



Director's Report to the Commission

August 4-5, 2017

Legislative Affairs

State Legislative Update

The Legislature adjourned on June 30 after 193 days and three special sessions. They passed an operating and transportation budget but no capital budget.

Capital Budget

The Department is still working hard to push for a capital budget and at the same time plan for the worst.

- If the Legislature doesn't come back to pass a capital budget, the Department will not receive an anticipated \$60 million in new capital project funding for the 2017-19 biennium – which was slated to go to hatchery renovations, major habitat restoration and fish passage projects, elk fencing and forest health work.
- No capital budget also means a loss in authority and critical state match which will impact our ability to leverage federal funds.
- A lack of new appropriations will result in significant staff reductions. May be as high as 40-60 staff over the course of the biennium.

Operating Budget

The operating budget was bare bones for the agency and the rest of the natural resource agencies, as the Legislature was primarily focused on resolving the McCleary funding obligation. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Department received \$10.1 million in additional GF-S to partially cover the shortfall in the State Wildlife Account.
- The Department received \$950,000 for wolf management activities, including Livestock Depredation Prevention Agreements, Conservation Conflict Transformation training for Department staff and ongoing facilitation of the Wolf Advisory Group.
- The Legislature extended the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement for two years, preserving over \$3 million for Columbia River fisheries.
- The Legislature funded the cost of living adjustments in the collective bargaining agreements.

Legislative Outcomes

The Legislature passed four out of the six agency request bills this year.

- They approved the Department's **liability immunity** bill (HB 1464) which will further incentivize recreational access on private land.
- They approved the Department's aquatic invasive species funding package (SB 5303) which will raise nearly \$1 million in new fee revenue to support the Department's prevention and management efforts.
- They passed our **commercial license fee legislation** (HB 1597) which brings in an additional \$1 million in commercial license revenue and streamlines commercial licensing statutes.
- They extended the **Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead** Endorsement fee (SB 5947) by two years, preserving \$3 million annual investment in Columbia River fisheries.
- Unfortunately, they did not pass our **HPA fee extension**, so the \$150 fee for processing those permits will go away. But they did provide \$660,000 in general fund to back that lost revenue.
- They also did not pass an increase to the recreational fishing and hunting licenses.

Federal Update

On the federal side, the Department fared relatively well in both the Senate and House appropriations bills. Congress did not pass spending legislation for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2017 until May, which caused a delay in committee activity for Federal Fiscal Year 2018.

- The Department's federal funding primarily comes through the Department of Interior and Department of Commerce which house the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Our primary federal funding sources were either maintained or improved. Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund and Mitchell Act are maintained, and there was an additional \$20 million for the fisheries disaster declaration.
- We are optimistic but there is still a long way to go yet. The House and Senate have to consider and debate the bills before voting on floor.

Technology & Financial Management

License Sales

On July 11, 2017, we went over the one million transactions processed mark in the new WILD System, meaning in seven months we completed over a million transactions in the new licensing system. Customer and dealer comments/complaints have gone down to almost nothing in the last couple of months. In fact, the blogs reported surprise and excitement that the Department completed all special hunt draws ahead of schedule and with only minor edits.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Outreach Efforts



The Licensing Division and the Fish Program put together an event on Saturday, July 22, in partnership with JBLM's MWR (morale, welfare, and recreation) Program, expanding current efforts at each newcomers' orientation. JBLM is advertising events for free, and have said no idea is too big for them.

At the event, approximately 30 soldiers and their families met at Oakland Bay Marina for a demonstration on how easy it is to get steamer clams and oysters. JBLM advertised the event through a variety of methods and had soldiers pre-register. Participants had to be waitlisted! The Adventure Center and Russell Landing Marina provided transportation. He also mentioned that since the Department has had a presence on base he has seen sales in his store increase.

At the beach, soldiers and their families were instructed on how to find oysters, how to find clams and measure if they were legal, how to tell if they were safe to eat, and how to clean and prepare both for a meal. Staff demonstrated each (including providing a clam lunch at the end of the event) and helped each family in the activity.

At the end of the event, participants were given a short survey to see if they had a license before the event, if they enjoyed it, if they would participate again, and what else they would like from us. Most at the event had purchased their first license for this event and said they are already planning a another outing. The next event that is scheduled for August 12. There will also be clinics on fly fishing, bait, knot tying, identification, and fishing ethics.

After each event staff will have a survey for attendees to gauge what worked and what didn't, and talk about license/gear purchasing. So far staff are very pleased with the reaction they have been getting on post, not only from license dealers but also military members. Staff are working towards providing measurements for each of these outreach efforts so we can see the effects our presence has on base.



