

## WASHINGTON

### Researcher cleared of lobbying accusations in wolf case

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A professor who filed a complaint against Washington State University has been cleared of accusations from the university that he misused state resources.

The professor's complaint alleged that his employer retaliated against him for making remarks that were critical of a cattle rancher and of the state's killing of a wolf pack.

The university accused him of using his school email for lobbying activities.

WSU released an internal audit yesterday that did not mention the professor by name but appears to say the professor, Robert Wielgus, has been cleared of the school's accusation.

Even though he was cleared, the report says investigators with the state did find that his email use could have been a misuse of state resources in "regard to the content of the messaging and repeated recommendations from management to use private resources related to the activity in questions."

The professor's lawyer, Adam Carlesco of **Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility**, said he takes issue with the state resources misuse charge.

"Dr. Wielgus sent over a single email containing data concerning wolf depredation ... to the Washington Wolf Advisory Group, a group that he has been professionally involved with for 4 years, on a subject matter where he was appointed by the WA Legislature as the primary researcher through WSU," Carlesco said in an email (Shanon Quinn, [\*\*\*Moscow-Pullman Daily News\*\*\*](#), May 4). — **CS**

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