

Wickman, Erik

From: Nickie.Duong@infineon.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 2:37 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Submission -- PROTECT WOLVES

Dear Officials,

As a resident, I write to strongly urge you to PROTECT our precious, iconic and ESSENTIAL WILDLIFE especially WOLVES at all costs. It is time to prioritize wildlife and co-exist with wolves as they are essential to our healthy ecosystem. Wolves are also tourist cash cows for the state – wolves are why tourists visit Yellowstone.

I note the following points:

- **Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.**
 - Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.
 - Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.
- **The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.**
 - Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.
 - Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.
- **Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.**
- **Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.**
- **Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.**
- **Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.**
- **Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.**

Kind regards,
Dr. Nicolas Duonn
Billings, MT