Wildlife Program

Infusion of Conservation Grant Funding to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Partners

The Diversity Division worked hard to submit proposals and were awarded four Competitive State Wildlife Grants this quarter totaling \$1.8 million in federal funds matched by another \$1.5 million in non-federal funds. These nationally competitive grants are available to state wildlife agencies and are designed to support implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans and benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The Washington projects will support: 1) investigations of western pond turtle shell disease and conduct habitat restoration and bullfrog control; 2) westside prairie pollinators including endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and the candidate island marble butterfly; 3) creation of a bumble bee atlas and habitat restoration on wildlife areas to support bumble bees; and 4) a citizen science facilitated project to document distribution of the short-eared owl. Washington will be sharing the project-specific funds (20%:80%) with academic and non-profit partners as well as other states.

Pygmy Rabbit Wildfire and Recovery

In July, the 30,000-acre Sutherland Canyon fire swept through the Beezley Hills just outside Ephrata and unfortunately burned through one of the Department's captive breeding enclosures for the endangered pygmy rabbit. Due to some quick thinking by Jon Gallie, the Department's project lead for pygmy rabbits, not all was lost. While 74 rabbits did succumb to the fire, because Jon had modified the irrigation in the enclosure while the fire was still a mile away, the fire's spread was slowed and some sagebrush in the enclosure was spared. The next day, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire crews joined with Department staff to recover 38 rabbits that survived the fire in their burrows. Those animals were moved to enclosures in other areas and most are doing well. While the fire set back reintroduction efforts for this year, the damage overall is manageable. We learned several valuable lessons and the overall recovery program remains strong and viable. Department staff met with our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and our combined commitment to recovery persists despite this temporary setback.

Citizen Science Butterflies

In mid-April, Department staff developed and hosted a training workshop on Eastern Washington Butterfly Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The workshop was primarily designed for the Department to work with and train citizen scientist volunteers on rare butterfly identification, biology, and methods for monitoring them. The Citizen Science project has already produced results with trained volunteers identifying a new population of juniper hairstreak butterflies, which are a candidate for state listing.

Forest Health

Work during May and June included both timber thinning and prescribed burning. Foresters coordinated completion of 181 acres of pre-commercial thinning on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. In addition, after months of preparation, four commercial thinning projects started: 1) the Grouse Flats Unit project in the Blue Mountains, 2/3) the Hutchins and Taneum Road projects on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area, and 4) the LeClerc Unit project on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. All projects were designed to

improve ecological integrity by moving forests towards their historic range of variability in terms of tree density, species composition, and fuel loads. During the months of May and June, prescribed fire conditions improved. Consistent spring rains provided challenges, but forest fuels continued to dry. In 2017 thus far, 415 acres have been burnt with 335 acres burnt in May and June primarily on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. The prescribed burn crew also worked on the Methow Wildlife Area doing 35 acres of pre-commercial thinning to reduce forest fuels.

May and June project pictures



Unthinned versus thinned Rocky Mountain Mixed Dry Conifer Forest on the Grouse Ponderosa pine savannah and woodland restoration on the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area – smaller trees, primarily fir, are being thinned to promote a patchy mosaic of large, resilient trees

Flats Wildlife Area Unit



Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee

The Wenas Wildlife Area team has worked with a facilitator to plan and host three Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee meetings and two public listening sessions in Ellensburg and Selah. The committee, made up of recreation users, including target shooters, horseback riders, hunters, and others, has adopted a committee charter; requested and reviewed user, fire and other data associated with target shooting at the Wenas Wildlife Area; and formed subcommittees to consider education/outreach, managed areas for concentrated shooting, and enforcement.

Sherman Pack

Department officials have documented three confirmed wolf depredations by the Sherman Pack since June 12, 2017. The livestock producer that owns the cattle grazes them on private and public lands in the area. Calves in the herd were born outside of occupied wolf range and were trucked into the area for the summer grazing season. The producer turned out the cattle onto private land May 24.

The producer uses five Department contracted range riders across his grazing areas to discourage conflict with wolves. The range riders started patrolling the area on May 9 – before the cattle were turned out – to check for carnivore activity and to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflict. Since then, they have monitored GPS collar data and patrolled the area almost daily, communicating frequently with the producer. In addition, the producer's family members and ranch employees have increased their presence on the allotment to reduce the potential for wolf-livestock conflict, and the producer has reported changes in cattle behavior and carnivore activity to the Department. There are no known wolf dens or rendezvous sites in the area. The range riders, producer, family members and ranch employees will continue to patrol the area and surrounding areas.

