

Animal Wellness Action Endorses Public Lands Chief Hilary Franz for 6th District in Washington State Democratic Primary

Franz is a strong, proven leader in managing public lands and is dedicated to wildlife

WASHINGTON, D.C., DC, UNITED STATES, July 30, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Animal Wellness Action endorses Democrat Hilary Franz to win her primary election, in her bid to represent the 6th Congressional District in Washington State. Franz is Commissioner of Public Lands for Washington state, and the Democratic primary takes place Aug. 6.

As Chief of Public Lands for Washington state, she manages 3 million acres of lands and is a strong leader in the fight to oppose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plan to protect a small number of spotted owls by killing an estimated 450,000 barred owls over several decades. Franz is the most senior official in the range states of California, Oregon, or Washington to demand that this kill plan be halted.



Barred Owl photo by USFWS

"Our endorsement is not grounded solely on a reckless barred owl massacre planned for the Pacific Northwest," explained Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. "I personally interviewed Hilary and she's committed to supporting our big and broad agenda to help all animals with our work in Congress."

Animal Wellness Action cited these examples of why it endorses Franz:

- Franz knows that factory farming is a form of animal mistreatment and delivers adverse effects on our environment.
- Franz banned all aquatic net-pens (fish farms) from Washington's waters, reasoning that these net pens pose threats to native fish and aquatic habitat.
- Franz supports the FIGHT Act (to combat animal fighting), the SAFE Act (to ban horse



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*Wayne Pacelle, President of
Animal Wellness Action*

slaughter), a ban on mink farming, and a wide range of policies at the federal level to help animals.

Franz is a Leader on Sound Wildlife Policy

Animal Wellness Action applauded Franz as she raised public concerns about the federal agency's plan, which as designed remains the largest raptor slaughter ever conducted in the world.

“I don't believe that a multiple decades-long plan to kill nearly half-a-million barred owls across 14 million acres of land represents a solution that is absolutely viable,

affordable or capable Secretary Haaland in fact it raises an enormous amount of questions,” said Hilary Franz in a video that was part of a June 20, 2024, webinar for Animal Wellness Action. “How can we prevent the surviving barred owls from simply recolonizing and repopulating the very areas we are trying to preserve? I think we can do better, and we have too many questions that need to be answered.” The video of the complete statement by Commissioner Franz can be [viewed here](#) and her letter is [posted here](#).

Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy had led a sign-on letter [with 135 organizations](#) to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland with concerns about the impracticality of the plan, its price tag of nearly a quarter-billion dollars, and their moral concerns about amassing an enormous body count of a look-alike species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as a North American native species.

The USFWS's Final EIS suffers from several defects which make it susceptible to a legal challenge, wellness groups say.

ABOUT

Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) whose mission is to help animals by promoting laws and regulations at federal, state and local levels that forbid cruelty to all animals. The group also works to enforce existing anti-cruelty and wildlife protection laws. Animal Wellness Action believes helping animals helps us all. X: @AWAction_News

The Center for a Humane Economy is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) whose mission is to help animals by helping forge a more humane economic order. The Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both. The Center believes helping animals helps us all. X: @TheHumaneCenter

WAYNE PACELLE

ANIMAL WELLNESS ACTION

+1 2024200446

[email us here](#)

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