



## STATEMENT ON PROFANITY PEAK WOLF PACK SLAUGHTER

**Presented by Predator Defense at WAG/ WDFW Public Meeting**  
*September 14, 2016, Issaquah, WA*

A lot has been said in recent weeks about the great progress that had been made in Washington State, simply because groups with much to disagree about—ranchers, wildlife officials and environmentalists—actually agreed on something. That something was slaughtering the Profanity Peak wolf pack, whose “crime” was depredating on cattle put out in the core of their territory. Reportedly, at least half of this family of 11 wolves has already been killed.

But we are one of the groups that did NOT think great progress was being made. We have always been opposed to the lethal control operations being performed...for ethical, scientific and practical reasons. We request an immediate end to the killing of the Profanity Peak Pack.

Part of the reason we request this is because public lands are our lands; they don't belong to ranchers. They are inappropriate places for livestock, whose grazing denudes, pollutes and degrades the land...OUR land, WILDLIFE'S land.

There are over 1,000,000 cows in the state of Washington. There are roughly 90 wolves. If these magnificent apex predators, essential to the health of our ecosystems, cannot live on our remote public lands in peace, then where can they live?

The other reason we request the Profanity Peak situation be rectified and the killing stopped is because of what we have learned through WDFW's updates to WAG. Specifically:

- We know that 400 cows and calves were released into the Profanity Peak wolf pack's territory. This means cattle were released onto rugged and pristine land, owned by the public, in the remote Colville National Forest.
- We know that the livestock producer hired only one range rider and two foot patrols to protect 400 cows on 30,000 acres of rough landscape. Success would have required an army.
- We know that, within two days of release, cows were grazing in the core of the wolf pack's known activity areas.
- We know that salt blocks were placed on at least one occasion to concentrate livestock at the pack's rendezvous site. (The fact that the rancher later removed the salt blocks upon request is essentially irrelevant.)

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- We know that a total of four confirmed depredations occurred within 10 weeks of the cows' release on the wolves' territory.
- We know that lethal control of the wolves began at that time, because the depredation threshold had been met.

Here's what we know from decades of observation, and consultation with the nation's top predator scientists:

- Livestock displaces wolves' natural prey—elk and deer.
- Placing livestock in the middle of known wolf territory—regardless of whether it's a few feet or a few miles—is a recipe for conflict. It is the equivalent of delivering room service to the wolf's front door.
- While nonlethal deterrents are helpful in minimizing conflicts, no nonlethal strategy is going to prevent all predation under these circumstances.
- The most obviously effective strategy would be to prohibit grazing allotments within areas of known wolf activity.

But given that the public lands grazing issue is a federal one, and the matter at hand for the state is cattle/wolf activity, the only reasonable solution at this point would be this:

Help change Washington's wolf plan so that it doesn't value cattle over wolves. If livestock producers put their cattle on public land in known wolf activity areas, they should not be compensated for depredation losses and wolves should not be killed. This should just be part of the cost of doing business on the public's lands.

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*Predator Defense is a national nonprofit advocacy organization working to protect native predators and end America's war on wildlife.*