of deterring ~~wolves~~ ^{wolves}.

Thank you for your time.
Good luck with this project.
Lola FREDERICK

I would like to applaud the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for its scientific approach to wildlife management in which wolves are not singled out as vicious killers but treated as part of a balanced ecosystem.

I only wish it was the same in Idaho; instead, it seems to be the opposite. Rather than seeking a biologically viable wolf population, IDF&G's target number of 500-580 is completely arbitrary. (The USF&WS's target is even worse: 15 breeding pairs, or 150 wolves.) Such a drastic reduction from the current official total of 846 (in itself less than biologically viable) would reduce wolves to a remnant population, genetically isolated, prone to inbreeding and inherited diseases.

While ranchers in Idaho claim that wolves are decimating their livestock, the USDA Statistical Bureau and IDF&G itself, say they are responsible for less than 2% of all livestock deaths due to predation. In 2008, feral dogs killed more than four times as many sheep in Idaho than wolves did.

Wolves are essential to a healthy and balanced ecosystem. As an apex or keystone predator they are crucial to the well-being of everything from flowering plants and trees to insects, birds, and all other mammals, including elk.

Contrary to what is being said by some people, wolves have not decimated elk herds. According to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, there were 107,000 elk in Idaho in Spring, 2009. Elk in Montana have actually increased, to over 150,000. It is true that elk have become harder to hunt, due to their being pushed out of the valleys and into the mountains by wolves. Some of Idaho's elk herds have increased and some have decreased but, according to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, their total number has not been reduced. Fluctuating numbers of all species is part of a natural process in which, for example, predator and prey species have "managed" each other for thousands of years.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Lanie Johnson
Northern Idaho Wolf Alliance
703 A street
Sandpoint, Idaho
208-265-8580
bigfish@gotsky.com

✓
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Ken Fischman

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** bigfish@gotsky.com

COMMENTS: ATTACHMENT

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Testimony About the Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington - 2009

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
Meeting
Spokane Valley, WA
October 27, 2009

Comments on the Genetic and Biological Viability of Recovering Wolf Population in Washington State

Ken Fischman, Ph.D.
703 A Street
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
208-265-8580
< bigfish@gotsky.com >

Ladies/Gentlemen:

My name is Ken Fischman, and I live in Sandpoint, Idaho. I have a Ph.D. in Genetics, and over 30 years of experience in Genetic research. I am Vice President of the Northern Idaho Wolf Alliance (NIWA). I wish to address the question of the number of wolves in Washington that would constitute a genetically and biologically viable population.

First of all, I would like to commend the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on their thoughtful and scientifically based wolf management plan. It is a far cry from the politically-driven and anti-biological plan in Idaho. {In fact, I have come here to give you the benefit of our experience in your sister state.}

Everyone has been impressed by the rapid increase in Wolf numbers in the Northern Rockies since their reentry into this area. However, that was to be expected. When wolves were first introduced, the ecological niches for large predators were quite open. As these niches are filled, wolf reproduction will undoubtedly slow down.

No-one knows what the biological carrying capacity of this land now is. We do however, have historical records. Anyone who reads the Journals of Lewis and Clark, and the observations of European explorers of this region cannot fail to marvel at the

abundance of wildlife they saw. They especially took notice of the large numbers of wolves and grizzlies.

The best estimate of scientists is that there were at least several hundred thousand wolves in North America during the early 1800's. Now there is concern by many people, and even fear from a few, over the recent appearance of perhaps a dozen wolves in Washington state. As Franklin Roosevelt once famously said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

I would like to address the questions of what would be a genetically and biologically viable wolf population in this state

We already have the example of Yellowstone National Park. Elk had vastly overpopulated Yellowstone, damaging the ecology of the valleys. Now, the wolf and prey populations have reached an equilibrium, with the wolves fluctuating in the low hundreds, and the elk in the low thousands. The riparian flora and the scavenger populations are coming back nicely as the studies of Ripple and Beschta from Oregon State U. have show shown.

I do not know the reason why WDFW chose the number of 150 wolves as a minimum for wolf recovery in western Washington. I assume that it is because they want to take over control of wolf management from the USFW, and that is the number the Feds used to trigger delisting in Idaho and Montana. You should be aware however, that 150 is not a biological number, but a political one.

Conservation biologists are the scientists who deal with what constitutes a recovered wildlife population. Michael Soule, the acknowledged dean of Conservation Biology is clear that a recovered population consists of thousands, not hundreds of animals.

We already have evidence of what happens when there are small, isolated wolf populations. They become inbred and suffer from genetic malformations. In Rolf Peterson's recent study of Isle Royale National Park wolves (2009), he showed that almost all the wolves there have severe defects in their backbones. His results are consistent with those lately found by several European investigators.

Wolf populations therefore must be large enough to be genetically interconnected. By that we mean not a few wandering wolves, like USFW insists constitute a megapopulation in the Rockies, but a population in which measurable gene flow takes place. Von Voldt, Pollinger and their colleagues in 2007 & 2008, have shown that is not the case at the present time.

In the light of these studies, I have a cautionary word for you about your plans to translocate wolves from areas in which they have come into conflict with humans. There are numerous studies which have shown that wolf packs are a cohesive, intricate social organization, in which the members, are interdependent. This is especially true of the pups, which depend on older pack members to learn who their proper natural prey are.

If you translocate individual pack members, there is very real risk that by removing pack elders who teach the youngsters, you will damage pack cohesiveness and actually increase the livestock depredation you wish to avoid.

You had better have some large trucks or helicopters in order to translocate the entire pack. That I believe is the only way that your plans to move wolves around would work well.

I wish you well in the adventure you are about to undertake. It is a very exciting enterprise in which you have the opportunity in Washington State to allow the wolf to take its rightful biological role in a healthy forest system. We will all benefit from this. It is about time.

Thank you for your attention.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

Nov 10 2009

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NOV 17 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

NOV 16 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Marilyn Lewis Hok River Ranches
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** Postal Mail 11785 Upper Hok Fork Rd

COMMENTS: In the Spring of 2009 my ranch partner and I made a verbal agreement with the Washington department of game & forest their elk on my cattle ranch during the winter months as long as there were no cattle on it. We are wintering the cattle elsewhere at the present time. The other ranch

This does not mean under any circumstance that we will host wolves. They will be considered trespassing killing machines! And will be dealt with accordingly. We are not raising sale barn cows on these two ranches they are Australian Lawline Aberdeen Angus - Texel Prime, only 2% of cattle go prime.

Since we deal with Idaho Ranchers we are aware of the wolf Problems there. Cont

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✓
11/16

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2009

2

HABITAT PROGRAM

They are no where near extinct so there for they should never appear on the endangered list.

The story trumped up by the Oregon men about the Hoh River banks being eroded by too many elk is a joke! 160 inch of rain or 12 inches of rain in 24 hours is the cause of that. Nothing else!

If elk were killing the maple and cottonwood why do they grow all over my ranch where elk have roamed freely for years?

I told a park naturalist once that one could tell when there were few elk here because of all the predators by the size of the maple trees and cottonwood. These two men took that story and bent it around & use for a need for wolves. No, we do not need wolves here -

Elk and deer here do not like white tail and mule deer do elsewhere

As far the people in Sequim who think the wolves would solve their elk problems will find not only do they have elk in their yard - they will have wolves as well and Oh yes, no pets.

I think its in very poor
 taste to hold wolf meeting on
 Squim at dinner time or a
 work night during hunting season
 I suggest you hold one in
 Furks on a Saturday or any
 place else where peoples livelihoods
 are at stake

I have over 150 lbs of wolf
 paper work in my files - a great
 share of it is propaganda fit to
 gullible people - history does not
 need to repeat itself here with
 a different and bigger wolf.

This is not the end of what
 people think about wolves being
 let loose were there are farms
 and little game - you will be
 hearing about it!

You need to remember cattle
 people feed the world - wolf
 people do not!! It is criminal to
 run anyones business and wolves
 would ruin cattle farms

copy one of several
 This letter on file

Marlyn Lewis

Oct 30, 2009

11

The following letter was read aloud at a Congressional hearing in Washington, D.C.

Congress then shut off funding for introducing the Canadian Grey Wolf in the Olympic Peninsula. They are not native to this area, a smaller wolf, now extinct, existed here.

Slade Gorton

Senator ~~State~~ Gardion then asked for a signed petition with a 100% of the people of the two valleys, the Hoh and the Clearwater. These were provided as well as hundreds of petitions from Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Greys Harbor counties. These petitions are still kept on file. The newspaper did its own petition and the same thing = No wolves!

Now a Washington State Senator has said No. What part of "No Wolves" do you not understand. Why cause more trouble when we already have a predator problem.

When the park added more fishers to the Peninsula, two things happened - one, they added more fishers to the already population here and two, another predator to the food chain that other predators eat - birds, squirrels, Mountain Beavers, etc. - less food for the wolves.

Already, there are not enough deer in the Hoh River Valley to feed a pack of wolves for 2 weeks. Soon there would be no elk either. So when they turn to livestock, pets and humans - you shall be held accountable.

Wolves weigh up to 150 lbs (record is 170 lbs) and they are as tall as Blacktail deer. They can run up to speeds of 45mph. They know no fear and kill just to kill, frenzy killing, never to return to feed on the dead. Wolf propaganda far outweighs solid facts. Idaho is losing entire herds of elk, deer and moose and they are hunting wolves. Shouldn't that tell you something?

To place wolves and all the problems they make in a place already loaded with predators is just asking for more trouble.

Please take into account the prey and the predator, both rate in the following letter. If you can't then understand why we shouldn't have wolves here, in my opinion, you have a math problem. - Remember fishers have been added since,

And yes they do attack and kill humans. Is this what you want for your children and pets?

/S/ MARILYN LEWIS

11
May 26, 1998

✓
To Whom It May Concern:

This is about wolves on the Olympic Peninsula and history you should know about.

John Huelsdonk came to the Hoh River Valley in 1890 to file a claim on a homestead. His wife, Dora, joined him in 1892.

I have no reason to doubt any of the information I am passing onto you because the Huelsdonk family had no reason to elaborate on hardships they suffered as they carved home and farm out of the forest and raised four daughters among the elements of weather, nature and predators.

"Game was terribly scarce for big Timber wolves killed the elk and deer and only occasionally could one be found for meat." (Dora Huelsdonk obituary 1947)

Some forty years later after the arrival of the Huelsdonk family, Lena Huelsdonk Fletcher, oldest daughter, states at a Aberdeen, Washington Chamber of Commerce meeting, "At present there are from 6,00 to 8,000 elk and deer on the Hoh, whereas there were less than 200 some 40 years ago."

She often wrote that the wolves killed numbers of sheep and elk calves at one time and that the wolves disappeared around 1920 and 1921 from the Hoh Valley.

Lena served as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years and wrote a column in at least three newspapers in Forks, Aberdeen and Port Angeles.

By the mid 1930's, 15 years after the wolves were gone, game made such a good comeback, the game department opened a hunting season on them. The reason: Settlers fought for predator control and bounties were paid on predators as a way to control them. By the late 1940' and 1950's, elk and deer were everywhere in the valley. A herd of elk could be 100 or more.

However, by the 1960's bounties on cougar were dropped even though they were still hunted, their population grew and elk and deer population dropped through the 1970's and 1980's.

Now in the 1990's, it would appear all common sense has left game and fish management. A herd of elk is more or less 20 with maybe 6 calves per herd outside of the National ~~Forest~~ ^{Park}. And the reason! Right back to the pre 1900's, no predator control!

Lack of logging has caused lack of habitat and lack of jobs, causing more problems. Poaching is out of control in part to no game agents due to lack of funds on their part of lack of management - all due to environmental issues that sometimes go beyond the call of duty!

Indians hunt off their reservations. No hound hunting in Washington State. Again no predator control.

The list goes on and on. I will leave you with food for thought.

Idaho has 6 kinds of ungulates to feed their predators – Yellowstone area has 8 kinds of ungulates to feed their predators.

Olympic Peninsula only has 2 kinds of ungulates to feed their 4 kinds of predators.

Birth rate: Elk – one calf

Deer – one to two fawns

Birth rates outnumbered by :

Predators - Bear – one to two cubs

Cougars – one to five kittens

Coyote – three or more pups

Bobcat – one to two kittens

Wolves – 4 to 8 pups

Cougar kill one ungulate once a week. The experts tell us when wolves move in, cougar, bear, coyote, etc., move out of the area. Are the experts "telling us in order to fill the one missing link, the wolf, in Olympic National Park ecosystem, we will lose 3 or more links in the ecosystem?"

They need to know that the missing link in the ecosystem has already been filled by the coyote, who it appears were not in at least two valleys, the Hoh and the Quinault when wolves were here. Quinault heard their first coyote in 1940. The "experts" have not done their research well enough

- Not to count the other wildlife on the Peninsula that would be affected by wolves should be unacceptable.
- No one seems to have taken into account that the Olympic Peninsula has not had a hard animal killing winter when heavy snows hang on all winter long in at least 10 years.
- Alberta, Canada wolves or any pen raised wolves are not native to the Olympic Peninsula and therefore should be considered introduced instead of reintroduced.
- Those who are responsible should be held accountable.
- Olympic National Park was set aside in 1938 to preserve and protect Roosevelt Elk. They will also protect any livestock killing wolf as they have in the past protected livestock killing cougars.
- Recovering second offending wolves in the Peninsula would be nearly impossible due to weather and terrain.
- Livestock owners on the Peninsula certainly would be affected with land use restrictions with wolf introduction.

I am still operating a family farm with livestock in the Hoh River Valley with 108 years of wildlife and human heritage behind it.

Please take the time to consider the contents of this letter.\

Sincerely
Marilyn Lewis

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Caroll Vrba

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** caroll.vrba@yahoo.com

COMMENTS: I support the work of the wolf study group - My first choice is to leave wolves in Washington on the Endangered list so I prefer Alternative 1. My 2nd choice is option 2.
Thank you for your work -

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Sara Lentz

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 556 Douglas Falls Rd.
Colville, WA 99114

COMMENTS: I agree that wolves were here 1st and that reintroducing them ~~is~~ or letting them come into Washington would be "re-balancing" our ecosystem, but I do want to point out that the smaller Timberwolf was the original wolf of of this area, not the larger grey wolf. Letting a larger animal into the area would require more food for the animal and much more for the pack of wolves. How do we compensate for this food intake? As we let in more wolves do we bring in more game to feed them? How are we going to sustain such large packs in this area? Are outfitter's going to have to give up their livelihood to feed these large predators? How will we compensate for our own loss if the wolves gain?
Also, when wolves did live in this region how many ->

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ranchers or farmers were in this area? ~~What~~ What
~~do~~ I would like to know is how you come
up with these numbers of breeding pairs?
And how will they affect the people &
people's livelihoods of Washington State? How
can we protect ourselves & still let wolves
into such populated areas of the State?

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Maycee Kyllö

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** dudette47@hotmail.com

COMMENTS: I think that bringing wolves back into Washington would be a bad idea. A few packs might be okay but we really need to keep the number down. The plan mentioned some tracking and monitoring of wolves, but how is it possible to absolutely know how many there are. There are always more wolves than recorded and by the time we know it will already be too late. I also think that the funding issue should be immediately dealt with. The plan mentions some legislature funding but how much are they really willing to give out. The compensation we should receive for the loss of cattle and livestock, we cannot always prove that a wolf killed the livestock, the roaming area for the cattle is just too big of an area for everything to be accounted for.

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Name: * Addy Bengtson

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** addybengtson@hotmail.com

COMMENTS:

YOUR PLAN IS A
WASTE OF MONEY
AND EFFORT!
you aren't going to have much of an
impact. owners of livestock & land take a
risk when they choose their occupation - nobody's
job is to watch your property 24/7. pointless; let
nature be. it will always.
P.S. WOLVES ARE BEAUTIFUL

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5

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Name: * Scott Woodward

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** WOODFISH24@CHARTER.NET

COMMENTS: I Prefer ALTERNATIVE #3 - I HAVE SEEN
THE SPECIAL INTEREST ELEMENTS OF Big Gun
\$ COME IN AT STATE AND Fed LEVEL AND
THE LOSER WAS THE ~~WOLF~~ ENTIRE WILDLIFE
SYSTEM BECAUSE A SPECIFIC AGENDA WAS
EXERCISED TO PROMOTE ONE SPECIES OVER
ANOTHER - Elk ARE King BECAUSE YOU
BUY A LICENSE TO HUNT THEM AND \$
SPEAK THE LOUDEST.

WOLVES ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF
ECOSYSTEM AND SPECIAL INTERESTS
SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE
THAT SYSTEM -

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Kristi Hendrickson

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** khendrickson33@yahoo.com

COMMENTS: I am in strong support of ~~the~~ wildlife in general and wolves in particular. They require and deserve sufficient habitat for their natural pack sizes. I don't eat beef and don't believe domestic cattle should be permitted on public land. In every encounter between wolves and domestic cattle, I support wolves over cattle. And I see the big, fat cattlemen assoc. representatives sitting in the front row tonight. I hope industry pressure and their big, fat wallets will not win out over wildlife.

Please protect wolves, expand protective habitat for wolves, prevent housing development near wolf habitat, and educate hikers to not bring their domestic dogs on hikes in wolf habitat areas.

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * _____

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: The draft plan for delisting after only 15 breeding pairs appears to be a very low bar to ensure a stable population across the state. I would expect this bar to be set at a higher number of breeding pairs in the state to ensure their survival.

Inner-state translocation should not be an option as the stated objective of the state for re-establishment of the population. Ultimately this invasive action, while artificially getting the "numbers" and "locations" correct could also provide a brief artificial distribution across the state which would be much harder to protect/support these ~~the~~ wolves once delisted

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Fish

De listing should not occur without a population
in all four regions in the state, including

the Coast Region (Olympics South). This portion
of the state is the most remote ^{and separated by natural/human barriers} from current

populations $\frac{3}{4}$ therefore of greater interest in demonstrating
an actual recovered population

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Lorraine Faford

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** fafordl@ohsu.edu

COMMENTS: Alternative 3 of the draft Wolf management Plan provides the best protection for wolves in Washington.

Education about wolf ecology to increase public awareness of these misunderstood animals and help empower communities to coexist with wolves.

WDFW should invest resources into helping Washington ranchers adopt non-lethal methods to avoid wolf livestock conflicts

will corridors be factored and established for wolf movement into other areas

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✓
Nov. 4, 2009

10
From
M.C. Knowlton
public mtg

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to make my support of Washington wolves be known, as I am unable to attend the meeting tonight.

As longtime, upper Skagit residents, livestock owners, members of the Washington Outfitters & Guides Association, former National Park Service ranger and logger, my husband and I have a long and abiding interest in the welfare of wolves, and indeed all persecuted predators up here.

As a ranger on Ross Lake in the early 1980s, I was fortunate to spend part of one winter living at Hozomeen, and was thrilled to have wolves as my neighbors then. After telling him, my supervisor was quite surprised to learn that they were present, and soon afterwards, wildlife biologists spent many months trying to track and radio-collar one. (I was then sorry that I had told anyone, for it seemed they were being harrassed in the name of "science"...) At any rate, since that time, I have had the good fortune to have seen, heard, or seen evidence of wolves in the North Cascades from time to time, although I've not reported it. There are not many, but they DO exist, at least in the National Park, and the adjacent USFS wilderness.

As a horse and mule owner and back country user, I do not have fears for my livestock from wolves. I know, that if there is adequate natural prey available, and my management is well thought out, my animals will not be in danger.

Wolves are native to our state and are an important part in the balance of our wild lands. They play a crucial role in enriching whole ecosystems, by usually culling the weak, sick, or old from a herd. Unfortunately, because we humans are also predators, the role of the wolf is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. We need to educate ourselves about these magnificent creatures and increase public awareness about their place in this ecosystem – after all, they've been here A LOT longer than we have!

As an educator by profession, I would like to offer my services in helping to host a public meeting upriver, closer to where the wolves live, after all, rather than make residents drive over 100 miles to have our voices be heard. Please feel free to contact me if that might be possible.

Many thanks,
Christie Fairchild (and Art Olson)
53435 Rockport-Cascade Rd.
Rockport, WA. 98283

Christie Fairchild

Is this animal cruelty?



12
Duck
side
path
only

How would you feel if this was
YOUR best friend?



Documented Wolf Kills



Still on
his
chain





**Average kill rate per wolf per
month = 3.05 Elk**

36 Elk Per Year/Wolf

~2,000 Wolves

=

72,000 Elk Per Year

Myth: Wolves only kill the old and weak
Fact: Wolves will kill any elk when given
the chance and focus on elk calves



Myth: Wolves only kill what they eat

Fact: Wolves are actually the most wasteful predator in the US and kill for sport



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Myth: Wolves are efficient killers

Fact: Wolves will eat their prey alive, or worse, eat a portion of the animal and leave it to suffer



Myth: Wolves won't attack humans

Fact: Wolves stalked and killed a young man in Saskatchewan in 2005



Fawns pulled from their mom's belly!





Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Wolf hunting had the desired effect - more caribou got a chance to live, according to biologists.

Calf Survival Rates

2008 - 39 calves per 100 cows

2007 - 1 calf per 100 cows

2006 - 1 calf per 100 cows

Myth: Wolves won't attack humans

Fact: Documented - Wolves stalked several children near a bus stop in NM!

May 2007 - Two Catron County school children were followed home from the bus stop by 3 wolves.

December 2007 - Glenwood elementary school a wolf was seen on the playground after multiple reports of the animal seen in the town.

Jan 2008 - Wolf kill within 70 yards of a school bus stop in Idaho



Myth: Wolves are good for elk populations

Fact: US Fish and Wildlife Service Study



- Elk are the primary prey for wolves, comprising 92 % of kills during the winter.
- Elk decreased significantly from 16,791 in winter 1995 to 8,335 in winter 2004 as the number of wolves increased .
- Kill rates by wolves in winter are 22 Elk per wolf per year – **DOUBLE** the rate predicted in the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

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- Since 2000, wolves have caused 45% of known deaths (not including human harvests) of radio-collared female elk on the northern range.
 - human harvest and winter-kill accounted for 30%
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has reduced antlerless permits by 51 % (200-'04) and 96% (1995-2005)

Myth: Wolves are good for elk populations

Fact: Montana State University Study of Yellowstone's Northern Range



- Elk numbers 1993 – 1995 Averaged between 17,000 and 19,000
- Wolves Introduced in 1995
- Elk numbers 2005 – 2007 Averaged between 6,700 and 6,300

A 67% DECREASE IN ELK POPULATIONS

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How would you feel if this was
YOUR best friend?



Is this animal cruelty?



Documented Wolf Kills



Still on
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36 Elk Per Year/Wolf

~2,000 Wolves

=

72,000 Elk Per Year











✓
From: John Signor [mailto:TampicoJohn@DogDilemma.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 6:14 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Management Plan

To the Director:

I was unable to attend the Wolf Management public meeting held in the Yakima area recently, because I was unaware of it. Had I known about it, I definitely would have been there to oppose any re-introduction of wolves in Washington State, and to encourage removal of extant wolves to Canada, or some other foreign country where they also don't want them. We have plenty of wolves in Washington State already, too many. With our blacktail and mule deer stocks facing severe reduction, if not extinction due to the spread of the fallow louse, what a time to finish them off with wolves.

As a hunter, I am in direct competition with large predators, and the gray wolf is a fearsome predator, rapidly multiplying to the limits of its food sources and beyond, then moving on to eradicate prey species in adjoining areas. We need more wolves like we need bubonic plague. I am convinced that wolf reintroduction is the goal, primarily, of anti-hunters, to "balance nature" without need for hunters in the mix. Balancing nature with wolves, as we know, is a complete farce. It results in eradication of prey species in large areas, wolf die-off or wolf migration to the next area subject to their destructive tendencies.

For many years I have back-packed with one or two of my dogs along to carry packs and for companionship. If my dogs, my best friends, were attacked by wolves, I think you know how I would react. Yet in other states, dog owners are prohibited from defending their pets against wolves. TO HELL WITH THAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you want any cooperation at all from Washington's hikers, fishermen, hunters, property owners, pet owners, parents and livestock owners, you had better plan to free them up to kill wolves when it comes to defending what is theirs to defend. Any other course of action is frankly WRONG and insane, and leads only to disregard of any protected status of wolves at all, as well as a generalized downgrading of any respect for fish and wildlife management. I have been horrified by reports of people losing their hunting dogs and pets to wolves and being legally unable to do a thing about it.

Anti-hunters have wrongly decided, with the full support of Big-Brother-Federal Fish and Wildlife directors as well as some State Fish and Wildlife directors, that wolves are more important than people, pets, working dogs, hunting dogs and livestock. WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!!!!!! Don't even think about doing that here. Wolves are also much less important than the prey species that they devastate. It is the hunters and fishermen that through fees and excise taxes are paying to support Federal Fish and Wildlife and state agencies. Hence, since most hunters and landowners oppose the reintroduction of wolves, reintroduction of wolves amounts to misappropriation of our dedicated funds against our wishes, interests, and recreational activities.

Yes, I have read the pro-wolf literature, the research papers, followed the rationale for 'why we need more wolves', and I have had experience with wolves in Alaska where they are just as much a scourge as anyplace else. At least in Alaska, there are millions of acres of wolf habitat hundreds of miles from human habitation, and hundreds of miles from where people can access hunting and fishing. Still, in Alaska, it is quite possible to see a pack of wolves attack yarded up moose in deep snow and kill every last one of them, leaving more dead moose in the snow than the wolves could eat in a year. February, 1989, Kenai Peninsula. Winter-kill? No! Wolf-kill. Do we want that here with our deer, elk and our few moose? I don't know of any reasonable, intelligent and knowledgeable person who thinks so!

Maybe the wolf-loving pressure groups should be taken out to see such a spectacle, and to watch how wolves kill. A well-placed bullet is a thousand times more humane. Still, wolves have to live, don't they, and they are just being wolves. Or DO wolves have to live? By whose decision? Is it somehow right to take money away from funds dedicated to managing our wildlife and game species to spend it on propagation and protection of wolves against the wishes of hunters? No, it is not!

Just who, exactly, has decided we need to manage our wolves by increasing their numbers or allowing them to increase? Who is behind the wolf propagation and reintroduction movement in other states where they aren't wanted, and now in Washington State?

The Department obviously has no idea how many hunters and outdoor people oppose an increase of wolves in this state, not to mention the farmers and ranchers. A little publicity should be able to unite hikers, llama owners and pet owners with us. The Department is bowing to the wishes of anti-hunters and the uninformed, Disney-fed, Farley Mowat-reading non-hunters in this matter, and inappropriately using hunter's dollars to fund it. Here we go again.

It is time for major political action and likely court action. Perhaps it is time to change Federal laws regarding use of excise taxes and to change state laws to restrict their use to management of game species and game species habitat only. The tax-paying public should be paying for non-game species management and wolf management if getting wolves forced upon us against our wishes is how our money is to be used. I am sure many hunters will be happy to rally behind that call. Yes, I realize hunters are a tiny minority, but organized with other groups, we should be able to trample the pro-wolf folks. The public needs to learn a whole lot more about wolves from naturalists and biologists, not from the Farley Mowats of the world, and the other pro-wolf, anti-hunting biologists slanting their research reports to favor wolf reintroduction.

My vote on wolf management: NO WOLVES is good wolf management!

John Signor
PO Box 3270
Yakima, WA 98903

✓

From: derek hanson
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW);
Subject: Wolf management plan
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 8:44:13 PM

22

Dear Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife,

I have been a hunter here in the state of Washington for about 28 year now. I have been a resident for 46 years, since I was a baby.

I believe that we need to have wolves back in our ecosystem. After a review of the alternatives, I think that Alternative 3 is the best for Washington. our wildlife, people and the wolves.

Wolves, and other predators, are very important to the overall health of our ungulates and other wildlife.

It is basic biology to have predators working with us hunters, and wildlife managers, to keep our big game species healthy. It is much tougher to sustain a healthy big game population without predators like the wolf working the balance with us.

I am excited to hunt big game with the wolf, and welcome there return to Washington State. Thank you for giving them a chance.

Sincerely,
Derek Hanson
12617 South Sherman Road
Spokane, WA 99224
509-869-3573

✓
1354 Herrick Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Dec 23, 2009

Dear Ms Etterape:

I earnestly believe that wolves should again populate wild areas of the Olympic Peninsula. Please reconsider the favor shown to Draft EIS Preferred Alternative 2.

If the plan seriously aims to have wolves back in their historic range in Whatcompton, reintroduction seem essential. Natural migration seems simply a false promise. ~~MMMMMMMM~~ If the state is really sincere about the stated goal, give them a chance; move wolves in from out of state. Choose Alternative 3.

Sincerely,
Roberta Baldwin
(Roberta L. Baldwin)

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

✓
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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DEC 28 2009

Name: * Rhonda Ulrich

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** PO Box 55129 Seattle, WA 98155

HABITAT PROGRAM

COMMENTS: I wish that we humans would just leave the wolves alone. Let them live in Peace & Joy naturally in their magnificent Beautiful surroundings. Wolves are Majestic, highly intelligent, Beautiful creatures that live + survive very well when humans are not monitoring + controlling their lives. Why do we humans always feel that we must control, manage + profit over all other creatures. Human behaviour is so out of control, just as global human population, consumerism + waste is. We humans are the ones that have thrown Nature so out of Balance with our "controlling, abusive, destructive, exploitive, grossly profiting activities. Nature deserves Respect + Consideration

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Earth + Nature would be in much better condition if we humans were a kinder

more thoughtful gentler species. Let the value of Earth's creatures live in Peace + Joy. Nature be Nature!

✓ JH



Please Help Us Protect Washington's Gray Wolves!

Time-sensitive postcard and meeting
dates for public hearings included!

More info at:

www.cascade.sierraclub.org

"If the wolf is to survive, the [anti-wolf forces] must be outnumbered, they must be outshouted, outfinanced, and outvoted. Their narrow and biased attitude must be outweighed by an attitude based on an understanding of natural processes." — L. David Mech, wolf biologist & author of The Wolf: The Ecology and Behavior of an Endangered Species

OBITUARY FOR A WOLF

*She was known as 527, a member of the Cottonwood pack.
But she was much more than a number . . .*

Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I write yet another obituary for a wolf that was part of our lives for 7 years. 527 was one of nine wolves that have been shot in the 3rd backcountry hunting district in Montana, outside the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. We lost a one-of-a-kind wolf. Born the daughter of 21 and 42, she came by way of greatness. She left the Druids as a yearling and joined her Druid female sibling, 217 (alpha female), in the Slough Creek pack in 2003. When a third alpha female, 380F, took over in 2005, 527 became the beta female of the pack.

527 was a wolf that marched to the beat of a very different drummer. In 2007, she set out on her own. A male, who I am sure recognized her many talents, soon joined her and she was finally the alpha she was meant to be.

She was the most cautious wolf I have ever watched. She would have nothing to do with being near the road or crossing it even if all the members of the pack were on the other side. Caution was her motto. Strategy was her game and she was a master at it. She always took action and asked questions later. She would always have a little hideaway somewhere that she could retreat to. I would call it her secret spot. I think she had one of those spots near the east end of Jasper Bench near the row of trees. She would have to return to Slough in the dark of night to feed her pups because she would not cross the road. Again at Hellroaring, she had her place and we tried hard to find her, but were never successful.

The fate of four other packs who inhabited that area was dismal. But her strategy and tactics were amazing and brought her two successful years at Hellroaring. Because of her collar, we knew she was there, but 99% of the time, she was out of sight. Even if other pack members were present, she would not be seen.

We were so hopeful that she and her beta female, 716, would go back to the traditional Slough area. But their past history there had been such a nightmare, I am not sure she wanted to try fate again. We will never know because she had a strategy for every natural situation, but was not able to outthink the rifle. It is such a

(over, please)

pity that we have watched her all her life and she has added so much to the history of the wolves of Yellowstone and now she is gone. When a book is ever written about this time with the wolves in Yellowstone, their lives will have contributed so much to our understanding of wolves in the wild. This girl will be a real standout. I am a better person because of 527, and I feel that I have walked in the footsteps of giants for knowing this brave, intelligent wild wolf.

I am hoping that in the future there will be protection for other Yellowstone wolves who spend their lives near park borders. Perhaps the loss of life in 527's pack, the Cottonwoods, will be a contributing factor to that protection. May their deaths not be in vain.

A Wolf Watcher
October 5, 2009

The death of 527 will not be in vain if we can prevail in federal court and win back the endangered species protection that wolves so desperately need. Please turn your own sadness and outrage into action by supporting our court case with a donation today. Thank you.

- Chances



It's Open Season on Wolves!

Wolf hunting season has now begun in Idaho and Montana. For the first time in decades, wolves are being gunned down in state-organized public hunts.

This unfolding wildlife disaster has the potential to drag wolves back to the brink of extinction in the Northern Rockies. Shockingly, it has been made possible by the flawed decisions of the Obama Administration and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

NRDC is fighting in the courts of law and public opinion to restore federal protection for wolves. But to give wolves a future, we need YOU on our side! The next 60 days are critical. Please read on . . .

Dear NRDC Member,

I'm writing to you today with the shocking news that wolf hunts are now underway both in Idaho and Montana.

Wolves are being shot and killed by private hunters on public lands. In Idaho, 72 wolves have already been gunned down in the hunt. In Montana, part of Yellowstone's Cottonwood wolf pack was shot and killed right outside the boundary of the national park.

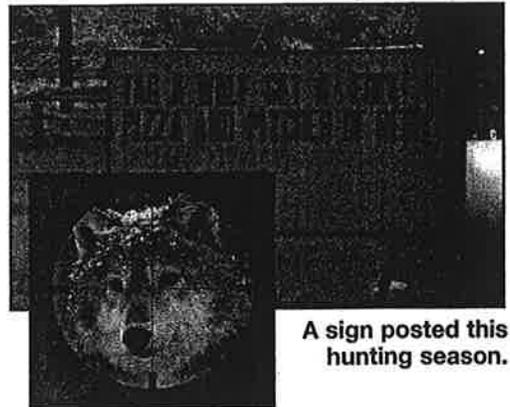
Over the next year, more than 500 wolves could be shot to death by hunters and government agents . . . and the wolf population in the region could be reduced by a staggering 40 percent!

This senseless slaughter should never have been authorized. It was made possible only because Interior Secretary Ken Salazar put a Bush-era plan into action that stripped this vulnerable wolf population of its protection as an endangered species.

Make no mistake: the wolves of the Northern Rockies have been exterminated before . . . and it can happen again -- unless NRDC acts swiftly and effectively.

That's why we are in federal court right now, fighting to get wolves out of the crosshairs of rifles and back on the endangered species list where they belong.

(over, please)



A sign posted this hunting season.



announcement affects 79 proposed coal-mining projects scattered throughout the Appalachian states,

where our Cumberland Plateau BioGem is located. NRDC has long opposed the dirty practice of mountaintop removal mining, which has destroyed entire mountaintops and forests and poisoned pristine lakes and rivers. The Obama Administration's decision is a promising first step, but NRDC will continue to pressure the agency to put a permanent stop to all future mountaintop mining.

Getting in Gear

Standing shoulder to shoulder with auto-makers, states and environmentalists, President Obama has forged a clean-car deal that all three groups can get behind. In September, the administration unveiled its proposed new national standards for cars and trucks that by 2016 will cut global warming pollution from new vehicles by 30 percent, improve fuel economy to an average of about 35.5 miles per gallon and save drivers thousands of dollars over the life of the vehicles — all while adopting a “size-based” standard favored by U.S. automakers. NRDC fought for years in court, state houses, Congress and corporate boardrooms to win wide-ranging support for the measures.

All of the environmental projects and victories described in *Nature's Voice* are made possible through the generous support of Members like you. If you like what you read, you are invited to use the enclosed envelope to make a special contribution or go to www.nrdc.org/joingive

Editor: Stephen Mills
 Writers: Jason Best, Sarah Bright,
 Pam Menon, Joyce Yeung
 Designer: Dalton Design
 Director of Membership: Linda Lopez

toll as well, with hundreds of bears being killed for their fur, claws and other parts.

The United States, Canada and other nations that form the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will meet in March,

pressure from NRDC and our partners and listed the bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act last year. Now, hunting groups are taking aim at this vital protection and suing to overturn it. NRDC is fighting their suit in court.

HUNTERS TAKE AIM AS BATTLE OVER WOLVES CONTINUES

The hunting of gray wolves in two western states will continue as planned this fall after a federal judge rejected an attempt by NRDC, Earthjustice and other groups to stop the hunts. But the judge's ruling also offered hope that we will prevail in our larger goal of restoring endangered species protection to the entire northern Rockies wolf population.

Last March, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar removed wolves in Idaho and Montana from the endangered species list, and those states immediately began to plan the first public wolf hunts in decades for this fall. Montana set its quota at 15 percent of the state's estimated wolf population, while Idaho declared open season on nearly a third of its wolves. A total of 330 wolves could be gunned down in the two states.

“What's tragic is that wolves in the northern Rockies had been on track to achieve recovery,” said Louisa Willcox, a senior wildlife advocate in NRDC's Montana office. “Their population had rebounded to more than 1,600, but we need at least 2,000 before we can start to call it sustainable. Hunting wolves takes us in the wrong direction.”

Although the court's ruling on hunting was a significant disappointment, it also stated that the federal government's decision to strip wolves of protection in only Montana and Idaho, but not Wyoming, seemed “arbitrary and capricious” and was likely a violation of the law. The court will make a final decision on restoring the wolf's endangered species protection after hearing our full case in the months ahead. In the meantime, NRDC will continue



mobilizing opposition to the interior secretary's policy of abandoning wolves to state control, even as we promote a science-based vision for a lasting wolf recovery. “The states don't have a very good track record of managing their wolf populations,” said Willcox. “They already exterminated their wolves once. That's why federal protection is so important until we have a healthy population and adequate state plans and laws in place.”

THE MISSION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
 IS TO SAFEGUARD THE EARTH: ITS PEOPLE, ITS PLANTS AND ANIMALS,
 AND THE NATURAL SYSTEMS ON WHICH ALL LIFE DEPENDS.

Sherida began selling tomatoes in 1995, starting her small business with only \$10 in working capital. Although her produce sold well, she could never really afford to improve or expand her business; her profits went immediately to fulfilling her family's basic needs. In 1998, Sherida heard from a friend that an organization called FINCA was offering loans to women in the area. Sherida used her first FINCA loan to purchase spare bicycle parts for transporting the tomatoes. She also cultivated her own tomato garden, and was able to afford seeds and insecticides. But perhaps most important, she was able to set aside savings, even after paying school and uniform fees for her children.

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

VJH

Dear Sirs:

Of course, those who misunderstand and wish all wolves dead, speak up loudest. The silent majority is quiet!

Wolves were here first & belong here. Why do ranchers always feel they come first and no one else matters. Very selfish and self-promoting.

Wolves should be reintroduced but wildlife ^{officials} should not let the public know where these wolves are. A wolf in the Winthrop has already been killed illegally. Too much publicity in our local paper. Anyone who knows the wolf, knows packs only kill when hungry and rarely.

Sincerely!

Dorela Cederwall Baker

✓
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

5 January 2010

Re: Wolf Plan comments

Name: William R. Brigham
1617A Stafford Court
Clarkston, WA 99403-1514

RECEIVED

JAN 08 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Email: rickceil30@cableone.net

My comments are both general and specific. Specific comments will indicate the document page number as found in the PDF file. I have not submitted comments on the electronic form as it is 'way too cumbersome for me.

For the record I am a TWS-Certified Wildlife Biologist, retired in 2003 after 36 years as a wildlife biologist for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

TRANSLOCATION. Wolves will be allowed to enter into Washington on their own, per the prior WDFW Director- not introduced. Translocation is another term for reintroduction: To even consider the concept, from my wildlife biologist viewpoint, is very unethical. It is a weasely way of putting wolves back into areas in which they may be neither wanted nor suitable, to meet Breeding Pair goals which are probably unrealistic. Translocation to meet breeding pairs is one aspect; Translocation to enhance genetic viability is another. Ed Bangs, previous USFWS Wolf Coordinator, summed it up best: "The wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are merely a 400 mile southern extension of the 50,000 in Canada." Translocation to maintain genetic viability is unnecessary.

SUITABLE HABITAT. Discussion of pre-white man wolf habitat is sketchy, and this Wolf Plan, even with its various maps and discussions, is not much more usable in its portrayal of suitable habitat. There is MUCH less now than there was 150 years ago, due to vast increases in the human population, in landscape changes/uses, and changes in vegetation. Washington's human density is almost 100 people per square mile, compared to 1/5 to 1/6 of that in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. And Washington's estimated 300 square miles of suitable wolf habitat, enough for (maybe) 1 breeding pair, pales when compared with the 41,000 square miles in Montana, 31,600 in Idaho, and 30,000 in Wyoming. Bottom line is that while the WWG has established breeding pair goals for the state, there does not appear to be anywhere close to the habitat acreage suitable to support them.