Smackout Pack

The Department documents legal caught-in-the-act wolf kill and the fourth depredation by the Smackout wolf pack. In late June, wolves began harassing a livestock producer's cattle in the Smackout pack territory on a regular basis. The rancher's employee documented changes in livestock behavior related to the harassment. The employee began checking on cattle at night. During the night of June 29, the employee hazed wolves near livestock with a spot light. On June 30, the range employee saw two wolves in the act of attacking livestock within the Smackout pack territory. In this incident the employee shot and killed one of the wolves and reported the incident to the Department. The incident was investigated by Department Enforcement and was found to be consistent with state regulations. In areas of Washington where wolves are not listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, WAC 220-440-080 states the owner of domestic animals (or an immediate family member, agent, or employee) may kill one gray wolf without a permit issued by the Director if the wolf is attacking their domestic animals. The wolf killed was a female, previously captured and collared by Department staff in the Smackout pack territory in 2015. The incident occurred on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land.

Authorization for lethal removal of wolves. On July 18, 2017, the Department documented the fourth wolf depredation by the Smackout pack within the last ten months. Department officials confirmed that one or more wolves were responsible for injuring a calf on a U.S. Forest Service grazing allotment in Stevens County. The report was made by the ranch's range rider who found the injured calf while monitoring livestock in the area. The fourth depredation within the last ten months has prompted the Department to initiate the provisions of the wolf-livestock interactions protocol (Protocol) developed jointly by the Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) and the Department earlier this year. The four depredations by the Smackout pack include:

- September 21, 2016, a confirmed wolf depredation resulting in a dead calf.

Department staff investigating the depredation indicated the injuries to the calf were the result of a signature style wolf attack. The injuries were bite lacerations to both armpit areas, both sides of the groin, the utter, the under belly, both shoulder points, the right Achilles, the left side of the jaw and the head and neck. All bite lacerations showed signs of oxygenation, indicating the calf was alive during the attack. Present at the kill site were wolf tracks and scat. GPS locations from a collared member of the Smackout wolf pack were also present at the scene. During the investigation strong signals from the collared member of the Smackout wolf pack were picked up on a Department receiver. There were no signs of any other predators or scavengers (ravens or turkey vultures) discovered near the kill site.

- September 28, 2016, a probable wolf depredation resulting in a dead calf.

Department staff investigating the depredation indicated the 800-pound Charolais calf appeared to be deceased for two weeks. Intact skeletal remains were present with a small portion of the hide still attached to the remains. Bite lacerations present on the calf's tail were consistent with a signature-style wolf attack. Bite lacerations discovered on the neck portion of calf's hide were consistent with a signature-style wolf attack. Periodic GPS locations place collared members of the Smackout wolf pack within the USFS grazing allotment. Wolf tracks were discovered at the site of the calf remains. Other evidence had been scavenged. The precise location of the attack could not be determined due to the timeframe and intermittent weather. The intact skeletal remains had been dragged 50 feet down a slight decline in the terrain from the rumen.

- September 29, 2016, a confirmed wolf depredation resulting in an injured calf.

Department staff investigating the depredation indicated the Angus calf had bite lacerations to the right hamstring, upper right rear leg, inside right rear leg, outer right rear leg, point of right shoulder, lower right shoulder, right side of neck, point of left shoulder and lower left rear leg consistent with a signature-style wolf attack. Three collared members from the Smackout wolf pack were monitored at the field where the calf was attacked during the early morning hours of September 29, 2016. Just after daylight on September 29, a minimum of three wolves were heard howling in the same field by a second group of range riders. GPS satellite locations placed the three collared members along the same fence line where the Angus calf was discovered for more than six hours.

- July 18, 2017, a confirmed wolf depredation resulting in an injured calf.

Department staff investigating the depredation indicated the combination of evidence/information, including recent reports of wolves in the act of attacking calves and VHF signals from a Smackout wolf collar on July 18. An injured calf was found hemorrhaging with bite wounds on the left rear leg and left flank and recent wolf collar location data, along with a legal lethal take of a wolf at the end of June 2017 clearly indicate a wolf depredation on calf #110. Wolf GPS collar data indicated that two Smackout pack wolves were within one mile of the pasture for the last 60 days on a

frequent basis. Both collars (and other non-collared wolves) have been observed in the pasture and in the act of attacking calves at the end of June. The incident occurred in an area of fenced pastures which is part of the USFS grazing allotment.

More information is available in the 2016 calendar year chronology of events document on the Department's website.

As a result of these events, the criteria in the protocol for consideration and implementation of lethal removal have been reached for the Smackout pack. Director Jim Unsworth has authorized lethal removal of wolves from the pack, consistent with the Department's Wolf Conservation and Management plan and the wolf-livestock interactions protocol.

The purpose of lethal removal is to influence and/or change wolf pack behavior to reduce the potential for recurrent wolf depredations on livestock while continuing to promote wolf recovery. Consistent with the terms of the protocol, the rationale for lethal removal in this case is as follows:

1. **The Department has documented four wolf depredation events** in the Smackout pack area in the last ten months. Three of those were confirmed wolf depredations and one was a probable wolf depredation. The probable depredation was a part of a pattern of confirmed wolf depredations in September 2016, and occurred about a week apart and overlap of wolves and livestock in the area of the confirmed wolf depredations, AND
2. **At least two (2) proactive deterrence measures and responsive deterrence measures have been implemented** and failed to meet the goal of influencing/changing pack behavior to reduce the potential for recurrent wolf depredations on livestock. There are several livestock producers within the Smackout pack territory using at least two proactive deterrents, some documented for more than four years. The livestock producer that sustained the July 18, 2017, confirmed wolf depredation is currently using: several range riders (one range rider is primary, but others fill in on an as needed basis); has maintained sanitation by removing or securing livestock carcasses; actively hazed wolves with a firearm and pyrotechnics; kept cattle in a fenced pasture within the allotment due to wolf activity; spotlighting nightly; wolf GPS collar data in the area to monitor activity near cattle; used fladry when needed; a RAG box when needed; and several other deterrents in the past. The range rider started patrolling the area prior to the June 1 turnout in 2017, and communicates frequently with the producer and the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist. Information on denning and wolf activity was also shared with the producer, and the producer has avoided those high use wolf areas. Another producer that was involved in one of the three 2016 depredations within the Smackout territory have been using Department contracted range riders, sanitation, and removal of injured cattle from the range, AND
3. **Department expects depredations to continue** (e.g., deterrence measures have not changed pack behavior, and overlap between wolves and livestock is expected to continue in near future), AND

4. **The Department has documented the use of appropriate deterrence measures** and notified the public of wolf activities in a timely manner as outlined in the wolf-livestock protocol. We informed the WAG and interested parties by email when the pack was discovered and provided a map of the pack's range. The Department provided updates on September 23, 28, and 30, 2016 with information on all wolf depredations on livestock in the area, and we described the preventive measures in updates to the chronology of events, AND
5. **The lethal removal of wolves is not expected to harm the wolf population's** ability to reach recovery objectives statewide or within individual wolf recovery regions.

As mentioned earlier, Director Unsworth has authorized an incremental removal of pack members from the Smackout pack. The last estimate of pack size from the 2016 winter survey was eight wolves. The pack has since produced an unknown number of pups. The Department began the effort and will likely continue for two weeks or less depending on the outcome.

The Department will use humane lethal removal methods consistent with state and federal laws. The objective of the methodology is to use the best method available while considering human safety, humaneness to wolves, swift completion of the removal, weather, efficacy, and cost. Likely options include shooting from a helicopter, trapping, and shooting from the ground.

Per the protocol, the Department's approach is incremental removal, which has periods of active removals or attempts to remove wolves, followed by periods of evaluation to see if the goal of changing pack behavior was met. The first incremental removal will follow the provision of the protocol in section 7.

The Department will keep the public informed about this activity through weekly updates. On July 7, the Department notified the public that one wolf was removed during the first week of the operation. The Department will provide a final report to the public on any lethal removal action after the operation has concluded.

On July 22, Department officials confirmed that one or more wolves from the Smackout Pack were responsible for injuring a calf in a private, fenced pasture in Stevens County. The incident marks the fifth depredation involving the pack since September 21, 2016. The livestock producer that owned the calf has 30 cow-calf pairs within his 40-acre pasture, which is located near his home, and he checks the cattle daily. Following the incident, a Department wildlife conflict specialist worked with the owner to deploy Fox Lights, a type of strobe light designed to haze large predators, as a responsive deterrence measure. The livestock owner will continue to check on the cattle daily.

Monthly Wolf Report

The following monthly wolf report was shared with the public in July 14, 2017.

Confirmed wolf depredation by Sherman wolf pack

Department officials have confirmed that one or more wolves were responsible for the death of a calf whose carcass was discovered on July 12 in a grazing allotment of Ferry County. The report was made by a Department contract range rider who found a recently deceased calf while monitoring livestock in the area.

The Department officials who conducted the investigation that day indicated that a combination of evidence at the scene (including wolf tracks, scat, possible gray canid hair, and signs of a struggle), injuries on the carcass that occurred while the calf was still alive (hemorrhaging on right rear leg associated with bite wounds on leg and tail, and broken humerus bone), wolf collar location data, and another depredation investigation completed within 200 yards of this carcass on June 13, 2017, clearly indicate a wolf depredation. Wolf GPS collar data also showed that a Sherman pack wolf was at the scene during the estimated time that the calf was attacked (July 10-12). Based on all available factors, the event was classified as a confirmed wolf depredation by one or more members of the Sherman Pack. The depredation occurred on Bureau of Land Management grazing lands. It is the second confirmed depredation involving the Sherman pack, the first occurred on June 12, 2017.