The fact that wolves have been **DELISTED** by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the eastern 1/3 of Washington should be acknowledged and accepted by Washington state and WDFW. And since wolves have been delisted there, they could and should be added to the game animal list and managed by sport hunting.

★
JH

FUNDING. The plan is replete with actions requiring funding, ranging from hiring of wolf specialists, to public info campaigns, to translocations, to depredation payments to livestock, horse, and dog owner, to non-lethal techniques such as protective fencing. WHERE IS THE FUNDING COMING FROM FOR ALL OF THIS? The Washington state budget is \$2.6B in the red, yet all of the wolf plan's proposals require funding. It is the responsibility of the state of Washington to pay for any and all aspects of the plan, as to do otherwise is to lay an unfunded mandate upon livestock producers and others. Because of this, an additional paragraph or section is needed in the plan to identify which current WDFW programs are to be dropped in favor of the wolf plan.

The wolf plan should acknowledge that **SPORT HUNTERS**, over the past 100 years or so, in concert with fish and game agencies and aided by funds generated by the Pittman-Robinson Act, **have brought back the ungulate populations which now serve as the prey base for wolves.** Credit should be given where it is due.

The issue of **ELK HERDS BELOW POTENTIAL**, as in the Blue Mountains (one of the "sink" areas shown on habitat maps in the plan) should be addressed more fully. In addition, name 6 areas in the state where elk herds are "thriving".) In the Blues, enough elk have been taken via exercise of native treaty hunting rights by Nez Perce tribal members that many side roads, especially on the Umatilla Forest, have been gated and locked, some year-long. Much off the winter elk habitat is protected by locked gates on main roads on WDFW-managed lands. But elk numbers are still 'way below what they could be without the unregulated, undocumented hunting. Adding wolves to the mix (they may be there already) will only exacerbate the situation. (Unless wolves in the eastern 1/3 of Washington are delisted, and sport hunting is allowed...)

VIABLE POPULATION. Page 40. Define in numbers, not words, what a viable population is for wolves. Without a numerical figure, there can be no real discussion.

CARRYING CAPACITY. Page 51. Use supportable data for this.

PROTECTION. Humans should be allowed to protect their persons, livestock, and dogs, with whatever means necessary to end the threat, regardless of whether wolves are listed, sensitive, or delisted, without penalty. And the notion that wolves chasing dogs or livestock cannot be controlled is ludicrous: Wolves are long-haired greyhounds, capable of running for hours. When they have chased someone's dog or livestock out of sight, the end is usually near for that critter, as has been amply demonstrated in Idaho the past two years.

BREEDING PAIRS. As noted elsewhere, I do not believe there is adequate habitat at present to support the breeding pair numbers established by the WWG. I do support the minority report of the WWG (Appendix D): 3 BP's to downlist to Threatened; 6 BP's to downlist to Sensitive; 8 BP's to change the status of wolves to a game animal statewide, unless the eastern 1/3 of Washington is not included in the plan.

And I will reiterate here: If there is NO Money for the plan, there should be NO PLAN.

Sincerely,



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 07 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Keith W. Hole
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** P.O. Box ~~133~~ ⁶³⁰ Methow, WA
98834

COMMENTS: My preferred Alt. is #4. I don't agree with or support the Purpose & Need; until these items are clarified the draft is invalid. However, if this proceeds to a final EIS then Alternative #1 is my preferred with the following changes.

Distribution: There should only be enough pairs for the species to survive/healthy when considered in terms of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Montana. There isn't a need for every state to be self-sufficient. If the objective is healthy wolves with reduced conflict then it should prevail.

If you persist in state self-sufficiency then the conflicts should be equal for the population of people / livestock and pets. There fore the I-5 corridor should have 10 of the 15 pairs. There are enough surplus horses, cats, lambs, dogs, dairy cows, etc. to sustain 15 pairs.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Connectivity: The wolves have supposedly migrated to the state via Canada, Idaho, and NE Oregon with success; leave well enough alone, they're doing fine.

Lethal Control by government: Allowed, consistent with Federal law.

Lethal Control of wolves (Take)

Livestock - Allowed if a livestock are commercial operation or family subsistence. Private land.

Public Land take allowed for ~~perm~~ permittees.

Livestock must be under attack or imminent attack.

Domestic Dogs - Allowed for farming operations.

Same conditions as above except for I-5 corridor and towns with more than 5000 ~~peop~~ people, as they will be the primary food source in those areas.

Payment for confirmed depredation

Full value for each ^{livestock} depredation on all parcel sizes in excess of 5 acres. Full value for domestic animals involved in agriculture.

Payment for probable

Same as above

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Keith W. Hole

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: Pro-Active measures to reduce depredation:
WDFW will implement proactive measures that reduce conflicts. Costs will be born by WDFW who will receive funds from a .5 of 1% wolf/endorangered species sales tax. (If any alt. selected by a majority of non-impacted residents then they should help out the WDFW with conflict reduction).

Ungulate Management: Elk, being the largest of the ungulates, should be reintroduced into any wolf area. If the area won't support enough elk, domestic livestock should be purchased by WDFW to support the wolves. Costs will be mitigated by the .5 of 1% sales tax.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

over

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Surplus domestic horses, (I-5 lawn/pasture ornaments), should also be used.

In summary:

You have proposed alternatives that have social, emotional, and economical impacts on rural/agriculture/farming/land hunting interests. Yet you haven't mitigated those impacts as you are required to do.

If the current statistics of 70% state wide support, most in urban/city environments, is true then 70% of the burden must be their obligation.

Therefore, any alternative Must have a funding vehicle. A .5 of 1% sales tax is fair. State agencies should hire private contractors for as much of this mitigation work as possible.

Additional FOIA request: All documents, E-mails and documented conversations between Wa. State and British Columbia regarding wolf relocation.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 06 2010

Name: * Wes Kentch
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 6870 Enterprise Rd -
Perndale, WA 98248

HABITAT PROGRAM

COMMENTS:

I have attached 4 pages of
comments

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

JH

My comments for WDFW Draft Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

I am W. Wesley Kentch, property owner Livestock producer and Taxpayer in Whatcom County, Washington.

My mailing address is 6870 Enterprise Rd., Ferndale, WA 98248.

To begin: Kudos' to the dedicated professionals at WDFW you have done a wonderful job to develop the Wolf Management Plans but as reality sits in I find many practical problems with the scenarios your agency shared at the public hearings. I listened to predominately emotional and near spiritual appeals for the Wolf with numbers like 30 or 50 breeding pairs. I must assume the people making their case for these numbers have not practically studied the Wolf, their feed sources, and Washington habitat for the Wolf.

It is nice on paper to divide the state into three or four regions each with limited habitat; however wolves unlike people do not read. They do not care about boundaries except for their territory in which to hunt. In other states, i.e. Montana, Idaho. Wyoming and others Wolves disperse wild game then seek available food sources. The more breeding pairs the more feed sources needed. Wolves involve many myths people frequently show wolves near a tree base howling at the moon.... Reality wolves like open areas where it is easy to run, hamstring and disable their prey which they eat live while the animal is still struggling to get away. Not a pretty picture, why don't the environmentalist's show this side of the animals nature.

Based on a wolves high reproductive capacity and demographic resilience they will repopulate the entire state given time. The fact that we eliminated the wolf during the 1920's and 1930's has not stopped them from recolonizing the North Cascades and our borders with Idaho and Oregon. The plan alternatives that protect the wolf until we reach a preset number of breeding pairs allows too many wolves for our available habitat before delisting them and allowing control. 9,12,15 breeding pairs could result in as many as 500 individuals and if each wolf takes an average of twenty ungulates per year that means wolves will kill more than 10,000 Elk or Deer annually. The last statistics I've seen is that hunters only harvest about 8,000 Elk in Washington. Hunters have provided the WDFW with a long term economic benefit of substantial dollar value to manage the ungulate population. Your agency has done a creditable job and our state has a large population much better than in the 1930's. My question is what does the wolf bring to the table to help manage the ungulate population? How willing will taxpayers be to cover the state's cost of managing ungulates for wolf food?

Wolves are resistant to human taking if Montana's and Idaho's records of this year's hunt are accurate, the numbers I've seen were only about 35% of the number allowed to be reduced. In Idaho their plan allowed delisting with only 6

breeding pairs a much smaller number than Washington's wolf plan. My common sense makes me think their numbers won't be that much different than Washington's.

Based on the comments I've made I can't support alternatives 1,2,or 3. I also don't think alternative 4 (no plan) is an option we need a recovery and delisting plan based on smaller numbers of wolves. After reading the minority report of the wolf working group it makes the most sense to me. I think they presented it as alternative 1A and it will allow more flexibility and better promote greater social tolerance of wolves by the public. After delisting the wolf needs to be managed as a game animal using licensed hunters for control in areas where they have overpopulated. If the wolf numbers are allowed to reach the levels of alternatives 1.2. or 3, I'm afraid the public will view it much like the recent bow hunt mismanagement of the Elk herd in Skagit County along State Route 20. I'm not sure that effort will make state legislators willing to add tax dollars to WDFW budget for ungulate management.

Adding a Wolf Management plan to this state will be difficult because losses caused by the state's wildlife to private property owners for forage loss or fence damage or animal losses has never been fully funded by the legislature. This plan adds a major predator to reek havoc with Washington's Livestock producers so must include compensation for the damage that will certainly occur in their production herds and flocks. I can only reference statistics from other states but in the last ten years losses have skyrocketed please check Montana, Idaho and Wyoming or BC, Canada our nearest neighbors. The last information I had, out of Olympia was that our state is facing a 9.2 billion dollar shortfall on funding how can our state cope with being a responsible wildlife steward implementing a wolf management plan in light of these economic difficulties. I as a farmer/rancher know that populations need to be biologically, socially and economically sustainable and this applies to wildlife including wolves, cougars and bears as well as sheep and cattle.

I wish you wisdom as you make the tough decisions on your management plan. I am finding it increasingly difficult to survive the economic times and thus far have shared my feed with the deer but with more predators and ever rising taxes I'm not sure how many more years I can hang on. I have included a Canadian news article on their wolf problems and economic markets actually stronger than our local salebarn.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion.

CC: Whatcom Farm Advisory Committee members, J Bayer, E. Blok, L. Boxx, D. Buys, B. Cieslar, V. Hawley, L. Helm, M. Finger, W. Kentch, T. Jones, L. Plagerman, D. Vanderveen, R. Yoder

Too often crying 'Wolf' in the Cariboo

Fall in the Cariboo has been pretty decent, thus far. We had an early cold snap in October that froze all the leaves on the deciduous trees and robbed us of one of the best parts of fall –



Market Musings

Liz Twan

the leafy show of colours. The still green leaves just dropped as they were.

The only bad part of the fall is the ever-increasing signs that predators are thriving in this area. A thin dusting of snow has revealed wolf tracks by the dozens and cougar tracks as well. Both species have been pretty much a rarity here for decades, especially wolves.

Wolves attacked a cow

In mid-November we had a cow killed by wolves. It was a cruel and agonizing demise for the cow. The wolf pack ran her out onto a shallow (frozen) lake where they brought her down by swiping at her from behind and hamstringing her. With her hind legs splayed out behind her and the wolves biting and tearing at her, she managed to drag herself another 40-50 feet before she died.

I wasn't there. How do I know what happened? The tale

was there to read in the tracks and signs in the snow. The tell-tale tracks of many wolves, the first blood where they hamstringed the cow, the trail of blood left while she tried to drag herself from danger, the larger amount of blood where she died; her rib cage and head that was found nearer to shore where the wolf pack dragged her to enjoy their beef diner, and the wolf running away when he spotted the human. Indisputable signs.

The problem isn't just ours. All of our neighbours on both sides of the Fraser River, to the north and south of us, are reporting the loss of abnormally large numbers of cattle. Wolves prefer yearling cattle, largely because they are more apt to run, but they are killing calves and the odd cow as well.

One cattle operator near 100 Mile House believes he lost in excess of 50 head of yearling cattle on summer pasture this summer. Consider that those cattle were purchased in the spring to go to grass and then were killed by predators – no one loses that many cattle to natural causes or freaks of nature. It's a devastating loss of stock for the operator as well a financial hit to the tune of several tens of thousands of dollars – a crippling amount.

Everywhere we travel these days on an extremely large



Cowboys of the Cariboo, who ride the range moving cattle, are seeing wolves on an almost daily basis. Quite often, the wolves remain out of sight but their hair-raising eerie howls echo throughout the surrounding forest making men, dogs, horse and cattle pay wary attention. They are very sly predators who very seldom can be seen killing their prey. In past decades, the sighting of a wolf was a very unusual occurrence. Greg Van Winkle, Willee Twan and Ivan Sampson all ride for the Alkali Lake Ranch. (Liz Twan photo)

acreage, there are wolf tracks. Many ranchers have been "crying wolf" here for the past two or three years. The problem is growing in leaps and bounds (poor pun) and we desperately need some help. You can't sell thin air – and these losses are devastating to outfits already suffering from economic woes caused by market-downturn.

McClary Stockyards busy

At McClary Stockyards November 10, slaughter bulls (1200-2400 lbs.) were going from 40.00 to 47.00 per hundred

weight; good beef type slaughter cows brought from 36.00-42.00 and young cows/heiferettes ranged from 40.00-50.00. Holstein heifers (slaughter) went from 35.00 - 40.00.

Feeder steers (beef) weighing from 400-600 lbs. fetched 90.00-100.00 while heifers in the same category brought 80.00-89.00. The heavier groups (600-800 lbs.) of steers and heifers brought 85.00-99.00 and 78.00-85.00 respectively.

At Valley Auction in Armstrong, November 12, 962 head trotted through the sales ring. D1-D2 cows ranged from 29.00-33.75 while D3-D5 cows went for 25.00-29.75. Slaughter bulls brought 33.00-47.50. Light feeder steer calves (300-400 lbs.) traded from 105.00-125.50 while the same-weight heifer calves fetched 102.00-112.50. Heavier steer calves (500-600 lbs.) brought 97.50-104.50 and the same weight heifer calves went from 89.00-

93.00. Ewes brought from 87.50 to 105.00 each while goats sold for 57.50 to 100.00 each.

At B.C. Livestock Co-op, Williams Lake on November 18/19, total receipts were 1800 head, with the Wednesday sale being a bred cow/bred heifer sale.

Bred Black Angus

Ian and Mary Robertson featured a nice pen of 30 bred Black Angus heifers (1060 lbs.) which topped the sale at 850.00 each. Corky and Judy Tucker of Springhouse sent in 20 head of bred Hereford heifers which traded to 805.00. Lloyd Creek Ranch brought Red Baldie bred heifers which went for 800.00 each and their Black Angus heifers (1142 lbs.) reached 790.00. Young, bred purebred Red Angus cows from Vallentine Waller fetched 970.00 each, while their purebred heifers went to 1450.00 each.

Merry Christmas to you all!

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HABITAT PROGRAM

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JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Teresa Eturaspe, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW
600 Capitol Way, North
Olympia, Wa. 98501 FAX 360 902 2946

Ms. Eturaspe, Re: Wa. State Wolf Plan – (Conservation & Management)

Concerns: Safety, Cost vs. Benefit, Impact on Humans, Domestic and Wild Life
Creatures, Vegetation, Farming and Forestry.

Correct me please if I misunderstand the "Reintroduction Process" I gleaned from the volumes of government and non-governmental documentation/reports I have diligently read and reread for the past twenty plus years concerning "Wolf Reintroduction" in the United States (coast to coast, including Alaska), Canada, and throughout the World. It would appear the process for "Wolf Reintroduction" is as follows:

1. The re-establishing of wolves is to place them into an area where they had been previously extirpated.

Best available evidence supports wolves did exist on the Olympic Peninsula and were eliminated at an indeterminate monetary cost because of danger to humans and livestock.

2. Only areas for "Wolf Reintroduction" consideration are Large Tracts of Wilderness with Abundant Prey to support a Wolf Population.

Criteria number two (2) is the cause for my previously stated concerns.

In view of the massive list of endanger species, limited hunting periods and kill limitations on one and same game animals the wolves feed on, I would appreciate some documentation that the Olympic Peninsula qualifies as a Large Enough Tract of Wilderness With Abundant Prey to Support a Wolf Population.

The phrase "Balancing the Ecosystem" is used often, perhaps too often, without an in-depth definition, in connection with the reintroduction of wolves. A current, no-spin, research and analysis report relative the Wolf Effectiveness in "Balancing the Ecosystem" would be useful. This report should address the Peninsula's current wildlife population sustainability, based on the widely varying weather conditions attracting certain wildlife to graze in specific areas.

The documentation on this "Wolf Reintroduction" issue weaves a massive web of fact/non-fact serving only to further complicate this ongoing and often-heated debate. I hope and pray the Olympic Peninsula Wolf Issue resolve is based on the Best Evidence (Fact) available, resulting in a "Win-Win" resolution benefiting all involved.

I have read volumes on this issue: The "Wolves for Yellowstone? – Research & Analysis" volumes, and the Executive Summary volumes, Trends and Management of Wolf- Livestock Conflicts and many, many other documents too numerous to mention here.

I would ask that you "Table this Issue" until all parties have the opportunity to review more Olympic Peninsula specific, Best Available, Documented, Fact-Based Evidence

Handwritten initials "JH" with a star symbol.

before proceeding with this tax dollar intensive undertaking to re-establish wolves on the Olympic Peninsula.

As a small commercial tree/farm land owner in Clallam County surrounded by DNR Forest and just a doorstep away from the Olympic National Forest, I am concerned that wolves re-established in the area would migrate to my property and therein add the risk of a human/wolf encounter we currently do not have. We have, so far, successfully dealt with black bear, cougar, coyote, fox, deer and wild dog encounters.

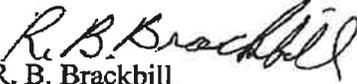
Why increase the danger element for the growing human and domestic animal population of this area, when that element, the wolf, was previously eliminated from this area because of the danger it presented to humans and domesticated animals, which we now have in greater numbers?

It is truly a stretch for me to find any justification for reintroduction of wolves on the Olympic Peninsula for the purpose of "Balancing the Ecosystem" at *any* cost!!

The idea of recreating a previously eliminated dangerous human-livestock-wolf encounter on the Peninsula has to be classified as counter productive and sets the stage for State and Federal financial liability when there is such an encounter.

To use some terminology of the younger generation, "Give me a break" in these economic times—in any economic time, good or bad. I like my tax dollars used for other, known, beneficial endeavors.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment. I wish you well in handling this issue.


R. B. Brackbill
2986 Blue Mountain Rd.
Port Angeles, Wa. 98362
Fax: 360 457 6136

✓
Nov. 6,
2009

Dear Teresa A. Eturaspe,

I would like to see the wolf introduced again to our Olympic National Forests, and other forests on the Peninsula.

Moved as soon as possible, the wolf, and families of wolves, so they can help stabilize the wild life here. They have been missed.

Thank you for your efforts to improve our environment on this lovely peninsula.

Sincerely,

Thya B. Jovett

WILDLIFE PROGRAM
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DEC 18 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Barbara L. Hawkins
9512-180th Street SE
Snohomish, Washington 98296-8056

December 15, 2009

WDFW
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

RE: Recovery/Washington Wolves

I strongly support the recovery of Washington wolves in our state.

Wolves are an important factor in re-establishing a healthy ecosystem.

I believe Alternative 3 is the best way to establish a full and stable recovery for our Washington wolves.

Washington state has a unique opportunity to become a leader for sensible wolf recovery - let's make it work.

We will all benefit by giving the wolves the protection they need to fully recover in our state.

Thanks -

Barbara L. Hawkins
Barbara L. Hawkins

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JH
12-18

✓
WDFW
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dec. 10, 2009

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WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Dear WDFW,

This letter is in reply to your DEIS titled: Wolf Conservation and Management for Washington State, but especially that portion as it relates to possible expansion of wolves onto the Olympic Peninsula.

WHERE TO START on way wolves should not be put back on the Peninsula:

(I guess you should know I'm a resident here for over 60 years. And from numerous miles I've logged in the interior over those years I fully appreciate way the Gray Wolf was eradicated by the federal government here by way of a bounty program from about 1900 to roughly 1930).

CONSIDER the following/your DEIS:

- 1) The sub-specie of Gray Wolf known only to the Olympic Peninsula no longer exists...unless otherwise proven, the Canadian Gray Wolf would likely be the animal used to re-populate the interior here. Such would fly in the face of the Olympic National Parks 30+ year old policy of eliminating non-native (non-indigenous) species of plants, birds , fish and animals.
- 2) The Peninsula is relatively small in size, then smaller yet in structure to support healthy wolf numbers, but most important, it's isolated. It would be a travesty to both human population and the wolves to 'bring them back. By the way, it was verified many times (mid-1800 -1930's) that the wolf on the Olympic Peninsula didn't "pack-up," in fact usually 'ran in pairs. Way? Most likely two reasons: Wide distribution of prey in small group numbers and (eventually) a saturated figure of 300 (perhaps 400) wolves that had out fed and over stressed their available (isolated) habitat.
- 3) Human population on the Peninsula...when one of the last Gray Wolf was turned in for the bounty on Jan. 17, 1929 by Dewey Sisson was probably around 1/4 (25%) of that of the present. WE (man) no-longer live on the Peninsula @ 1800 or 1930 populations, and any person who thinks they can keep the wolves inside the boundaries of the Park is living on another planet.
- 4) Now consider the most striking fact of all. Wolves have been thoroughly studied and it has been documented that an adult wolf needs (on average) 7 to 10 pounds of meat/day over time to survive. Briefly (just @ the lower rate of 7 pounds need per day) one adult wolf will need to kill and eat the entire innards and meat of about 30 adult black tail

deer or roughly 10 adult elk / year.*

In the late 1990's it was recommended that 63 wolves be planted on the major rivers of the west side / Olympic Peninsula with the ultimate hope 'they would (over a decade or so) 'nurse the animal up to pre-European numbers of around 350-400.

Assuming 350 wolves existed on the Peninsula by say the year 2020 lets calculate the number of deer or elk* they'd have to kill (and fully eat) / year to survive...again @ the lower rate of consumption.

$350 \text{ wolves} \times 7 \text{ lbs.} \times 365 \text{ days / yr.} = 894,250 \text{ lbs. of meat / year}$

Now, while not written in stone (but I've harvested and butchered around 40 black tail deer and 11 elk here)...the average adult deer will yield approximately 65 pounds of boned meat and perhaps 20 pounds of innards...oh yes, wolves are known to crush and eat bones, but remember we are already ignoring that they will be killed and basically leave uneaten by herbivores. An adult elk on average render will about 275 pounds of meat and guts.

$894,250 \text{ lbs. of meat / yr.} \text{ by } 85 \text{ lbs. / adult deer} = 10,521 \text{ deer / yr.}$

$894,250 \text{ lbs. of meat / yr.} \text{ by } 275 \text{ lbs. / adult elk} = 3,252 \text{ elk / yr.}$

*It's recognized that as high as 1/5 of wolves food source on the Peninsula would be other prey, including some domestic stock.

It also should be noted that for years the Olympic National Park has been monitoring elk numbers within the Park. After early, then tough winters (such as that of 1969-70) elk numbers were reduced to 3000-3500 in the Park...in good years as high as 5500-6000 exist.

As for deer, over-all on the Peninsula you know their numbers will not recover from poaching (especially in the 1980's and 90's) hair loss problems, but mostly from protection of cougar and bear. And WE understand what heavy reduction of timber harvest in the 1990's to present (particularly on federal forest lands) has done to our deer populations...elk less so!

Importantly, facts that point to why the re-introducing wolves on the Olympic Peninsula is wrong can only be countered with emotional rhetoric.

Sincerely,

Stan Jouts 580 Steelhead Ave. Forks, WA 98331

✓



John Marshall Photography

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November 12, 2009

To: WDFW
Re: Wolf Recovery

First off, I regret not attending the hearing in Wenatchee on November 10. I found out about the meeting about 30 minutes before it was to close.

I am thrilled that wolves are back in North Central Washington! It is a privilege to live in a place where a few miles away there could be wolves living. Yes, there is a very small chance of being attacked by wolves, but it is much more likely that one could be attacked by another human. I am sympathetic to livestock owners concerns, but I gather that there is a mechanism in place to compensate them for losses. I also support the idea of shooting wolves preying on livestock.

I am frankly not sympathetic to the concerns of hunters with regards wolves. First off the wolves are not going to wipe out the game. Secondly the rationale that is given for hunting has always been that we have to hunt deer and elk to keep them from overpopulating. The bottom line is that wolves need to eat deer and elk to survive, humans don't. There is enough animals for both to get in on the hunting. I think that the goal of 15 self-sustaining pairs is too low. It should be a higher number.

I have seen wolves in the wild in Canada. I am hoping to see and photograph them in the wild in Chelan or Okanogan County.

Sincerely,

John Marshall

✓
JH
11-16

✓
12-29-2009

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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JAN 04 2010

Re: Move All The Wolves To Alaska

HABITAT PROGRAM

What?! Madonna Luers and other Fish And Wildlife bureaucrats are trying to introduce dangerous wolf packs into the state of Washington? (State Offers Wolf Plan, Wenatchee World, 10-16-2009) Hasn't anyone in Olympia ever heard the story of Little Red Riding Hood? Wolf reintroduction is a totally crackpot idea.

Ravenous wolves are not good for children, hikers, campers, snowmobilers, pets, livestock, or game animals. And dangerous and hungry wolf packs are only going to grow and spread. Putting wolf packs into our 6.5 million human populated Washington state is like putting piranha packs into a public swimming pool. What will the Olympia bureaucrats think of next? If they perceive a rattlesnake shortage will they start introducing venomous snakes into the state of Washington?

Move all of the wolves to the Brooks Range in northern Alaska. And then move all of the Fish And Wildlife bureaucrats who think that wolf reintroduction is such a great idea to the Brooks Range as well. But without any guns.

And then let the Fish And Wildlife bureaucrats have the wolves over for dinner. Or maybe the wolves will come over and have the bureaucrats for dinner.

Now THERE'S a win-win solution to the problem. The wolves will be happy and the Fish And Wildlife bureaucrats will be put out of our misery.

Yours,

Tom Stahl
115 West 9th Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 06 2010

Name: * JOANNE PARRENT

HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** avpjp@aol.com

COMMENTS: Please base your wolf management plan on science and not on pressure from special interest lobbyists. There have to be enough wolves to have a sustainable population.

Please refer to the attached copy of a National Wildlife Federation article. I marked and highlighted some interesting statistics.

Humans need to learn to co-exist with the creatures that inhabit this planet. The wolf management plan you decide on should help accomplish this.

I end with a quote: "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Gandhi

Let's get it right with the wolves in this state.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)





SEXY BEASTS

Efforts to protect wolves are often undermined by misinformation and myth; biologist Doug Smith is getting out the truth

BY PAUL TOLMÉ

Six wolf pups spill from their den on a hillside abloom with wildflowers in Yellowstone National Park. The pups wrestle, roll and scamper, then nuzzle their mother to nurse. Yellowstone Wolf Project Leader Doug Smith and assistant Matt Metz watch through high-powered spotting scopes from about a mile away. It is late spring, when Smith and his team rise before dawn to monitor dens and count pups. Forty-three of 69 newborns perished in 2005, and Smith is eager to see how the class of 2006 will fare.

The 41 wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone a decade ago have yielded what Smith calls “a feast of science” about wolf population dynamics and how the predators shape an ecosystem. The wolf project uses radio collars, airplanes, helicopters and teams of volunteers on snowshoes, skis and foot to track wolf pack movements and hunting patterns as the animals shift from summer to wintering grounds in pursuit of elk. “We’re simply trying to learn as much about wolves and their impact as we can,” Smith says.

Smith has been fascinated by wolves for most of his 46 years and has devoted his career to learning about the predators. Wolf project leader since 1997, he is among the foremost experts on the species. But the longer Smith works with wolves, the more he realizes how deeply distorted people’s perceptions of the animals are. “Wolves are so maligned,” Smith says. “More than any other animal, people have great misunderstandings about them. Ask anybody on the street their opinion of wolves, and they will have one, pro or con. They’re sexy beasts. And sometimes that’s a detriment.”

To educate the public, Smith has initiated an outreach campaign to debunk the misconceptions, mis-

THIS COLLARED MEMBER of the *Druid pack* is one of about 145 gray wolves living in Yellowstone National Park. Established in 1996, this pack is one of the park’s oldest and most often seen, as it frequently hunts near a main road in the Lamar Valley. Though a welcome sight to many park visitors, the wolves still have many detractors in the area.



information and mythology surrounding wolves. He and his assistants hold regular workshops around the Yellowstone region to answer questions and present the latest findings. Once content to publish research in obscure academic journals, Smith increasingly pens popular articles. "When I first began working with wolves I was a hard scientist," he says. "I have learned over the years that this other work is just as important as the science. Wolf managers must be sociologists as well." In 2005, he co-authored the book *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*, to inform the public. "I just want to get the truth out."

Elk hunters are the group he most wants to reach. Elk hunting is a multi-million-dollar activity on the public lands that surround Yellowstone, and hunters are a powerful political constituency. Many elk hunters, Smith says, blame wolves for decimating Yellowstone's elk population. Before wolves, the elk population numbered 20,000. Today, the herd is half that size. But wolves are just one factor. Grizzlies and mountain lions, which also consume elk, have increased in



number. And in 1996, as wolves were being reintroduced, wildlife officials in Montana increased the elk-hunt quota, specifically targeting cows to control overpopulation. All of these factors, plus a prolonged drought that has reduced forage, have diminished elk numbers, Smith says.

Getting this information to hunters, however, is difficult. Hook-and-bullet magazines regularly print anti-wolf rhetoric. Misinformation, such as the claim that wolves have a "surplus killing reflex," feeds the myth that wolves are thrill killers that hunt for sport rather than survival. So every



THE LEOPOLD PACK (above left) is Yellowstone's largest at about 18 wolves. The animals have thrived in the park since their reintroduction in 1996, but some area residents—believing old myths about the threat wolves pose to wildlife and livestock—do not want them around. Biologist Doug Smith (above in white helmet and opposite on horseback) travels widely to discuss the concerns of anti-wolf partisans.

fall during hunting season, Smith saddles his horse, packs provisions and rides deep into the Gallatin, Bridger-Teton and Shoshone national forests that border Yellowstone. His objective: meet hunters and talk wolves.

The weeklong “boundary rides” take him into the remotest reaches of the Lower 48, sometimes a two-day ride from the nearest road. Smith visits hunting camps, sits down for campfire coffee and converses. Entering a tent camp of armed men who dislike wolves is hardly for the faint-hearted. “These guys are cowboys to the core,” Smith says. “They see me as a bureaucrat, an agent of government propaganda.”

But Smith is no “bunny-loving, tree-hugging liberal,” as he puts it. In addition to being a fine horseman, Smith hunts and likes guns. More than six feet tall and fit, he stares hard from bluish-gray eyes. He sports a handlebar moustache and wavy black hair salted with gray. “We talk guns and horses and hunting and that bridges us.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement agent Dominic Domenici, who is based in Casper, Wyoming, and has participated in boundary rides, says Smith is no ordinary scientist. “Doug breaks the mold. He’s an excellent communicator. He listens and wants to hear the hunters’ stories. He isn’t preachy.”

Smith believes he is making inroads little by little. During his first backcountry trip, in 2000, one outfitter refused to shake Smith’s hand. Smith met the same guy five years later at a public meeting and exchanged pleasantries. “At least now we can talk. That’s all I’m after. On a lot of issues we actually see eye to eye. They want to keep the West wild, and I agree.”

Human hatred of wolves began with the domestication of livestock. The Bible contains references to wolves as contrary to human dominion over the land, and the ancient Greeks put bounties on wolves. The Massachusetts Bay Colony offered the first wolf bounty in North America in 1630, beginning a centuries-long erad-

ication effort. Government agents known as “wolfers” shot, poisoned and trapped wolves at the behest of ranchers and hunters, including Theodore Roosevelt, who called them beasts of “waste and desolation.”

The federal government even sought to wipe out wolves in Yellowstone National Park, beginning in the 19th century, and by 1926 had done so. Beginning in the 1940s, as biologists came slowly to understand the role of predators in the wild, a strong constituency built up in favor of restoring wolves to some areas where they had been extirpated. Despite legal protections and current public sentiment in favor of wolves, however, the animals are still in the crosshairs. At least 21 reintroduced Mexican wolves have been shot illegally in New Mexico and Arizona. There are dozens of unsolved wolf killings in Idaho, where they have also been reintroduced. Alaska wildlife officials have resumed aerial gunning of wolves to maximize moose and caribou for hunters.

NWF TAKES ACTION

RESTORING THE NORTHEASTERN GRAY WOLF

ALTHOUGH THE FOCUS of wolf recovery has been in the West and the Great Lakes region, adequate habitat and prey-base exists for wolves within the 26-million-acre Northern Forest, which encompasses much of New England and parts of New York. Wolves already are coming from Canada into parts of that region.

Experts have documented the accidental killing of endangered northeastern gray wolves (right) in Maine. The source of these wolves is likely southern Quebec, where several wolves have been killed since 1998. As recently as spring 2006, a wolf was killed in Quebec on a highway that probably serves as a travel corridor for wolves dispersing into the United States.

Biologists believe the dead animals came from a wolf population north of the St. Lawrence River. Confirmation of resident wolves in Maine would trigger a federal wolf recovery plan under the Endangered Species Act. NWF is leading an effort to determine if Maine and neighboring states are home to resident gray wolves.

NWF gains the most valuable information about wolf movement by involving citizens living in and around communities identified as key locations for recolonizing wolves, such as Pittsburg, New Hampshire, and Rangely and Statton, Maine. With support from state wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) northeast regional office, NWF has developed a rapid-response project for speedy follow-up on wolf sightings. Tracking surveys also are certain to be major factors in the eventual success of wolf recovery in the Northeast.

Challenged with budget cuts, staff shortages, the remote northern location of wolf sightings and strict time limitations for responding to reports of wolves, FWS and the state agencies are relying on NWF staff and trained tracking volunteers to take the lead in following up on wolf sightings. NWF continues to build on the success of past tracking and monitoring experience in the target area. In addition to continued work with a coterie of seasoned trackers, Peggy Struhsacker, NWF wolf project leader, proposes to recruit at least four new citizen volunteer trackers who will train in Wisconsin with expert tracker Jim Halfpenny. Struhsacker will work with volunteers to conduct initial surveys in the Northeast and to log possible sightings. Each volunteer will make at least 10 scheduled solo surveys from January to April 2007 and respond to all possible wolf sightings. In a project funded by Chase Wildlife Foundation, Struhsacker also will place and monitor remote-access cameras in an attempt to capture wolves in photographs.

For the past eight years, NWF has cultivated a social and political base of support for wolf recovery among wildlife agencies, hunting groups and key private forest landowners as well as among state, federal and Canadian provincial decision makers. NWF has been successful in this work but feels a greater sense of urgency in regard to wolf protection now that evidence suggests the animal may be roaming the Northern Forest. For more information on NWF efforts to protect wolves and other vulnerable species, go to www.nwf.org/wildlife.



Many members of the ranching community, another powerful western interest group that sometimes conflicts with conservationists, feel that wolves threaten their livelihood. A century ago, livestock predation was a serious concern. Today, however, wolves account for a small fraction of livestock deaths. Of the 104 million head of cattle raised in 2005, wolves killed 4,400, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. By contrast,

digestive problems caused 648,000 deaths and domestic dogs 22,000. Moreover, ranchers who lose livestock to wolves are compensated with state and private funds.

Even so, protecting livestock is stressful, and ranchers complain that sheep and cattle raised in wolf country gain less weight because they are nervous. "Finding common ground on the livestock issue is difficult," Smith concedes. Ranchers value the land as a

place to raise livestock, and wolves are simply a hassle. "Wolves can live with people," says Peggy Struhsacker, NWF wolf project leader, "but people just can't seem to live with wolves in our country."

Then there's the issue of human safety. Some people still see wolves as bloodthirsty killers that crave human flesh. At public meetings, parents in the Northern Rockies can be overheard saying that it is only a matter of time



AMERICAN INDIANS have long admired wolves. A painting by 19th-century artist George Catlin shows how Indian hunters covered themselves with wolf hides to creep close enough to bison for an arrow shot. In European society, wolves were more often feared, as countless fairy tales, including “Little Red Riding Hood” (below), attest. Baseless fears about wolf depredations can still jeopardize wolf recovery.

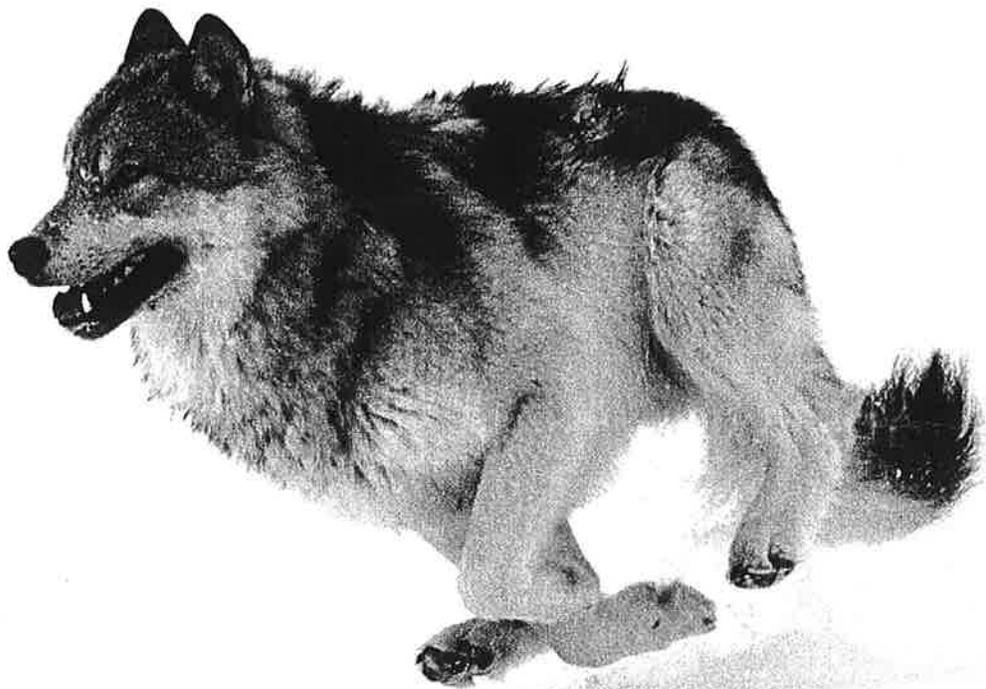
before a wolf snatches a child waiting for a school bus. The notion of wolves as human killers is deeply ingrained, researchers say, and dates to medieval Europe, where wolves ate battlefield corpses and bodies piled up during plagues. Stories such as “Little Red Riding Hood,” “Peter and the Wolf” and “Three Little Pigs” reinforce this mythology. “The wolf is a species that continues to create fear and hatred,” Struhsacker says. “But in fact, Little Red Riding Hood lied. Wolves rarely kill people.” The 20th century tallied only 16 documented attacks on humans in North America. None were fatal, and all involved rabid wolves or wolves habituated to humans. Bears, mountain lions and even domestic dogs are far more dangerous.

But presenting the facts can be painful. Smith has been called a liar



at public meetings. People harass him at the supermarket and in restaurants around his hometown of Gardiner, Montana. His inbox is clogged with nasty emails. “Nobody who works with wolves can lead a quiet and peaceful life,” he says. Scientific colleagues sometimes criticize him for being so vocal. Even wolf lovers are a problem. “The animal rights people hate to hear it, but wolves that kill domesticated animals must be shot,” Smith says.

Wolves remain a bogeyman today, as illustrated by the death of a Canadian man in 2005. When Kenton Carnegie’s mangled corpse was discovered near the remote Saskatchewan mining camp of Points North Landing, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police immediately blamed wolves. The story



A GRAY WOLF POWERS along in Yellowstone National Park. Wolves usually feed on the largest hooved animals available, such as elk and bison. They rarely attack livestock. In 2005, they killed 4,400 of the 104 million cattle raised in the United States that year. Domestic dogs killed 22,000, while digestive problems claimed 648,000. State and private programs pay ranchers for livestock lost to wolves.

made headlines around the world. But when noted wolf biologist Paul Paquet of the World Wildlife Fund investigated, he recognized immediately that a black bear killed Carnegie. “The problem was bias right from the start,” Paquet says.

“When I looked at the photos, I immediately saw bear tracks,” Paquet says. He examined Carnegie’s corpse and noted characteristics common to bear kills. The clothes and skin had been stripped away, indicating the so-called banana-peel eating technique common to bears. The corpse was dragged about 100 yards—another trait common to bears. Carnegie’s heart and liver—“the most desired morsels for wolves,” Paquet says—were intact. Lastly, the body had

extensive claw marks (wolves attack with their teeth). “The circumstances link closely to what we know of bear attacks,” Paquet says. “That said, we can’t completely rule out wolves.” Paquet filed his report with Saskatchewan’s chief coroner, who is expected to release a final cause of death in the coming months.

Debunking misinformation is key, Smith says, because misguided notions about wolves can lead to poor management decisions. Public support is crucial to the long-term effort to restore wolves to the Northern Rockies. This is especially true as the federal government moves to delist wolves under the Endangered Species Act and turn over management to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho—all home to vocal and

politically powerful wolf opponents. “Conservation groups need to explain to people that wolves aren’t dangerous and are necessary to the health of our ecosystems,” Struhsacker says.

Hoping to build on the success of the Yellowstone reintroduction, wolf advocates are urging recovery efforts in Colorado, where overabundant elk are ravaging Rocky Mountain National Park, and in the forests of northern New England. “I don’t think it’s possible to change someone’s mind about wolves,” says Domenici. “All you can do is give people the facts and let them make their own decisions.”

PAUL TOLMÉ recently wrote for National Wildlife about the challenges faced by raptors in the Great Divide.

✓
**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan**

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Rod Jacques

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 7544 south Lake Shore Rd.
Chelan, wa 98816

COMMENTS: See attached

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JAN 06 2010

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*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

A
JH

WDFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comment

I would like to comment on the WDFW wolf conservation and management plan. A part of the WDFW mission statement states that WDFW serves Washington citizens by protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats. I don't believe any of the proposed plans addresses the restoration of wolves, in a timely matter. It is said that it may take many decades for wolves to reestablish in many areas. Some prime areas, such as the Olympic Peninsula, may never be reestablished without help. Restoring wildlife balance to all suitable habitats should be a high priority for the WDFW.

Of course, one of the main issues with the return of the wolves is how to handle livestock depredation. It is ironic that the culture that caused the elimination of the wolf is one that may continue business as usual, with their return. To compensate for livestock loss is not a sustainable solution. Grazing on, and altering public lands is no longer accepted by the public. Livestock producers using public or private lands must change their way of doing business. All industries are constantly changing and successful businesses must adapt. So must the livestock producers.

Both of these issues cost money. There are grants and private money that may aide. Spending money on the reintroduction of a native species (rather than maintaining artificial numbers of game animals) and striving for natural balance, seems to fit the WDFW mission statement more accurately. I hope someday soon that this noble animal will be restored.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. J. Miller", written in a cursive style.

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JAN 06 2010

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**★
JH**

WOLF comments
& responses

Set #5

Commission (DFW)

From: Commission (DFW) on behalf of Yeager, Susan D (DFW) *cc'd COMMISSION*
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 1:48 PM *via email*
To: 'Brad Smith'; Burkhart, Nancy A (DFW); 'Chuck Perry'; 'Connie Mahnken (home)'; 'David Jennings'; 'Gary Douvia (home)'; 'Gary Douvia (work)'; 'George Orr'; 'Ken Chew'; 'Miranda Wecker'; 'Rollie Schmitten' *1-3-10*
Cc: Commission (DFW)
Subject: More wolf plan email & responses re: wolves in Washington_Set 5
Attachments: Wolf comments_set 5_Jan 03-2010.pdf; wolf DEIS_Davis comments & response.pdf

Commissioners,

cc'd SEPA
1-3-10 Amy

The Commission office continues to receive comments regarding the wolf plan. Each person has received a standard response with instructions on the SEPA comment process (see attached). Copies have been provided to the SEPA desk as well.

Susan

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
EMAIL: Commission@dfw.wa.gov
WEB: www.wdfw.wa.gov/commission
MAIL: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
PHONE: (360) 902-2267
FAX: (360) 902-2448

form
letters

x

set 5

WOLF COMMENTS &
RESPONSES, Set #5

Standard response was sent to each of the following on 12/30/2009:

<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft Plan (11 items)		
	Daniel Russell	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Tue 12/29/2009...
	Jonette Grajeda	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Sun 12/27/2009...
	Tanya Maurer	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Sat 12/26/2009 ...
	Frank Parker	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Sat 12/26/2009 ...
	Jason Duba	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Fri 12/25/2009 ...
	bonnie bash	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Thu 12/24/2009...
	Alana Clampitt	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Wed 12/23/200...
	Joanne Polayes	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Tue 12/22/2009...
	Benjamin Derrick	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Tue 12/22/2009...
	Yovonne Autrey-Schell	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Tue 12/22/2009...
	Stacey Cooper	Wolf Conservation in Washington - Comments to Draft ... Tue 12/22/2009...
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: wolf plan (1 item)		
	 LD Green	wolf plan Wed 12/30/200...
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: Wolf re-introduction to state (1 item)		
	Burns, Kevin D	Wolf re-introduction to state Wed 12/23/200...

* * * * *

Email letter (cc) received from LD Green, with subject "Wolf Plan":

L.D. Green
2775 W. Harrison Rd.
Othello, WA 99344
(509) 488-9996

December 17, 2009

Senator Brian Hatfield
Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Committee
P.O. Box 40419
Olympia, WA 98504-0419

RE: Wolf Plan

Dear Senator Hatfield,

I attended the December 4th legislative working session before the Ag Committee on the Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, which addressed livestock conflicts.

It was suggested by one of the Senators that we address the issue of accountability of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to the Chair of the Senate Ag Committee and representatives of Cattle Producers of Washington, Washington Cattlemen's Association, and Washington Farm Bureau. I believe there should be a consensus between stakeholders, legislators and WDFW at the end of each

✓
year on actual wolf numbers and status of each stage of recovery objectives in each of the 3 regions of the State.

It is critical for this plan to be managed as tightly as possible in order to avoid the over-population of wolves, which have occurred in Montana and Idaho, and maintain sustainability for agricultural interests as well as deer and elk populations.

The WDFW must give weight to the knowledge of their field agents and true science, rather than only considering increasing their budget through Federal money. Our state stands to lose the revenue of hunting licenses and state pasture leases, with the overpopulation of wolves because of lack of habitat.

I would like to request that you appoint an oversight committee to oversee the Wolf Management Plan and keep the WDFW accountable. The Plan needs to be kept on task and the WDFW needs to be accountable to Legislators and Stakeholders as far wolf numbers and the fulfillments of each stage.

Sincerely,

LD Green, Cattle Producers of Washington District 1 Director, Wolf Committee Chair,
Washington Cattlemen's Association

* * * * *

Email letter received from Kevin Burns with subject "Wolf re-introduction to state"

I have written to the WDFW several times to stop hunting animals prior to the rut - deer especially and to limit the number of hunters for elk with permits only. We need to rebuild our deer and elk herds. Allowing the wolves to be re-introduced into our state that already has limited deer herds is sad. I went to Idaho for a deer, bear, and elk hunt in 2007 at Elk City and was totally discusted. Their wolves have decimated the wildlife herds dramatically. I am against wolves in this state. And, if you insist on having them here then do it at Northwest Trek park. It's the liberals who would want them here that way they can kill off loads of deer, elk, and bear that are hibernating so that us hunters will be dissatisfied and give up hunting altogether in this state.

Kevin Burns
F-22 Product Support - QA
(206) 544-3010

* * * * *

STANDARD RESPONSE SENT 12/30/2009 via EMAIL

Dear _____:

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission welcomes your interest in wolf recovery and management.

A three-month long process is now underway to seek comments from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) entitled: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for

Barbara L. Hawkins
P.O. Box 1358
Snohomish, Washington 98291-1358

November 2, 2009

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Department of Fish and Wildlife
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, Washington 98012

ATTN: Lora Leschner

RE: WOLF RECOVERY

I wish to state my support for a wolf recovery program that makes Washington State a leader in our nation for wise and stable wolf recovery.

My views are as follows:

- 1) Wolves have the right to be protected so they can take their rightful place as top predators in a healthy ecosystem.
- 2) A separate recovery plan should be made for the the Pacific Coast because it provides high-quality habitat for the wolves.
- 3) Eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision - there is too much opportunity for abuse by poachers - non-lethal deterrent methods and fair compensation to livestock owners is more effective.
- 4) An increase in the number of established breeding pairs is necessary before delisting is proposed to ensure success in wolf recovery.
- 5) Consider translocation of wolves to speed recovery and plan a funding schedule to support the plan.
- 6) Consider input from the Wolf Education and Research Center.

Washington State has a unique opportunity to be a visionary leader - let's make it work for us as well as the wolves.

Thanks

Barbara L. Hawkins
Barbara L. Hawkins





From: Kim Des Rochers
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW);
Subject: comments on wolf recovery plan
Date: Monday, December 07, 2009 4:37:31 PM

As a resident of a small rural community and someone who hikes, skis, fishes, and observes wildlife in Washington State lands, I support **Alternative 3** in the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington because I feel it affords wolves the greatest chance of fully recovering in this state.

I do, however, have some serious concerns. One is regarding the lethal control of wolves at any stage of their recovery -- including after they have fully recovered -- by anyone other than state or federal agents. Therefore, I do NOT support any of the alternatives that include:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->the lethal control by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->the lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) livestock; or
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->the lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) domestic dogs.

I feel that allowing livestock owners and others to kill wolves under these circumstances is dangerous, and open to serious abuse and indiscriminate killing of wolves. For example, how would it be proven -- beyond any doubt -- that a wolf was actually killed on a ranchers property (and not elsewhere and later brought to the ranchers property)? And how would it be proven -- beyond any doubt -- that it was necessary for a trophy hunter to kill a wolf because it attacked his domestic hunting dog? Given the hostile and negative feelings and behavior of some ranchers toward wolves (as an example, recall the 2008/2009 incident in the Methow Valley when a rancher killed a wolf, tried to smuggle its pelt out of the US, and then lied to government officials about killing the wolf), this provision should be thrown out. State and federal agencies should focus on 1) researching and using non-lethal deterrent methods, and 2) providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package if wolves actually predate on their livestock.

Another concern I have is that the number of breeding pairs (15) for delisting is extremely low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside of the state for recovery. A number of scientists now agree that the original population goals for wolf recovery in the northern Rockies were

agree that the original population goals for wolf recovery in the northern Rockies were too low and would put wolves there at a higher risk of inbreeding, disease, and future extinction. In addition, recovery in Washington depends on migration from Idaho and British Columbia. Washington state has no control over the wolf populations in those states, and the assumption that populations here will be self-sustaining after 15 breeding pairs have been observed for three consecutive years is just that — an assumption. Ideally Washington State's wolf plan and recovery objectives should be based on the latest and most relevant science, but in the absence of requisite information, it should adopt a precautionary approach. I therefore support setting higher targets for breeding pairs until more research is conducted on the ecological and biological requirements of wolves in Washington State.

I strongly support undertaking an information, education and awareness campaign that targets all segments of the population (including hunters, ranchers, hikers and environmental groups), and provides non-biased information about the basic biology and ecology of wolves, the low risk of wolf attacks, actions that can be taken to prevent wolves from becoming habituated to people and livestock, the overall importance of wolves in natural ecosystems, and living with wolves.

The economic analysis presented in chapter 14 of the Public Review Draft indicates that a substantial proportion of Washington's population (40%) engages in wildlife viewing, and that the direct economic benefits that derive from wildlife viewing in Washington exceed those from hunting. It is likely that viewing of wolves would be very popular in Washington (as it has been in other states), thereby increasing the direct economic benefits associated with wolf recovery.

In summary, wolf recovery makes sense — ecologically, politically (a majority of Washington residents support wolf recovery in the state), and economically. I urge you to modify the proposed Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to increase the likelihood that recovery is successful.

Mark Smaalders
P.O. Box 1364
Eastsound, WA 98245
360-376-1042

✓
Teresa A. Eturaspe
SAA/NEPA Coordinator
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia WA 98501-1091

Rob Viennear
Van By River

Hi → I'm confused.
Why is there even a debate
about re-introduction of
a wolf's creature into its
rightful home.

Shame on those who refuse
to listen to our wild friends.
The wolf is our friend - They
are natural predators - like
us. What are people so afraid
of - Men kill wolves, not for
food - but to eliminate the
possibility of another illusory
threat to some misguided
security paradigm. Let
irrational fear go.

Do not pander to fear.
The ecosystem requires natural
predators for its health.
Re-introduction should only generate
excitement - The only debate
should be why is it taking
so long →

Do the right thing - Listen
to the wolf - Rob Viennear 360-808-7323

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DEC 21 2009

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Dec. 5, 2009

Dear Theresa;

I agree wholeheartedly with everything that Mr. Rob Viennear said in his letter to you in regard to the wolves being reintegrated back onto the National Park.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Jacks

✓

From: Kathy Panciera [mailto:chattycathie63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 4:47 PM
To: Director (DFW)
Subject: Wolf Reintroduction and Management in Washington State

October 23, 2009

Dear Director,

It is my understanding that state officials are developing a plan to reintroduce wolves back into Washington State and that the plan includes how they will be managed once they return. A strong state plan will be a crucial first step in ensuring that wolves gain a strong and necessary foothold in our ecosystem and achieve a perpetual future in our state.

Now that wolves have lost federal protection and are allowed to be hunted in Idaho and Montana -- and their population significantly impacted by aerial "hunting" by trophy hunters and others in Alaska -- giving wolves this strong foothold and lasting future in Washington state is, in many ways, more important than ever.

Wolves are an important part of our state's history and must be allowed to have a permanent home in our state. They must also continue to be an integral part of our ecosystem -- if that ecosystem is to remain healthy and continue to flourish -- as a natural predator of wildlife such as elk, deer, etc. As predators, wolves have naturally culled these and other wildlife herds of the weak, old, sick and injured for eons; just as nature has also culled wolf packs of their weak, old, sick and injured for eons.

In order to effect a successful, long-lasting future for wolves in our state, science and common sense must take precedence -- over politics, fear and the zeal of trophy hunters and irresponsible hunters -- to help guide your department's approach to the recovery and management of the much-maligned wolf.

I hope your department will continue to do more to educate citizens of the importance of reintroducing wolves into our state and that your department will invest resources to help ranchers adopt non-lethal methods to avoid, or at the very least, reduce wolf-livestock conflicts, so that the magnificent wolf does not disappear, once again and perhaps for all time, from our state's landscape.

It is also important to note that wolves also have been important to our nation's multi-billion-dollar tourism industry. Millions of people from around the world visit the U.S. annually for the opportunity to glimpse wolves in their natural habitat. But, that opportunity has been significantly impacted since the wolf not only lost its federal protection but also since Alaska has allowed the senseless slaughter of wolves, perhaps at the eventual expense of their own ecosystem. Hunting wolves and other wildlife for life-sustaining food is one thing; but, hunting them down for trophies and/or bounty money is quite another.

Washington State has been blessed with a magnificent coastline, majestic mountain ranges, lush

forests, incredibly diverse wildlife and many wonderful man-made sites. The reintroduction of wolves into our state would not only ensure the continuance of a healthy ecosystem, but also benefit our economy in general and the tourism industry in particular -- especially those of our residents whose livelihoods depend on tourism.

Please do all you can to ensure that the reintroduction of wolves into Washington state is a success for the wolf, for our state's ecosystem, its ranchers, economy and tourism industry. Please do not allow the wolf to suffer the fate of the American Bison. Future generations of Washingtonians must be allowed the opportunity to glimpse wolves in their natural settings; not just in zoos or behind fencing in other facilities -- or, in the case of large numbers of American Bison, predominantly on ranches.

Thank you and your dedicated employees for all you and they continue to do to protect our diverse wildlife populations, our fish stocks, our fragile salmon runs, the habitats of these wonderful creatures, etc. And thank you for considering my comments on this important issue.

Kathy Panciera
Seattle, WA 98122

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November 4, 2009

Senator Michael Crapo (Idaho)
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20570

Governor Butch Otter (Idaho)
P.O.Box 837
Boise, Idaho 83720

Senator James Risch (Idaho)
2 Russell courtyard
Washington D.C. 20510

Governor Christine Gregoire
P.O.Box 40002
Olympia WA. 98504-0002

Congressman Walt Minnick (Idaho)
1517 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Governor Brian Schweitzer
Montana state Capitol Bldg.
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT. 59620-0801

Mr. Ed Bangs, Coordinator
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
585 Sheperd Way
Helena, MT 59620

Mr. Cal Groen, Director
Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Wildlife Officials:

This is a letter of information about the reintroduction of wolves into the state of Washington and elsewhere across the United States. Just about every time I read the newspaper, all I read is about the so called endangered gray wolf. How are they endangered? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officials got them from Canada. There are hundreds or maybe thousands up there.

I lived in Southeast Alaska on Mitkoff Island from 1974-1996. The people told me about the wolf and what it did to the deer and the wolf experiment on Coronation Island in 1960. I read about the Wolf experiment: The killing of hundreds of deer for an experiment is absurd. There was more complaining for Alaska's ariel shooting of wolves than the slaughter of the deer on that island by those wolves.

I think the U.S. Fish and Game Department didn't take into consideration the difference in population between Canada (about 33million people) verses the United States (about 310million people). Because of this fact, I believe there will never be a balance of nature. I also believe the deer and elk will be diminished further to an all time low. When this happens, what then??

The other night I was watching with a friend on television about the wolves in Yellowstone National Park. In one segment of the series the Fish and Game department built a two hundred

au

square foot fence and put five wolves in that had killed some cattle that belonged to a rancher. They brought in a young cow calf. They put a red saddle around its belly and a red collar around its neck. They opened the gate and in it went. The game people sat about two hundred feet away with their spotting scope to see what would happen--as if they didn't know!! Well, the wolves attacked the calf and it started kicking, running and bawling. They proceeded to shoot three wolves. I felt very sorry for that young calf who had to be a guinea pig for another ridiculous experiment. You can't tell me those biologist didn't know what those wolves would do!! Why didn't the Fish and Game biologists strap the saddle around their own bellies and the collar around their necks and go in????? Where are the Wildlife Defenders for this experiment? Doesn't anyone care???

The elk and deer will seek refuge in the timber where food is scarce which makes them weak and in turn vulnerable to the wolf pack. Also the deer and elk sharp hooves sink down in the deep snow while the wolf pack runs on top; thus the deer and elk are easy to kill.

Instead of giving into special interest groups who have been lobbying for wolf reintroduction for many years, the U.S. Fish and Game officials should have been listening to their hearts and done the right thing for our deer and elk populations. Something else that bothers me is that I do not appreciate my tax dollars or hunting fees being spent on wolf tracking collars and buying the gray wolf from Canada. I read that these collars for the wolf cost approximately \$4000 each and the elk collars are \$2000 each. What was the cost of the wolf??

In my opinion the majority of people in N. Idaho, Eastern Washington, Montana, and C. Idaho didn't want the wolves. The U. S. Fish and Game department said there was support. Wrong, I believe they got all their support from special interest groups who are pouring in big money and also from big city folks who are uninformed about wolf behavior.

Since the reintroduction of the wolf to Yellowstone National park the elk herd has diminished by the thousands and the calf ratio per 100 cows is 11 according to information I have read. Calf elk are very vulnerable to predators. The elk population in Central Idaho is way down too. In N. Idaho I travel many miles and hardly ever see a deer and the few elk that are there, hopefully will survive the Wolf Pack Onslaught.

Isn't it enough that we have hard winters now and then; bears, cougars, poachers, disease and loss of habitat that put a tremendous amount of stress on these animals???? In spite of all this the United States Fish and Game Department bring in the most vicious predator of them all. As far as I am concerned the so called Endangered Specie Act is way out of control. The Fish and Game Officials know the toll the gray wolf has on the deer and elk herds. A wolf study I read said: "the wolf will rip the fetus out of the cow elk while she is still alive and kill elk for the Sport of it and leave them uneaten."

On October 26, 2009 my wife and I were in Ellensburg, Washington.. There I met a lady from Stevensville, Montana. She was telling me about the dead elk her husband and her found while out on a drive. The wolves had killed quite a few and just left them uneaten. What a shame that a beautiful animal was killed for the fun of it. DOESN'T ANYONE CARE??

While living in Alaska I came across a female deer with its reproductive organs red and swollen and with teeth marks and her back hamstrings ripped. The deer was crying as she pulled herself away.

A friend of mine whose flies bush planes saw a wolf ripping a deer apart. The deer was turning its head back and forth probably due to the pain.. My friend said it was an awful sight. WHEN IS HELP COMING???

Now that the wolf is here, the U.S. Fish and Game Officials appease their conscious by having a wolf hunt and all the publicity that comes with it. In fact, the man who shot the first wolf received a lot of negative comments. Where are the special interest groups and the defenders of wildlife when the elk fetus is being ripped out of the womb while the cow elk is still alive?? Is complaining only a one way street?? DOESN'T ANYONE CARE??

In the 1930's the people saw what the wolf was doing to their cattle as well as the deer and elk; so they got rid of most of them with help from our government. If the game department of the 1980's and 1990's had learned that lesson from the past and had not given into the special interest groups there would be no need of a wolf hunt and all the publicity that comes with it. In my opinion, the U.S. Fish and Game Officials only care about the money that helps to finance their programs. In the meantime, the elk and deer are being depleted and the cattle ranchers are losing their livestock as well. There will be a price to pay some day for these irresponsible actions.

The wolves are now howling and the deer and elk are running for their very lives to exist on this planet. Hopefully there will be some left. The deer on Coronation Island was a prime example of how man is able to destroy an animal population in the name of some experiment. To learn more about the Coronation island experiment of 1960 and Steve Alders "Idaho For Wildlife" study: read the attached information I have provided.

What can be done about this situation?? I believe this vicious predator should be hunted year around. This will be the best way in my opinion to keep the wolf packs smaller and in turn you will have more beautiful deer and elk.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Loris
POB 276
Blanchard, ID 83804

Alaska Science Forum

February 5, 2004

When Biologists Stocked Alaska with Wolves

Article #1684

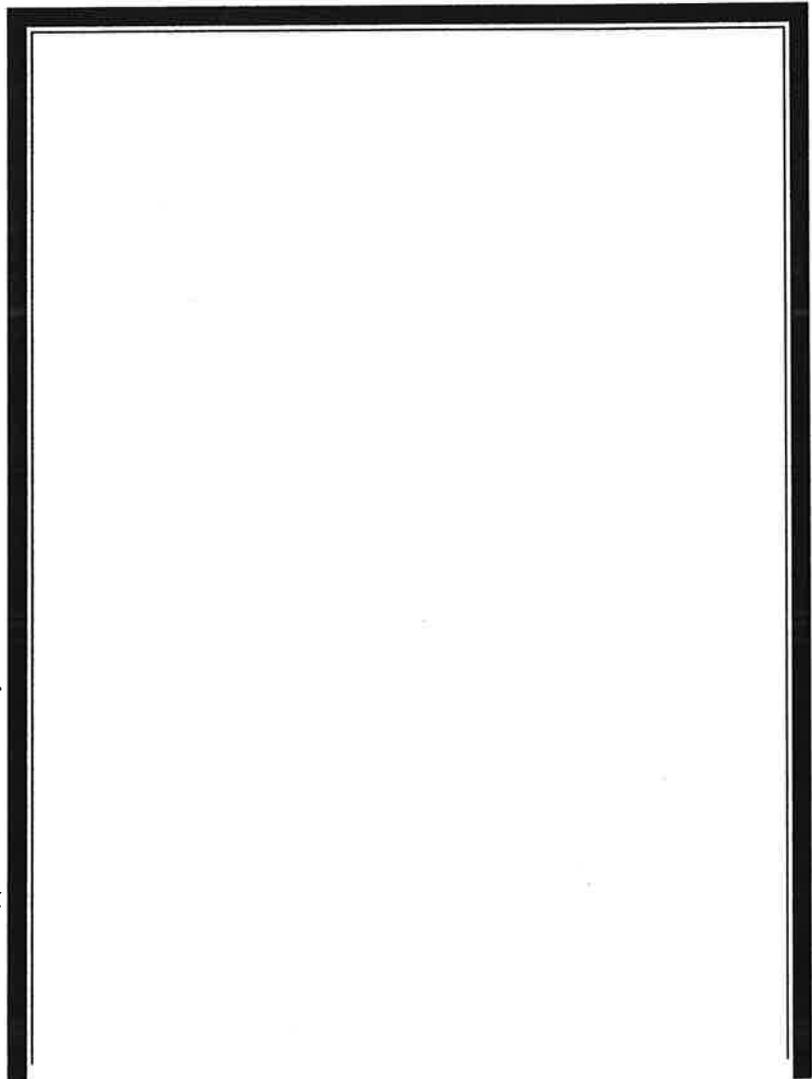
by Ned Rozell

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute

The killing of wolves to boost moose and caribou populations in Alaska is making headlines all over the country. Back in 1960, a government program to stock an Alaska island with wolves received less attention.

Alaska had been a state for one year when its department of fish and game conducted a wolf-planting experiment on Coronation Island in southeast Alaska. At the time, the remote 45-square-mile island exposed to the open Pacific had a high density of blacktailed deer and no wolves. In 1960, biologists from Fish and Game released two pairs of wolves on the island.

The experiment was the only wolf-stocking effort undertaken in Alaska and probably the whole world at that time, said Dave Klein, a professor emeritus with the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology. Klein, who had studied deer on the

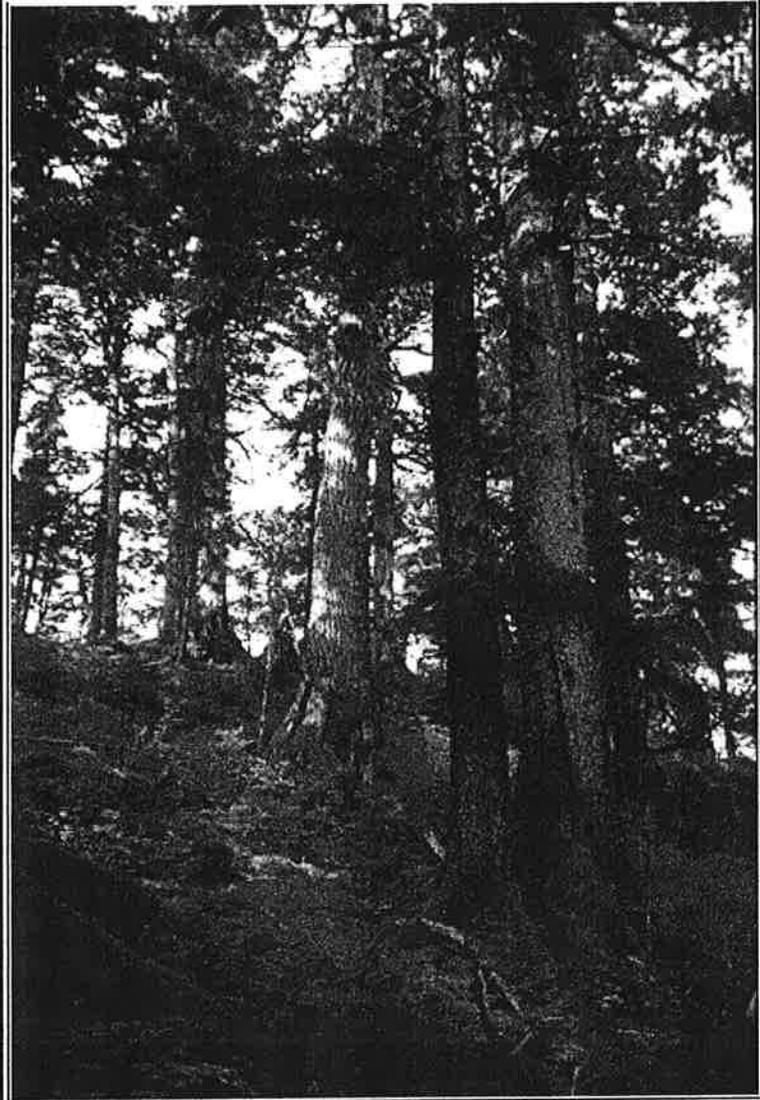


island for his PhD thesis, helped the state make the decision to introduce wolves to Coronation Island.

“Alaska had just become a state and you had a brand new department of fish and game staffed with young biologists who wanted to do things based on biology rather than a mix of politics and science. It’d be much more difficult to do it now.”

In 1960, Fish and Game biologists released two male and two female wolves at Egg Harbor on Coronation Island. Before they left, the researchers shot five deer to provide food for the wolves.

Biologist Paul Garceau visited the island in May 1961 and found tracks, deer remains, and wolf scats containing deer hair and bones, showing that the wolves had adapted to life on the island. Two months later, a commercial fisherman shot the two adult female wolves, but Garceau saw tracks of wolf pups on the island when he returned later that summer. The females had given birth before they died, and the pups had survived.



The terrain of Coronation Island, which Alaska biologists stocked with wolves in 1960. Dave Klein photo.

In 1964, Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Harry Merriam explored the island for eight days and saw 11 adult wolves and the tracks of two pups. He estimated that at least 13 wolves lived on the island and three litters of young had been born since the first wolves arrived.

The following summer, in 1965, Merriam spent 10 days on the island, seeing wolf tracks on all the beaches. He saw no sign of deer on the north side of the island, but found deer tracks on the steep slopes of the island’s south side, where rough terrain and dense brush may have provided the best chance to escape wolves.

In February 1966, Merriam saw only three wolves on the island, and their tracks suggested they were the only wolves left. He examined more than 100 wolf scats; six of those

contained wolf remains only, suggesting the animals had resorted to cannibalism. Deer remains in the scats were less than one half of the previous spring; fragments of birds, seals, sea creatures and small mammals constituted the rest.

In August of 1966, Merriam and his partners collected seven wolf scats, compared to 201 one year before. They found just three sets of fresh deer tracks. By 1968, one wolf remained on the island. Biologists who inventoried the island's animals in 1983 found no evidence of wolves, but the deer were once again plentiful.

Alaska's only wolf-stocking experiment taught biologists the importance of habitat size. They concluded that a 45-square mile island was too small for both deer and wolves. The study also showed that a lot of factors play into the dynamics of a wild animal population, which is a point Klein said many people miss in current arguments about wolf control.

"The relationship between wolves and their prey is very complex," he said. "Sometimes wolves are the key predators of caribou or moose, sometimes bears. Sometimes severe weather is the main factor, sometimes food availability.

"The main problem with these kinds of controversies is people are unwilling to look at the complexity of the ecosystems involved. Things are not simple in nature."

[Wildlife Index](#)

[Main Index](#)

By Steve Alder, of "Idaho for Wildlife", Lewiston, Idaho. Photos provided by Steve Alder and Lewis Turcott of Orofino, Idaho. Lewis and Steve camped for a full week in Feb 2009 to provide this report.

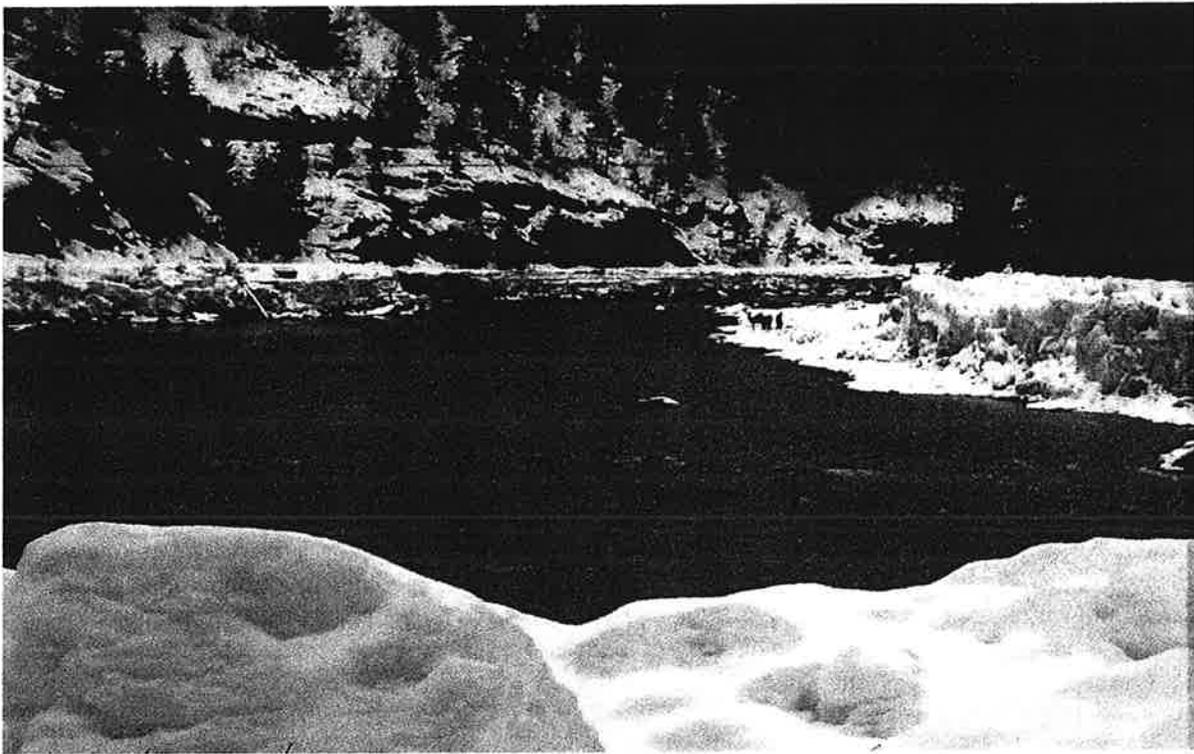
The following pictures were taken during the beginning of February 2009. The location was along the North Fork of the Clearwater River in North Central Idaho. Historically the elk had a difficult time in heavy winters just to survive without the addition of the wolf in their ecosystem. During these rough winters, the elk are concentrated and forced into narrow canyons at lower elevations where they attempt to find adequate feed and struggle through the winter. During these winters, the elk are reduced to a small percentage of their traditional range and are very concentrated. The elk can be literally trapped in these narrow canyons during deep snow conditions as the snow prohibits the elk from escaping the wolf. Another condition that hinders the elk from escape is the deep crusted snow after the snow thaws and freezes again. The elk's hooves fall through the crusted snow allowing easy killing by the wolves. In past years, we have documented dozens of "surplus" or "Sport killed" elk that were just killed and uneaten. Now with the elk numbers at an all time low, we are observing less surplus killing than previously as the wolves are running out of their traditional prey base as the elk numbers in this region are declining very rapidly.

The saddest aspect of the kill involves the extraction of the unborn calf, (Fetus). Without exception over the many years of photographing wolf killed elk, we have never observed one cow elk that didn't have the fetus removed. In fact we have found cow elk still alive with the fetus ripped out! After a cow elk is downed by the wolves, the first thing we have observed is that the wolves extract and eat the fetus. Sometimes they will take a bite out of a rear quarter but many times they will leave the remainder of the carcass until a later date. In essence each time a cow elk is killed, two elk are gone and calf recruitment ceases. A prominent Canadian wolf biologist verified this fetus extraction ritual a few years ago while I was researching this subject. At the time, IDFG biologists denied these findings as false and unfounded and indicated that our wolves are not pulling fetuses.

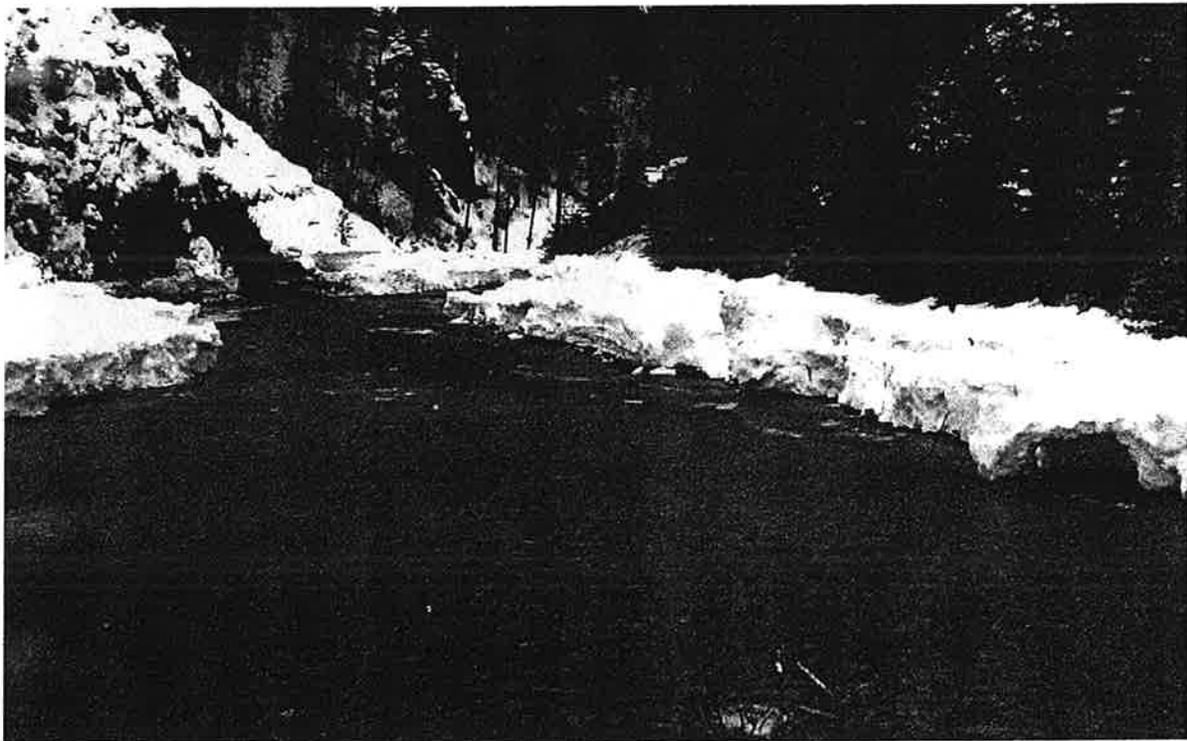


When we first saw these elk, they were circled up in a defensive pattern with their rear quarters up against each other and in a perfect circle. One must truly respect the elk for this defensive coordination and unfortunately I didn't have my video camera ready in time to capture it on film. A large pack of wolves was on the left bank of the river and once the wolves saw us they ran up the mountain to the left and went out of sight. Once the wolves ran off, the elk left the river and began feeding as they seemed to relax as if they knew we were not going to bother them as we had caused the wolf pack to leave.

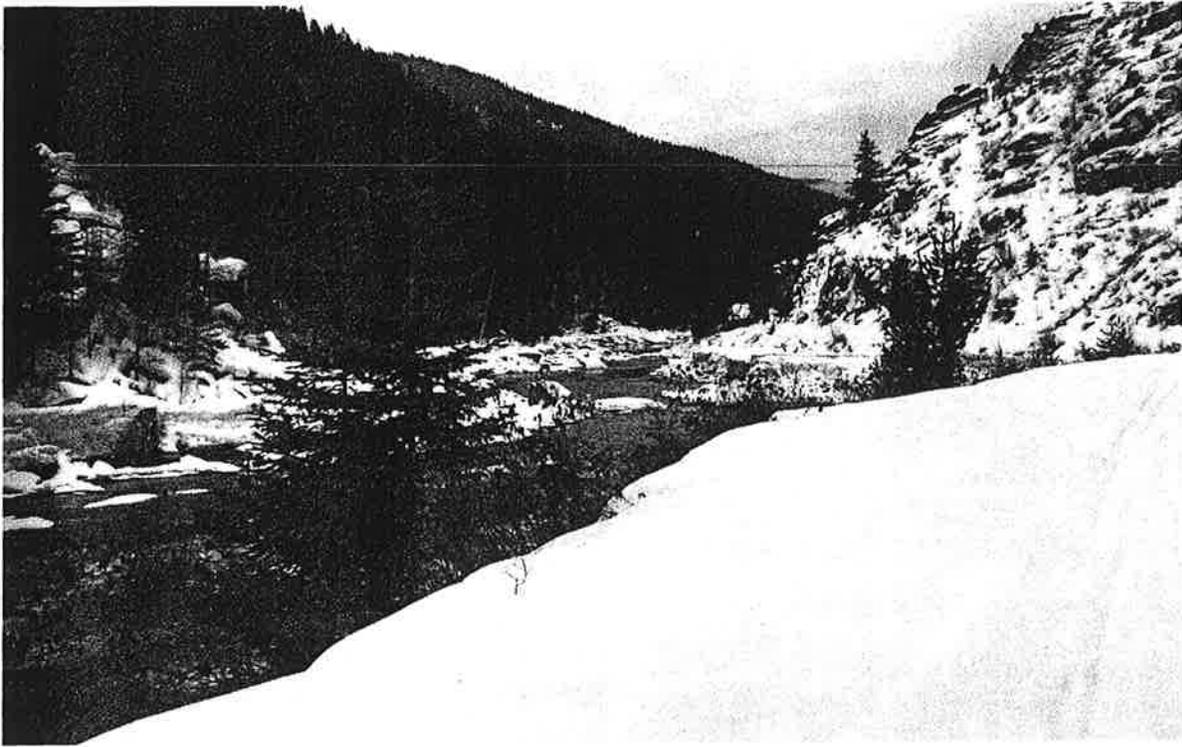
I couldn't help but feel sorry for the suffering, trauma and stress the elk must endure because of the wolf. Basically this is their existence: They feed up the South Slopes of the river for what food they can find and the wolves' attack the elk herd every few days usually killing an elk and the remaining elk run to the river for safety where they may stand in the freezing water sometimes for days! Then the entire nightmare repeats itself!