The livestock producer grazes both private and public lands in the area. The producer's calves were born outside of occupied wolf range and were trucked into the area for the summer grazing season. The producer turned the cattle out onto private land on May 24.

The producer uses five Department contract range riders to increase the level of human presence around the cattle throughout their grazing allotments and other producers in the area. The range riders started patrolling the area on May 9, before the cattle were turned out to check for carnivore activity and to proactively increase regular human presence. They have continued to patrol the area with cattle on a near-daily basis, and communicate frequently with the producer. Any changes in cattle behavior or carnivore activity has been shared with the Department. The range riders also monitor the activity of GPS collared wolves in the area. There are no known wolf dens or rendezvous sites in the area. The range riders will continue to patrol the area and surrounding areas.

Wolf Pack Updates

Goodman Meadows Pack: Department biologists captured an adult male wolf in January, 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site. Since then, the wolf dispersed to the Bonners Ferry area in Idaho and was legally harvested.

Smackout Pack: Department biologists captured an adult female wolf in January, 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site.

An adult male wolf dispersed from the Smackout pack territory to the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem area in December 2016.

Dirty Shirt Pack: Department biologists captured an adult male wolf in January 2017, and an adult female wolf in February 2017. Both wolves were fitted with radio collars and released on site. The male wolf dispersed to the Salmo pack territory in April 2017. That animal subsequently was removed in British Columbia to protect Caribou, and the female dispersed to an area north of the Smackout pack territory in May 2017.

A mortality of a wolf from the Dirty Shirt pack is currently under investigation.

Carpenter Ridge Pack: Department biologists captured an adult male wolf in May 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site.

Sherman Pack: Department biologists captured an adult female wolf in January 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site. This wolf died from a vehicle collision near Sherman Pass in March 2017.

Strawberry Pack: Colville Confederate Tribal biologists captured an adult male wolf in February 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site.

Tucannon Pack: Department biologists captured a female wolf in July 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site.

Loup Loup Pack: Department biologists captured an adult female wolf in February 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site. The wolf dispersed to the Veron area in British Columbia, Canada in April 2017.

A mortality of a wolf from the Loup Loup pack is currently under investigation.

Teaway Pack: Department biologists captured an adult female wolf in February 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site.

Other Known Wolf Activity Areas

In Skagit County, Department and USFWS biologists captured an adult male wolf in June 2017. The wolf was fitted with a radio collar and released on site. It is unknown at this time if the wolf is part of a pack or a solitary animal.

In July 2017, the Department received a report of an injured wolf in northern Stevens County. Department staff that responded to the scene and discovered a mortally injured wolf, resulting from a vehicle collision. Department staff humanely euthanized the animal on the scene. The male wolf was previously captured and ear tagged by Department staff in 2014 in the Huckleberry pack territory.

Proactive Deterrence Measures

Wolf packs in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties

On February 23, 2017, the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist met with Colville National Forest (CNF) staff to discuss areas of recent high wolf use areas and the deployment of proactive deterrence measures. The local Wildlife Conflict Specialist also presented

information about wolf numbers, high wolf use areas, the newly released Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol, and summer plans for proactive deterrent measures at all three Spring Grazing Meetings for the CNF. Areas of known den sites were also communicated to ranchers that graze livestock in the area.

From January through June of 2017, the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist met a number of times individually and in small groups with local government officials, grazing permit holders on the Colville National Forest, representatives from local area cattle groups, and other local livestock producers to discuss wolf activities, deterrence measures, Department contracted range rider programs, and the availability of Department Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements for Livestock.

In early June, the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist coordinated with local range riders under contract with the Department in the Carpenter Ridge, Dirty Shirt, Profanity Peak, Sherman, Smackout, and Wedge wolf pack areas to initiate proactive human presence. The Department has contracted with four local range riders that deploy a total of eight range riders (one contracted range rider has subcontractors) to cover Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties. The Department has re-opened the Request for Proposals to potentially contract with additional range riders on federal grazing allotments.