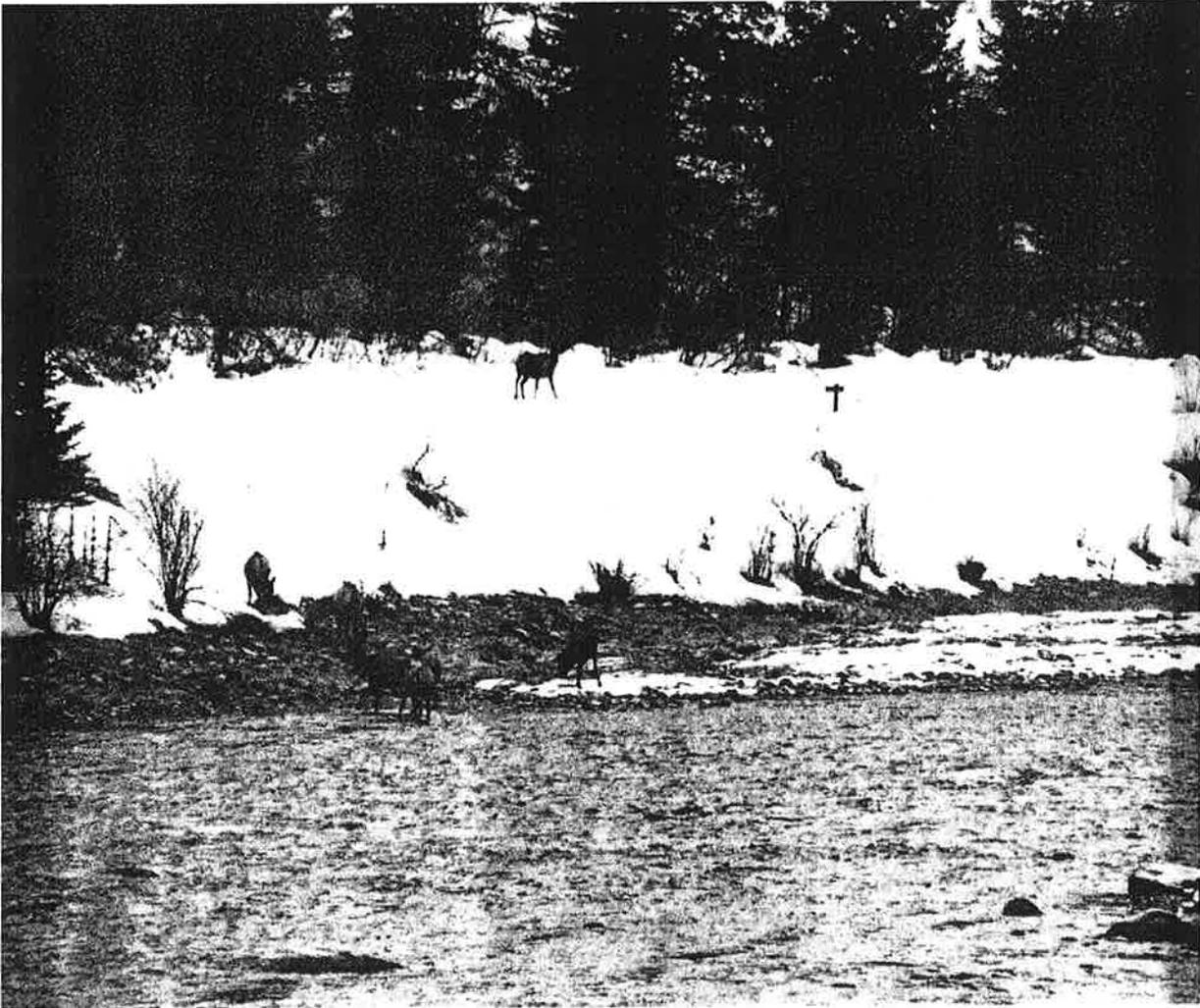
Wolves had forced these elk into the river and the ice banks were so deep the elk could not get back on the bank of the river!



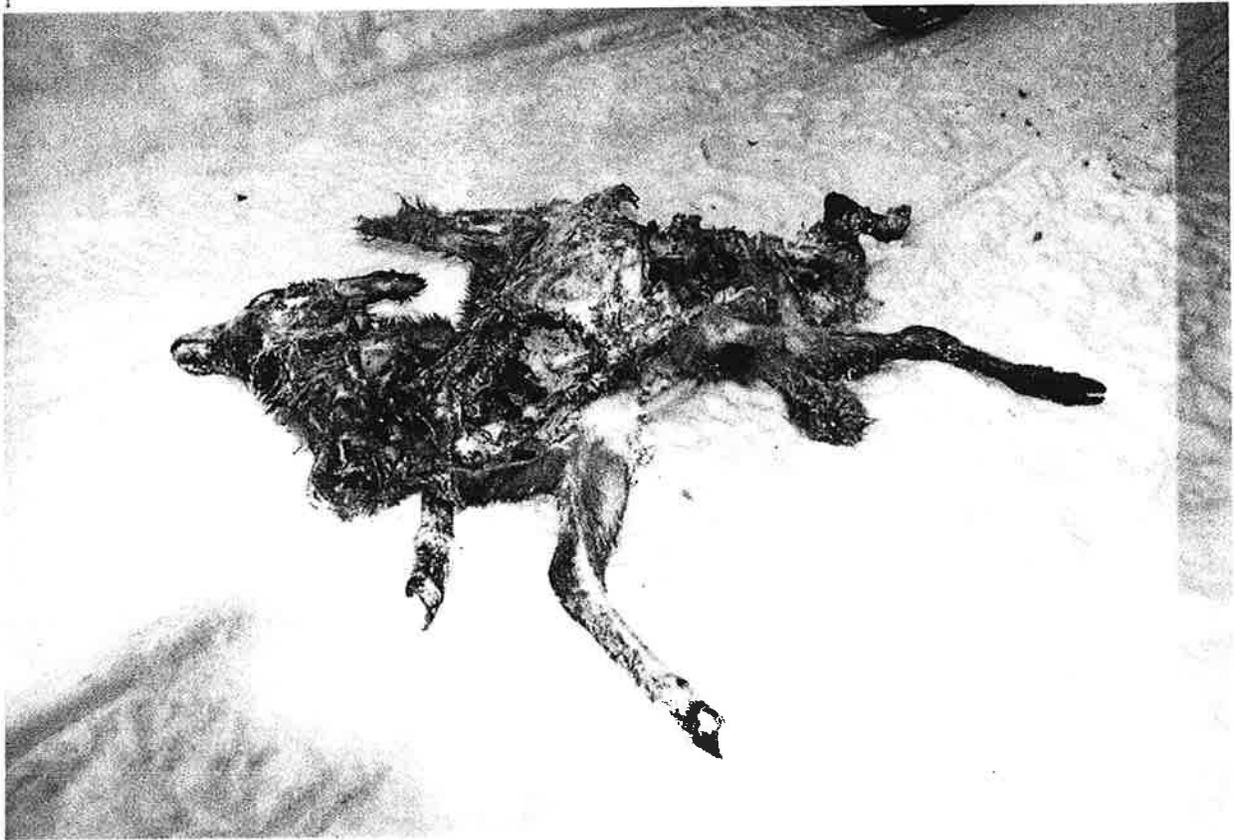
The ice is 15-20 feet thick in some areas of the river.



We have found where wolves run elk off cliffs and sometimes into deep ravines where they are easily caught and killed. Once the elk gets to the river they are much safer and the wolves know this.



These elk had been chased into the river by wolves and when we appeared they began feeding and appeared to relax with the wolves temporarily gone.



white tail deer



The bloody trail left after the wolves finished dragging their prey around for some fun. We have found many deer kills where it was obvious the deer were "played" with during or after the kill.



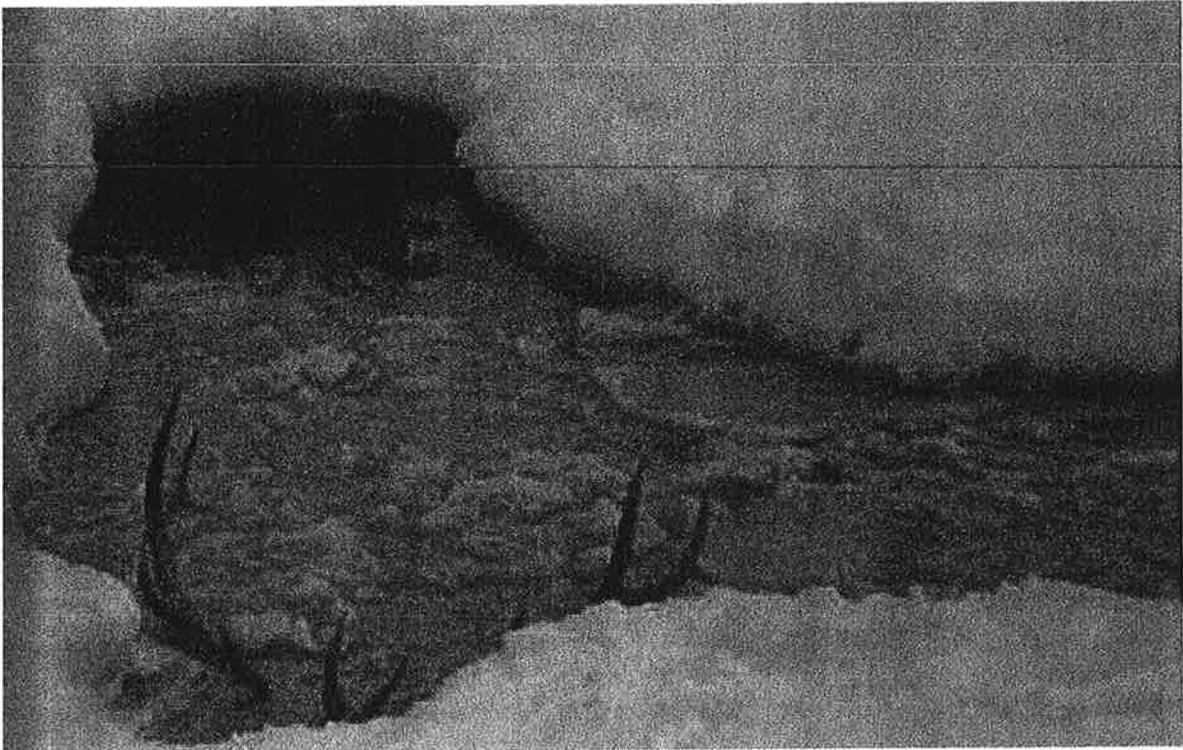


We found this recently collared elk and immediately called the IDFG on the Satellite phone to report the kill, location and the tag identification numbers. The IDFG had located a pack of 15 wolves in Cayuse creek, a tributary to the North Fork and collared 5 wolves in that pack. Then IDFG collared 5 more wolves in another pack of 11 approximately where this elk was found. We guessed this elk had been tagged and collared within the prior 2 days. We removed the \$2,000 collar and returned it to the IDFG office within a few days. Apparently the wolf collars cost approximately \$4,000!

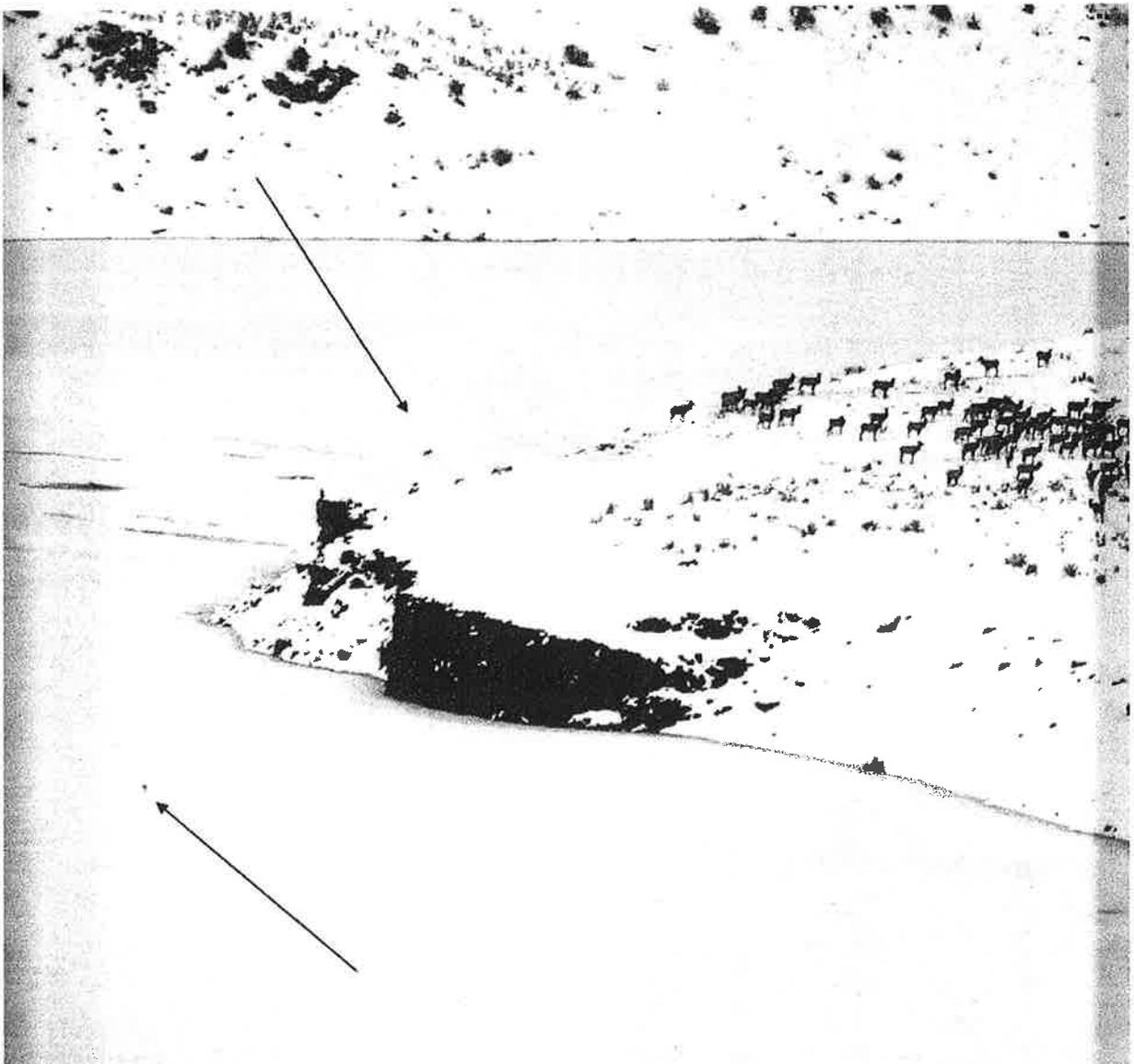




Above are 2 of the 4 elk found and killed by wolves near Big Island on Dworshak reservoir. A spike bull that was found was severely injured and still alive, but died soon. All 4 elk were last year's calves. We find very few calf elk as they are much easier to catch and kill by the wolves.



Last years photo of a bull that was chased onto thin ice and drowned. We verified this with the recent tracks.



January 2009 wolves chasing elk on Anderson Ranch causing multiple elk to fall through the ice, (See below).



January 2009 at Anderson Ranch reservoir where Elk were chased by a pack of wolves onto the ice and drowned



✓
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Comments
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington State.

I am interested in the Wolf Recovery plan as an avid hiker, and also as a geographer who has taken many classes in natural resources. I'm very interested in our local, state, and Federal government public lands, and in managing them to retaining as much biodiversity and natural flora and fauna as possible. I'm interested in conserving and protecting balanced and healthy ecosystems, and if necessary, reintroducing species which have been lost in an area. And so, I'm interested in seeing wolves returned to our ecosystems. This species was here first, and it's our obligation to not destroy what was here as part of the natural ecosystem before we humans settled in this area.

In glancing through the DEIS and discussing it at length with a friend, I am submitting several comments and concerns.

Wolves play an important role as top predator in our large regions of natural areas. They prevent overpopulation and overgrazing by elk and other ungulates. To maintain a balanced natural ecosystem, both predators and their prey have important niches to fill. Without the reintroduction of wolves, the national parks and forests are out of balance, and thus unhealthy. I would strongly support reintroduction of wolves, so that the negative impacts of elk and deer in the riparian areas due to their overbrowsing are kept in balance.

When riparian vegetation is reduced or eliminated by grazing, the fisheries are adversely impacted. The temperature of the stream and rivers fish live in is raised, and their food is also adversely impacted. In addition to these destructive effects to fish habitat, the surrounding wildlife, birds and native plants, are affected. This effect is called a trophic cascade by biologists, and needs to be seriously considered by WDFW biologists in planning for a species recovery plan. All native species in an ecosystem need protection, including the top predators.

Please revise the DEIS to address the following questions:

How will WDFW Plan take into consideration the overall impact of predators, balancing the beneficial impacts of wolves on the ecosystem with the hunters concerns about reduction in game numbers? How will the Plan ensure that the latest scientific research is utilized to manage wolf recovery?

I am particularly concerned about the Olympic National Park, as it is a large natural area under Federal protection, but yet an area which does not include wolves at the present time. See: <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/naturescience/mammal-species-list.htm>

It doesn't appear to me that the DEIS adequately addresses the reestablishment of wolves to Olympic National Park or the public lands surrounding the Park. Since this treasure of a national park is located at the end of a peninsula, and there are no safe migration corridors from the Cascades to the national park, wolves will not be able to migrate to this large tract of native forests where they used to live. It seems logical to me that wolves, one of the key top predators, will need to be reintroduced by the WDFW, or it will remain an unbalanced ecosystem.

★
JH

Since there are many hurdles to wolf migration to Olympic National Park (ONP), will reintroduction of wolves specifically to the ONP be a part of this DEIS Wolf Plan? Will a specific timetable be set for returning wolves to ONP, and what is the timeline?

I'd also like to comment on the three "gray wolf recovery regions in Washington" that you have delineated on the map.

Division of the state of Washington into three areas immediately raises questions in my mind, since I took many classes as a natural resources geographer, and I am a cartographer working for a state agency. It seems obvious to me that the southern cascades and northwest coast are vastly different in terms of climate, vegetation, geology and soils. The overall hydrological aspects (river, ocean) are completely different. Based on map studies and hiking in each area, these areas are significantly different, and I believe that the state should be divided into **four areas of similar habitat** for wolf reintroduction.

To add emphasis to my statements, a good source of information is this map entitled "Level III Ecoregions of the Continental United States:" <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/us/useco.pdf>

Jim Omernik of the Western Ecology Division Lab of US EPA, is the map author, who has worked for many years on this project. He has also done a more detailed map for Washington, which can be viewed at <http://www.biodiversity.wa.gov/ecoregions/index.html> as well as the previous, more generalized map.

Please take a long and thoughtful look at these maps. You will see that the southern Washington Cascades are not "lumped in" with the Washington coast range or the Puget lowland! I want to suggest that you **seriously consider changing this wolf recovery region map to the four areas of similar habitat it should show! How can you justify not establishing a fourth equally important Pacific Coast Region?**

I appreciate your consideration of my comments, and the opportunity to comment on the Washington wolf Management and Conservation DEIS/Plan.

Sincerely,

Jane Ely
7902 Tanwax Dr. SE
Olympia, WA 98513
janefely@yahoo.com



✓ J

3

From: jpl@whidbey.com
To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#);
Subject: Concerned Citizen Writing to YOU Re: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 6:07:15 AM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I have taken time from my busy day as a physician to write this, because the return of higher predators like wolves to our Washington State ecosystem is very important to me and to my family and friends. They don't have the time to write, so I will write for them. We are presently boycotting Montana, Idaho and Oregon because they shoot wolves. This has limited where we spend our skiing vacation dollars.

Please do the right thing. We need MORE wolves and breeding pairs. We need to protect them until they get established. Ultimately it will result in a healthier ecosystem, plus I won't have to end up boycotting my own state's economy, which would be awkward.

Sincerely, Dr. Jeffrey Paul LaGasse M.D.
Emergency Medicine/Trauma Specialist

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I appreciate the effort contributed by the Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on a plan meant to re-establish a naturally producing and viable wolf population in the state of Washington and to minimize impacts to livestock owners in a way that will not impact the recovery of the wolf. Obviously a great deal of time and thought has been put into the plan and I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments toward its further refinement. I support Alternative 3, but with an increased target number of breeding pairs.

People and wolves have lived together in the Northwest for thousands of years and we can continue to do so. We share a responsibility to not let any wild species go extinct on our watch. I have the following concerns with the current plan:

1) Target numbers for conservation and recovery of wolves of 15 breeding pairs is too low. Review of existing research suggests that a goal three or more times as large may be needed to maintain a viable population.

2) The Pacific Coastal Region should be a separate recovery area, as stated in Alternative 3, and the Olympic Peninsula and Mt. St. Helens should be identified as primary translocation areas.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Paul LaGasse M.D.
PO Box 637
Freeland, WA 98249

12/15/09

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing to let you know that I think wolves are an important part of the ecosystem, and I support their recovery. In this light, I urge you to choose "alternative 3."

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration on this issue.

Charmaine Gural
210 3rd
Cheney WA 99004

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DEC 17 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

JH
12-17

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

Nov 10 2009

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NOV 17 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

RECEIVED

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

NOV 16 2009

Name: * Marilyn Lewis Hok River Rancher

HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** Postal Mail 11785 Upper Hok Fork Rd

COMMENTS: In the Spring of 2009 my ranch partner and I made a verbal agreement with the Washington department of game & forest their elk on my cattle ranch during the winter months as long as there were no cattle on it. We are wintering the cattle elsewhere at the present time. The other ranch

This does not mean under any circumstance that we will host wolves. They will be considered trespassing killing machines! And will be dealt with accordingly. We are not raising sale barn cows on these two ranches they are Australian Lawline Aberdeen Angus - Texted Prime, only 2% of cattle go prime.

Since we deal with Idaho Ranchers we are aware of the wolf Problems there. Cont

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

11/19/09

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NOV 16 2009

2

HABITAT PROGRAM

They are no where near extent so there for they should never appear on the endangered list.

The story trumped up by the Oregon men about the Hoh River banks being eroded by too many elk is a Joke! 160 inch of rain or 12 inches of rain in 24 hours is the cause of that. Nothing else!

If elk were killing the maple and cottonwood why do they grow all over my ranch where elk have roamed freely for years?

I told a park naturalist once that one could tell when there were few elk here because of all the predators by the size of the maple trees and cottonwood. These two men took that story and bent it around to use for a need for wolves. No, we do not need wolves here -

Elk and deer here do not like white tail and mule deer do elsewhere

As far the people in Sequim who think the wolves would solve their elk problems will find not only do they have elk in their yard - they will have wolves as well and Oh yes, no pets.

I think its in very poor
 taste to hold wolf meeting on
 Squim at dinner time or a
 work night during hunting season
 I suggest you hold one in
 Furks on a Saturday or any
 place else where peoples livelihoods
 are at stake

I have over 150 lbs of wolf
 paper work in my files - a great
 share of it is propaganda fed to
 gullible people - Hustray does not
 need to repeat itself here with
 a different and bigger wolf.

This is not the end of what
 people think about wolves being
 let loose were there are farms
 and little game - you will be
 hearing about it!

You need to remember cattle
 people feed the world - wolf
 people do not!! It is criminal to
 ruin anyones business and wolves
 would ruin cattle farms

Copy one of several
 This letter on file

Marlyn Lewis

Oct 30, 2009 RECEIVED

NOV 16 2009

The following letter was read aloud at a Congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. HABITAT PROGRAM

Congress then shut off funding for introducing the Canadian Grey Wolf in the Olympic Peninsula. They are not native to this area, a smaller wolf, now extinct, existed here.

Stade Gorton

Senator ~~State~~ Gorton then asked for a signed petition with a 100% of the people of the two valleys, the Hoh and the Clearwater. These were provided as well as hundreds of petitions from Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Greys Harbor counties. These petitions are still kept on file. The newspaper did its own petition and the same thing = No wolves!

Now a Washington State Senator has said No. What part of "No Wolves" do you not understand. Why cause more trouble when we already have a predator problem.

When the park added more fishers to the Peninsula, two things happened - one, they added more fishers to the already population here and two, another predator to the food chain that other predators eat - birds, squirrels, Mountain Beavers, *Rabbits*
- less food for the wolves.

etc

Already, there are not enough deer in the Hoh River Valley to feed a pack of wolves for 2 weeks. Soon there would be no elk either. So when they turn to livestock, pets and humans - you shall be held accountable.

Wolves weigh up to 150 lbs (record is 170 lbs) and they are as tall as Blacktail deer. They can run up to speeds of 45mph. They know no fear and kill just to kill, frenzy killing, never to return to feed on the dead. Wolf propaganda far outweighs solid facts. Idaho is losing entire herds of elk, deer and moose and they are *now* hunting wolves. Shouldn't that tell you something?

To place wolves and all the problems they make in a place already loaded with predators is just asking for more trouble.

Please take into account the prey and the predator, both rate in the following letter. If you can't then understand why we shouldn't have wolves here, in my opinion, you have a math problem. - Remember fishers have been added since,

And yes they *wolves* do attack and kill humans. Is this what you want for your children and pets?

/s/ MARILYN LEWIS
Marilyn Lewis

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NOV 16 2009

May 26, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

HABITAT PROGRAM

This is about wolves on the Olympic Peninsula and history you should know about.

John Huelsdonk came to the Hoh River Valley in 1890 to file a claim on a homestead. His wife, Dora, joined him in 1892.

I have no reason to doubt any of the information I am passing onto you because the Huelsdonk family had no reason to elaborate on hardships they suffered as they carved home and farm out of the forest and raised four daughters among the elements of weather, nature and predators.

"Game was terribly scarce for big Timber wolves killed the elk and deer and only occasionally could one be found for meat." (Dora Huelsdonk obituary 1947)

Some forty years later after the arrival of the Huelsdonk family, Lena Huelsdonk Fletcher, oldest daughter, states at a Aberdeen, Washington Chamber of Commerce meeting, "At present there are from 6,00 to 8,000 elk and deer on the Hoh, whereas there were less than 200 some 40 years ago."

She often wrote that the wolves killed numbers of sheep and elk calves at one time and that the wolves disappeared around 1920 and 1921 from the Hoh Valley.

Lena served as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years and wrote a column in at least three newspapers in Forks, Aberdeen and Port Angeles.

By the mid 1930's, 15 years after the wolves were gone, game made such a good comeback, the game department opened a hunting season on them. The reason: Settlers fought for predator control and bounties were paid on predators as a way to control them. By the late 1940' and 1950's, elk and deer were everywhere in the valley. A herd of elk could be 100 or more.

However, by the 1960's bounties on cougar were dropped even though they were still hunted, their population grew and elk and deer population dropped through the 1970's and 1980's.

Now in the 1990's, it would appear all common sense has left game and fish management. A herd of elk is more or less 20 with maybe 6 calves per herd outside of the National Forest. And the reason? Right back to the pre 1900's, no predator control! *Park*

Lack of logging has caused lack of habitat and lack of jobs, causing more problems. Poaching is out of control in part to no game agents due to lack of funds on their part of lack of management - all due to environmental issues that sometimes go beyond the call of duty!

Indians hunt off their reservations. No hound hunting in Washington State. Again no predator control.

The list goes on and on. I will leave you with food for thought.

Idaho has 6 kinds of ungulates to feed their predators - Yellowstone area has 8 kinds of ungulates to feed their predators.

Olympic Peninsula only has 2 kinds of ungulates to feed their 4 kinds of predators.

Birth rate: Elk - one calf

Deer - one to two fawns

Birth rates outnumbered by :

Predators - Bear - one to two cubs

Cougars - one to five kittens

Coyote - three or more pups

Bobcat - one to two kittens

Wolves - 4 to ⁹ ~~8~~ pups
fisher ?

Cougar kill one ungulate once a week. The experts tell us when wolves move in, cougar, bear, coyote, etc., move out of the area. Are the experts "telling us in order to fill the one missing link, the wolf, in Olympic National Park ecosystem, we will lose 3 or more links in the ecosystem?"

They need to know that the missing link in the ecosystem has already been filled by the coyote, who it appears were not in at least two valleys, the Hoh and the Quinault when wolves were here. Quinault heard their first coyote in 1940. The "experts" have not done their research well enough

- Not to count the other wildlife on the Peninsula that would be affected by wolves should be unacceptable.
- No one seems to have taken into account that the Olympic Peninsula has not had a hard animal killing winter when heavy snows hang on all winter long in at least 10 years.
- Alberta, Canada wolves or any pen raised wolves are not native to the Olympic Peninsula and therefore should be considered introduced instead of reintroduced.
- Those who are responsible should be held accountable.
- Olympic National Park was set aside in 1938 to preserve and protect Roosevelt Elk. They will also protect any livestock killing wolf as they have in the past protected livestock killing cougars.
- Recovering second offending wolves in the Peninsula would be nearly impossible due to weather and terrain.
- Livestock owners on the Peninsula certainly would be affected with land use restrictions with wolf introduction.

I am still operating a family farm with livestock in the Hoh River Valley with 108 years of wildlife and human heritage behind it.

Please take the time to consider the contents of this letter.\

Sincerely
Marilyn Lewis

DEC 29 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Willard D. Purnell

P.O. Box 32178

Bellingham, WA 98228

360 739 1363

December 27, 2009

WDFW SEPA DESK

600 Capitol Way N.

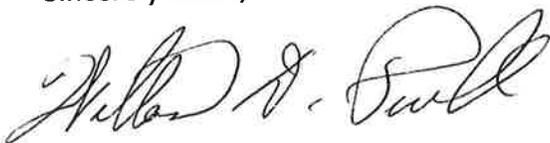
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Gentleman,

My experience with wolves is attached. It is my professional opinion wolves are not compatible with the present human and ungulate population. See the attached comments of my professional experience in a 1,000 square mile area in Idaho over the last 12 years where wolves were introduced about 10 years ago.

I strongly recommend Alternative 4, No Action – Current management. One exception of this recommendation would be our game biologists study the experience of wolves introduced in the states of Idaho and Montana for the next 10 years or until their experience with their wolf population is established. I believe from my experience in the last 12 years, there will be a dire undesirable impact on the ungulate game population and human activities which includes a high cost to our ranchers which we taxpayers must assume. The extermination of wolves in my opinion and experience may have to take place at great expense in the future if introduced or protected.

Sincerely Yours,



Willard D. Purnell, Scientist and Engineer

Attachment, 5 pages



Willard D. Purnell

P.O. Box 32178

Bellingham, WA 98228

Cell Phone, 360 739 1363

November 27, 2009

Idaho Fish & Game

P. O. Box 25

Boise, ID 83707

Idaho Fish & Game

P.O. Box 1336

Salmon, ID 83467

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire

Governor

Legislative Building

P.O. Box 4002

Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Commission

600 Capitol Way N.

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

600 Capitol Way N.

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

**Subject: Observations of Introduction of WOLVES into the Salmon
Mountains, Idaho and their impact on the environment.**

Background

I have been hunting since I was six years old and am now approaching my 79th year.

I grew up on a farm in the Chimacum Valley on the Olympic Peninsula and we also farmed Protection Island which is now a Bird Sanctuary. My father planted Chinese Phsants and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife with Oregon State University who established a cabin from which graduate students would study the birds. This was my first contact with science as we would help the students find nests in the spring and with census surveys.

I attended the University of Washington where I received a degree in Geology and Engineering which led to my career in Engineering Geology, with registration in Idaho, California, and Washington. I have minors in the Biological Sciences and Chemistry.

My work led me to states from California to Alaska and from Washington to Ohio. When my work was in these states particularly in Alaska, I hunted various game during the hunting seasons. I was around Wolves and Grizzly bears. I was invited to hunt moose for a six year period on the Parsnip River Area of British Columbia Canada where Grizzly bears and wolves were numerous.

My background above speaks for itself as to a scientist who can observe changes that take place in the environment. I became aware of the beautiful Salmon Mountains about 1995 and began hunting in the area. Shortly after I began hunting in the Salmon Mountains, Wolves were introduced in the Study Area.

Remember, wolves are a dastardly animal as illustrated from their method of killing. They attack the animal from the rear and disable the animal by cutting their rear tendons. They then start eating the animal from the rear toward the front of the animal while the animal may live for up to a week while being eaten until vital organs are consumed causing death.

STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES

The area of this study is west of the Idaho town of Salmon containing about 1,000 Sq. Miles. Specifically it is located from North Fork Idaho along the Salmon River and Highway 93 south past Salmon to the Iron Creek Road, (Forest Service Road) 045. The study area then extends west to Iron Lake and to Panther Creek and Panther Creek Road, 055. Then North along Panther Creek to the junction with Napias Creek road, 242 to the former town of Leesburg, then directly north to the Salmon River and east to North Fork. Reference: USDA, Forest Service Map, Salmon National Forest, Idaho – Montana, 1979

OBSERVATIONS:

The area we hunted during the past twelve years for the most part was rolling hills and valleys where in the early years of hunting the game of all types was numerous. We commonly saw 20 to 40 head of elk a day with areas we could observe herds of that many in the early morning and late evening. Occasionally they would be observed during the day when they were disturbed. Driving from Williams Creek Road Pass, 021 to our camp at night at the head of Deep Creek we would often see elk crossing the roads.

Mule Deer abounded in the area but usually in separate areas from where the elk were located. We harvested deer every year usually waiting for the right sized multi pointed bucks. In this period of time, we observed of 6 to 10 bucks harvested along the upper Deep Creek road, 101 leading to Panther Creek, 055 and Cobalt. Our camp was located on the ridge 1 mile west of the junction of Williams Creek Road, 021 and Deep Creek Road, 101. We were serenaded by Coyotes almost every night during our 3 to 4 week hunt.

The game remained in the area in the first few years of wolf introduction. Wolf sighting were infrequent. They are like coyotes and cougar that hide from the presence of man and are for that reason difficult to hunt. As time progressed the nightly serenade by coyotes changed to serenades by wolves and coyotes seemed to disappear. Along with the coyote disappearance, we observed the grouse population increasing. Then the elk population and sightings began to disappear.

The ranchers in the area told us the elk were moving into the steep areas above their ranches along the Salmon River and east of the Ridge Road, 020. Motel owners in the town of North Fork observed elk moving into the steep areas above and across the river as well. Deer began to move into the town of Salmon as well. I observed deer on the main street during the October hunting season. I had never observed deer in the town of Salmon until after the introduction of Wolves. Residence of the town told me their pets began to disappear in the winter for wolf feed. Because of the drop in the elk population, I did not buy a tag to hunt elk in the area described the last few years.

This last year, 2009, was a complete disaster as far as hunting was concerned. I only spotted one set of elk tracks in our hunting area, crossing the Ridge Road near Phelan Meadows through wolf tracks the whole deer season. No elk were observed by me and no tracks except the one set the whole deer hunting 3 week season in the area west of the Ridge Road, 020 where I hunted. However, I instructed some of my elk hunting friends to hunt elk on the steep areas above the ranches along the river. They were successful harvesting elk.

The mule deer population has decreased substantially. My observation in the area along the upper Deep Creek road only yielded 3 deer in the 2009 season. I personally only saw one buck during the entire season where in earlier years I would see evidence of as many as ten kills. Many of the meadows where I observed deer in the past were empty of deer and elk the entire deer season.

Conclusions and Recommendations

I conclude from my observations the wolves have completely changed the ecological system negatively in the area they were introduced. The changes are not compatible with the human population or activities in the Salmon Mountain area. My observations indicated the elk have moved to the steep areas along the Salmon River and the deer and elk population is declining in the area studied.

Because of the declining deer and elk population, I have made a decision to abandon hunting in the Salmon Mountains of Idaho in the future.

I predict that issuing wolf hunting permits will not curb the wolf population. Alaska for instance has to take drastic methods to control the wolf populations near human occupied areas using methods such as poisoning and shooting them from aircraft.

I recommend that any state, including Washington State, that is considering wolf introduction or protection immediately disband their plans. Study the areas where wolves have been introduced in Montana and Idaho to get a history in the next ten or twenty years before considering the introduction of wolves. My experience is the introduction of wolves will have a negative impact on the ecology of our established wildlife and wolves will have to be exterminated in the future to preserve wildlife compatible with humans. My observations indicate wolves are not compatible with the present human population and wildlife in Idaho or Washington.

Our forefathers knew from practical experience the impact of wolves on human habitation and they exterminated the wolves as incompatible to growing human populations. They can be compatible in areas such as Canada and Alaska where human population is sparse.

There is cost to the taxpayers for the introduction of wolves. Ranchers in Idaho install devices to locate their cattle before turning them out on the range where wolves are present. We taxpayers pay for two people to locate cattle in the Salmon Mountain area which have been killed by the wolves. We as taxpayers also pay the rancher \$500.00 for each cow killed by wolves.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments on introduction of wolves and my observations of their impact on the environment. You may contact me by phone at 360 739 1363 for further discussion of my observations.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willard D. Purnell". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "W" and "P".

Willard D. Purnell

19

From: Pearla Konig
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW);
cc: Al Zantua;
Subject: Wolf release
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 9:46:25 AM
Attachments: katherine"s letter.doc
julia letter.doc
cordell letter.doc

Dear Sirs:

Attached are letters from a few of my sixth grade students in response to the opposition regarding the reintroduction of the gray wolf on the Olympic Peninsula.

**Sincerely,
Pearla Konig**

✓
January 4, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam:

I believe you should bring back the wolves because they were here first! The gray wolves are a necessary part of the balance of nature. Another reason you should bring back the wolves is because there are bears and cougars and they don't kill people's pets or cattle so why do we have to get rid of the wolves?

Wolves only kill the weak and sick animals. Wolves were all right until the white people came and started killing them. Then the white people told everybody that wolves were not good for the world but they are good for the world because they kill all the sick and weak animals so they don't kill all the animals. You should also bring wolves back because they run a lot and



they do need something to eat don't they? Wolves try really hard to live then people just kill them like they were nothing. Wolves don't do anything harmful to humans, do they?

Sincerely,

Katherine Jackson

✓
January, 4th, 2010

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in support of reintroducing the gray wolf to the Olympic Peninsula. The gray wolf was in this environment before white man. Now I say that because my tribe, the Quileutes, was here too and we have always revered the gray wolf. The gray wolf is a necessary part of the balance of nature.

The gray wolf hunt elk and deer but they only take the weak and sick which benefits the elk and deer breeding stock.

From 1850 to 1880's the greatest massacre of wolves occurred in the American west. Wolves were wiped out of the United States. When are you going to take responsibility and right this wrong? Wolves need to be reintroduced into their original habitat. That is one of the mandates of the endangered species act.

Finally, I know the opponents to wolf reintroduction worry about wolves attacking their pets, so wolves won't either.

Please contact me with any new developments

Sincerely,

Julia Ratliff

✓
January 4, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you in support of the reintroduction of the gray wolf to the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula is the natural habitat of the gray wolf and they are a very important component of the environment.

I believe the gray wolf is not bad. Unlike the stories and myths, wolves do not hunt and eat little children. In fact, wolves are valuable members of the ecosystem. Sigurd Olson in his study found that "the great majority of wolf killings were of old diseased, or crippled animals. These eliminations were not detrimental to the elk or deer for without the elimination of the unfit the whole breeding stock would suffer.

Please bring the gray wolf back to its natural habitat.



Sincerely,

Cordell Black-Stillwell

✓
January 6, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

In regards to the wolf release scheduled for the Olympic Peninsula, I am writing to you in support of the wolves.

Wolves belong here because this is their natural habitat and they are important to the environment because they hunt and kill rodents. Man should be able to learn to live with wolves and to share the resources of the environment.

People who oppose the reintroduction of wolves must remember that Americans slaughtered them almost to the point of extinction.

Sincerely,

Eugene Jackson

December 20, 2009

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA Responsible Official
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Ms. Eturaspe,

We the undersigned support efforts to restore a healthy and vibrant wolf population to Washington State. Less than 100 years ago, wolves were an important part of Washington. As elected officials and community leaders, we support the return of the wolf because of its positive impact on our economy and environment.

Recently, wild wolves returned to Washington having crossed state lines from Idaho and British Columbia. At least one breeding pair has produced a litter of pups. These are Washington's first documented wolf pups in decades.

NA
The wolves' return to Washington State parallels the animals' recovery in the Rocky Mountain States. In these states the wolves' return is an important component of the regional economy. For example, John Duffield of the University of Montana recently estimated that Yellowstone wolves generate \$35 million in economic benefits every year for local communities. This money comes from tourist spending directly related to wolves, including wolf tours and related services, such as lodging and meals. It is possible that Washington may be able to experience similar results.

Viable wolf populations play a key role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. A recent study out of Olympic National Park found that many river bank environments are overgrazed by overabundant elk populations. Altered river bank environments can have impacts upon river temperatures, which in turn impact fish such as salmon. Researchers point to the removal of the wolves as contributing to the unnatural growth of elk populations. Returning wolves to these environments, many believe, should return it to a more natural balance. The greater Yellowstone ecosystem has seen significant rebound of river ecosystems since the reintroduction of the wolf in 1994.

In order to develop a sustainable population and maximize the economic and environmental benefits of the wolves' return, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should set a target goal based on science and the proven benefits that wolves would

have on Washington. We also support help for local communities to adapt to the presence of these animals during the early stages of the recovery program, including the compensation program for livestock producers included in the current version of the plan.

We urge the Washington Department of Wildlife to adopt a final plan that includes scientifically based numbers and calls for distribution throughout the state including the Olympic Peninsula and Mt. St. Helens.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Dickerson Bishop WA State Representative Professor 36 th District Washington State University	Christine Rolles WA State Representative 23 rd District	John Associate
Ross Hunter Jackson WA State Representative 48 th District WA	Doug Walker WRQ Founder and Former CEO Seattle, WA	Peter Henry M. Seattle,
Dave Upthegrove Weimer WA State Representative Councilmember, District 3 33 rd District County Council	Mary Helen Roberts WA State Representative 21 st District	Carl Whatcom
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber Councilmember, District 2 Whatcom County Council		

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Clayton H. Throop

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 1125 E Ivy Ave Colville WA 99114
Colville WA Meeting Oct 26, 2009

COMMENTS: Washington State Department of Fish and Game Enforcement Officers surrounded the wolf meeting in Colville, WA. The officers were in full uniform with sidearms. This was blatant intimidation. Officers were standing equidistant apart in the rear and sides of auditorium. When a member of audience asked why officers were positioned in this manner, no answer was given.

Only residents from the State of Washington should be considered in public comments to wolf plan because the state has to live with the plan except information from Idaho, Montana & Wyoming fish & game departments

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

JH
11/9

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2009

Name: * Clayton H. Throop

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 1125 E Ivy Ave Colville WA 99114

COMMENTS: Colville, WA Wolf meeting, Oct 26, 2009

Panel admitted that there is no way to count existing wolves in the state of Washington. Therefore, how can we ever manage the wolf if their population numbers can never be determined.

Regional Director, for region one, stated that the wolf working group found know other states (Idaho, Wyoming, or Montana) where wolves are reducing elk populations. I submit the Newsletter dated 04/05/07 from the Wyoming Game and Fish as evidence that other wolf management plans should be studied thoroughly in other states before any decisions are made. Use the internet to find information!

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)



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NEW REPORT EXAMINES THE EFFECTS OF WOLVES ON ELK

A report released March 23, 2007 by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department takes a detailed look at the effects that wolves are having on elk populations in northwestern Wyoming. In the report, department biologists analyzed statewide elk population data from 1980 through 2005.

Wolf reintroduction began in 1995, when the federal government released 14 wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Wolf populations reached recovery goals established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002 and continue to grow. At the end of 2006, there were an estimated 36 packs in Wyoming, including 311 individual wolves.

To determine the impacts wolves are having on elk, biologists looked at trends in calf:cow ratios over a 26-year period, both in areas where wolf populations have been established and in areas where wolves are not present. Of the 21 elk herds included in the analysis, eight are currently occupied by wolves.

“We have seen a downward trend in many of Wyoming’s elk herds over this 26-year period,” said Jay Lawson, Game and Fish Wildlife Division. “That trend is likely due to long-term drought and other habitat related factors. But in half of the herds occupied by wolves, we saw a significantly greater rate of decline after wolves were established compared to herds without wolves. We can’t attribute that increased rate of decline to any factor other than wolves.”



Biologists feel an elk herd’s population can be maintained at objective and provide some hunter harvest when the ratio of calves to cows is around 25 to 100. Once ratios fall below 20:100 there is very little opportunity for hunting. Four elk herds in Wyoming with wolves present have dropped below 25 calves per 100 cows, and two of those herds are below 20 calves per 100 cows. All four herds had declining ratios before wolves were present, but the rate of decline increased significantly after wolves were established. Currently, the only elk herds in the state with recruitment rates that will not support hunting, or possibly even stable populations, are those with significant wolf predation.

“There are a lot of different factors affecting wildlife throughout the state, and wolves are a relatively recent addition to the challenges facing our elk,” Lawson said. “We’re very concerned about the effects of wolves on the state’s elk and reduced hunting opportunities for the public. This report helps us understand how wolves are contributing to changes in our elk herds. We also hope this data will provide us tools to work with federal agencies in charge of wolf management to minimize the effects of wolves on elk and elk hunting opportunities.”

The complete report is available in the Game and Fish Web site.

Wyoming Game & Fish Department

5400 Bishop Boulevard



Cheyenne, WY 82006

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html **NOV 09 2009**

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Clayton H. Throop
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 1125 E. Ivy Ave Colville WA 99114
Colville WA Wolf Meeting Oct 26, 2009

COMMENTS: Look at websites for other states
managing wolves. Even after a plan is
submitted and approved for wolf management
it is challenged in court when someone
does not agree with setting control measures
for wolf populations.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Paul Mattilo

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 15533 NE Lucia Falls Rd
Battleground Wa. 98604

COMMENTS: I've spent 60 years as fisher, hunter, trapper, hiker and lover of the outdoors. I'm against bringing in or allowing more predators. Our Deer and Elk have been devastated by Cougar, bears, coyotes, bobcats and wolves. It's a myth that predators only take the weak or sick. They take what they can get and at times go on a wanton killing spree.

Anybody that supports wolves should witness what a painful horrible death happens to its victims. People that support these things live in a safety bubble of their own comfort and are very ignorant of life in the wild!

Paul Mattilo

12-28-09

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
S.E.P.A. Desk
600 Capitol way North
Olympia, Wa. 98501-1091

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NOV 18 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Mary Jeffers
P.O. Box 983
Soap Lake, Wa. 98851

November 13, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are very much opposed to reinstating the wolves in Washington. The wildlife, livestock and humans are on the brink of extinction if the wolves come back.

The state outlawed hound hunting. Now we want them back. Cougars and bear are entering our towns at an alarming numbers. We catch them and move them to some other unsuspecting area. The game department placed many restrictions on hunting such as areas, specie, sex, antler count , etc. to improve the herds and quality of animals. A pack of adult wolves can quickly eliminate herds of deer and elk in an area and are certainly non selective of the animals they kill.

The way wolves reproduce, we will soon have to be paying someone to control, kill wolves to try to keep packs/wolves at a manageable level. Good luck on this one.

Our vote is "NO" on the reintroduction of the wolves in our state.

Sincerely



Mary Jeffers

JH
11-18

WDFW
SEPA Desk
RE: wolf management plan; comments

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NOV 18 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM
NOV 19 2009

Dear WDFW:

I am hoping that your final wolf management plan will promote & do the utmost to achieve full wolf recovery throughout Washington State. As a citizen of Okanogan county & livestock owner, I understand the concern that local ranchers have over the expansion of predators. On the other hand, in my opinion, the benefits to our ecosystems of including wolf populations far outweigh these concerns. I am also a deer hunter and believe that wolf recovery will benefit the health of our deer populations & plant communities.

I support alternative 3 in the plan because it provides more support to full recovery of wolves. I also believe that the number of breeding pairs should be higher than 15 & I am sure that poaching will come strongly into play. Please consider a higher benchmark for recovery and include a no kill policy, including for livestock owners, until full recovery & delisting occurs.

Thanks for your support of wolf recovery,

Eric J. Bard



✓ 11-18
JH

BRIAN PETERMAN
43832 S.E. 80TH STREET
NORTH BEND, WA 98045

EMAIL: J_BRIAN_PETERMAN@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE: 425-831-0445

11/17/2009

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

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NOV 18 2009

SUBJECT: Gray Wolf Recovery in Washington State

HABITAT PROGRAM

I am a native Washingtonian who has hiked, camped, fished, and enjoyed the wilderness areas of the northwest for the past 50 years. I wholeheartedly support the wolf recovery process now taking place in our state. I would love nothing better during my remaining hiking days to see and hear wolves in the wild of Washington State.

I believe that wolves' positive contribution to entire ecosystems would benefit all of those who use and value the outdoors. There is plenty of evidence that the benefits of wolves in this state would far outweigh any costs. We should take whatever measures are necessary to bring back wolves to their native habitat and insure their survival.

Please do whatever you can to help and support the wolf recovery.

Thank you,



Brian Peterman

✓
H-18
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to ^{HABITAT RESTORATION} postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * STEVE MCKINNEY

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** BOX 94, TONASKET, WA 98855

Ph. -509-826-1163

COMMENTS: 1. STOP UNER ESTIMATING THE QUANTITY OF WOLVES. EVERYBODY AROUND HERE KNOWS THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 3 FAMILY PACKS OF WOLVES IN THE STATE. MUCH MORE!

2. LONG TERM, YOU WILL BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT REQUIRING SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF WDLVES FOR OUR RELATIVELY SMALL HABITAT TO "SATISFY" THE FEDERAL MANDATE. IF YOU HAVE A CONSCIENCE, IT WILL BOTHER YOU.

3. MANY OF US UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE PEOPLE TO VENT. TO DIFFUSE. TO DIFFUSE OUR WRATH. HOWEVER, I AM STILL ANGRY AND I MAY NOT HUNT OR FISH NEXT YEAR.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)



✓
JH
11-18

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Q: I think I saw a wolf, but how do I know for sure?

A: As an endangered species, wild wolves are still few and far between in Washington. They generally stay away from people, so seeing one is rare. Coyotes are the wildlife species most similar to wolves, so some of the best clues for identifying an animal are in the wolf-coyote comparison illustration. Coyotes are often seen because they are abundant throughout Washington and can be somewhat bold. One of the greatest differences between the species is size, sometimes difficult to estimate at a distance outdoors. Large dogs and wolf-dog hybrids can also be mistaken for wolves, although they usually act more familiar with people. Wolf-dog hybrids can be unpredictable and some have been released into the wild, living like feral dogs. Distinctions between these hybrids and wild wolves can sometimes only be made by DNA testing.

Q: I know I saw a wolf, so where do I report it?

A: WDFW and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service keep track of wolf sightings and other evidence of wolves in Washington (tracks, scat, howling, photos from motion-sensitive remote cameras.) The best way to make a report is through the toll-free wolf reporting hotline, 1-888-564-9038, which records specific information for consistent compilation and for tracking observation patterns.

Q: Will wolves attack people?

A: Wild wolves generally fear and avoid people, rarely posing a threat to human safety. In the past 60 years, there has been one apparent wolf-caused human fatality in North America (Canada). Of the 18 reports of wolf aggression towards humans in North America in the past 40 years, 11 involved wolves habituated to humans and 6 involved domestic dogs. Wolves can become habituated to humans in areas where they regularly encounter humans or human food. To avoid habituation, wolves should never be fed or approached.

Q: Will wolves attack dogs?

A: The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is the ancestor of domestic dogs. Wolves view domestic dogs as competitors or territorial intruders and have attacked and killed them, especially in remote areas. Owners of dogs need to be aware of the potential risk to their dogs if they are in wolf habitat, especially when guarding or herding livestock, hunting, accompanying hikers, or running at large. Under the draft wolf management plan, after wolves are downlisted to state sensitive status, wolves attacking dogs could be killed.

Q: Will Washington have a hunting season on wolves someday?

A: Maybe. Under the draft wolf management plan, wolves would be delisted after at least 15 successful breeding pairs are distributed over much of the state and sustained for at least three years. (Today, in 2009, there are just two confirmed breeding pairs in Washington.) After delisting, a separate process to re-classify wolves as a game species would have to be undertaken before hunting seasons and rules could be proposed.

Q: How much will wolf management cost?

A: Preliminary cost estimates for monitoring and research, management of wolf-livestock conflicts (including compensation for losses), public outreach and education, and other tasks range from \$326,000 to \$804,000 annually over the next six years. As with other wildlife management, the state would likely collaborate with federal and private partners to share costs. Detailed cost estimates are in the draft plan.

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html
Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Bill Keller
Postal mail or e-mail address: ** b.keller@upsd.wednet.edu

COMMENTS: I am strongly in favor of alternative 3. I believe that Gray Wolves are an important part of the natural ecosystem of the Olympic Peninsula + their return to this area should be given as much assistance as possible.

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

JKH

Washington Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Summary of Four ALTERNATIVES

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4 NO ACTION - Current Management
Number of wolf recovery regions	Three: Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	Three: Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	Four: Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Southern Cascade Pacific Coast	None designated
Distribution of breeding pairs (6) to lowest to highest	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast 3 in Pacific Coast	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for conditioning and delisting
Distribution of breeding pairs (12) to lowest to sensitive	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	3 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 3 in Southern Cascade 3 in Pacific Coast	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for conditioning and delisting
Distribution of breeding pairs (15) to lowest	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascade/Northwest Coast	3 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 3 in Southern Cascade 3 in Pacific Coast	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for conditioning and delisting
Translocation of wolves from one part of WA to another to establish a new population	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Proactive measures to prevent, reduce, or eliminate breeding pair loss	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff is available. Some cases paid by Deerowners in WA, or state under new program (SIB 177, effective 7-1-10).	WDFW staff specialists hired to work with livestock owners, deer and public lands, or state under new program (SIB 177, effective 7-1-10).	WDFW staff specialists hired to work with livestock owners, deer and public lands, or state under new program (SIB 177, effective 7-1-10).	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff is available. Some cases paid by Deerowners in WA, or state under new program (SIB 177, effective 7-1-10).
Use of non-lethal injurious harassment	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.
Lethal control of wolves by state or private landowner	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed with WDFW permit and training using available harassment techniques. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.
Lethal control of wolves by livestock owner & to resolve repeated livestock depredations	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public lands. Allowances may vary by state or issue when wolves reach sensitive areas.	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public lands. Allowances may vary by state or issue when wolves reach sensitive areas.	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public lands. Allowances may vary by state or issue when wolves reach sensitive areas.	Subject to the conditions and limitations of state law, which will be developed through rulemaking as directed by SIB 177A, effective 7-1-10.
Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) livestock	Allowed by livestock owners on private land they own or lease. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed by livestock owners on private land they own or lease. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Allowed by livestock owners on private land they own or lease. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered. If used inappropriately or mortality occurs, reconsidered.	Subject to the conditions and limitations of state law, which will be developed through rulemaking as directed by SIB 177A, effective 7-1-10.
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Public outreach and education	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education at current levels.	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education at current levels.	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education at current levels.	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education at current levels.



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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html
Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Q: I think I saw a wolf, but how do I know for sure?

A: As an endangered species, wild wolves are still few and far between in Washington. They generally stay away from people, so seeing one is rare. Coyotes are the wildlife species most similar to wolves, so some of the best clues for identifying an animal are in the wolf-coyote comparison illustration. Coyotes are often seen because they are abundant throughout Washington and can be somewhat bold. One of the greatest differences between the species is size, sometimes difficult to estimate at a distance outdoors. Large dogs and wolf-dog hybrids can also be mistaken for wolves, although they usually act more familiar with people. Wolf-dog hybrids can be unpredictable and some have been released into the wild, living like feral dogs. Distinctions between these hybrids and wild wolves can sometimes only be made by DNA testing.

Q: I know I saw a wolf, so where do I report it?

A: WDFW and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service keep track of wolf sightings and other evidence of wolves in Washington (tracks, scat, howling, photos from motion-sensitive remote cameras.) The best way to make a report is through the toll-free wolf reporting hotline, 1-888-584-9038, which records specific information for consistent compilation and for tracking observation patterns.

Q: Will wolves attack people?

A: Wild wolves generally fear and avoid people, rarely posing a threat to human safety. In the past 60 years, there has been one apparent wolf-caused human fatality in North America (Canada). Of the 18 reports of wolf aggression towards humans in North America in the past 40 years, 11 involved wolves habituated to humans and 6 involved domestic dogs. Wolves can become habituated to humans in areas where they regularly encounter humans or human food. To avoid habituation, wolves should never be fed or approached.

Q: Will wolves attack dogs?

A: The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is the ancestor of domestic dogs. Wolves view domestic dogs as competitors or territorial intruders and have attacked and killed them, especially in remote areas. Owners of dogs need to be aware of the potential risk to their dogs if they are in wolf habitat, especially when guarding or herding livestock, hunting, accompanying hikers, or running at large. Under the draft wolf management plan, after wolves are downlisted to state sensitive status, wolves attacking dogs could be killed.

Q: Will Washington have a hunting season on wolves someday?

A: Maybe. Under the draft wolf management plan, wolves would be delisted after at least 15 successful breeding pairs are distributed over much of the state and sustained for at least three years. (Today, in 2009, there are just two confirmed breeding pairs in Washington.) After delisting, a separate process to re-classify wolves as a game species would have to be undertaken before hunting seasons and rules could be proposed.

Q: How much will wolf management cost?

A: Preliminary cost estimates for monitoring and research, management of wolf-livestock conflicts (including compensation for losses), public outreach and education, and other tasks range from \$326,000 to \$804,000 annually over the next six years. As with other wildlife management, the state would likely collaborate with federal and private partners to share costs. Detailed cost estimates are in the draft plan.

Name: * Erik Udbye

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** eudbye@gmail.com

COMMENTS: The preferred draft plan looks stellar. I like how the livestock owner is paid double compensation, which keeps them from raising a huff. The wolf is my favorite animal, and in fact, I would like one in my yard. Please bring more wolves to WA now!!

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JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Washington Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Summary of Four ALTERNATIVES

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2 Preferred (DRAFT PLAN)	Alternative 3	Alternative 4 NO ACTION – Current Management
Number of wolf recovery regions	Three Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast	Four Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast	Four Eastern Washington Northern Cascades Pacific Coast	None designated
Distribution of breeding pairs (8) to downlist to threatened	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades or Pacific Coast	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for downlisting and delisting
Distribution of breeding pairs (12) to downlist to sensitive	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	3 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 3 in Pacific Coast	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for downlisting and delisting
Distribution of breeding pairs (15) to delist	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 anywhere in state	3 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 3 anywhere in state	None established. Wolves would remain listed as endangered until plan developed with objectives for downlisting and delisting
Translocation of wolves from one part of WA to another to establish a new population	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Available as a tool. Would require a public review process through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)
Proactive measures to prevent, reduce livestock depredation	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff as available, some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff as available, some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff as available, some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Technical assistance to livestock owners by WDFW staff as available, some costs paid by Department of Wildlife or state under new program (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)
Use of non-lethal injurious harassment	Allowed with WDFW permit and training during all listed areas (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Allowed with WDFW permit and training during all listed areas (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Allowed with WDFW permit and training during all listed areas (S&B 177, effective 7-1-10)	Allowed with WDFW permit and training, reconsidered if used inappropriately or mortality occurs
Lethal control of wolves by state or private landowners	Allowed during all listed activities and after delisting, consistent with federal law	Allowed during all listed activities and after delisting, consistent with federal law	Allowed during all listed activities and after delisting, consistent with federal law	Allowed, consistent with federal law
Lethal control of wolves by livestock owner & to remove repeated livestock depredations	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public grazing allotments they own or lease when wolves reach sensitive status	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public grazing allotments they own or lease when wolves reach sensitive status	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public grazing allotments they own or lease when wolves reach sensitive status	Subject to the conditions and limitations of state law, which will be developed through rulemaking as directed by S&B 177, effective 7-1-10
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Public outreach and education	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education in current areas	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education in current areas	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education in current areas	Use existing WDFW staff for outreach and education in current areas



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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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NOV 10 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM
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NOV 12 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * 7 TED SCHUDER

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 723 T ST., PORT TOWNSEND, WA 98368

Thanks for all your good work. Some suggestions:

COMMENTS: ① Make more use of successful experiences with migrating in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The terrain may be different, but all those dairy cattle and prey population raise comparable issues.

② Your proposed size of wolf populations -- 6, 12, and 15 breeding pairs -- ~~is~~ dangerously low considering receptiveness to viral infection. For example, the wolf population plummeted 27% during the last year. Wolf populations in Isle Royale have suffered comparatively. You need larger sustainable populations to account for disease epidemics.

③ Collapsing the Pacific Coast and Southern Cascades across the I-5 corridor shortchanges legitimate historical territory in the Olympic Peninsula. The South Cascades are the richest prey base and deserve a separate zone. The Pacific Coast needs separate nurturing to meet sustainable targets. The public will be supportive. Wolves will not cross the I-5 corridor.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

(in Yellowstone)

✓ 11-10

723 T Street
Port Townsend, Washington 98368
May 17, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

RECEIVED
NOV 10 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear President Obama:

While I am pleased with most of your agenda as president, I am very disappointed with your administration's decision to remove the wolf from the endangered species list in Montana and Idaho. This wolf population is still very fragile. For example, "over the past year, the wolf population in Yellowstone National Park has declined 27%" (NRDC). After only 100 days in office, your decision forces me to turn my limited resources away from my traditional support of democratic causes to join in a court challenge of your administration on this betrayal of our wildlife recovery program. Our carefully managed success with these endangered animals can collapse quickly without continued federal protection.

There aren't many places left in the enormous expanse of the continental United States to support wild populations of wolves, grizzly bears, and other of our predatory cousins. It doesn't take much of an invitation to "sportsmen" defending their big game prey like elk from wolves or ranchers protecting their livestock to decimate the population of wolves we have so carefully nursed back into existence in a small piece of their legendary habitat. What will we leave for posterity -- assuming we survive global warming -- a few caged animals pacing back and forth or old film sequences filled with nostalgia about magnificent wild animals that once were? Is this what it means to be stewards of the earth and its creatures?

What's next in our relentless drive to cleanse the earth of wild predators? Shall we "delist" the black-footed ferret, the fisher, the wolverine, the mountain lion, the grizzly bear, and the orca? All these mammalian predators play important roles in the wild places we have been systematically pillaging for centuries. What will be left of this rich panoply of earth's creatures? What will we tell our children and grand children about how we went about killing them? They "hunt" wolves in Alaska, with the enthusiastic support of Governor Palin, by helicopter, by bush plane, and snowmobile. These are hardly "hunters" in any traditional sense. Worse yet, we have a long and sordid history of poisoning wolves and their cubs like vermin. Without federal protection, we are quite capable of exterminating wolves again in Montana and Idaho.

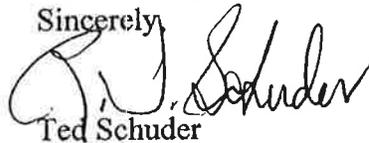
In sharp contrast with the "hate wolf" literature and practice, naturalists, biologists, and federal and state managers of wildlife populations have amassed a considerable body of scientific knowledge about wolves and their role in the environment. We know the beneficial effects wolves have on prey populations and

✓ JH
11-10

habitat. We also have successful programs for reducing negative effects on cattle and reimbursing ranchers for losses. Taken together, these positive effects, management of negative effects, and the fragility of wolf populations leave us with no excuse for withdrawing federal protection of wolves in Montana and Idaho under the Endangered Species Act.

I am disappointed in you and your administration in your decision against wolves, and our only recourse is to challenge your decision in court through our representative organizations, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earthjustice. On the other hand, you could simply reverse the decision, and the defenders of endangered wildlife and what remains of the rich natural diversity of the world we live in would thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I am reminded of what Franklin Roosevelt once said to proposers of enlightened policies: "Make me do it," that is, show me the support for what you want me to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Schuder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Ted Schuder

(360) 379-4190

C: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

Frances Beinecke, President NRDC

Trip Van Noppen, President Earthjustice

RECEIVED

November 16, 2009

NOV 17 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I would like to add my comments to those of others regarding various proposals to deal with the conservation and management of the gray wolf (*canis lupus*) when such time arrives that federal authorities delist the wolf and the state takes over responsibilities. Having looked over the alternatives and having attended a public meeting, I support Alternative 3. I would like to offer some observations.

The number of breeding pairs proposed at which point protection is lowered—at 15 pairs is too low. A much higher number should be required before any transition from threatened to a lower status is considered. Those 15 could be spread throughout the different recovery areas or heavily concentrated in one area—to the detriment of the others. At a minimum, that number should be raised, using the best science-based research to determine the minimum number of breeding pairs that would engender the best chance of long-term survival and sustainability.

The Olympic peninsula, the majority of whose territory lies within Olympic National Park with additional acreage in the adjoining national forest land, affords prime habitat for the wolf. In addition, there are few ranches housing cattle, sheep, and other livestock. The human population is relatively small and, of course, non-existent in the park. One would think it to be a great site for eventual wolf colonization—indeed, the National Park service found it to be second only to Yellowstone for wolf reintroduction—it has everything going for it except geographical isolation. For that reason the wolf will need to be introduced from outside, not merely relocated from another recovery area within the state. In any event, Alternative 3 is the only one that breaks out this Pacific Coastal area from the Southern Cascades region.

The provision that allows for the taking of wolves while still in recovery mode should be eliminated. There are many proven methods, used widely through the world, for protecting livestock from wolves, such as guard dogs, fencing, fladry, and various scare tactics. Killing individual wolves really does little to protect livestock. Preventing depredation, rather than reacting to it after the fact, is the much better way to proceed and will save resources as well as lives.

We now have several years of experience with the wolf returned to Yellowstone National Park. All indications are that in a relatively short period of time, the presence of the gray wolf has set in motion a chain of events which have had a positive effect of all sorts, from rebalancing the predator/prey ratio, which, in the absence of the wolf had been knocked off kilter, to a healthier plant mix in streamside ecosystems. And no wonder—many ecosystems in the West *evolved* with the wolf and with its extirpation the systems suffered. All the more reason to encourage the natural movement of wolves into Washington and to use relocation where necessary, such as the Olympic peninsula.

As you so correctly state in one of your publications, wolves **are** (my emphasis) a part of Washington's wildlife heritage. I am so pleased that the wolf is finding its way back to where it belongs and has belonged for ages until very recently. The vast majority of the people of Washington welcomes this trend and is encouraged by it. The wolf knows where to find the best habitat in order for it to live and plenty of that habitat lies within the borders of our great state—east to west, north to south. I hope that the final management plan that is adopted will consider the above points and do right by the people and by the wolf—there is an abundance of room for both to thrive.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Blitzer
8047 Earl Avenue NW
Seattle, Washington, 98117-4529

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, DEIS 360 902 2946

Introducing wolves into the Olympic Peninsula would be a total disaster. The streams and rivers flow from the higher elevations in the interior or the Olympic National Park to the coast. There is very little food for deer and elk in the old growth forests in the park. The deer and elk are concentrated at the lower elevations in the national forest. After a area has been logged and clear cut, there is new growth that the deer and elk feed on. The spotted owls feed on the rodents that live in the logged over areas. The population of deer, elk, and spotted owls are decreasing because of the decrease in logging. The spotted owl has been especially affected because it has been forced to feed in the taller timber and that puts them in competition with the barred owls which eat them.

Wolves need at least 200 square miles of territory to hunt in. That will put them in contact with farmers and rancher. The wolves won't make a distinction between wild and domestic animals. Wolves will kill large numbers of domestic animals and the ecologists will demand that farmers and ranchers be removed because wolves are more important. Propaganda from ecologist would have people believe that wolves only kill the old and sick and keep a herd of elk healthy. That isn't true. They prefer pregnant cows and calves. Wolves need fat for energy. They would starve on a diet of lean meat. In sun Valley, Idaho the ecologists lobbied to introduce wolves. The wolves chase the elk into exclusive neighborhoods and tear the elk to pieces. Residents are now afraid to go cross country skiing because of the wolves.

This is another case where the people who want wolves introduced live in cities and people affected live in rural areas. Introducing wolves will be a disaster.

Sincerely

James Fritz 11/6/09
James Fritz 271 Crutcher Road, Port Townsend WA
360 385 4876 cell 360 531 1633

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WILDLIFE PROGRAM

✓
JH 11-6

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Carol M Keller

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** mimsie@wavecable.com

COMMENTS: _____

I strongly support proposal #3 – except that I oppose more than “1 for 1” compensation for livestock loses – we do not have vast rangelands here such as are found in Montana.

I encourage the goal of 30 or more breeding pairs statewide.

I implore you to consider, that of the people who feel as I do, only about 10% will respond to your survey. On behalf of the other 30,000+ pro-wolf people between the Pacific Ocean, the Hood Canal, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Aberdeen, PLEASE relocate wolves to the Olympic National Forest as soon as possible!!! (I’m old!)

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,
Carol M Keller

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

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NOV 10 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

✓ 11/10
JH

Wolves / Distler

10/27/09

CC: COMMISSION
Harriet Allen

Fish and Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

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NOV 16 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

11/11/09

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2009

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am a Washington resident who treasures the beauty of our state and our wildlife resources and am delighted to see that wolves are making a comeback here.

I wish to voice my view, substantiated by many studies, that predators, and wolves in particular, play an essential role in keeping a balanced ecosystem. This includes both the plant and animal world. I support a management program that takes the value of this predator into account.

From various reports from other states, I see it is possible for ranchers and livestock to co-exist with wolves, if the desire is there and steps are taken for non-lethal wolf management. This plan could include compensation for lost livestock.

I applaud the proactive role the Fish & Wildlife Commission is taking and hope this plan will include helping wolves to repopulate areas put aside for this purpose. Studies & plans must be science based, rather than based on fear or politics.

To have these regal animals once more in our environment adds an aura of awe and wildness ~~we have lost~~. that is otherwise missing. We will

even enjoy our deer more if they are not so
overpopulating and overgrazing everything!

Sincerely yours,
Eunor Dittler

1407 old cc Rd.
Colville, WA. 99114

To: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

From: Mark Southern
746 E. 4th. Ave.
Kennewick Wa. 99336

Re: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS Comments

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NOV 16 2009
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NOV 17 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Dear Mrs. Eturaspe:

The preferred alternative within the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS should be alternative 3. However, the following issues need to be addressed:

1. According to all of the proposed alternatives wolves will be down listed to a threatened status based upon the establishment of 6 successful breeding pairs, a sensitive status after the establishment of 12 successful breeding pairs, and a delisted status after the establishment of 15 successful breeding pairs. According to information provided within the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS, these population objectives are extremely low. On page 37 of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS it is indicated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that 30 or more breeding pairs comprising 300 or more wolves in a metapopulation (a population made up of partially isolated sets of subpopulations that are able to exchange individuals and recolonize sites in which the species has recently become extirpated) should have a high probability of long-term persistence. Furthermore, as indicated on page 38, this population goal was reviewed in 2001-2002 and 78% of the queried experts strongly supported the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1994 conclusion.

Under alternative 2 and 3, wolves can be delisted at such time that 15 genetically isolated breeding pairs are established and this is not acceptable. The down listing process should be based upon the establishment of successful breeding pairs that form naturally occurring metapopulations. Wolves should "not" be delisted until such time that 30 or more pairs comprising 300 or more wolves within a single and naturally sustainable metapopulation (a metapopulation that is not sustained by translocation programs) is established within Washington State.

2. In order to mitigate problems associated with unnecessary harassment and killing of wolves, payments for livestock depredation caused by wolves should be as high as possible. Alternative 3 currently provides the most generous payment options.
3. Lethal control of wolves should be a tool that is available to government agencies during all listed statuses. However, lethal control should primarily be conducted by government officials. The secondary option should be the issuing of government contracts to licensed

JH
11/16

animal control businesses (or) the issuing of special permits to hunters with master hunter training. The issuing of special hunting permits to private landowners and leasers should be utilized as a last resort and provisions should be included which will prohibit the transfer and/or sale of hunting privileges.

4. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should work with other government agencies to propose legislation which will ban the ownership of wolf hybrid dogs within Washington State. Currently, dogs that are not wolf hybrids can be tested for rabies through a quarantine process. However, wolf hybrids cannot be tested through a quarantine procedure because of their potential to become asymptomatic carriers of rabies over a long time period. In addition, wolf hybrid dogs tend to be more difficult to train and have a higher predisposition for exhibiting aggressive behavior towards people. As such, a ban on the ownership of wolf hybrid dogs will help to protect the public's health and can potentially reduce the number of cases in which domestic dogs have to be unnecessarily euthanized for rabies testing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan DEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Southern". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Mark Southern

GARY K. BATES
14323 RIVERBEND RD
MOUNT VERNON WA 98273

Idaho

Facts from Idaho - After wolves

garyb@allwestselectsires.com

2009 Nonresident Deer and Elk Tag Quotas

As of: December 18, 2009

Note: The number of tags available may have increased due to return of unsold outfitter allocated tags.

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HABITAT PROGRAM

DEER TAGS		
TYPE	QUOTA	# OF TAGS AVAILABLE
Regular/White-tailed Deer	12,015	2,542
White-tailed Deer	1,500	1,500

ZONE ELK TAGS		
	QUOTA	# OF TAGS AVAILABLE
Zone Elk A & B Tag	10,415	2,318

ELK TAGS		
These tag allotments are taken out of the "Zone Elk A & B" quota and are not additional.		
TYPE	QUOTA	# OF TAGS AVAILABLE
Lolo Zone - B Tag	356	145
Selway Zone - A Tag	254	203
Selway Zone - B Tag	284	3
Middle Fork Zone - A Tag	174	117
Middle Fork Zone - B Tag	267	80
Dworshak Zone - B Tag	215	SOLD OUT
Elk City Zone - B Tag	326	SOLD OUT
Diamond Creek Zone - A Tag*	772	SOLD OUT
Sawtooth Zone - A Tag*	106	38

B Tag 265 54

Please add to written comments on your wolf management plan actual numbers from neighboring state of Idaho Idaho used to always sell out of non-resident tags in January now there are 4042 deer tags left valued at \$1.6 million & 2958 elk tags left valued at 1.5 million & equals 3.1 million dollars NOT spent by non-residents - thanks totally to wolf depredation! Please join Wyoming in listings wolves as predators to be shot on sight - otherwise your game will be wiped out also

Mary

JH

✓

From: Dave Weikel [mailto:dave.weikel@peninsuladailynews.com]
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Luers, Madonna (DFW)
Subject: Gray wolf plan to be discussed in Sequim this week
Importance: High

I will be unable to make it to the public forum in Sequim this week, but wanted to indicate my comment to you and the department.

I am in support of re-locating gray wolves to the North Olympic Peninsula, whenever your department is ready, whether it be done on a federal or state level. The gray wolf is one of the most misunderstood creatures ever to walk the planet, and it's a shame that bounties were put on them to eradicate them in the first place. I believe it will result, as it has everywhere they've been living or re-introduced, that healthier deer and elk populations result. Gray wolves cull out the sick and injured individuals resulting in an overall healthier animal population. Because of the relatively small ecosystem area the packs would have to be carefully monitored to be certain that they don't overproduce, but I don't see this as a great obstacle given that there is a good track record of reintroductions in other areas.

By the way, if it makes any difference I live in the lake Sutherland area, which would likely be impacted by such a move. I feel we have more danger from cougars in my area and have only seen one once in the 10 years we've lived there.

Ref: <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20091102/NEWS/311029996>

David A Weikel
Technical Services Director
Peninsula Daily News
305 W 1st ST
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-3516
Fax: (360) 417-3521
email: dave.weikel@peninsuladailynews.com
Web: www.peninsuladailynews.com

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NOV 17 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

MICHAEL REAL
PO BOX 1313
WINTHROP WA 98862
Nov. 10 2009

WASHINGTON Dept of Fish & WILDLIFE
WOLF MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I strongly believe in WOLF REINTRODUCTION AND PROTECTION. The NORTHWEST NEEDS ANIMAL DIVERSITY AND BALANCE. Deer population can be more controlled by WOLF PREDATION AND Deer migration due to wolves. I believe ALTERNATE TWO WOULD GIVE THE MOST BALANCED PROTECTION FOR WOLVES AND help reintroduce TO THE SPECIES BACK INTO THE NORTHWEST. WOLF HABITAT IN THE WEST AND THE NORTHWEST HAS BEEN AROUND LONGER THAN MODERN HUMANS. They DO create a BALANCE IN THE ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT

Thankyou
Michael Real

COPY

Wm. H. & Janet N. Holbrook
1301 S 3rd AVE UNIT 7-C
Sequim, WA 98382
PH> 360 683-4121
email: jjudge@olympen.com
billholbrook@olympen.com

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NOV 04 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Date: Monday, November 02, 2009
10:26:00 AM

Comments on Wolf Conservation & Mgt Plan DEIS
from PDN article dated today

First of all, I tried to email using the tinyurl.com/yhcxtrq address from the article. No luck!

I attended the first meeting that was held in Sequim on this subject several months ago and heard some of the public response. My concern, after reading the article and attending the first meeting, is that not enough (almost **nothing**) is being said about the restoration of the **predator-prey** balance!

I would hope that at Thursday's meeting some information could be given about the overpopulation of deer and elk in the National Forest and the wiping out of their primary predator population responsible for this overpopulation. It would be good to present statistics on how many deer and elk die each year—not from predation but from this wiping out of their chief predator which occurred in the early 30's.

I think that making this balance situation more clear would enhance public understanding of the rationale of relocation into the Olympic Peninsula area of Washington's National Forests.

Thanks for your consideration,

Janet Holbrook

Janet Holbrook

JH
11/4/09

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a summary page at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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OCT 30 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * THOMAS O. LASATER

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 950 SAINT HILAIRE RD. YAKIMA WA
98901

COMMENTS: I ATTENDED THE YAKIMA PUBLIC MEETING AND
WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON A FEW POINTS THAT WERE
BOUGHT UP DURING THE MEETING.

- TRANSLOCATION MAKES NO SENSE AND I AM OPPOSED TO ANY
PLAN THAT INCLUDES IT. THE WOLF IS DOING FINE LOCATING
NEW AREAS BY HIMSELF. MAN IS NOT NEEDED TO HELP HIM
FIND HABITAT AND WE MOST OFTEN MAKE A BIGGER PROBLEM WHEN
WE TRY TO INTERVENE.

- THE TARGET LEVEL OF 15 BREEDING PAIRS IS TOO HIGH
ESPECIALLY IF CONCENTRATED IN ONLY PART OF THE STATE.

- I WOULD FAVOR PLAN 1 DUE TO THE MORE AGGRESSIVE
LETHAL CONTROL STRATEGY. WOLVES WILL RESTORED DUE TO
THEIR OWN ABILITY AS LONG AS MAN IS NOT ALLOWED TO USE
LETHAL CONTROL WITHOUT LIMITS BUT LETHAL CONTROL IS NEEDED FOR
PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK, PETS AND CHILDREN ESPECIALLY IN AREAS

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS THAT ARE ALREADY POPULATED.

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

NOV 02 2009

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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

HABITAT PROGRAM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Spokane Meeting 10-27-09

Name: * John Belknap - President of North West Sportsmans club.

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** johnbdds@aol.com

COMMENTS: Please consider the minority option! This state and pro hunting conservation groups have spent millions of dollars introducing and managing wild life here since day one, Please use a little common sense in your decision. Wolves are beautiful and do deserve a place in our state, but should not be allowed to descimate our fragile sheep, moose, elk, deer and caribou populations. Please limit the breeding pairs to the minority option! Funding will not continue from the hunting private sector if wolves are allowed to descimate our sheep, elk, deer, bear etc. Licenses will not be sold to hunters, and conservation (hunting) groups will not want to invest in our state. Who will be left to fund wolf management besides the General Fund.

John Belknap

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓ JH 11/4/09

✓
October 1, 2009

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

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OCT 09 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Re: Comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington

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OCT 14 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Final Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington.

The target population numbers are not based on science and will not meet the goal of restoring wolves. It is hard to understand how the number recommended by WDFW scientists for transitioning from threatened to sensitive of 15 breeding pairs became the target for completely removing all protections for wolves. I am concerned that if the goal of this plan is to reach a viable wolf population, compromise among a small group of stakeholders with no regard to scientific evidence is unlikely to lead to a successful recovery.