Department staff administered 15 Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements for Livestock through June 2017, with 10 starting July 1, 2017. Deterrent measures being deployed at this time are specific to each producer, the type of livestock, and the location of livestock. Most producers using deterrents are utilizing range riders on large grazing locations on both public and private lands. Other deterrents being used throughout public and private grazing areas include:

- Sanitation.
- Installation of predator-proof fencing around a bone yard.
- Use of the Department Compost Facility.
- Contacting the Department when livestock carcasses are discovered so that they can be removed or protected from wolves.
- Removing or treating non-ambulatory (sick or injured) livestock from unsafe pastures in areas where wolves are present (when feasible).
- Using traditional calving or lambing areas that are away from areas occupied by wolves.
- Using protective fencing or fladry around calving or lambing areas when deemed necessary by the Department when there is known wolf activity in the vicinity of a producer's calving or lambing areas.
- Using lambing sheds during and immediately after lambing.
- Turning-out cattle onto forested/upland grazing allotments when calving is finished.
- Turning-out cattle onto forested/upland grazing pastures or allotments once calves are larger.
- Delaying the turnout of livestock onto forested/upland grazing pastures or allotments until wild ungulates are born.
- Using herders with dogs at night to protect sheep.

- Using guarding animals (dogs, llamas, donkeys, etc.) to alert herders and protect livestock.
- Managing or avoiding (when possible) grazing livestock near the core areas (dens, rendezvous sites) of wolf territories to minimize wolf-livestock interactions.
- Using range riders to increase the frequency of human presence to check livestock in areas with wolves or when wolves are in the vicinity of livestock pastures.
- Increasing the frequency of human presence checking livestock in areas with wolves or when wolves are in the vicinity of livestock pastures.
- Installing fox lights temporarily.
- Hazing wolves with non-lethal munitions encountered to frighten them away from livestock,
- Coordinating with the Department to expand hazing once a depredation event occurs.
- Using predator-resistant or electric fencing as a permanent barrier to keep wolves away.
- Using predator-resistant or electric fencing as a temporary barrier to confine sheep or goats and keep wolves away.
- Using fladry or turbo-fladry around livestock temporarily.

Wolf Packs in Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla Counties

Tucannon and Touchet packs: There are 16 Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements throughout the Blue Mountains and seven are within these pack territories. All 16 agreements include range riders.

Five producers have grazing allotments in the Umatilla National Forest in Washington. The local Wildlife Conflict staff contacted producers who may have livestock in areas occupied by wolves starting in June, when the grazing allotments begin. Grazing plans are being developed or modified to require preventative measures for wolf conflict avoidance.

Wolf Packs in Okanogan County

Lookout pack: Conflict Staff met with livestock producers and managers during the spring cooperative resource management (CRM) meeting to discuss wolf activity and proactive deterrence measures. Conflict staff also coordinated with USFS regarding grazing rotations and wolf activity. Outreach efforts will continue as Department staff learns more about this pack's activity and status.

USFS requires sanitation for all producers who graze livestock on the Methow Valley Ranger District. Under the federal guidelines, producers must agree that: "Livestock carcasses found on areas of the allotments where they would attract wolves to a potential conflict situation with other livestock, (such as a salting ground, water source, or holding corral) must be removed, buried or otherwise disposed of such that the carcass will not attract wolves."

The Department has two contract range riders to cover three wolf packs within Okanogan County – Lookout, Loup Loup, and Beaver Creek packs. Those two range riders spend the majority of their time monitoring livestock in Loup Loup and Beaver Creek pack areas, but are available for the Lookout pack area if needed. The focus of range rider efforts is based on known wolf activity and the number of livestock. Currently there are no Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements with livestock producers in the area.

Loup Loup pack: Local Wildlife Conflict staff met with livestock producers during the spring CRM meeting to discuss wolf activity and proactive deterrence measures. Individual meetings were also conducted for interested producers who did not have CRM meetings. Outreach efforts will continue as Department staff learns more about this pack's activity and status.

A Department contracted range rider is assigned to ride the territory and works cooperatively with interested producers to monitor livestock. However, the contracted range rider may monitor livestock in a different wolf pack territory if there is an emerging need. The importance of, and options for, sanitation was discussed with livestock producers and range riders. The contracted range rider and four producers have formal Department data sharing agreements. Currently there are no Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements with livestock producers in the area.

USFS requires sanitation for all producers who graze livestock on the Methow Valley Ranger District. Under USFS guidelines, producers agree to sanitation as stated, "Livestock carcasses found on areas of the allotments where they would attract wolves to a potential conflict situation with other livestock, (such as a salting ground, water source, or holding corral) must be removed, buried or otherwise disposed of such that the carcass will not attract wolves."

This pack occasionally uses Department lands with grazing leases. Conflict staff coordinates closely with wildlife area managers regarding known wolf activity. Department staff met with livestock producers during spring cooperative resource management meetings. Producers have been notified there could be wolf activity on Department lands at any time.

Beaver Creek pack: A Department contracted range rider is assigned to ride the estimated Beaver Creek pack territory and works cooperatively with producers to monitor livestock and contacts the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist regularly. The contracted range rider may monitor livestock in a different wolf pack territory if there is an emerging need. The importance of, and options for, sanitation is discussed with livestock producers and range rider.