I also feel it is important to identify the Olympic Peninsula as one of the primary sites for translocation. The peninsula should be considered for translocation because it has large blocks of public land, lots of prey, and will have trouble being repopulated by wolves naturally. Finally, the return of wolves is very important to the health of the Olympic ecosystem.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments and look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,

Julianne Lamsek

Julianne Lamsek
350 NW 82ND ST
Seattle WA 98117
jlamsek@aol.com

✓ JH 10/12

✓
Margaret J. Larson

2457 West Shore Drive; Lummi Island, WA 98262

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

December 17, 2009

WDFW
SEPA desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Good day:

I am writing regarding the draft conservation and management plan for wolves.

I believe that wolves are a natural and necessary element in Washington wildlife, and that they have a positive effect on ecosystems.

I hope to see wolf recovery in Washington, and believe that Alternative 3 provides the highest likelihood that wolves will be recovered in Washington.

Regards,



Margaret J. Larson

✓
JH

✓

Since Okanogan County has now entered the wolf arena, citizens on both sides of the aisle should take a hard look at the consequences from all sides.

First of all, there are no bad wolves and no good wolves. There are just wolves doing what all wild animals are designed to do – survive. A problem in the wolf debate is the fact that the wolf is a beautiful animal. If it looked like an African warthog but with wolf behavior, people would want them all dead. It's a debate that is mostly fueled by emotion – not what is best for wolves, ranchers, game animals and pets.

A pack of wolves is the most efficient predator in North America. It is a deadly killer. It has to be to live. Wolves have no Safeway store and must kill and they are very good at it. Whereas a coyote will weigh 25 to 40 pounds, wolves are 4 to 5 times larger. Coyotes kill deer, calves, dogs, etc. But imagine the killing power of a pack of 4 to 10 wolves each weighing 100 to 170 pounds. All game or farm animals are potential wolf fodder. Wolves can't survive on a mouse a day!

Ask the citizens of Idaho that are ranchers, outfitters or just have 20 acres and some livestock, how the wolf program is working for them. Idaho has twice the remote land area as Washington State and Idaho has a big wolf problem. Many big game populations have been decimated and the wolves still have to eat. Livestock and domestic animals are a regular menu item for wolves. Wyoming and Montana have similar issues.

In Okanogan County deer wintering grounds are in or near valleys which are also occupied by ranches wintering cattle, houses, orchards, etc. Wolves must follow the food source and will without doubt, cause the same type of problems for us that plague Idaho.

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DEC 21 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

↓
JH

Another reason for not having wolves in Okanogan County is the inability of any Game Department to control them. Remember, the wolf is a beautiful animal and many people will resist any attempt to control them by hunting, trapping or whatever. Federal laws, million dollar studies and lawsuits prevent wolf management.

In Okanogan County we have plenty of predators for dwindling game populations. Why do we need a "healthy" wolf population when our highways, coyotes, black bears, cougars, orchard fences, poachers, lack of winter habitat, domestic dogs and hunting are doing a masterful job of killing off a decreasing game population? Okanogan County is not the place for wolves. Do the wolves and all of us a favor - do not introduce or perpetuate wolves in Okanogan County.

THANK YOU
AL RISE
P.O. BOX 125
TONASKET WA.
98855

December 22, 2009

Teresa A. Etwaspe: Responsible Official
 SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
 600 Capitol Way North
 Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED
 DEC 24 2009
 HABITAT PROGRAM

Re: DEIS for the Wolf Conservation and
 Management Plan for Washington

"Echinococcus Granulosus" - all the
 reason we Washington residents
 need to say "Hell No!" to wolves
 in any form in our state.
 The Feds chose to ignore the
 warning in 1993 and chose to
 go ahead with wolf reintroduction
 in Yellowstone National Park.
 Surprise, surprise, there is
 a significant problem now.

Surprise, nine years ago I
 learned of "Echinococcus Granulosus"
 in a parasitology class at
 Washington State University.
 I learned it can be easily
 acquired by not thoroughly washing
 one's hands including fingernails
 after petting a dog.

In my opinion the situation

has become a public health issue, far outweighing the ESA. In my opinion anyone who knowingly enables the spread of this horrible problem should be held responsible. Information about "Echinococcus Granulosus" is readily available on the internet, in graphic detail. Anyone with an ounce of common sense knows it can't be explained away. Shus and Canines, of which there are plenty in Washington are intermediate hosts.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Duchon
9772 Oil City Road
Tulke, WA 98331

21 December 2009

Dear WA Department of Fish and Wildlife:

I understand you are accepting comments on your wolf conservation and management plan. I haven't seen it, but I want you to know that I support and value wolves as part of our natural ecosystems and know that means we humans will have to adapt as well! I do wish to see their recovery in our state - and I do wish to protect habitat for them and all our native wildlife sooner than later. Pat Milliren

JH

Milliren
1703 W. 8th
Port Angeles
WA 98363



HABITAT PROGRAM
WDFW - SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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✓
Nate Haire
12850 N. Sassin Station RD
Edwall, WA 99008
509-239-9818

RECEIVED
DEC 23 2009
GRANT PROGRAM

To whom this may concern. We Find introducing the wolves or should I say reintroducing the wolves into Washington is a big mistake in many ways. Financially this state can not take on this bill. We are suffering one of the biggest deficits this state has ever seen and yet somehow you would put wolves before our schools and education. More government spending at the expense of tax payers.

Secondly in case you all have not noticed this is Washington state NOT Montana! This state will not see 35 million a year in Eco Tourism. ~~IF~~ you really did your homework the population in Washington far exceeds that of Montana, Montana has Yellowstone and we (Washington state) has the Olympic Peninsula. Enough said.

Thirdly if we must have wolves the breeding pairs should be cut from 15 to 5 to 8 pairs. Are you taking into account you already have breeding pairs in this state?

Fourthly THE Department of Fish and Wildlife should be held accountable to report yearly on the progress of the breeding pairs and how many there are.

Nate Haire

✓
JH

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DEC 23 2009

PROGRAM

With Canada, Idaho & Oregon next door - all with more than enough wolves, and with the lack of habitat here in Washington:

5 to 8 breeding pairs is more than enough.

The Game department should have to meet with the Ag & Natural Resources Committees as well as agricultural Stake holders every year to report on numbers of wolves and stages for each region - accountability.

L. D. Green

2775 W. Harrison rd.

Othello WA 99344

L D Green

JH

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DEC 23 2009

HABITAT PH AM

✓
To Whom It May Concern:

The only place a wolf needs
to be ~~is~~ in a zoo or in/or
under the ground. We as cattlemen
do not need wolves in Washington
State.

But remember - bullets are
still able to be ~~provised~~ purchased
in a lot of stores.

Sally Siegel
08 S. 4th Street

Odessa, WA 99159
509-982-2221

✓
JH

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DEC 23 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

27103 Telford Rd N.
Davenport, WA 99122

To whom it may concern,
I do not completely oppose wolves, but you obviously do not know how to manage this animal. Look what you accomplished in Idaho, you brought wolves back. But you also destroyed the elk, moose, and deer populations. You may account for what a pack kills to eat, per week, but what about the animals that they kill "for fun" (in which they don't eat).

But back to the you destroying the populations of ungulates. You think you can generate money through wolf sightings. But how about the money generated from hunting. Hunting groups are responsible ^{for} many habitat restoration projects, for instance (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Male Deer Foundation, National Rifleman's Association, etc). These groups have purchased, and restored thousands of acres of habitat. Where do you suppose the money came from to do all this. HUNTING, and hunting paraphernalia. I like the hunting experience, but I am there too HARVEST an animal to fill my freezer with the most pure meat on earth.

You need to manage wolves like you have other big game, ~~is~~ instead of pampering them like your pet. Step up and do your job, the right way. Other wise by bringing in one animal ~~you will lose~~ with poor management plans. You will lose significantly more than you for seem.

Sincerely,
Chase Hubbard

✓
JH

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DEC 23 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission 12-17-09

I would like you to know I oppose any introduction of wolves to any area of Washington State. I also oppose the management plan that is being proposed. We have lost calves to wolves here in Lincoln County. We don't need or want any wolves here in Lincoln County but we do have them and have sustained loss due to their presence. We will protect our herd, our families and our livelihood.

Sincerely

Loren Houger

P.O. Box 33

Creston, WA 99117

509-636-2673

✓
JH

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DEC 23 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

December 17, 2009

To the Department of Fish and Game:

I strongly oppose the Department's
proposed number of breeding pair of wolves.

We need less wolves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Mielke

Robert E. Mielke
30708 Krock Rd E.
Davenport, Wa. 99122
(509) 725-3456

✓
JH

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

To the Washington Dep. of Wildlife:
there is know way I can support
12 breeding pairs in this state.
6 would be more than enough.
You are walking on thin ice
with the livestock, hunting
communities.

I am a livestock producer, taxidermist
and hunter and I can see know
good coming from wolves.

The loss to the revenue in this
state will be staggering.

Please rethink your plan!

Thank you
Dave Hubbard

27105 Telford Rd. N.
Davenport Wa.
99122

1-509-725-5678

JH ✓

6057 Ann Arbor Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115-7618
December 26, 2009

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DEC 29 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW SEPA Desk
Teresa Eturaspe
600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091

To whom it may concern:

Please consider my comments when making the decision on this plan.

- Please select Alternative 3 for the final plan. We must include a Pacific Coast recovery region where wolves must be present before they are delisted in Washington.
- Wolves should be transported to the Olympic Peninsula and established there before they can be removed from endangered species protections.
- The goal of 15 breeding pairs is less than half of the number of breeding pairs that scientists suggest would be a viable population.
- Without the ability to transport wolves to the Olympic Peninsula, the I-5 corridor presents an almost impossible barrier to a naturally dispersing wolf population.
- Non-lethal methods should be used in dealing with any identified "problem" wolves that interfere with livestock operations.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Miller

✓ JH

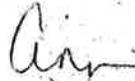
✓
WDFW
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia WA 98501-1091

December 26, 2009

Re: Protecting Washington's Wolves

Please register my "vote" for Alternative 3 in your draft conservation and management plan for wolves. I believe that alternative offers the highest likelihood that wolves will successfully reclaim some of their former habitats in Washington State. Wildlife is important to me and my family. Thank you for doing whatever you can to ensure that wolf populations thrive. I look forward to the restoration of healthy and diverse ecosystems, and consider wolves and other large predators an essential component.

Sincerely,



Ann E. Prezyna
2031 Fairview Ave E Apt A
Seattle WA 98102-3571
houseboata@gmail.com

cc: Conservation Northwest

RECEIVED

DEC 29 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

RECEIVED

DEC 30 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

✓ JH

✓ 3

From: russlag1@msn.com
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW);
Subject: Final Draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and DEIS
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009 8:03:04 PM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I appreciate the effort contributed by the Wolf Working Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on a plan meant to re-establish a naturally producing and viable wolf population in the state of Washington and to minimize impacts to livestock owners in a way that will not impact the recovery of the wolf.

I support Alternative 3, but with an increased target number of breeding pairs. Target numbers for conservation and recovery of wolves of 15 breeding pairs is too low. Review of existing research suggests that a goal three or more times as large may be needed to maintain a viable population.

The Pacific Coastal Region should be a separate recovery area, as stated in Alternative 3, and the Olympic Peninsula and Mt. St. Helens should be identified as primary translocation areas.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to reviewing the final plan.

Sincerely,
Rose Lagerberg
13715 Wallingford N.
Seattle, WA 98133/7245

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * _____

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** _____

COMMENTS: _____

NO
L
W

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

★
JH

Comments on DEIS Wolf Management Plan

Warren Gimlin
2010 Alice Lane
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Phone- 509-393-9208

Member of the board, Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association
Member WDFW's Game management Advisory Council
Lifetime Washington resident and sportsman

First off, the Canadian Grey wolf is not native to the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana or Wyoming. In it's native habitat it is not endangered in any way. If we are going to recover wolves in Washington they should be the same ones that were here originally.

Second, The WDFW's preferred option does not take into consideration the mandate set forth in (RCW77.04.012) which states “*..the department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife...*”, and “*The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreation...hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens...*”

The overall goals are to protect, suatain, manage hunted wildlife, provide stable recreational hunting opportunitiesto all citizens, protect and enhance wildlife habitat, minimize adverse impacts to residents, other wildlife, and the environment.

The preferred option of the WDFW calls for to many breeding pairs for our states land area, human population and ungulate population (the wolfs preferred food). Compared to Idaho and Montana, we have less area available and a higher population of people (Washington's Population is 6.4 million people, Idaho's population is 1.8 million people, and Montana's population is 980,000 people). Yet the preferred Plan calls for 15 breeding pairs to delist in our state and only 10 breeding pairs in Idaho and Montana. Considering the available land, human population, and ungulate population this makes no sense. Plan Alt 1A (The Minority Responsible Approach) which calls for 8 breeding pairs to delist makes much more sense.

Alt 1A (The Responsible Approach) also allows for hunting wolves as a means of population control which does make sense as the wolf has no other natural predators and this would enhance hunting opportunities for the people of the state. The more wolves that you have the more conflicts there will be with people and livestock in our state, and this means that people will be less accepting of the wolves for a much longer period of time. The state should have as wide a range as possible to resolve wolf-human-livestock-wildlife problems.

If wolves populate this state in large enough numbers then hunting of deer and elk and moose will have to be curtailed. Since the WDFW's funding partly comes from license and tag sales Who is going to fund the department when no one buys license and tags because ther are no longer any decent hunting opportunities in the state.

If the WDFW insists on 15 Breeding pairs to delist these non-native wolves then at least half of that number should be translocatated along th I-5 corridor so that the people that think we need this many

wolves can find out first hand what the wolves will be like in their own back yards.

Respectfully,

Warren D. Gimlin

Warren D. Gimlin

RECEIVED
JAN 21 2010
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Ken Heinle
Grant Elementary School
1430 1st S.E.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

January 13, 2010

To: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Re: Washington Wolf Conservation & Management

WDFW, I was recently presented a short piece of writing by my principal of a third grade, nine-year old student as an example of a good piece of writing. After reading it I shared that I had recently attended a public meeting on November 10th in Wenatchee that had addressed some draft plan alternatives speaking to how Washington State should proceed in managing the increased reestablishment of wolves that are now dispersing and existing in our state. And furthermore, that I was planning on sending in my personal public comments to WDFW by the mid-January cut-off date and I would like to include Courtney's writing along with my comments.

After checking the web site to make sure where to send my comments, I discovered that the public comment period had ended five days earlier. What luck. Even though I may have missed submitting my comments, I still would like to at least pass on Courtney's writing and feelings toward what she perceives as a species worth saving. I was also wondering if WDFW might have some posters, brochures, promotional items to offer to Courtney and/or our school to help keep her Wolf mission alive. So please, pin this writing on your wall to reinforce and remind you of the important work you do for not only the wolf...but for kids like Courtney too.

Kindest regards,

Ken Heinle
Special Education teacher
Grant Elementary

Wolves should be important to us because after they become extinct domestic dog could be next. Farmers dislike wolves because they think the wolves kill the sheep. It may not be wolves, it could be a different kind of species. Their habitat is going away. I'd really hate to see them go.  Please help me Save Wolves.

Courtney D

3rd - Mrs. R

room 10

✓
WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Wa. 98501-1091

12-16-2009

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dept. of Fish and Wildlife,

I feel the protection of wolves and reestablishment of their numbers to a more realistic level (a level where they actually make an impact as a predator on the ecosystem) is important for Washington state.

I urge you to support Conservation North West's vision for the wolf.

Washington State has immense natural beauty and the 'fauna' play an important part of this beauty.

I feel blessed to be a Washington resident with people and organizations who look out for my interests as a nature lover, and look out for my state with a 'big picture' mentality.

Sincerely,



Bonnie McKinnon, C.Ht.
8449 Golden Valley Dr.
Maple Falls, Wa. 98266
360-599-2930

★
JH

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

January 7, 2010
John S. Wilson
1382 Rocky Gorge Road
Newport, WA 99156

Comments Regarding The Washington State Draft Wolf Management Plan

Although our family has been involved in ranching and farming in Pend Oreille County since 1965, we recognize that wolves are part of the natural ecosystem, and we strongly support protecting them so that they can recolonize suitable parts of their former habitat. There are still many people in rural communities who view predators as a threat, or as competition, especially some ranchers and hunters. Successful wolf recolonization will depend on support and tolerance by the majority of the people in those rural communities where people and wolves will be interacting. Irrational fear results from ignorance and I believe that Wildlife Managers will have to take a proactive approach to educate the public in these rural areas including annual visits to the upper grades of the local schools. Enforcement alone will not be enough to protect wolves, and enforcement can't be successful unless members of the public are willing to turn in those who illegally kill wolves. Compensation for livestock losses due to wolf predation on private lands should help in making the ranching community more tolerant of wolves and it is important that Wildlife Managers attempt to develop a personal relationship with the ranching community and local sportsman organizations in their continuing efforts to educate these people.

Regarding predation to livestock or other domestic animals from wolves and other predators on State or Federal lands. Although some local special interest groups would disagree, these public lands belong to all of the citizens of the state or nation and the will of the majority must prevail in the management of these public lands. It is very clear that the vast majority of the public want public lands to serve as habitat and refuge for wildlife. When conflicts between wildlife and livestock or domestic animals occur on these public lands, the welfare and survival of the wildlife must have priority and the livestock or domestic animals should be removed from these lands.

Finally, setting an arbitrary number of successful breeding pairs that will result in delisting wolves seems to be based on politics rather than science. No one will know how many wolves the ecosystem will support until wolves fully recover and occupy all of their remaining suitable habitat. Only then should consideration be given to removing their protected status.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Steve Wilson

John S. "Steve" Wilson

RECEIVED
JAN 08 2010
HABITAT PROGRAM

★
JH

✓
**BIG
VALLEY
RANCH**

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

January 6, 2010

WDFW/SEPA DESK
600 Capital Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Dear Sir,

Of all the options listed for the protection of the wolves, I choose Option Number Two.

I am not for protecting the wolves, but if they have to be protected it would seem that is the best offered at this time,

I am basically for eliminating the wolves. The riparian area on my ranch has many species of animals on it that we enjoy observing. And it was SAFE.

We have seen three wolves tear a deer apart on my ranch and it was not a pretty sight. The wolves will do a pretty good job of eliminating the deer in my area. And other animals.

Sincerely,



Harold H. Heath
Owner of the Big Valley Ranch
18874 Highway 20
Winthrop, Washington 98862



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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JAN 05 2010

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

12-31-09

Name: * Franz Schneider, Ph.D., D.D., Ann Schneider, Ph.D.

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 121 Bear Gulch Rd.
Aberdeen, WA 99205

COMMENTS: We are in favor of reintroducing wolves in the State of Washington. The reasons justifying such actions are too numerous to mention here. We are small forest land-owners and encourage as much wildlife on our 20 acres as possible, even though the storm of '07 hammered us severely.

We are sorry the typical crowd of naysayers showed up to bully the presiding officials. Had we had earlier notice of the meeting (someone called us just the day before), we could have provided a rebuttal to the nonsense that was bound to come.

We hope you will go through with Alternative Plan 2.

Franz Schneider Ann Schneider

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)



Drs. Franz and Ann Schneider
121 Bear Gulch Rd
Aberdeen, WA 98520-9600

Handwritten initials or mark in the bottom right corner.

✓
To: WDFW SETA desk

1-8-10

Dear WDFW administrators:

I would support having a small, viable wolf population in Washington State. I believe that our ecological environment would improve.

I believe Alternative 3 would be best.

Having wolf specialists working with ranchers would be a good thing in order to reduce fear and provide non-lethal solutions to wolf problems.

Sincerely
Gary Belcher

Audubon



Gary Belcher

3366 Rockcut Rd

Kettle Falls, WA 99141-9735

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HABITAT PROGRAM

★
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Monte Nesbitt

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** P.O. Box 1540 Spokane Valley, WA 99037

COMMENTS: I Support Draft Plan - Alternative 2.

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JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

JH

✓
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

To Whom It May Concern:

I was unable to access your web site to review your presentation of the numbered alternatives. However, we are strongly in favor of the reintroduction of gray wolves in the Olympic National Park as soon as it can reasonably be accomplished. We believe the park needs a healthy balance of predators as well as prey for the benefit of the entire ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Carol von Borstel

Bruce von Borstel

2922 West Sequim Bay Rd.
Sequim, WA 98382

★
JH

November 16, 2009

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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NOV 18 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2009

RE: Public comments on the WDFW DRAFT Wolf Management Plan

We went to the Wolf Meeting in Aberdeen at the Log Pavilion and was appalled to find that the only information presented was the wolf group proposal and that none of the proposals by the minority group (the people representing landowners and livestock people most affected by the reintroduction of wolves) were not even mentioned. It appears the WDFW's plan was to let the wolf lovers and dreamers to have complete control of the wolf working group and only consider their proposals.

HABITAT PROGRAM

If the plan they have chosen, Alternate 2, is accepted, we will have 15 breeding pairs (approximately 150 wolves) before we can propose delisting at which time the WDFW could be sued as has happened in all the other states seeking delisting. These lawsuits will take at least a couple of years and by then we will have about 300 wolves.

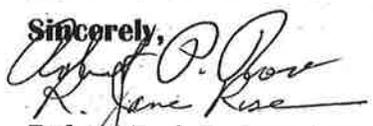
Washington State does not have enough habitat and wildlife to support 15 breeding pairs and by the time we get them delisted and have 30 breeding pairs the deer and elk will be totally decimated. The wolves will have to starve or kill domestic livestock, pets or people.

The minority opinion on pages 202 and 203 of the management plan should be given careful consideration and be adopted. This would allow the delisting at 8 breeding pairs and the WDFW could then begin to manage the population of wolves to protect livestock, elk and deer populations.

We believe with the losses cattlemen are experiencing in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, if WDFW allows the wolf population to get to 15 breeding pairs before even starting to apply for delisting, the losses of livestock will overwhelm the compensation program and they will not be able to fully fund it. It's questionable at this time in our state economic situation that funding for compensation will be a reality in any event.

Please use common sense and adopt the Minority Opinion or at least Alternative 1A before destroying the elk and deer populations and the cattle industry in this state.

Sincerely,



Robert P. & R. Jane Rose

Cc: Miranda Wecker, Chair, WDFW Commission

✓
JH
11-18

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Erin Keller

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** erin.keller@gmail.com

COMMENTS: Please re-locate breeding
pairs of Wolves to Olympic National Forest.

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JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

☆
JH

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 11 2010

Name: * Michael Turner

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 280 Eggloff Road
Sequim, WASH. 98282

HABITAT PROGRAM

COMMENTS: After reading and attending your P.R. campaign throughout the state, I prefer Alternative 3. However, I understand to keep your working group ^{cronies} ~~of~~ of hunters and ranchers satisfied you will cherry pick to satisfy them. Why don't you remove yourself from the process and let the federal federal Wildlife put a breeding pair in Olympic National Park and monitor?

I applaud your professional management on the slaughter of elk in Skagit County which gives many of us hope you can manage wolves. For you to manage any wildlife means something is going to die. It's tragic the lack of compassion for the animals that pay your salaries will their lives.

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☆
JH

✓
12-27-09

Teresa Ettersage
SEPA Responsible Official
Habitat Program
Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capital Way N
Olympic WA 98501

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JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Ms. Ettersage:

I respectfully ask you to select Alternative 3 for the Wolf Conservation and Recovery Plan. I also request translocation of wolves to the Olympic Peninsula before their removal from the endangered species list.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.

Jim DeW

James Di Piero
328 NE 192nd ^{Street}~~St~~
Shoreline, WA 98155

★ JH

✓

314 View Ridge Dr.
Port Angeles, WA. 98362
January 7, 2010

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA. 98501-1091

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JAN 11 2010
HABITAT PROGRAM

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to comment on the Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

I support Alternative 3, with a slight modification. Please consider the Olympic Peninsula for re-introduction of wolves. Please use translocation as soon as feasible to the Olympics.

The Olympics, better than anywhere else in the state, could best support a viable population with minimal adverse human contacts. A wolf population would enhance the already in-place tourism industry that visits the Park. This would create more jobs.

Alternative 3, with the modification mentioned, would best speed up recovery and allow more flexibility to address conflicts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and good luck.

Sincerely
Graeme Jon

★
JF

To: WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capital Way N., Olympia WA 98501-1091

From: Donald W. Johnson, P.O. Box 124, Carlton WA 98814

Re: Draft Wolf Conservation and Management Plan/ Comments

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NOV 12 2009

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HABITAT PROGRAM

NOV 16 2009

November 9, 2009

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

All alternatives presented are based on intensive management with a "recovery" delisting goal of 15 breeding pairs state-wide.

Evidence must be presented that wolf populations can be protected with as few as 2 breeding pairs per region under intensive management when they also can be shot by individuals maintaining that wolves were attacking a domestic dog. All alternatives lack an adequate target for number of breeding pairs even if the unrealistic protection of domestic dogs plan was removed.

The plan calls for moving wolves around the state and training in shooting at them with rubber bullets. Evidence must be presented that wolf populations can be maintained when they are under continuing pressure from monitoring, trapping, moving, and being shot at.

The Alternatives #2 and #3 plan to manage deer and elk herds to benefit recovering wolf populations will assure anger, resentment, and retaliation against the establishment of wolves within any area of the state.

Evidence must be presented that the deer and elk hunting license holders will accept this action. Wolves should be allowed to interact with deer and elk herds managed by WDFW within the limitations of available habitat.

Livestock and domestic dogs should be managed on public lands to support maximum numbers of both prey animals and predators, particularly on WDFW Wildlife Areas purchased with public funds to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Under Alternative #1 wolves are to be "controlled" (lethally or non-lethally) if deer and elk populations decline below herd objectives. Does this assume that deer and elk are at herd objectives in the absence of wolves and that other factors may not interfere with obtaining "herd objectives"?

Provision of compensation for probable depredation of livestock by wolves and in some cases paying double the value of the livestock is an invitation for fraud. What standards are established for "probable depredation" by wolves? What rationales are presented for paying double the value of livestock when they are consumed on public lands with legislative directives to be managed for wildlife?

I find all of the alternatives presented unacceptable, particularly Alternative #1, based on the above comments.

An alternative must be presented that provides for a minimum number of breeding pairs supported by population geneticists, that prevents harassment of wolves on public lands by individuals or agencies, that limits livestock depredation compensation to that committed on private lands, and which prevents livestock, as well as domestic dog, intrusion on documented wolf denning and rendezvous areas.

Please accept these comments offered in the interest of protecting and restoring natural balance to our public lands.

✓ JH
11/12

✓
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JAN 06 2010

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan**

HABITAT PROGRAM

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Name: * Stan Wilson

Postal mail or e-mail address: **snjwilson@msn.com

COMMENTS:

I can make this real simple. I do not support wolves in Washington State. The State residents made that decision back in the 1930,s when they removed wolves, is history going to repeat itself again.

The director of WDFW made the ruling that wolves will be introduced to Washington State. This director has since resigned. I do not agree that the director has that authority.

No wolves should be allowed in Washington because of the high human population density.

Lethal control of wolves on private property or public property should be allowed if wolves are harassing livestock, horses, and domestic dogs regardless if the wolves are listed as threatened species or have been removed from threatened status. The only way to educate the wolf is make it aware this behavior will not be tolerated

Citizens should be allowed to use lethal control of wolves if threatened or harassed. Also if their family pets are threatened regardless if the wolves are listed as a threatened species or have been removed from threatened status.

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Name: * Stan Wilson

Postal mail or e-mail address: **snjwilson@msn.com

COMMENTS:

Livestock owners should be compensated at twice the market value for each animal taken by wolves. They should be compensated at twice the value of herding dogs taken by wolves.

Owners of livestock herds that are constantly harassed should receive compensation. It should not make any difference if it is on thousands of acres or less than one hundred acres.

Defender of wildlife should pay for damages. The state of Washington tax payers should pay for damages and there needs to be funding available and set aside before any wolves are allowed. Should there be no funding or inadequate funding wolves should be removed as this would indicate wolves are not acceptable to state tax payers. There also should be legislation approving of funding and the funds set aside for wolf management and control before wolves are allowed. Until this happens all wolves should be removed from Washington State.

Ungulate populations in Eastern Washington are below management objectives. Subjecting these populations to the wolf predation will definitely reduce their numbers. For that reason I do not support wolves in Eastern Washington. The mission of WDFW is to protect wildlife and maximize hunting opportunities. This reduces both wildlife numbers and hunting opportunities.

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JAN 06 2010

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Name: * Stan Wilson

Postal mail or e-mail address: **snjwilson@msn.com

COMMENTS:

Shortening hunting seasons because of wolf predation is unacceptable.

Alternative two calls for two wolf packs in each of three zones and a total of fifteen packs across the state.

This number is totally unrealistic. Eastern Washington will end up with at least eleven packs under this alternative.

The Federal government has delisted wolves in Eastern Washington and the state should do the same.

Should wolves be allowed in Washington each zone should be delisted as soon as two packs are verified.

Each zone should be delisted separately.

The wolves coming to Washington are not of the same genetics as the original wolves. When reestablishing steelhead and salmon this is a big issue. Why is it not an issue with wolves?

There should be no land use restriction when wolves inhabit an area.

- Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS
- "Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

JAN 06 2010

DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

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Name: * Stan Wilson

Postal mail or e-mail address: **snjwilson@msn.com

COMMENTS:

One look at Idaho, Montana and Wyoming wildlife and livestock problems and political turmoil over wolf reintroduction make me wonder why Washington is anxious to have wolves and all the problems and expenses that come with them.

- Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS "
- Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

January 6, 2010 ✓

Teresa Eturaspe

SEPA Responsible Official

Habitat Program

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

600 Capital Way North

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Teresa,

I am writing in response to the 'Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Draft EIS' that WDFW recently released. First, I would like to commend WDFW for publishing this document and engaging in a process with the goal of reestablishing a viable wolf population across a significant portion of the animal's former range in Washington.

Of the Alternatives presented in this Draft EIS, I strongly recommend that managers choose Alternative 3. Here are my reasons for recommending this.

I live and work as a biologist and Natural Resources Teacher in Port Angeles and Forks on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternative 3 is the only proposed alternative that provides even the slimmest chance for Wolf recovery in the Olympic Mountains, which according to biologists, is the best wolf habitat in the state of Washington. Having a 'Pacific Coast Region' is an essential part of any management plan, without which, wolves simply will not be able to make their way across the I-5 corridor unaided.

☆

The Olympic Mountains, though pristine wilderness in their interior, are missing a keystone predator for the past 80+ years. The effects of this are well-documented and even visible to the naked eye. While working as a Park Ranger at Hurricane Ridge, I heard many reports of endemic Olympic Marmots being eaten by Coyotes. With wolves restored to the Olympics, coyote numbers would decline and Olympic Marmots would cease to be devoured by coyotes. Hiking each spring, fall, and winter in the Olympic River Valleys, including the Hoh and Elwha, I rarely have a trip where I do not run into herds of elk, clearing away precious riparian vegetation. Wolves in this ecosystem would have plenty of elk to eat and would be an asset to the riparian areas by keeping the elk from spending so much time grazing there.

Further, I propose the following three additions to Alternative 3.

1) Increase the number of breeding pairs from 15 to at least 30, if not 60. Scientists have suggested these two latter numbers as more realistic minimums.

2) Add reintroduction into the plan as a way of getting wolves to the Olympic peninsula, as they are almost certain to be prohibited from traveling here on their own by the I-5 corridor.

3) Include non-lethal methods, such as translocation, to the options for dealing with "problem wolves" that interfere with livestock operations.

Thank you for your time and your efforts to restore wolves in our wonderful state.

Sincerely,
Dan Liebman

DAN LIEBERMAN
2412 PLACE RD
PORT ANGELES, WA 98363

January 8, 2010

To: Working Wolf Group

Please reconsider any decision to bring wolves to the Olympic Peninsula. There are many "why nots" and few if any reasons for.

My wife and I have lived here for over 40o years, without wolves. There are enough predators, including human hunters controlling the animal population, there is absolutely no sound reason for wolves. Elk herds have decined in numbers considerably in all areas regardless of claims by those selling licenses or "loafers" calling themselves guides. We need to consider the family needs of local Indians, as well as the market hunting allegedly conducted by a few of them.

One place that needs wolves, bear or cougar is McNeil Island, there is/was a veritable overpopulation of scrawny, inbred black tail deer there a few years ago, unless disease has wiped them out.

If the letter to the editor published Thursday, 1-7-10 by Kathy Dickson Oil City Road, is accurate anyone in the employment of the U.S Government and Washington State Government who willfully brings the described parasite to any part of the U.S, should be fired and subject to prosecution for endangering the health of person and animals, wildlife or domesticated.

Phil Reed
Forks, WA 98331

Forks Forum 01-07-10

This information about a nasty parasite with canines (including wolves) as a definitive host and also spread by ungulates (sheep, elk, deer etc.) to humans. Thirty nine years ago in my college parasitology class I learned "Echinococcus Grandulosis" a tape worm, can be contracted by humans as easily as not thoroughly scrubbing one's hands, including fingernails, after petting one's dog. I remember thinking at how glad I was that there were no wolves in the state of Washington. I don't remember whether the Canadian man with the huge cysts on his liver(the person who petted his dog survived) Information about "Echinococcus Grandulosus is readily available on the Internet in

graphic detail. In larval form in humans it causes cysts sometimes up to 30mm in size in the liver, lungs and other organs.

According to an article(November 27) written by Tom McDonnell of the Idaho Cattlemen Association it has been found that 63% of wolves in Idaho and 60 % of wolves in Montana carry this parasite. It states also that the parasite, never before known in Idaho and Montana is now being found in mule deer, mountain goats and elk. The article further states that DNA tests strongly suggested the tapeworm was imported to Idaho and Montana when the US government introduced Canadian Wolves.

Kathy Dickson, Oil City Road, Forks

✓
To: WDFW
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia Wa. 98501-1091

RECEIVED
DEC 21 2009
HABITAT GROUP INC.

From: *Bob Hilderbrand*
P.O. Box 558
Oroville, Wa. 98844

Subject: Comments to Washington Draft Wolf Management Plan

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to the RE-INTRODUCTION of WOLVES in Washington State for the following reasons -

1. The habitat and food abundance is not the same as when Wolves were present in large numbers in Washington state. We cannot turn back the clock to make it feasible for Wolves unless the state wants to eradicate other wildlife species.
2. A pack of Wolves is the most efficient predator in North America and it is a deadly killer ; it has to be to live. All Game and Farm animals are potential Wolf food all year long.
3. In Okanogan county and most of Eastern Washington Deer wintering grounds are in or near valleys which are also occupied by ranches wintering Cattle, houses with Families and Orchards. Wolves must follow the food source and will without a doubt cause the same type of problems for us that plague Idaho which has twice the wilderness area as Washington. In other states decimation of wildlife herds and depredation of Farm animals and Pets are occurring at high rates.
4. The Elk, Moose and Caribou population is just beginning to succeed and the Deer population is declining. Introduction of Wolves will eradicate them. WDFW will be sacrificing several species of wildlife for just Wolves. Other predators will not survive unless they turn more to domestic Livestock and family Pets.
5. Once Wolves are introduced and their population has gone out of control, has WDFW planned ahead to deal with litigation expenses from people(ie) resisting any attempt to control Wolves by hunting or trapping, million dollar studies, federal laws, and lawsuits to prevent Wolf management ?
6. How can the state pay back losses of Cattle and other Farm animals due to the Wolves if the State of Washington has billions in deficit and is reducing WDFW's staff and programs.

✓
JH

7. When all Game animal population in Eastern Washington are decimated will the State move to curtail hunting which will reduce revenues from hunting licenses and tourism? More tax revenues will then be lost for the State .

8. Most Ranchers and Orchardists have tried to mitigate Deer losses working with WDFW, will all of this hard work and expense be wasted if the Deer population is eradicated by a new species being introduced ?

In conclusion DO NOT introduce Wolves in Eastern Washington, both for the Wildlife and Washington State finances ; We CANNOT AFFORD the WOLVES !!!!

✓
To: WDFW
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia Wa. 98501-1091

RECEIVED

DEC 3 0 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

From:

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AS
H

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Starrin H Burger
4 OAKES DR.
TOWASHET, WA. 98855

✓
To: WDFW
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia Wa. 98501-1091

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

From:

WJH
JH

Subject: Comments to Washington Draft Wolf Management Plan

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Al Bunger
17 PINECREST DR
TONASKET, WA
98855

✓
To: WDFW
WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia Wa. 98501-1091

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In conclusion DO NOT introduce Wolves in Eastern Washington, both for the Wildlife and Washington State finances ; We CANNOT AFFORD the WOLVES !!!!

Nerlin Hicks
Deborah Hicks

✓
January 7, 2010

Dear Fish & Wildlife:

I hope this reaches you in time! I want to voice my support for wolves living in Washington State. These predators are so important! and they need more support for their return.

Thank you for intelligent conservation of this valuable animal.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Phillips
CAROLYN PHILLIPS
P.O. BOX 55245
Shoreline, WA 9815

RECEIVED

JAN 08 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

☆ JH

A hunter's encounter with wolves: 'a real humbling, eerie feeling'

By DOUG SMITH

The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — The wolves appeared shortly after Scott Wundinich shot and gutted a deer, then climbed back into his stand.

"Four or five, including a pitch-black male, came running out of the woods together," recalled Wundinich, 48, of Eveleth, Minn. "I looked to my left and saw three more. There were three or four more on my other side. I was stunned. I yelled and screamed, but they pretty much ignored me. They paced back and forth. They wanted my deer and the gut pile."

Despite firing several shots to try to scare away the wolves, they lurked, sometimes howling and barking, about 50 yards from Wundinich's stand for 45 minutes.

"I was scared," he said. "I've been hunting since I was 12 and I've never seen anything like this. It was a real humbling, eerie feeling."

Afraid to get down, Wundinich hunkered in his stand until darkness descended on the woods

near Lake Vermilion in northeastern Minnesota.

Then, with his rifle still loaded, he cautiously climbed down.

"I could hear them," he said.

With a small flashlight in his mouth, he scrambled to his ATV about 120 yards away. "I started it up and drove out of the woods as fast as I could go."

Wildlife officials say the encounter with wolves was unusual. But Wundinich and others, including some northern Minnesota conservation officers, say such encounters and sightings there are becoming more common.

"I'd say almost 50 percent of the deer camps I've checked have said they've seen wolves," said Dan Starr, Department of Natural Resources conservation officer in Tower. "That has increased. They (wolves) are getting pretty bold."

Said Wundinich: "We have an unmanaged population of wolves in northern Minnesota. They are becoming a problem."

Dan Stark, a DNR wolf specialist, said he hasn't received more calls

about human-wolf encounters. Surveys done in 2007-2008 estimate the state's wolf population at about 3,000.

He said Wundinich's experience is unusual because wolves generally don't stand their ground, even with food present.

"I've walked in on wolves feeding, and they scattered," he said. But a downed deer could affect their behavior.

Wolf attacks in North America on humans are extremely rare. But that didn't ease Wundinich's mind when he was in his stand with a pack of wolves below Nov. 8.

Wundinich said he was reluctant to tell anyone about the experience because he feared no one would believe him. Starr, however, mentioned the incident in his weekly report, which is distributed to news media. He said he has no reason to doubt Wundinich's story.

"He was legitimately shook up," Starr said.

"I'll never forget it as long as I live," Wundinich said.

WDFW

8 DEC 09

I SUPPORT THE GRAY WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN. PLEASE EXPAND THE PLAN TO ESTABLISH A PACIFIC COAST WOLF RECOVERY AREA. WOLVES SHOULD BE RE-INTRODUCED TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU



Erik Johnson
1300 Sumac Ave
Boulder CO 80304-0806

✓ JH
12/16

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html
Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Bruce Oergel

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 5383 No. 81 Rd. ellensburg,
Wash. 98926

COMMENTS: My concern's are as Follow's - Cost
of the wolf Recovery program - who will
pay for it? IT couldn't be the hunters
could it? Here in our beautiful Kittitas
valley ^{our} deer herds are down, however
the elk herd's seem to be coming back,
More so, if we could keep the Indians from
coming here and killing the big bulls - than
selling the horns on e-bay - Please consider
The effect's these wolves will have on
those of us who live - work and enjoy
our outdoors in Eastern Washington
Please no wolves. Thank you, Bruce Oergel

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
JH
12/3

WOLVES

11/19/2009

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

JAN 04 2010

DEC 22 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission,

As a lifetime resident of Washington State

I am very happy to see the wolf coming back to the area, it is very good for the state and the whole ecosystem. One only needs to look to Yellowstone to see the good the trees, river flow, fish and the whole ecological system.

I read somewhere where there is the plan is for 15 breeding pairs. This is way too

low of a number to have a full recovery of the wolf population

I fully support paying ranchers who loose livestock to a wolf, it is only fair to them. I do not support the "caught act" killing of "trouble" wolves, too open to abuse. There are many non lethal ways of dealing with the trouble causing wolves. I have heard about the dogs that will ~~take~~ keep the wolf away from livestock as well as fence and relocation.

Please support full wolf recovery with at least 30 Breeding pairs

Thank

Mark Turner

777 713 E Glenhurst
Spokane WA 99202

AJH

RECEIVED

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

WOLVES

DEC 22 2009

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

Dear Sirs,

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

HABITAT PROGRAM

As a resident of this great state of Washington I am both pleased and excited to hear that the WDFW has chosen a collaborative and proactive approach to wolf management based on solid science rather than politics.

As you know wolves are an essential part of the ecosystem and the important role they play in the restoration of the predator-prey relationship and that effect on the dynamics of all plants and animals in the ecosystem.

Our best hope in this goal is to work with ranchers working near wolf populations and provide them w/ non-lethal control tools and strategies especially while the ecosystem recovery is evolving.

Thank you

Harvey Berman, Spokane Wa.

harveyberman@gmail.com

1124 West 11th Ave

509 710 0535

Spokane Wa 99204

☆

WOLVES

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2009

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear F&W,

It is gratifying to see Wolves making a comeback in the West, including Washington. I encourage you to continue using a science based plan for recovery. Please ignore all the irrational fear & politics so prominent in the anti-wolf faction.

Wolves have always been an important part of the west's ecosystem, and there can only be good things happen from their resuming their rightful place in the system.

Please use minimal wolf control strategies when the inevitable cattle losses occur. Compensation in such cases is appropriate.

Your plans 15 breeding pairs is very low, not a healthy thing for the wolves.

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Thank you for your consideration

Larry Hampton Hampton
3118 S. Windsor Windsor
Spokane WA 99224

JHT

SimahaFarm@iway.com

11-17-07

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

WOLVES

Fish + Wildlife Commission
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

RECEIVED
DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish + Wildlife Commission:

HABITAT PROGRAM

I am a Washington resident who is very happy to see wolves returning to WA state. I am pleased to see the Commission taking a proactive collaborative approach for managing wolves.

I am writing you to urge support of a wolf management plan that is based on science, not fear + politics. A significant number of scientist reviewers believe that the department's numbers (15 breeding pairs) for delisting are low, especially since the plan relies on natural migration from areas outside the state for recovery. The Department should increase the number of breeding pairs before a delisting is proposed.

The Department needs to eliminate the reckless "caught in the act" Killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation package are more effective approaches. Translocation of wolves from areas of WA where there is a healthy population to the Southern Cascades + Olympics is a proactive method that should be used to speed up recovery + delisting.

Sincerely, Steve Daehlin

Steve Daehlin
1608 S. Ash St.
Spokane 99203

★

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

WOLVES

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

1/19/09

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission:

This letter is in regards to the wolf recovery. Wolves are an important part of nature. Wolves create a balance within the ecosystem, and they deserve to be reintroduced to Washington State.

15 breeding pairs are not enough. Please consider increasing this amount. I support scientifically supported plans concerning this problem.

I also support fair market compensation for live stock killed by wolves. Only in a last option should wolves be shot.

Proactive measures are the best method to use. This should be a win / win situation.

Sincerely,
Claudie Chayler
4718 N. Wall St
Spokane WA 99205
509-325-0455

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

★
JH

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Commissioners:

I am a small poultry farmer in Stevens County. I have found that maintaining & protecting the environment is an important part of my business. I disagree strongly with those who say the wolf recovery in Washington State would hurt agriculture.

I'm writing to urge you to adopt a wolf management plan based on science, not on fear or lies. I am excited that wolves are starting to come back, and I can see a big potential impact on NE Washington's economy through tourism.

I am bothered by the low target (15 breeding pairs) for delisting. It seems to me that most biologists agree.

I am concerned about the "caught in the act" provision. I know for a fact that I have rancher neighbors who will manipulate their herds not to minimize their interaction with wolves, but to maximize it, so they can shoot the wolves.

I'd like to see you include a program that relocates wolves from where they have achieved sufficient numbers to areas not yet repopulated.

We need intact ecosystems for many reasons, both economic and aesthetic. I'm happy that wolves have taken the first small steps back, please act to ensure that they come all the way back. The presence of wolves, culling the weakest, easiest prey, will improve the strength & health of the deer & elk herds and will not harm hunting.

We have acted recklessly towards wildlife & our environment in the past. We must change that behavior and repair the damage we have done, or our children will have to do it. Thank you,

Walter Kloeffkorn
PO Box 181, Loon Lake WA 99148

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Fish + Wildlife Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

I am pleased that wolves are making a comeback in Washington State. I am also pleased that your department is taking a proactive stance in regard to the wolf recovery plan.

I am sure that as concerned citizens of Washington State, we can count on a plan that will be based on best available science and not fears based in mythological views of predators in general.

I would like to see a plan based on science answering questions such as; "What amount of wolves constitutes a viable population"? What effects does a viable wolf population have on the health of elk and deer populations? How is the health of the entire regional ecosystem affected by healthy predator populations in general?

Apparently, your commission is ~~and~~ considering several different plans. I have not had a chance to study any of these proposals in depth, but would encourage you to look most closely at the third proposal. Thank you for your time and attention.

J. Noll

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Judy Noll
3902 E. 13th
Spokane Washington 99202
509 534-8476

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DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

AJH

Wolves

CC: COMMISSION
Harriet A 1/4/10

Ack Hrv ✓

December 9, 2009

Dear FISH & Wildlife Commission:

I am a Washington State resident and I am pleased to hear that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is planning a collaborative approach for the safe return of wolves across the state. I am writing to show support a wolf management that is based in science. Wolves are important to the predator prey relationships and science shows that they have an important role in the ecosystem. The Department should increase the numbers of established breeding pairs before delisting and make stronger evaluations of what measures can be taken to allow for safe movement of wolves from northeast Washington to the Cascades. During recovery time, the "caught in the act" of livestock provision should be eliminated. Misuse of the provision could hinder wolf recovery. Non-lethal deterrent methods should be investigated as well as livestock compensation packages when necessary. The state plan needs to address these many issues with wolves in mind while their numbers increase.

Sincerely,

Ryan + Rachel Traylor
4817 N. Wall St.
Spokane, WA 99205

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010



12-9-2009

Wolves

CC: COMMISSION
Harriet A. 1/4/10

Dear F. W. C.

Ackltr ✓

I am 7 and I have seen

a WOLF I want to see
more Wolves in
the future. please
support alternative
3.

Peter Hampson

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT / WILDLIFE

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

3118.S.

Windsor St. S. Hokone

JH

nd

ad 224

Wolves

Dept of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Ack thr ✓

CC: COMMISSION
Henriet A. 1/4/10

Dear Commissioners

As a lifetime hiker, backpacker & backcountry skier, I am interested in having a healthy wolf population as part of preserving the wild nature & balanced ecology of our wild lands.

Many scientists believe that the Dept of Fish & Wildlife's numbers for delisting are too low for recovery. The Dept should increase the number of breeding pairs (above the current 15) before delisting is proposed.

The "caught in the act" provision that allows ranchers to kill at will is reckless when a population is attempting to recover. This provision is ripe for abuse as many folks love to kill animals for sport. An offer of fair compensation to livestock owners would be preferable in the early stages of wolf recovery.

Where wolves have been reintroduced, such as around Yellowstone, economic benefits have ensued. A ~~study~~ University of Nat study indicated that gateway communities have received 70 million in wolf related tourism.

In addition, according to the Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, deer & elk populations are still doing well despite wolf recovery.

I would ask you to please support alternative wolf management Plan. Thank you

Mary Weathers, PhD
6921 E Jamieson Rd
Spokane WA 99223

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

RECEIVED

DEC 30 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

★
JH

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission:

Wolves
Ask How CC: COMMISSION 1/4/10



As a Washington State resident, I am delighted to see that wolves are making a comeback in Washington State and I am pleased to hear that the Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife is taking a proactive, collaborative approach for managing wolves and for planning ahead for their eventual, safe recovery across the state.

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DEC 30 2009

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

I am writing you today to urge you to support a wolf population recovery plan that is based on science, not fear and politics. Science shows that wolves play an important ecological role in the ecosystem especially in the restoration of the predator-prey relationship and the effect that has on the dynamics of all plants and animals within an ecosystem. For Washington to realize the ecological benefits of wolf recovery, we need to set science-based wolf population recovery objectives for blocks of suitable wolf habitat throughout the state. I support scientifically defensible population objectives that can take us to the eventual delisting of the gray wolf in Washington once its populations are reestablished and recovered.

To speed recovery of Washington's wolves and state delisting and to give ranchers additional tools for wolf management, strategies such as translocation of wolves from areas where they have exceeded their population objectives to suitable habitat in the Cascades or Olympics should be included in the state plan along with a funding request for the necessary studies. Waiting for wolves to repopulate some of the best habitat in the Southern Cascades and recover on their own could unnecessarily prolong state delisting for decades. Translocation of healthy wolves is a necessary tool to recover and delist Washington wolves within a reasonable time frame.

The best hope for long-term recovery and survival of healthy wolf populations in Washington will require broad-based support from our state's citizens, including livestock producers, a few of whom will inevitably lose relatively small numbers of their livestock to wolves. This makes it so important for the state plan to address the need to work with ranchers operating near wolf populations and to provide non-lethal control tools, strategies, and programs to deter livestock depredation while wolves are recovering.



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AN 04 2010
WOLF POPULATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

Fair compensation should be provided by the State when wolves are known to have killed cattle, sheep, or other stock. Use of lethal control methods, however, should only be considered in extreme cases of chronic depredation where non-lethal control methods have not worked, especially while wolves are still recovering in Washington.

Sincerely, Todd Durbield, Spokane, WA
Todd Durbield

Wolves

Ack ltr ✓

CC: COMMISSION

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Namnet A.

It is good to hear that wolves are making a come back in Washington State. However, science shows that more than 15 breeding pairs are necessary to maintain their safe recovery. Alternative 3, which proposes a higher number of breeding pairs will help,

1/4/10

Relying on natural migration to increase the number of wolves could be too slow. It might put the wolves at higher risk of inbreeding, disease and future extinction.

Thank you for considering Alternative 3,

Lina Managan
2716 Quitman St.
Denver CO 80212

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DEC 30 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

JH

DEC 22 2009

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

FISH AND

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

WILDLIFE COMMISS...

To whom it may concern:

I attended the wolf conservation and management plan public meeting held on October 27 in the Spokane Valley. I appreciate the collaborative process of the Wolf Working Group and their efforts to reach common ground. However, I do have some concerns about the preferred alternative (alternative 2).

My main concern about this plan is the stated number of breeding pairs required for delisting. Your office made a handout available at the meeting I attended, and on this document it stated that the "objectives for delisting... are considered minimal to achieve recovery and are recognized as being a compromise between biological and social values." (Executive Summary of Draft Environmental Impact Statement Washington Wolf Conservation and Management, pg. 3; emphasis mine). I strongly believe that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has a duty to make decisions based on science, not on social pressure. One man who spoke at the meeting on October 27, a man who had a PhD in genetics, stated that a recovery population consists of thousands, not hundreds, of animals. I urge your office to revise your figures for delisting and make decisions based on scientific data.

Another concern is the "caught in the act" provision for killing wolves that attack livestock. The plan includes fair compensation for livestock owners should wolves attack livestock, which is something I support. Additionally, I support the use of non-lethal deterrent methods. During the early stages of wolf recovery it is important that wolves be protected; lethal measures should not be used.

Finally, I preferred the proposal that included a separate population recovery area for the coastal region, and specifically the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula is a

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Handwritten initials or signature.

distinct geographic region. Human population centers along the Pacific Coast also create barriers to wolves. It does not make sense to create one region that is so vast and so clearly divided by I-5. Instead, the Olympic Peninsula should be a separate region.

For these reasons, I support option three with modifications rather than the alternative two presented in your public meeting. Our state is large and should require, at minimum, four recovery areas. Wolves should have the highest possible level of protection until delisting is achieved. Above all else, decisions made by the Department of Fish and Wildlife must be based on science, not irrational public fears.

Thankyou for consideration,

Holly M. Weiler

Holly M. Weiler
7318 N. Adams Rd
Spokane, WA 99217

600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

WOLVES

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission,
as a lifelong Washington state resident and an avid hiker, backpacker, snowshoer, kayaker, and birdwatcher, I strongly support the recovery of wolves to the natural ecosystem in Washington

Wolves used to play an important role in the overall health of both wildlife and vegetation, and the re-introduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park has benefitted stream habitats and other areas by changing the behavior of prey animals.

Setting a goal of fifteen breeding pairs for full delisting seems very low to me to maintain a viable, healthy, sustaining population, and many scientific reviewers agree. I urge the Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase the number of breeding pairs needed before all levels of delisting (endangered, threatened, and sensitive). The final plan should have separate recovery of wolf population objectives for the Olympic Peninsula because the habitat is superior and there is substantial public support

The plan should NOT include a "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners. The potential for abuse is high and it could slow de-listing.

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FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Instead, I support education and assistance for livestock owners to help them use deterrence methods that have been shown to be effective in other states with healthy wolf populations. The plan should call for investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and fair compensation packages for livestock owners in the early stages of recovery. It should also allow for translocation of wolves from healthy populations to the Southern Cascades and Olympics to speed recovery.

For a successful recovery of wolves in our state, we need a plan that is based on science rather than emotions. Wolves will be a positive addition to our wildlands, and with careful planning and the understanding that there will be some livestock losses, recovery can occur in a timely manner, in a way that balances the need for a healthy ecosystem with the realities of human activity.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith
223 W. 6th #3
Spokane, WA 99204

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

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DEC 22 2009

Dear FIS

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

mission

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

I have grown up in Washington and enjoy living in the Pacific Northwest because of the closeness to nature that I get to experience. I believe that such an experience should be continually available to us all and future generations. Wolves are important to the health of the ecosystem as a top predator and we have a responsibility to restore them to their native lands here in Washington. Wolves are an integral part to keeping the wilderness wild, and should be granted safe conditions to populate northeast Washington and move their populations into the Cascades. Significant scientific research demonstrates that for natural migration to occur an increase in the number of established breeding pairs is necessary before proposing to delist wolves. This decreases the risk of inbreeding among wolves and the spread of disease which could threaten future extinction. Additionally, The Department should eliminate the "caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery. Rather, non-lethal deterrent methods should be invested in. Fair compensation should be provided to livestock owners who lose animals to wolves.

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A/H

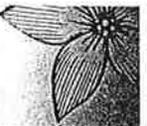
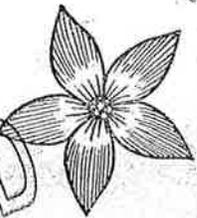
Recovery of wolves populations can be accelerated by translocating wolves from healthy populations to the southern Cascades and Olympics, leading to faster federal delisting. Long-term recovery and survival of healthy wolves in Washington requires broad support from the citizens of our state, including livestock owners. It is important for the state plan to address the need to work with livestock owners who live near wolf populations. Education and non-lethal control tools and methods are needed while wolf populations recover.

Washington State is beautiful and wild. We need to be proactive in restoring and managing the ecosystems here so that people can continue to enjoy what the state has to offer.

Sincerely,

Ryan Trayler~~er~~

4817 North Wall St.
Spokane, WA 99205
509-294-6806

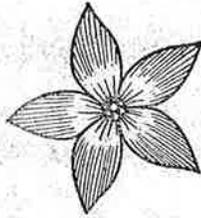


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FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

WAC Fish & Wildlife Commission,

Wolves
CC. COMMISSION
Harriet A



Ack 1tr ✓

December 4, 2009



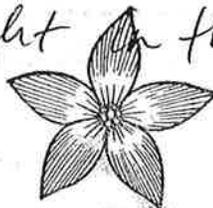
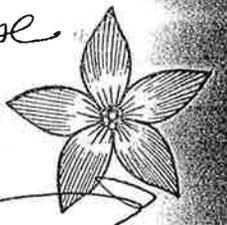
Thank you for your hard work to protecting
our precious wilderness areas in Washington state.
As a Washington State resident, I truly appreciate
everything you can do to help wolves
continue to make a comeback in Washington state.

Please support a wolf management plan based
on science, many very educated scientist reviewers
believe the department's numbers - 15 breeding pairs -
for delisting are low, especially since the plan
relies on natural migration from outside the state for
recovery. I urge you to increase the number of
established breeding pairs before a delisting
is proposed.

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I also urge you, and ask you, to please
eliminate the reckless "caught in the act"



Killing provision for livestock owners at the endangered and threatened phases of recovery we need to let the wolves get up to a healthy and sustainable number of breeding pairs...and killing them is obviously hunting those efforts. Investing in non-lethal deterrent methods and providing livestock owners with a fair compensation are more effective approaches at the early stages of the important wolf recovery process.

To be proactive to speed up the recovery of wolves, translocation of wolves from parts of Washington where there is a healthy population to the southern Cascades and Olympics is a good method.

I live in Washington largely because I love the beautiful Pacific Northwest - and the wolves are an important part of who ~~our~~ state is. We need to help their population get strong again. I hope you will help make that possible.

Sincerely,

Kristi Thesen
318 E. 55th Ave
Spokane, WA 99203

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FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish + Wildlife Commission

As a life long resident of Eastern Washington + a property owner in Pend Oreille County, I am urging you to make the preservation of our wildlife here a priority. The wolf is intragal to our ecosystem + any decision made to bring it back is + should always be a priority. Numbers for delisting are too low, please increase this number (15 breeding pairs) before delisting. Please also eliminate the "Caught in the act" killing provision for livestock owners, this is not practical + leads to an increase in ignorance about wolves + ways that livestock owners can prevent wolf attacks on their property. Lastly, it is very important that you establish translocation of wolves from areas of Washington where there is a healthy population to the southern Cascades and olympics. Please remember that keeping Washington State a wild and natural place is incredibly important. This depends on ~~keeping~~ preserving what we have + continuing to ~~bring~~ bring back the wolves to balance everything out.

Thank you for making the wolf a priority,

Valerie Wade
3204 E. 16th Ave
Spokane, WA
99223

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FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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HABITAT PROGRAM

5118 Northwest
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

I am inspired by the wolf-recovery effort in Yellowstone. When I travel in the wild I feel empowered by nature and wolves are emblematic of that power.

I want to see wolves restored to the Pacific Northwest as aggressively as they were exterminated. Fifteen breeding pairs is not adequate for this to occur. I also advocate translocation of this species. We only have a small window of opportunity. We need to make the most of this.

I encourage you to reflect on what has happened in Yellowstone. I think we can have the same success in Washington. ~~We have~~ I've driven our highways the abundance of deer indicate that we are in dire need of more predators.

Sincerely,
Paul Decker

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DEC 23 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

WOLVES

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

WOLVES

2624 J. Hatch
Spokane WA

99203

Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission:

I support efforts towards a wolf management plan based on science-based wolf population studies with a long term goal of re-establishing a healthy wolf population.

I also suggest providing support & education to all stakeholders - such as livestock producers, & hunters & back country hikers - to help understand the importance of the wolf population in our wilderness areas.

Please consider Option 3 with modification

Marianne Shields
(509) 939 0520

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HABITAT PROGRAM

JH

ACK Hrc ✓
12/28/09

Wolves
12-9-2009

CC: COMMISSION
Harnett A. 12/28/09

Dear Fish and Wildlife,

I'm eating pizza & writing letters with my two children about saving wolves. I have seen three wolves in the wild, one in N. Carolina, one in the Yukon and one in Idaho. I want my children and grandchildren too see wolves. It's part of our natural heritage. Wolves play an important part of the ecosystem.

We all need to work together to make sure wolves survive at healthy levels in Washington State. That means that we need to work with all citizens, including livestock producers. We also need to adopt alternative therapies as we need more breeding pairs. Wolf population recovery needs to be science based.

Sincerely,

Laura Ackerman

3118 S. Windsor Rd.

Spokane, WA 99224

509 624-1832

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HABITAT PROGRAM

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DEC 24 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

simahafarm@

ie way.com

JH

Ack 14r ✓
12/25/09

Wolves
11/19/09

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DEC 24 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

CC: COMMISSION
Harrieta 12/28/09

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission

After years of being absent from their former range in Washington State, wolves have begun to repopulate some wild stretches of this great state. This is something to be proud of, and I am happy to see the State be proactive about the return of wolves.

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I have followed the process & noted the inclusion of many groups and interests involved in the working group. Working for Spokane County Parks, I have had the pleasure of working with WDFW and have had some great conversations, not just on the potential of wolf recovery, but some insights to the challenges of managing a viable wolf population in Washington State.

Recently, I've been made aware of the recommendation for 15 breeding pairs to be maintained in Washington State. I believe this number is biologically low, making the population vulnerable to disease, habitat fragmentation, and hunting. In a state as large as Washington, with its large amounts of wilderness and public land, 15 pairs seems like a cautious, low-ball number that could be increased so as to allow wolves to fill their proper ecological niche.

I urge you to reconsider and expand on this number - to use this number as the ~~low~~ one end in a range to consider. Thank you for your time.

Regards
Paul Knowles
2103 W. Riverside Apt 10
Spokane WA 99201



December 29, 2009

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DEC 30 2009
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia WA 98501-1091

RE: Reintroduction of Wolves into Washington State

Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee:

I am writing to strongly protest the re-introduction of wolves into the State of Washington. It is my understanding that Fish and Wildlife has already placed pairs of wolves in the Cascades. This is a highly dangerous and irresponsible act on the part of Fish and Wildlife.

Wolves are aggressive and dangerous animals. They are large (much larger than coyotes) and run in packs and are not afraid of humans. Their need for meat as sustenance will quickly outrun the wild game available to them in the wilderness. They will quickly turn to killing stock, domestic animals and humans.

The romanticized notion that, because wolves once inhabited the Cascades they should be re-introduced today, is out of touch with reality. There are over six million human inhabitants in the State of Washington. These citizens own stock, domestic animals and have small children. Turning wolves loose in the Cascades is like putting a shark in a swimming pool. It is just a matter of time before death and chaos occurs.

And it is just a matter of time before human death occurs. Hikers, campers, cross country skiers, ranchers, farmers, small children, and anyone who ventures out into the countryside or wilderness is at risk from wolves.

The existing wolves in Washington should be re-located to the wilds of Canada or Alaska. I urge Fish and Wildlife to promote legislation and regulations to disallow the re-introduction of wolves into the State of Washington.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Michl

Patricia M Michl
18024 17th Street East
Lake Tapps WA 98391

(253) 862-6653
(253) 798-3640 [message]

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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JAN 06 2010

Name: * Melanie Crandon

HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** mcrandon@webtv.net

COMMENTS: I am a big supporter of a healthy wolf population in our state, using the latest and best science to avoid the extermination of the past. I am willing to pay (in taxes) to make sure there are programs that prevent their extinction in this state. 15 breeding pairs is ~~an~~ ^{an} arbitrary ^{number}, and we need much more research to really understand wolf populations. We need to make sure decisions are not made based on political goals that ignore good science. Wolves have a right to survive, and delisting them as endangered in this state should not be done with only 15 breeding pairs - this does not leave a viable population but one that is vulnerable to factors

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

that may cause them to edge back towards extinction. This should be the last thing we allow!!

Ajt

11-28-09

Dear Teresa,

After reading an article in the PDN regarding translocating the wolves I would like to support this idea + encourage you to continue educating the public regarding these beautiful creatures. They should be kept safe from extinction, and restore balance to the ecosystem.

Carla Carter

11/28/09

Carla Carter
805 E 5th St Apt 201
Port Angeles WA
98362

TACOMA WA 985
OLYMPIA WA



Teresa Estunaspis

of
Fish & Wildlife
SEPA/NEPA
Coordinator, 600

00

Dear Teresa,
I'm 22 years old and have
only seen wolves in captivity.
My dream is to see wolves
in the wild. If we can
re introduce wolves to the
Olympic National Park. by
the time my son is my age
we would be able to see
them in the wild, on there
own. Translocation is the
only way to repopulate them.
They are endangered and here
we need help to keep
them safe.

Nathan EVERSON
805 E 5th St Apt 201
Port Angeles, WA
98362



Teresa Estunasp
of Fish & Wildlife
SEPA/NEPA
Coordinator, 600

little has been done to help
keep the population of other
animals ^{down} reintroducing wolves
will balance the ecosystem
of the wild. restore the
balance and complete the circle.
Thankx.

Matthew Green

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DEC 07 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

✓
JH
12/17

Dear Teresa,

I feel the wolves belong back in their ancestral home. Their best chance of recovery is within Olympic National Park and they need to be translocated to this location immediately. The wolves will help restore the ecosystem. They are unlikely to ever cross the I-5 corridor and need our help. I also believe the low numbers mentioned at the
(over)

William Hunt
605 E 5 #103
Port Angeles
WA 98362

TACOMA WA 98302
OLYMPIA WA



Wash Fish & Wildlife

Teresa A. Etwarop

SEPA/NEPA

Conservation 600

North 1st St, Astoria, OR

meeting of 15 breeding
pairs per recovery region
to be removed from
the endangered list is
woefully inadequate.

We need the wolves
and they need us.

William Hunt

William Hunt
805 E 5th St. #103
Port Angeles, WA.

98362

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DEC 07 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

JH
1217

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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Name: * Lester L. Kinney

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 3 Summer Rd. Tonasket, Wa. 98853

COMMENTS: As a Cattle Rancher, I am totally against the
reintroduction of wolves anywhere in the U.S.

I know that the W.D.F.W. is mandated by the E.S.A.
to manage the wolves should they naturally migrate
to Washington state. I question whether the packs
located in Okanogan + Stevens Counties are natural
dispersal or are relocated by man. Regardless, they
are here and the livestock producers are being asked
to shoulder an unfair burden towards their establish-
ment. We know that monetary compensation is ques-
tionable due to budgets and the burden of proof as to
wolf depredation. These things being said, I do not
support any of your plan alternatives as I think
the number of breeding pairs are too high.
(Over)

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**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
JH
12/16

The wolves in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho have far exceeded what were called for and I suspect Washington will be the same.

Perhaps you should start with fewer breeding pairs as called for in the Washington Cattlemen's Assoc. Alternative 1A. "The Responsible Approach."

Sincerely,
Les Kinney

December 8, 2009

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DEC 10 2009

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Subject: Wolves in Washington

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to comment regarding wolves in Washington to say that I am in favor of their return. I do not intend to write a volume on this, but I believe in natural balance, and predators are a necessary component. Human interference in natural processes is always a mistake, whether it be wildlife management or management of wilderness fires. Let ranchers protect their stock by shooting marauders they catch in the herd. Poisons, traps, and other attempts at wholesale eradication should not be allowed.

That's all I want to say on this except to ask why ranchers should be compensated for losses that cannot be blamed on wolves with certainty? Any animal death in nature results in food for others in the food chain, whether they be mammal, bird, or insect. Unless someone witnesses the cause of death, how can the wolf be blamed?

Thank you for inviting my comments.



Harry Baughman

PO Box 761

Leavenworth, Wa. 98826

✓
JH
12/10

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Ray Nelson

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** P.O. Box 265
Sequim, WA 98382

COMMENTS: Farm owners need to be able to shoot predators, wolves, coyotes, etc. to
protect their livestock and other farm animals. Too many breeding wolves
would not have sufficient habitat to exist. That makes it more likely for the
predators to attack pets, people and other animals. Cougars are another
example of a predator causing these same problems.

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JH
12/11

Dear Teresa;

We would highly appreciate
the ~~the~~ WOLVES to Be Translocated
to the Olympic National Park.

We need them to balance out
the eco-system.

IN THE NAME
OF THE WOLF.

MR JULIUS

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HABITAT PROGRAM

~~MR~~ MR Julius
general delivery
Port Angeles
Washington
98362

TACOMA WA 983

OLYMPIA WA

SEASIDE WA



Fish Wildlife Dept.
Teresa Eturaspe
SEPA/NEPA
Coordinator 600
Captial 11200 Arith

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DEC 04 2009

28 Nov 09

Dear Teresa

HABITAT PROGRAM

Restoring the balance of the Wolves
in the Olympic forest.

I would like the wolves translocated
to the Olympic National Park. To hear
them and have balance in the park.

Keep them off the endangered
species more than fifteen pair
will be needed

Thanks for hearing my request

Randall Everson



Mr. Randall Everson
PO Box 5
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0001

TACOMA WA 983
OLYMPIA WA
03 DEC 2009 PM 4-T



TERESA Estunaspé

November 22, 2009

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NOV 25 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Dear Sirs;

I wish to comment on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Basically it is far too conservative and timid. Wolves are a necessary and valuable part of many of the ecosystems in North America. The WDFW should strongly encourage wolf reintroduction into the entire state and especially the Olympic Peninsula. There are several points to be made.

- The Olympic Peninsula has been shown to contain some of the best and most suitable wolf habitat in Washington State. This region will be important in maintaining a self sustained wolf population and should be included as a separate recovery region especially since it is biologically unique and physically fairly separate from other regions of the state.
- The number of breeding pairs necessary for delisting should be reassessed and based on science. Fifteen breeding pairs is far too low to sustain a population in the face of lethal control measures and potential hunting pressures that will likely follow delisting. Fifteen breeding pairs will only encourage inbreeding depression and the ultimate failure of re-introduction.
- Translocation should be considered as an immediate tool to reestablishing populations on the Olympic Peninsula. Relocation should also be considered to combat inbreeding. Urban sprawl, the Columbia River and the I-5 corridor present barriers that would severely slow or stop natural migration to the region.
- Lethal control for livestock depredation should not be allowed on public lands and only allowed on private lands once wolves are down listed to sensitive.
- Public education is extremely important in social acceptance of carnivores and should be a top priority for any adopted wolf management and conservation plan. Part of the effort to educate the public should include educating livestock owners to the value of guard dogs specially selected for guarding livestock.

On a personal note, I have lived in Sequim for the past five years. Before that I lived in Minnesota for 35 years. When I first moved to Minnesota, I was in the department of Entomology Fisheries and Wildlife for several years. The fellow in the office next to me was the recipient of a grant from MN DNR to assay current wolf populations. Of course I was privy to his research results. He found six wolf packs totaling about 60 animals along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Over the years wolves have moved into most of the state and now number about 2500.

Dec
11-25

Through the years I have had a number of experiences with wolves. I am a hunter, camper, canoer, hiker and sailor and have spent an amazing amount of time in the out of doors. I've learned to howl and call for them in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I have had packs surrounding my campsite on three occasions and never felt threatened. In contrast, I have been threatened by a white tail buck during their breeding season. I have never felt threatened by a wolf. Later after I left academic circles, my wife and I opened Northstar Nurseries in a rural area north of the Twin Cities. We used Guinea hens for biological control of ticks and insects in the nursery. We had a flock of about 20 to 25 birds which were constantly under attack from area coyotes and foxes. In a 10 year period, we lost approximately 70 birds. I shot coyotes, I trapped coyotes and I killed as many as I could and so did many of my neighbors who were raising livestock. The short story is when the wolves expanded their range into our area, they forced the coyotes and the foxes out. The last three years we were in business we did not lose a single Guinea hen. In fact, we begin to have too many Guinea hens. I have to point out that although we had a dog, she was not a breed selected to guard livestock. We also did not have a fence surrounding the property. The wolves simply took care of our problem with the coyotes.

I support the reintroduction of wolves to the state of Washington as soon as possible. They will be a valuable addition to our wildlife and to our ecosystems. I have also read they will tend to drive elk away from streams and foster better stream cover for salmon. I do not know if this is true, I hope it is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman T. Baker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Norman T. Baker, PhD.
3789 Lost Mountain Rd.
Sequim, WA98382

November 18th, 2009

Dear Ms. Eturaspe:

I own 680 acres near Gifford above the Columbia River. Nothing would make me happier here than to hear the howl of a wolf. I've seen and heard ~~wolves~~^{wolves} in Alaska and Canada and it was fantastic. I would like my sons to have the same experience. Wolves are always welcome on my property.

I've reviewed the four Alternatives and find number 3 the closest to my preference as it provides the most protection. Still 15 breeding pairs seems like such a small number; I think it should be more like 20 or 25.

I like Alt. #3 because it places "greater limitations on the use of lethal control"; "offers higher levels of compensation"; "adjusts levels recreational harvests to benefit wolf" and requires "... a wolf population to be present on the Olympic Peninsula".

Thank-you

Sincerely,

Michael H. Collier

Michael L. Collier

P.O. Box 6

Gifford, WA. 99131

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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Name: * Charles M^cGibbon

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 7803 Enterprise Road, Ferndale, Wash,
98248 cM^cGibbon@earthlink.net

COMMENTS: I oppose the re-introduction of wolves into the state of Washington. If wolves are introduced again into the state of Washington, I support the plan developed by Jack Fields and Darrel Aspinudson of the Washington Settlers' Association.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
JH
11/20

480 Longmire Lane
Selah, WA. 98942

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DEC 01 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

November 27, 2009

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA. 98501-1091

Re: Wolf Plan (Alternative 2)

Sirs,

I am writing the following comments as they concern the proposal put forth by the WDFW concerning the Wolf Plan and more specifically the selected Alternative 2.

The alternative as written is a very flawed documents and make assumptions that are not either legal or correct in your interpretation. I will begin with the apparent conflict by which the WDFW seems to be subverting the intent and the specific language contained in the Washington State Constitution. The Washington State Constitution requires that all citizens of the state be treated equally. This wolf plan and the selected alternative seem to violate that requirement. The alternative creates a separate and distinguishable inferior class of citizenry. It facts requires that the rural landowners and the sportsmen of the state be the ones who bear the burden of the establishment of breeding packs of wolves. It does not require the urban citizens to meet the same requirement. I view this as a legal issue that must be addressed prior to any adoption of a so called wolf plan.

The alternative also requires these above mention groups to be the ones that deal with the financial, emotional and potential physical adverse effects. Wolves were eradicated in the Oregon Territory, the Washington Territory and the State of Washington due to what our fore fathers knew about their habitats and the physical dangers associated with having to deal with them. The current populations within the urban areas are quite unaware of these hazards and as such should carry very little weight in determining the setting of breeding packs, ranges and bag limits.

I would also point out that the Endangered Species Act does not have any mention of what criteria are required for a State Plan. In fact the ESA only deals with specific species and not states. I would put forth that there are currently adequate numbers existing within the Pacific Northwest States (ie., Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming), to meet the criteria set forth by the act.

I find it significant that the WDFW made no mention of the **Minority Report** that was contained in the wolf plan. The Minority Report is the closest to what the department should be looking at. However I believe the numbers indicated as significantly to large. I feel that a much smaller number should be looked at.

That brings us the proposed alternative's compensation plan. This plan as written is totally unworkable. There is no alternative in view of the current financial situation that is found in the state. Under the current financial situation there will be no funding available no matter how many people work to propose such funding. In addition I feel that even with the best possible financial situation within the state that adequate funding will never be made available in amounts that would offset the potential damage to private property.

In addition the fact that the Department will be the agency that will most likely be required to make these determination and the past history of the department and the lack of cooperation with private land owners the workability of this scheme is nil. I would suggest that the Department of Natural Resource be the agency that makes the determinations at the very least. The track record of the WDFW as it concerns wildlife damages is abysmal to say the least.

In conclusion with all of these concerns in mind I would strongly suggest that the WDFW return this document to the Wolf Advisory Group with instructions to come up with a more workable solution.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene Jenkins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Eugene Jenkins

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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DEC 02 2009

Name: * Eric Burr



Mr. Eric L. Burr
585 Lost River Rd
Mazama, WA 98833-9734

HABITAT PROGRAM

Postal mail or e-mail address: **

burrski@methuwnet.com

COMMENTS: Alternative III is my choice largely because of the many years I spent as a ranger, trail crew, and naturalist in Olympic National Park. This Park is a special case with ideal political as well as biogeographic possibilities for wolf restoration and the resulting trophic cascade influencing all life in the Park. Although not as obviously needed as in Yellowstone, there still have been documented fluvial geologic effects by Oregon State University. These effects of predators on vegetation, and therefore geological events could also benefit lands outside wildlife reserves, such as Olympic, Rainier, and N. Cascades.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
JA
12/2

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * ALLAN Lougheed ARLENE Vessey

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** 780 Smith Creek Rd - RAYMOND, WA.
98577

COMMENTS: If the wolves are migrating in on their own that should be the natural way they enter our state. In the states where the wolves are now they have devastated all other wild life. I do not think that this wolf project should have ever got started, the wolves not only kill for food but for the fun of it. they are very wasteful and they reproduce to rapidly.

I'm really upset that our government would even participate in such a program.

I'm highly upset that the wolves are coming into our state.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

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WDFW Sepa Desk
600 Capital Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1891

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DEC 02 2009

December 1, 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Sirs,

I read in the local paper that WDFW does not plan to return wolves to the Olympic Peninsula. I am so glad. We are having enough trouble with cougar. We used to see many deer. Now we seldom see one.

I,ve lived 88 years in the upper Dosewallips Valley. We always had elk that came down out of the Olympics during the winters. Then some years ago elk were brought in from Sequim and turned loose at Rocky Brook with no warning to us. Those elk moved up into gardens of families living here. So we had to put up 6 ft. fences to keep them out. We do have too many elk now. There needs to be an open season on cows and many more permits or tags given out.

We know of at least 3 elk killed by cougar on our place. They also killed a large beef cow of ours and only ate the liver. Cougar have killed dogs and cats of our family. We know that coyotes add to the problem.

Sincerely,

Ida M. Bailey

Ida M. Bailey
4541 Dosewallips Rd.
Brinnon, WA 98320

✓
JH
12/2

Reestablish wolves on peninsula

Wolves are returning to Washington from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and British Columbia. Prior to being exterminated by hunting and trapping, wolves lived throughout the state, including the Olympic Peninsula. They have recently established breeding packs in Okanogan and Pend Oreille counties and in the Blue Mountains. As their numbers increase, wolves will naturally disperse throughout northern Washington and down the Cascades to Mount St. Helens.

In response, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has developed a draft "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan." The goal is to restore wolves to self-sustaining numbers and a geographic distribution that will ensure their survival. The plan assesses the effects of wolves on elk, deer and livestock. It concludes that wolves will not have a detrimental effect on elk and deer populations, and it proposes management actions to minimize effects on livestock. The plan can be viewed on the WDFW website at wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf.

While the plan has much to recommend it, it has a serious flaw. It won't reestablish wolves on the Olympic Peninsula, which has some of the best wolf habitat in the state. There are large forested areas, the state's second-largest elk herd, low population density, and no large livestock operations. The peninsula could support between 40 and 60 wolves in five to seven packs. But it's unlikely that wolves will be able to naturally migrate here, since they would need to cross I-5, state highways and the Chehalis River. In order for wolves to return to the Olympics, WDFW will need to relocate them from another part of the state, and the plan doesn't propose to do this.

WDFW will be taking comments on the gray wolf plan until Jan. 8 through its website or by mail at WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Tell WDFW that the plan should establish a Pacific Coast Wolf Recovery Area that includes the Olympics and that wolves should be relocated into the Olympics at the earliest possible time. Tell the WDFW that folks on the Olympic Peninsula will welcome back the wolves.

JIM PEARSON
Irontdale

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * Betsy Downey

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** downey@calvin.gonzaga.edu

COMMENTS: I have studied, observed, photographed, and written about wolves in YNP since 2003. I support vigorous protection of wolves in Washington state. I believe that the near extermination of wolves in the U.S. was essentially an environmental crime. For ethical and environmental reasons we, as citizens and stewards, have a responsibility to rectify that crime and protect, as much as possible, our fellow creatures, even if it involves some costs and sacrifices on our parts. YNP's wolf recovery has succeeded and can be a model for Washington. In general I support the preferred plan. But:

- I think the numbers of breeding pairs should be increased; YNP has experienced great fluctuations in wolf population for a variety of reasons. At present it appears that mortality rates exceed reproduction rates. Washington needs to plan for such problems, especially for mortality due to distemper, etc., by raising the numbers required for delisting. • I think there should be provision for special protection of populations around National Parks and wilderness areas ~ no hunting zones after de-listing • I support "caught in the act" but believe in extremely tight controls and high poaching penalties. • Predator compensation for stock losses should be as high and red-tape free as possible. • WA. state should help to provide and develop stock protection programs.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS
**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

Thanks and good luck!