Wolf Packs in Kittitas County

Teanaway pack: Cattle were turned out in the east Teanaway area in mid-June. Two (1/2 time each) range riders and the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist are monitoring the breeding male and female to find the general location of the den and try to keep cattle from within a half mile of that location until a new rendezvous site is selected. Deer fawning and elk calving is underway based on observations in the pack territory.

Cattle were turned out in late May in the west Teanaway area. This area is the furthest from the suspected/traditional den area and south, closer to Cle Elum. The producer was contacted and practices sanitation and also has a range rider.

Domestic sheep were turned out in late June in the Teanaway pack area. The local Wildlife Conflict Specialist and producer discussed the deployment of the range riders, guard dogs, herder, and the grazing schedule.

Domestic sheep were also turned out in the Naneum area. Although there are is no known wolf pack in the area, the local Wildlife Conflict Specialist and producer discussed deployment of the guard dogs, herder, and the grazing schedule.

Outreach and Information

Department Wolf Presentations and Outreach

1. January 6, 2017 - Rearden High School presentation about wolf conflict in Washington.
2. February 18, 2017 - Presentation about recreating and living with Large Carnivores in Washington.
3. March 9, 2017 - Colville National Forest personnel meeting presentation about 2016 and 2017 wolf conflict items.
4. March 24, 2017 - Curlew High School presentation about wolf biology and management in Washington.
5. April 10, 2017 - Colville National Forest presentation in Kettle Falls for Forest Service grazing permit holders on wolf conflict including the 2016 wolf annual report, the Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol, 2017 contract range rider offerings, and proactive deterrent measures.
6. April 13, 2017 - Colville National Forest presentation in Newport for Forest Service grazing permit holders on wolf conflict including the 2016 wolf annual report, the Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol, 2017 contract range rider offerings, and proactive deterrent measures.
7. April 14, 2017 - Colville National Forest presentation in Republic for Forest Service grazing permit holders on wolf conflict including the 2016 wolf annual report, the Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol, 2017 contract range rider offerings, and proactive deterrent measures.
8. On May 4, 2017 - Presentation to an elementary school in Tacomam Washington on wolf conservation and management.
9. May 6, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
10. May 10, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
11. May 11, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
12. May 12, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
13. May 17, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
14. May 18, 2017 - Spokane Public Library presentation about wolves Pre K-6th grade.
15. May 19, 2017 - Low-Stress Livestock Handling Training presentation about Department wolf conflict program offerings.
16. June 6, 2017 - Selkirk High School presentation about wolf conflict in Washington.

Weekly Staff Activity Reports

The Department's Wildlife Program weekly activity reports, which include wolf related work activities, can be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/.

Enforcement Program

Big Game Poaching

Officer Erickson in Region 1 assisted detectives from the Washington State Patrol, Pend Oreille County Deputies, and Spokane SWAT with serving a search warrant in Pend Oreille County. Officers were searching for two wanted persons, one who made threats to shoot police if they came for him. Officers also were searching for multiple



stolen vehicles, other stolen items and evidence of possible poaching. Both men were arrested and officers found evidence of stolen vehicles, and the remains of several poached deer were recovered. Officer Erickson interviewed one suspect in the jail later that day who admitted to harvesting two deer closed season. Charges will be filed through the local Prosecutors Office.

Deer meat recovered from a doe that was illegally harvested last February.

Crab Closure

Detachment 13 Officers and Sgt. Mullins in Region 4 worked the recreational crab closure in Marine Area 8-1 (Skagit Bay, Saratoga Passage, Oak Harbor) on July 4th.



Compliance was less than spectacular, with over 120 pots being removed from the water and transported to a storage facility in Ferndale. Some of the gear was able to be returned that day with four closed season citations being issued. Staff will work to return marked gear as time permits. Another large-scale gear sweep is scheduled again for this coming Tuesday.

Crab pots recovered from MA8-1 during a closed season

Dive Team Operations

Region 4 officers participated in several dive operations that occurred around the San Juan Islands. Reports were received of a tribal boat harvesting geoduck in a closed area. The Department of Natural Resources shellfish program also reported that the tribes have been asking for a new geoduck tract to open in the close vicinity of the reported violations.

Officers dove the sites looking for evidence of any recent harvests. Nothing was found, but officers were able to record a baseline of the area if any illegal harvest does occur in the future. During the operations, the officers were able to document an illegal mooring buoy.