Betsy Downey

JH
11/2



Elizabeth Downey
3210 S Division St
Spokane, WA 99203



WDFW SEPA DESK
600 CAPITAL WAY N.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501-1091



#3

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Frank & Nancy Herodes

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** Inherodes@aol.com

COMMENTS: We support the introduction of two mating pairs of wolves into Olympic National Park

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NOV 3 0 2009
HABITAT PROGRAM

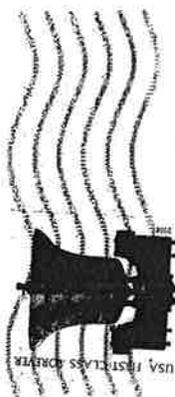
*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
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11/30

Herodes
Begun WA
98382

TACOMA - OLYMPIA
WA 983
27 NOV 2009 PM 3 T



WDFD SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia WA 98501-1091

98501+1076



My dog is Wolfie, named for crazy Nick Wolfe who **RECEIVED** gave her to me. At about a foot high, Wolfie can boss any **NOV 3 0 2009** dog and she can drill sergeant a group of curs into a pretty **HABITAT PROGRAM** mean pack. Sometimes she even makes them howl!

Now we are told that a three foot tall canine has to be protected, even though it can kill endangered animals like the mountain caribou, grizzly bear, or people. Some say, "They are here, so we have to protect them". Well, here is a lot better idea.

The Fish and Wildlife folks love to work with critters, putting on collars, inserting chips, monitoring with planes and satellites. Let's just sterilize the alpha males and fix up the "B----" wolves with Chihuahua semen. We can make 'runt-wolves', or Chihuawolves. How will that help? I thought you would never ask!

We could have packs everywhere! Ladies would say, "Oh, it's a wolf pack, how cute!" Packs could rip open pregnant skunks: so what? Hamstring a mouse, big deal! They could go south for the winter and chase jackrabbits!

The main reason to protect them is that they are here and we must. Look in any motorhome!! Everything is being downsized now and that should include the bio-team. The carbon pawprint of the Chihuawolf would be thumbsize, and there would be far fewer dead things rotting and ruining our air. The runt-wolf would be a proud species and I already know of a few chihuahua's that would make good pack leaders. We might want to throw in a little 'Pom' just for spice.

David L. Robinson

✓
JH
11-30

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Name: * Brenda Michaels

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** brenda@consciousstalk.net

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COMMENTS: First of all the number of mating pairs that you department recommended at the meeting on November 2nd @ RET was way to low!
This low number of pairs would leave the Wolves vulnerable to being wiped out by disease and human risk like the ranchers we heard at the meeting. Secondly the other weakness of this plan is that it does not introduce the Wolves to the Olympic Peninsula which is the safest and historically the best location for wolf habitat. We would like have private donations be allocated for translocation.

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS
**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓ JH 11/2

15417 258th Pl. SE
Burien, WA 98027

SEATTLE WA 98101

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WDFW SEPA Book
6000 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

98501-1076



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
DRAFT Wolf Conservation and Management EIS and Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

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HABITAT PROGRAM

Name: * ROBERT SPEARS

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** Rob@ConsciousTalk.net,
RSpears9@comcast.net

COMMENTS: Alternative 2 does not provide for enough breeding pairs, leaving restoration efforts vulnerable to disease and human privation. Groups like "Defenders of Wildlife" have already volunteered funds to fill in for livestock depredation. - Restoration to the Olympic National Forest and Peninsula area must be included. This is perfect wolf habitat and less likely to be restored by natural migration, so it should be included in translocation efforts.

- Re-introduction of wolves throughout the state will also bring tourist dollars and goodwill.

- The facts of livestock-wolf conflicts in other states do not weigh against wolves - they can be effectively compensated for and are well worth the environmental and ecological advantages of reintroducing wolves throughout the state. I favor alternative # 3

*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS

**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
JH
11-30



Robert M. Spears D72
15617 258th Place S. E.
Issaquah, WA 98027-8257

WDFW SEPA DESK
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

SEATTLE WA 981
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NOV 30 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Congratulations! Brilliant!

I was wondering how the Game Dept was going to get out of the Red.

Start a pack of Wolves on the only healthy Elk herd in the State.

That will pretty much take care of the Big game hunting in this state.

So, then we combine the Parks Dept with Fish & Wild Game Dept. You best hurry & get in line at the unemployment dept. Or maybe Chrysler will put you to work. Well No they have plenty with management skills like yours already.

If a man wants to hear a wolf howl why not go to Woodland Park or Wadsworth or how is it WDFW have been working on this project for over four years keeping it quiet until this pack comes out in the Twist - Wadsworth area. I would say we already have Wolves here.

And if 15 pair = 250-300 dogs & they take 2600 Elk a year -

Just how big is the Elk herd say The Colockum herd.

And how is it that the

Yakima Indian can hunt
the Colockum Elk herd when
One knows a White Rancher
had the insight to bring the Elk
in to the state in the 20's
Cottman - Mt. Home - Ellensburg side
What a waste of my Time
You all ready how things done

G. H. Johnson



GREG H. JOHNSON
1497 BADGER MT. RD.
E. WENATCHEE, WASH 98802



W D F W
c/o SEPA
600 Capitol Way N.

Wolves / COX, RANDY

FYI ✓ 12/11

cc: Commission
Phil Anderson

Harriet Allen

To Miranda Wecker, Chair of Fish &
Wildlife & Phil Anderson - Interim Director
Fish & Wildlife -

I am writing to strongly oppose
the re-introduction of Wolves in our State.

This amounts to a huge loss for
our deer & Elk herds & also revenue.

I have seen first hand how quickly
they multiply & reduce game numbers &
our game numbers & budgets cannot afford
it. Idaho is in trouble now with
at least 85 packs. To allow this is
against input at public comment meetings,
however it seems their agenda is going to
be rammed down our throats.

I urge you to step back & look
at this long range, before it's too late.

Thank You

Randy Cox

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NOV 20 2009

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

cc: Commission
Harriet Allen

WOLVES

RECEIVED
Hampson

DEC 22 2009

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear F & W.

Ackl. Ltr. 12/23/09

It is gratifying to see wolves making a comeback in the West, including Washington. I encourage you to continue using a science based plan for recovery. Please ignore all the irrational fear & politics so prominent in the anti-wolf faction.

Wolves have always been an important part of the west's ecosystem, and there can only be good things happen from their resuming their rightful place in the system.

Please use minimal wolf control strategies when the inevitable cattle losses occur. Compensation in such cases is appropriate.

Your plans 15 breeding pairs is very low, not a healthy thing for the wolves.

Thank you for your consideration
Larry Hampson
3118, S. Windsor Windsor

SimahaFarm@iway.com

January 6th, 2010

Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission:

I am excited to see the wolf return to our great state, and grateful for your efforts in considering the draft recovery plan for their management. The wolf is an iconic and unfortunately long lost member of our wildlands. With proper stewardship and consideration of both ecosystems and people, it is my hope that it returns as an accepted, admired, and enjoyed member of our forest communities.

To make this wolf recovery a success, I encourage you to first and foremost consider the benefits of the wolf's presence on the ecosystem. Their role as predator has the potential to restore a very positive balance to our ecosystems. I ask you to use the latest science as your guide in reestablishing this vital element of the food chain.

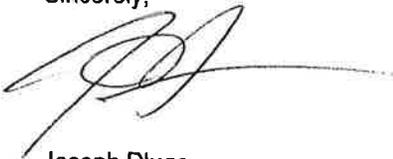
Another vital element is the role of people. I want to see wolves back, but I dislike seeing livelihoods of people put at risk. I encourage you to take very seriously the concerns from sportsmen in regards to possible effects on hunting and fishing, and from ranchers who stand to lose livestock. Their role as stewards of our lands is very important. Planning for a cooperative approach to wolf management will be an effective option in garnering support for wolves. I applaud you for including provisions for them and ask you to stay firm and generous in delivering the features of the plan.

In reviewing the draft and recommended plan 2, I am encouraged that a majority of the ideas will be effective. However, I support the inclusion of a separate Pacific Coast recovery area disjunct from the southern Cascades. These two areas are divided by a tremendous amount of development that may impede the wolf's ability to disperse its populations. I support translocation of wolves from other regions of the state to expedite recovery in areas such as the Olympic Peninsula. In addition, I would like to see the number of wolves allotted for recovery increased slightly, as a mere 16 breeding pairs seems too low for delisting if the wolf should become a viable and widespread denizen of our ecosystems.

I'd also like to note one matter that I am especially concerned about as a fisherman and citizen for effective water management. It is the effect the wolves will have on the beaver population. Beaver dams provide habitat for many species of fish and there have been recent suggestions of beaver dams playing a potential role in agricultural water storage by keeping water in streams later into summer. It might be possible that heavy wolf predation could harm some of the benefits derived from beavers. I ask you to please consider monitoring this situation closely.

I look forward to a new and bright future for Washington's ecosystems.

Sincerely,



Joseph Dlugo
6037 Merlot Ln SE
Lacey, WA 98513

Wolves / Dlugo

CC: COMMISSION
Tennant 1/11/10

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JAN 07 2010

FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Ack Htr

Wolves/Haemmerle
CC: COMMISSION
~~Haemmerle~~ Teresa G.

Ack Htr ✓

Fish and Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED
DEC 01 2009
FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Dear Fish + Wildlife Commission,

As a Washington State resident, I am delighted to see the return of wolves to our area. I am also very pleased to hear that the department of Fish and Wildlife has chosen a proactive and collaborative approach for managing wolves and for planning ahead for their eventual, safe recovery across the state.

I am writing today to urge you to adopt a wolf management plan that is based on science, not fear and politics. Science shows us that wolves play an important role as a keystone species in the ecosystem especially in the restoration of the predator-prey relationship.

The best hope for long term recovery and survival of healthy wolf populations in Washington will require broad-based support from our state's citizens, including

livestock producers, a few of whom will inevitably lose relatively small numbers of their livestock to wolves. This makes it so important for the state plan to address the need to work with ranchers operating near wolf populations and to provide non-lethal control tools, strategies, and experts to deter livestock depredation while wolves are recovering. Compensation should be provided by the state when wolves are known to have killed cattle, sheep, or other stock. Use of lethal control methods, however, should only be considered in extreme cases of chronic depredation where non-lethal control methods have not worked, especially while wolves are still recovering.

I appreciate your time and support of the wolves and I am looking forward to learning about more wolf conservation.

Sincerely,

Rachel Haemmerle (Haemmerle)
340 Meadow Dr, SE
North Bend WA,
98045

U
January 27, 2010

Mr. Phil Anderson
Director, Washington State Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Wolf
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FEB 01 2010

HABITAT PROGRAM

Mr. Anderson

I recently gathered a group of elk hunters and the Director and Conservation Director of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force in the same room for an informational exchange concerning your Agency's wolf plan for our state.

We talked for almost three hours and both sides learned a lot.

Believe it or not, we did find some areas of potential agreement. One person in the room had read the entire 300 page plan your agency is finalizing. There is a critical part of that plan that both the Gifford Pinchot Task force and the hunters find devastating. The state is divided by the plan into three areas. Two of the areas are basically east of the mountains and both currently have wolves. The third part is the western part of the state. The plan will require five breeding pairs in the western part called the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast region before the wolf can be de-listed. It takes an estimated 75 to 90 wolves to get five breeding pairs. What in the world is going to happen to our elk herds in the eastern side of the state while we are waiting to get five breeding pairs on the west side?

It makes no sense to require all three areas to have a large population of wolves before de-listing can occur! The plan should allow de-listing by region or allow de-listing when a certain number of breeding pairs are present in the state without regard to this artificial region idea.

In 1995 and 1996 when wolves were introduced into the Yellowstone areas, the agreement was that when 30 breeding pairs were present for three consecutive years in the Tri-state area of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, de-listing could happen. That occurred in 2000, 2001, and 2002. But when the agreement had been fulfilled in 2002, de-listing did not happen. It took seven more years to finally get de-listing and almost complete devastation of several elk herds in all three states.

I am writing to you first but I plan to try and mobilize the RMEF and other groups to organize political pressure to get this changed before the plan is submitted to the Feds.

Please let me hear your thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,


John H. Roscoe

18516 NE 158th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

December 5, 2009

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

A friend asked me to write a letter to your office to support the wolf recovery plan for the state of Washington. I am enclosing a copy I made of the letter my husband wrote to Senator Cantwell as I believe his letter speaks eloquently on the subject.

Sincerely,
M. Lou Saprano

M. Lou Saprano
214 W. 26th Ave.
Spokane WA 99203

SPOKANE WA 99203

05 DEC 2009 PM 3 T



Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

98501+1078



Nov. 27, 2009

Senator Cantwell
W. 920 Riverside, Suite 697
Spokane, WA 99201

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DEC 09 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

Dear Senator Cantwell:

I am writing to urge you to support the wilderness designation in the Colville National Forest and to support the wolf recovery plan in Washington.

I am familiar with the Colville National Forest by virtue of volunteering for trail maintenance in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness Area, specifically in the Shedroof Mtn. and Gypsey Meadows areas, and in tree planting in the Bunchgrass Meadows area of the Colville Nat. Forest. I also did what is called "ground-trushing" of an area of the forest (viz. Woodward Meadows and Middle Fork of the Calispell Creek) for four years.

I grew up in M.d.-west (Southern Minnesota) but have lived most of my life here in Washington. One of the attractions for me of this part of the country was (and is) the amount of public land—wilderness, national forests, National Wildlife Refuges. The amount of public land and its pristine wildness also stands in sharp contrast to what's left of the forests in Europe, where I lived for several years recently. These lands of ours are precious.

In regard to wolf recovery I could cite the economic value of wildlife to tourism, hiking, backpacking, hunting and so forth, but I prefer to approach its value from a different perspective:

11/27/09

as the human and primarily economic world, i.e. the anthropocentric view. The world is a highly complex interwoven group of life forms other than ourselves and we must stop regarding them as separate from us - as something to be manipulated and made to serve us. We are part of the whole and we must make every effort to preserve the whole - wolves included. Cattle raisers should be compensated for any losses, but that can easily be fit into any recovery plan.

I'm 80 years old and may never live to see adequate wolf recovery, and my ability to hike and backpack into wilderness areas is decreasing. But I am concerned about what sort of world I'll be leaving to my children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

William P. Sfrank

Lynn Bruch

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DEC 22 2009

HABITAT PROGRAM

WDFW
Teresa A Eturaspe
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501-1091

Teresa,

I am writing to comment on the "Wolf Conservation & Management Plan DEIS. I have not been fortunate enough to have the time to follow the reasoning WDFW is using to reintroduce wolves into our state. Could you please send me this information or tell me where it can be found.

After hunting in WA. for 35 years and being tired of the lack of game and crowds of people, I started hunting in Idaho 14 years ago. I have seen what the introduction of wolves has done to that state. Game population is dropping rapidly, you see more and more wolf sign in the areas that were once full of deer and elk only a few years ago. The introduction of wolves has not only cost millions of dollars for Idaho to manage and defend, but this year alone has lost revenues of over 1.7 million from non-resident deer and elk tags that were not sold. All I heard last year after hunting season that people were not going back to Idaho, NO game and too many wolves!

The introduction of wolves into Idaho, Montana and Wyoming certainly has not been all positive and has only cost everyone millions of tax dollars. I am totally against the introduction of wolves into Washington State. There is no benefit and it only presents more problems. Problems that we already do not have the funding to take care of properly. It would be another project for WFDW that it cannot afford. And I am sure that the feds would be funding this as well, but it is still TAX dollars. When are you people going to say we "just cannot afford it". This is one of the toughest economic times our country has faced in decades. Why not wait and see how this turns out in the states that have already started the program. Will it be a success, a failure or what can be done to improve it. There is certainly is no hurry.

After owning my own business and being self employed for nearly 40 years, you look very hard at the cost of a project, the economic value and is it going to be viable and will it be a burden in the future. The State needs to do the same. The hunting population of the State supports a large portion on the revenue that WDFW is funded by. WDFW needs to support these people by not introducing the wolves into our State

Very Concerned,



Lynn Bruch

✓
JH
12/22



CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Date: 12-22-09

WDFW

ATTENTION: Teresa E-turaspe

SUBJECT: Wolf Conservation & Management Plan

Total number of pages 2 (Including cover page)

Comments: _____

If enclosures are not as noted, please inform us immediately. Hard copy will will not follow. Thank You.

Sincerely,

BRUCH & BRUCH CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Lynn Bruch
Vice-President

Jim G. Likes
2326 Vista Ave. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 352-5971

Jan. 8, 2010

Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA Responsible Official
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA

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JAN 08 2010

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

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JAN 11 2010

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Dear Teresa A. Eturaspe, SEPA Responsible Official:

These are my comments concerning the following two documents.

(1.) *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington, October 2009*

(2.) *Public Review Draft, Alternative 2. Preferred Alternative, Draft Wolf Conservation And Management Plan For Washington.* Prepared by Gary Wiles and Harriet Allen of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), October 2009

The subject two documents are a very valuable asset to the published knowledge base concerning fish and wildlife resources in Washington State (and beyond to some extent). **The major deficiency** of the documents was a lack of analysis concerning Washington's ongoing human population expansion now and into the "foreseeable future (100 years)". Additional comments are outlined below.

Ecosystem-Related Wolf Interactions With Other Mammals – Wild and Domestic

As the subject two documents state, wolves kill coyotes. It seems to be reasonably well understood that coyotes may kill roaming 'house'-cats. Thus, if wolves kill coyotes near human habitations that possess at-large 'house'-cats, then bird and small wild mammal populations (e.g., shrews, mice, voles) will suffer depredation events from cats. It seems that the State and local governments would be wise to enact laws and aggressive public education campaigns to prevent 'house'-cats from roaming outside the house. Any thought on this?

As presented in the two subject documents, WDFW policies concerning wolf and hunting dog interactions seem appropriate and fair. The documents give some indication that the hunting dogs should be under some degree of control by the owners and/or handlers.

In general, dog owners should be strongly encouraged (by robust education programs etc.) to keep their pet dogs at home. More specifically, this means keeping the dog or dogs within a short distance of the home unless they are under some substantial degree of control by the owner. As the WDFW is acutely aware, free roaming dogs will (on many occasions) chase wildlife such as deer. Such chases, under certain conditions, may thereby unnecessarily impact the health and reproductive capabilities of such chased animals.

As indicated in the subject two documents, wolf depredation on livestock can present a significant economic loss to ranchers and farmers. It is fair to reimburse (at a rate of 110% of market value) livestock growers for any well documented losses that they experience due to wolf depredations on private lands. However, in the humble opinion of this citizen, no reimbursements for wolf-related livestock killings or wounding should be paid out if the depredations took place on public lands. Further, public lands, State and Federal, should be reserved for producing fish wildlife resources for the citizenry. In addition, buffer zones should be established to prevent cattle and sheep, on private lands, from straying onto public lands.

The highest use of public lands would be to allow citizens to hunt, fish, bird-watch, do general nature study/appreciation on those lands. Such use would greatly help in increasing the physical and psychological health of US citizens. Note that there are fairly recent publications relating to great benefits for humans experiencing nature e.g., Dr. Edward O Wilson's book titled "*Biophilia*". Certainly, walking in the woods, prairies, and shrub-steppe habitat would help in reducing the nation's overweight epidemic and create a more physically/mentally fit people.

Also, public lands should be made available for scientists to conduct appropriate scientific research (e.g., single-species and ecosystem studies) on such lands. Educational field trips should also be encouraged at appropriate places and time of year. All of this could have a spin-off effect of providing ecosystem information (i.e., biological/chemical/physical data) and experiences for instructors and students in preschools, K-12 schools, colleges and universities.

Hybridization Between wolves and Dogs

As stated in the document titled "Draft *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington*" wolves can hybridize with dogs. This should be of great concern to the WDFW. After all, if there is significant hybridization between established wolf populations and dogs then it appears that WDFW (not to mention the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) would lose administrative control of the wolf in Washington State. Wolf-dog hybridization is a significant concern to this citizen and I am sure to many others. We prefer our wild species to be as free as possible from interspecies genetic contamination including the introgression of dog genetic markers into wild wolf populations. This feeling is not restricted to wolves but extends to other wildlife species. (See article in the science journal "Nature", 19 February, 2009, pages 950 through 952 concerning the American Bison and keeping its genome pure)

Distribution of Wolf Breeding Pairs

It seems to me that the WDFW has placed too great a restriction on the numbers of wolf breeding pairs that will be allowed under various phases of the delisting process and thereafter. More thought should be given to this topic. This would be especially relevant if your stated goal is going to be met of having wild naturally-moving wolves in Washington State in the "foreseeable future (100 years)".

Ongoing Human Population Expansion and Human Interactions with Wolves

More and more humans are pouring into Washington State, on a permanent basis, to enjoy the "good life". They are seeking jobs (for data, ask Washington's WorkSource agency). The émigrés are also hoping to enjoy fish and wildlife resources through outdoor activities of a consumptive and non-consumptive nature. Point out, to the people moving in, that increased human numbers will

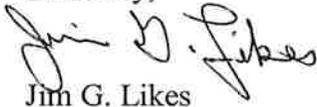
without a doubt result in increasing habitat destruction for fish and wildlife resources – and their response will usually be “Oh, you ought to see it (habitat destruction) where I came from”. How can a person win against that kind of argument? Also, there are simply many more human births in Washington State that are adding to the human population expansion in Washington State. All of this cannot continue if Washingtonians want to enjoy “the good life” out-of-doors. At some point we will have to start having open public discussions on what steps will be needed to solve the situation. It will not be enough to do “land use planning” alone. (I have more to say about “land use planning” but will set it aside for now.)

The U.S. Forest Service is greatly concerned with escalating housing developments on private lands surrounding Forest Service lands.¹ The same is happening to “inholding” lands that are within National Forest boundaries. A similar threat exists to U.S. Park Service lands and what remains of U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands in Washington State. Also, a similar threat is pointed right at WDFW lands and Washington Department of Natural Resources lands. What are we going to do about all of this? Among other things, will we keep trading public lands to satisfy housing developers and related demand from new émigrés and expanding households?

Where does this all end? With the destruction of the best section (northwest corner) of the Garden Of Eden? Come on Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, go as far as you can in educating Washingtonians as to what lies ahead with continued human population expansion and its adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources including gray wolves and their habitat.

Thanks for considering my comments on the two WDFW documents.

Sincerely,



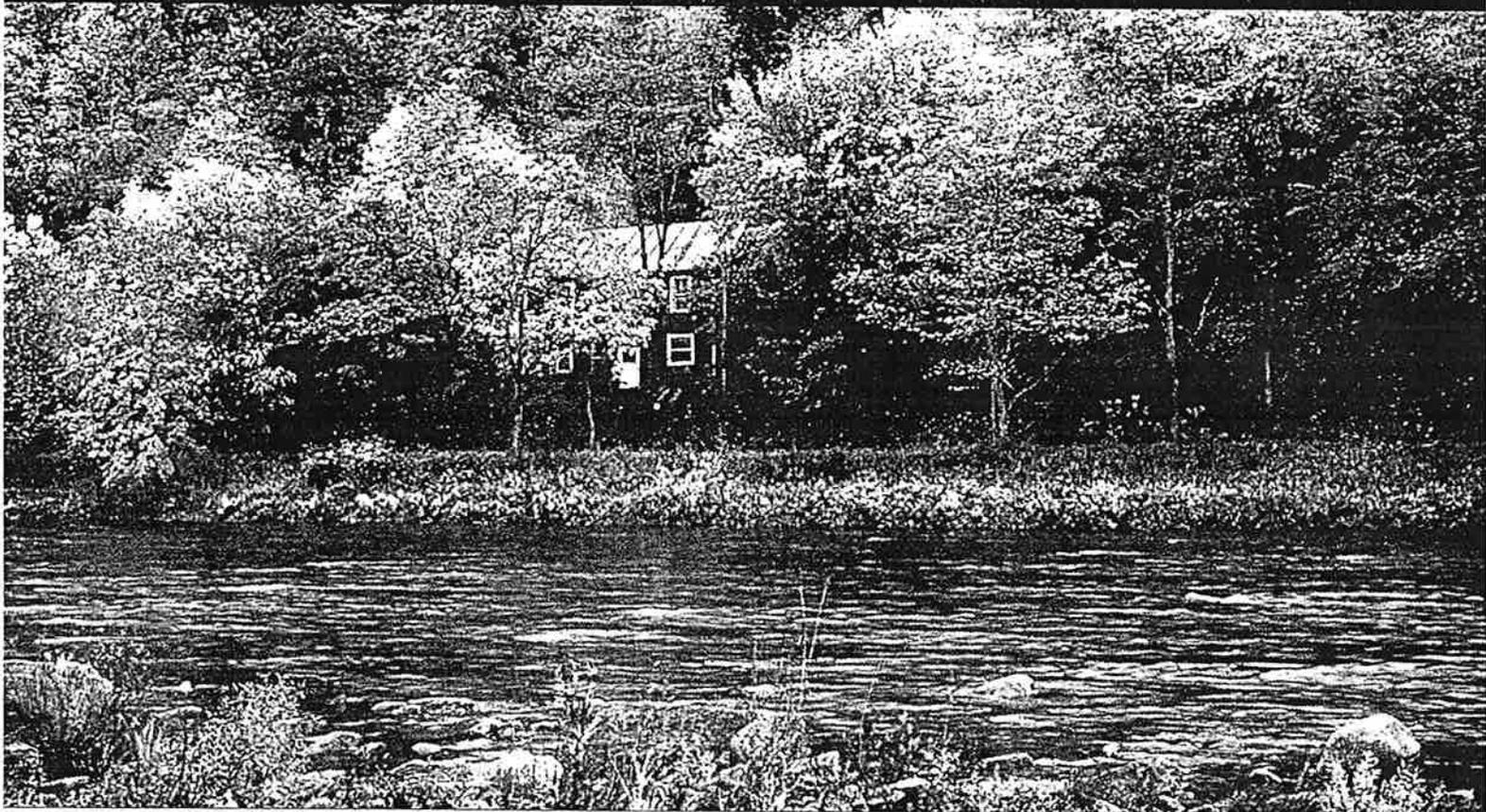
Jim G. Likes

Attachment: cover page of Forest Service technical report

¹ See Forest Service publication titled *National Forests On The Edge- Development Pressures On America's National Forests And Grasslands*, U. S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, General Technical Report, PNW-GTR-728, September 2007

NATIONAL FORESTS ON THE EDGE

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES ON AMERICA'S NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service



Pacific Northwest Research Station

General Technical Report

PNW-GTR-728

September 2007

*Susan M. Stein, Ralph J. Alig, Eric M. White,
Sara J. Comas, Mary Carr, Mike Eley,
Kelly Elverum, Mike O'Donnell, David M.
Theobald, Ken Cordell, Jonathan Haber, and
Theodore W. Beauvais*

[FOR THE DAILY RECORD--Column #560, PUBLISH 10/09/09]

Jim Huckabay

Column Title: "INSIDE THE OUTDOORS"

WOLVES AND YOU, CONTINUED

Last week, we spent some time together considering my opinion that Washington's wolf management plan will be the most important document in the history of Washington wildlife management--and in its future.

On Monday, as promised, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), titled "Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington" was released. The plan offers four alternatives (see pages 18-23) for dealing with the state's endangered population of wolves, to be considered at a series of public meetings beginning October 20. While the plan was, ostensibly, created hand in hand with a seventeen-member "Wolf Working Group" over the last two years, six of the members wrote a highly critical minority report (page 202).

Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 simply offer different combinations of recovery regions and breeding wolf pairs across the state. Alternative-4 is a "No Action-Current Management" option. The one constant for the first three alternatives is the number of successful breeding pairs in the state for various levels of recovery. Six successful breeding pairs would trigger a move to downlist the wolf from "Endangered" to "Threatened;" twelve successful breeding pairs would allow downlisting to "Sensitive;" and fifteen successful breeding pairs (successfully breeding for three years) would lead to "Delisting," allowing wolf numbers to be managed along with other wildlife. These numbers are the foundation for the DEIS alternatives to be considered at the public meetings they are NOT alternatives.

One "breeding pair" of wolves is assumed per pack, and a pack is considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to contain 10 wolves. Thus 15 breeding pairs would put at least 150 gray wolves in the state—a level the DFW and the DEIS authors consider "minimal or barely adequate for achieving population viability and recovery." Ungulate populations would be managed for wolf recovery, not for hunting. At an average of 24 percent growth per year, we would have nearly 300 wolves in Washington before delisting could happen. Add the two years other states have typically dealt with lawsuits and injunctions, and we are looking at nearly 500 wolves before their numbers could be managed (with a high likelihood of no hunting across much of the state).

Consider the following bit of geography. Areas of suitable wolf habitat given below are from the Federal Register (02/08/07, Vol. 72, Num. 26) and the DEIS minority report (page 202). The 2007 human populations are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Montana's human population is 958,000 (6.6 per square mile) and it contains 40, 924 square miles of suitable wolf habitat. Wyoming holds 523,000 people (5.4 per square mile) and has 29, 808 square miles of wolf ground. Idaho, with its 1,499, 000 people

JH.
12/17

(18.1 per square mile), has wolf habitat totaling 31,586 square miles. Washington's population of 6,462,000 gives us a density of 97.2 people per square mile. We have 297 square miles of wolf habitat in the eastern one-third of the state, with the western two-thirds described as containing "scattered habitat in small isolated areas of the Okanogan, larger amounts of marginal habitat both north and south of Mount Rainier, and a large area of habitat in and around the Olympic National Park. By my reckoning this adds up to, perhaps, 4,500 square miles.

Thus, we here in Paradise have a human population of four to thirteen times the other "wolf" states, a population density of five to nineteen times theirs, and "suitable habitat" only eleven to fifteen percent of theirs.

Here's the kicker: in each of the other states, the population goal for delisting was 100 animals (ten breeding pairs). Forget the fact that, after lawsuits and injunctions, the 300 or so wolves needed for delisting in the three states have become more than 2,000 (according to biologists with whom I've spoken). With just a fraction of other states' habitat, our DFW insists that we need one and a half times as many wolves before delisting—and it's not negotiable.

Nearest meetings will be in Yakima (Red Lion Hotel) on the 22nd and Wenatchee (Chelan County PUD) on November 10.

Go. This is the most important decision in the history of Washington wildlife management—and in our outdoor future.

[Copyright James L. Huckabay, 2009]

Jim Huckabay chairs the Department of Geography at Central and is the author of "WILD WINDS and Other Tales of Growing Up in the Outdoor West." He can be contacted at huckabay@cwu.edu or wildwinds@cleelum.com.

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November 12, 2009

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RE: Public Comments on the WDFW DRAFT Wolf Management Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit my comments in regards to the Proposed WDFW Wolf Management Plan. I do not support any of the WDFW's EIS alternatives. I support the Minority Opinion (MO) on pages 202-203 of the management plan. The MO calls for 3 Breeding Pairs (BPs) to go from Endangered to Threatened, 6 BPs to go from Threatened to Sensitive and 8 BPs to Delist the Wolf.

I am concerned that the WDFW will not be able to fully fund the compensation portion of the WDFW Wolf Management Plan. Without complete funding of the compensation I think it is unconscionable for the WDFW to even consider a plan that calls for more than 8 BPs.

I would like to provide an additional alternative to the WDFW if the MO (3, 6 & 8 BPs) is not accepted. I would like to recommend that the WDFW support the proposal put forth by the Washington Cattlemen's Association (WCA) Alternative 1A "The Responsible Approach". Alternative 1A has a trigger 3 BPs to move to the Threatened Level and 6 BPs to move down to the Sensitive Level at that time the WDFW would immediately convene a diverse group with the Ruckelshaus Center that would be charged with setting a final number of BPs for delisting of the wolf.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name: Glen Huxley
Address: 663 Hidden Valley Rd. Zillah Wa. 98953
Email address: ph. 829 6649

The people that are affected the most should be the ones to decide this issue about the number of wolves.

Hunters that pay most of the bill, believe that the current metho of harvesting deer, elk and other game animals is the fairest. In Montana the hunters are starting to see the affects of the wolves on the game animals.

Glen

JH

Its not just the animals that are killed and eaten but other animals die from "pack frenzy," just for the joy of killing, just like a pack of tame dogs.

Livestock owners are against allowing wolves to propagate and expand their area because of preditation. Wildlife said that they would pay livestock owners for the loss of animals through preditation but where would they get the funds?

Also at what point is a wolf not a wolf?

Last year I saw a wolf up here near Zillah 3 different times and my neighbor saw it twice. It has killed 2 of my other neighbors dogs. Its paw print measured $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across.

So for this year I haven't seen it. "Maybe someone shot it." Was it a domestic cross? I don't know.

Sincerely

Glen Hueyler

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WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM

With Canada, Idaho & Oregon next door - all with more than enough wolves, and with the lack of habitat here in Washington:

5 to 8 breeding pairs
12 more than enough.

The Game department should have to meet with the Ag & Natural Resources Committees as well as agricultural State holders every year to report on: Numbers of wolves and stages for each region - accountability.

L. D. Green

2775 W. Harrison rd.

Othello WA 99344

L D Green

52

MINNICH

To: Commission (DFW)

Subject: Wolf management in Washington.

12-21-09
Standard response sent
Rec'd Dec. 18, 2009 *JMY*

Dear Sirs;

Wolf management in Washington State is becoming a topic of considerable debate. Wolves must be managed and controlled by offering sport hunters the opportunity to harvest wolves under a permit process similar to deer, elk, bears etc. The minority position (page 246-247 of the Washington Wolf Plan) will help safeguard viable big game populations in Washington without eliminating wolves entirely. The Washington Wolf Plan was drafted by a group represented by mostly pro wolf members. The Washington Wolf Plan was drafted without the input of an experienced wolf biologist. Please take this into consideration before making any determinations regarding wolf management. Sportsman dollars and wise wildlife management practices have resulted in growing populations of deer and elk without the depredation resulting from a high wolf population. Sportsman can and will travel to bordering states and take their dollars with them if we compromise our big game hunting opportunities just for the sake of wolves howling in the back country. Thank you for reading my opinion.

Thanks,

John Minnich

Woodinville, WA 98077

[Note: This comment on the draft EIS and wolf plan was submitted on 12/18/2009 via the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.]

1. We recommend no transplanting/reintroducing wolves.
 - A. Washington state not required by federal law to reintroduce wolves.
2. Recommend protecting, (by federal law), only wolves that have reintroduced by themselves from British Columbia-Idaho on the northern part of the state, more like the original strain.
3. Not enough prey base like other Rocky Mtn. States to carry several packs in this state. Packs established in northern parts of state are enough, they can go back and forth where they came from.
 - A. Deer numbers are already lower than normal.
 - B. Wolves shouldn't be allowed to come into-behind elk feed stations and raise havoc, (disturbing stressed animals on feed grounds), If they do, they need to be exterminated, or relocated out of the state.
4. Livestock and other domestic animals need to be protected.
 - A. Any domestic animals killed by the wolves; the owner should have the right to exterminate the wolves, have WDFW. take care of them, (this shouldn't be relocating them in other parts of the state), or reimburse the owner with sufficient funds to cover the loss.
5. Where id the funds going to come from to take care of these wolves.???
 - A. Not fair to have the sportsman to pay this, they already pay to carry the animals and non game animals, its time all these other non hunters-fishermen chip in, the tax payer is going to cry.
6. If it goes the way the proposed plan is now there will be no hunting in the future for the big game animals in Washington.
 - A. This will mean there will be no WDFW unless they get a lot more money from taxes paid by the tax payer.
 - B. Wolves will be down here in the low lands right by your house killing whatever they can get then going off into other states.
 - C. What a waist of money-time this will be.
7. Reintroducing wolves is like bringing in a new plant, virus, algae, fish, exotic animal, and etc. they could go like gang busters for a few years having more than one litter a year until most of all of the prey base is gone.
 - A. Some areas of the Rocky Mtns. States are already having more problems, they haven't really discovered them all yet.
 - B. Refer to : Wyoming-Gros Ventre Range, Nov. 23rd 2009, wolves kill 3 dogs.
Daniel, Wyoming, 2009- One pack of wolves kill Ranchers horses and cows, WFGD have to exterminate 5 wolves. Pinedale, Wyoming-Mud Creek Feed Station, 2009, Wolves coming into feed station chasing and killing elk. Clearwater Forest, Idaho, 2007-2009 several cases of wolves killing Bear-Cougar hunting dogs, Elk population now down to one third what it originally was.
Hailey Idaho March 15, 2009, Wolves coming into residential areas where people were feeding the elk, chasing, killing elk, dogs, livestock, not being afraid of humans.
Read: Biologist Valerius Geist Articles.
8. What will the cougars do, they are already having trouble because of the low deer numbers and are now preying more on the elk.
 - A. There will be more cases of them coming down into the valleys and causing trouble with humans.

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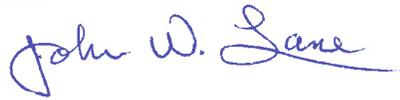
HABITAT PROGRAM

AJH

9. What about Grizzly Bears, Woodland Caribou?? We have some of these in the northern part of the state that go back and forth from Canada-Idaho and no transplants that we know of yet. Lets leave the wolves the same way.
10. The Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation has done work in Washington to help out the elk and other wildlife. Some of us and other friends who belong to the foundation will vote against the foundation raising money-doing work here for the wildlife if the proposed plan goes threw.
11. All the reports in magazines about the hunter numbers, (An American Tradition), are getting less every year, and this proposal on wolves is one of the reasons, taking away our big game animals. Hunters bring in lots of revenue and help the economy.
12. Lots more people now days, very poor economy, lots of issues we need to take care of, why add more problems when we can't take care of-afford what we have.?

These people agree with our notes:

John&Sheri Lane
101 Wilson Crk. Rd. #30
Ellensburg, Wash.. 98926



Retired from USFS /Nursing

David W. Lane
East Wenatchee, Wash.

Chemist/Sewage Plant

Dennis Lane
East Wenatchee, Wash.

General Sales Rep.

Herb Flerchinger
Pomeroy, Wash. 99347

Retired Wheat Farmer

Pete&Candi Harrison
Starbuck, Wash.

Cattle Rancher/Construction

Todd Peyser
Selah, WA.

Taxidermist/Teacher

Gary Leonardo
Yakima Wash..

Taxidermist

Jim Shaw
Ellensburg WA.

careprovider/nursing

Myron Linder
Ellensburg Wash..

Chiropractor

Dave Rossi
Ellensburg, Wash..

maintenance

Jim Gill Packwood, Wash..	Gunsmith
Wayne Hansen Cashmere, Wash..	Careprovider
Elwin Klein Lewiston, Idaho 83501	Naturepath
Dan Jonassen Ellensburg, Wash.	Deputy Sheriff
Dave Fudacz Thorp, Wash.	USFS/Rancher
Gary Fudacz Cle Elum, Wash.	Retired USFS/Rancher
Larry Shaw East Wenatchee, Wash..	Retired USFS
Richard P. Schellhaas East Wenatchee, Wash..	USFS&Taxidermist
Barry Marsh Entiat, Wash.	USFS
Donnie lane East Wenatchee, Wash.	PUD Technician

COPY

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

HABITAT PROGRAM

Comments can be hand-written here tonight and submitted to WDFW staff, or used later to postal mail to WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Comments can also be submitted on-line, either general or specific to a section of the plan through a survey, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html

Deadline for all comments is January 8, 2010.

Spokane Meeting 10-27-09

Name: * John Belknap - President of North West Sportsmans club.

Postal mail or e-mail address: ** johnbdds@aol.com

COMMENTS: Please consider the minority option! This state and pro hunting conservation groups have spent millions of dollars introducing and managing wild life here since day one, Please use a little common sense in your decision. Wolves are beautiful and do deserve a place in our state, but should not be allowed to descimate our fragile sheep, moose, elk, deer and caribou populations. Please limit the breeding pairs to the minority option! Funding will not continue from the hunting private sector if wolves are allowed to descimate our sheep, elk, deer, bear etc. Licenses will not be sold to hunters, and conservation (hunting) groups will not want to invest in our state. Who will be left to fund wolf management besides the General Fund.

John Belknap

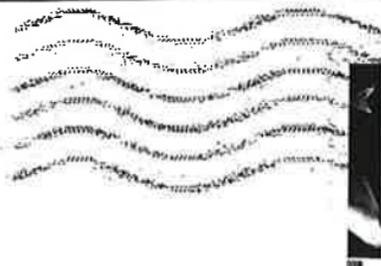
*Required if you want your comments addressed in final EIS
**Needed if you want notification of final EIS (e-mail preferred)

✓
11/4/09

John Belknap
7212 E 32nd
Greenacres WA
99016

SPOKANE WA 99201

29 OCT 2009 PM 3 L



17212 E 32nd
Greenacres WA
99016

WDFW SEPA Desk
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA

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