Officer Kimball and Koontz clearing seaweed from an illegal mooring buoy in order to document the materials used

3,000-pound Cougar

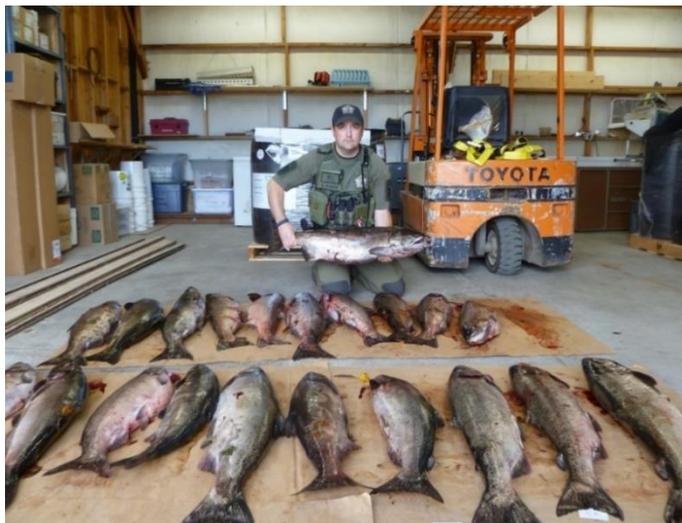
Region 2 officers responded to several calls for service regarding a cougar in East Wenatchee. In one 24-hour period, Sergeant Klump handled 24 phone calls and conducted three interviews with the media. All of the reports were sightings, and there were no indications of a threat. A photograph circulating on social media created a moderate level of panic and paranoia as people became worried they might be stalked by the 3,000-pound animal. Some of the comments posted to social media expressed a desire to leave the car alone, while others wanted the Department to launch a Blackhawk helicopter and conduct neighborhood grid searches

Illegal Guiding

A Department officer observed three men fishing from a raft near the Sol Duc hatchery. As the officer checked licenses and gear, he asked the men how they all knew each other. The man at the oars said “friends,” while the other two pointed at the guy at the oars and said “guide.” The clients were asked how much the trip cost, and they responded they had paid \$100 so far as a deposit. The “friend” jumped in at this point and claimed that it was just for gas. The clients and “friend” were then separated. The clients who were visiting from Texas told the sergeant that their wives had found the guide via his website and had surprised them with a fishing trip. The men possessed two adult hatchery Chinook and one juvenile Chinook. The fish had fresh wounds on their sides consistent with snagged fish. Sergeant Rosenberger asked the men where they had hooked the fish, in the body or the head, and both stated the body. The two men were very surprised when notified that it was unlawful to retain snagged fish, and that they were fishing with an unlicensed guide. The guide was interviewed further and admitted to having a fishing guide’s license the year prior, but had not purchased one for this year. Charges against the guide are forthcoming for guiding without a license, failure to record salmon, and complicity in possessing snagged fish.

Chinook Salmon Poaching

On the 4th of July, Officer McQuoid from Region 4 observed a pickup and three men milling about suspiciously near May Creek, by the Wallace River Hatchery. Upon contact, two of the subjects took off running and the third was detained. The men had removed 19 Chinook salmon from the holding ponds. One of the two who had run, a well-known offender in Skagit County, was picked up by Skagit County deputies walking down Highway 2 in his waders. The third subject was identified and interviewed the



following day, but he refused to provide any information. The following day, 15 more fish were found hidden in the brush near the ponds. A cell phone was seized and a warrant will be obtained for phone records and the vehicle. Officers have been in touch with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who will be partnering with the investigation.

Chinook salmon recovered from a group that illegal retained

Public Safety

While patrolling local Department access sites, officers inspected six individuals fishing. The Officers quickly found out that not a single person had a fishing license. To make matters worse, there wasn't a single valid driver license between the bunch, although they had two cars parked at the access site. All six individuals had outstanding warrants for their arrest, to include one felony Department of Corrections warrant for escaping community custody. While investigating, another individual drove up to pick up some of the violators (after finding none of the local jails would accept aside from the felony). Officers attempted to obtain the man's name to check for a valid driver's license, but the man continued to lie about his identity. When the officer finally obtained his name, he found the subject's driving privileges had been revoked as a habitual offender. The driver was taken into custody and the car impounded. The man with the felony warrant was booked into jail.

Regions 6 officers assisted the Steilacoom Police Department with their street fair on the 4th of July. The town of 6,000 residents swelled to nearly 20,000 people. Officers walked a beat and covered a few wildlife calls while maintaining order. As the fireworks crowd was dispersing, Department officers were tasked with directing traffic at a busy intersection. Steilacoom officers were similarly engaged. At about 11 p.m., a homicide occurred four blocks from the officers. As the Steilacoom officers responded, this left Department officers to deal with thousands of people trying to leave the venue.