

Revised Preferred Alternative (as of May 25, 2011) for the Final EIS/Recommended
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan - Summary of WDFW Revisions

Element	<u>Draft EIS/Plan</u> Preferred Alternative 2 Oct. 9, 2009	<u>Revised</u> Preferred Alternative as of May 25, 2011	Notes on changes to the Preferred Alternative following public, peer, and WDFW review
Number of recovery regions	Three recovery regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eastern Washington ▪ Northern Cascades ▪ Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	<p>Bolstered discussion and information supporting the science behind 3 recovery regions.</p> <p>Bolstered the discussion that wolves do not have to occur throughout the state to achieve recovery. Discussion was added on the meaning of "significant portion of the range."</p> <p>Provided more explanation of state vs. federal management authority with respect to geography in the state.</p>
Downlist to Threatened (6 successful breeding pairs)	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	<p>Conducted population analysis to determine if 15 breeding pairs were adequate. Concluded that they were. Maintained 15 breeding pairs as the recovery objective.</p> <p>Designated statewide unassigned breeding pairs to specific recovery regions.</p>
Downlist to Sensitive (12 successful breeding pairs)	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 5 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 3 anywhere in state	5 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 4 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast	<p>Bolstered discussions and information supporting the science behind recovery objectives, including the assumptions that are the basis for concluding that the numbers and distribution would constitute a recovered, self-sustaining population (e.g. connectivity, mortality, recruitment, prey, etc.)</p> <p>Bolstered the discussion that the recovery objectives are adaptive as new information is gained specific to Washington; and that if the assumptions on which the numbers are based are not being met in the future, then the plan's recovery objectives should be revisited during recovery plan updates (every 5 years per WAC).</p> <p>Added information from Great Lakes that addressed recovery objectives/population viability. Added relevant updated information from the Northern Rocky Mountains DPS and data from Washington wolves.</p>
Delist (15 successful breeding pairs)	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in North Cascades 5 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 6 anywhere in state	6 in Eastern Washington 4 in North Cascades 5 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast	<p>Bolstered the discussion that the recovery objectives are adaptive as new information is gained specific to Washington; and that if the assumptions on which the numbers are based are not being met in the future, then the plan's recovery objectives should be revisited during recovery plan updates (every 5 years per WAC).</p> <p>Added information from Great Lakes that addressed recovery objectives/population viability. Added relevant updated information from the Northern Rocky Mountains DPS and data from Washington wolves.</p>

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Translocation of wolves from one area of Washington to another to establish a new population	Available as a tool.	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	Included a statement that while translocation is available as a tool, natural recolonization is preferred. In discussion of translocation, added information about genetic considerations when determining sources of translocated wolves.
Manage for landscape connectivity	Expand existing efforts to maintain and restore habitat connectivity for wolves.	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	Added updated information from the Washington habitat connectivity project and other new information on connectivity among wolf populations.
Use of non-lethal injurious harassment	Allowed with a permit and training from WDFW during all listed statuses ; will be reconsidered during Endangered status if used inappropriately or a mortality occurs under this provision.	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	
Lethal control by state/federal agents of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations	Allowed during all listed statuses and after delisting, consistent with federal law.	Allowed during all listed statuses and after delisting, consistent with federal law. WDFW may consider issuing a permit to a livestock owner to conduct lethal control on private land they own or lease if WDFW does not have the resources to address control.	Added wording to plan re: future option that WDFW may consider issuing permits to livestock owners to conduct lethal control at endangered or threatened status if WDFW resources can't address control of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredation. This option would only be allowed on private lands owned or leased by the livestock owner.

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Lethal control by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations	Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public grazing allotments they own or lease when wolves reach Sensitive status .	Maintained as in October 2009 Preferred Alternative 2	Added wording to ensure consistency with RCW 77.36.030 and associated WACs.
Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) livestock	Allowed by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) on private land they own or lease when wolves reach Threatened status . Would be reconsidered if used inappropriately or more than 2 wolf mortalities occur under this provision in a year.	Allowed by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) on private land they own or lease at all listed statuses . Would be reconsidered if used inappropriately or more than 2 wolf mortalities occur under this provision in a year.	Changed to allow livestock owners to kill wolves “caught in the act” of attacking livestock during all state listed statuses, including Endangered. Added examples of situations that do not meet the definition of “caught in the act” of attacking (Chapter 4). These included e.g. a wolf present in a field with livestock, looking at livestock, standing over dead livestock, or present on private property. Added updated references to RCW 77.36 and WAC 232.36, and additions/ changes that would be needed in the WAC.
Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) domestic dogs	Allowed by private citizens on private lands when wolves reach Sensitive status , and on private and public land when wolves are delisted . Would be reconsidered if used inappropriately or more than 2 mortalities occur under this provision in a year.	Allowed by private citizens on private lands at all listed statuses . Allowed on public land when wolves are delisted . Would be reconsidered if used inappropriately or more than 2 mortalities occur under this provision in a year.	Changed this element to allow private citizens to kill wolves “caught in the act” of attacking domestic dogs on private lands during all listed statuses, including endangered and threatened. Added examples of situations that do not meet the definition of “caught in the act” of attacking (Chapter 4, Chapter 7). These included e.g. a wolf present in the vicinity of a dog, looking at a dog, or present on private property. Added updated references to RCW 77.36 and WAC 232.36, and additions/ changes that would be needed in the WAC.

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Payment for confirmed livestock depredation	<p>Twice the full value for each confirmed depredation on grazing sites of 100 or more acres.</p> <p>Full value for each confirmed depredation on sites of less than 100 acres.</p> <p>Losses covered on both private and public lands.</p>	<p>Twice the full value for each confirmed depredation on grazing sites of 100 or more acres, and where the agency determines that it would be difficult to survey the entire acreage. It would not include double payment if all other animals are accounted for.</p> <p>Full value for each confirmed depredation on sites of less than 100 acres.</p> <p>Losses covered on both private and public lands.</p>	<p>Updated the section on compensation re: RCW 77.36.010 and WAC 232.36 to identify where there are inconsistencies with the RCW and where the WAC would need to be adjusted, including options that might be included to seek other sources of funding to pay compensation for species not included in the RCW definition of livestock, and at the rates recommended in the draft plan.</p> <p>Clarified that compensation payments are “contingent on availability and, where applicable, the restrictions of private funding sources.”</p> <p>Added statement that the compensation package presented in the plan is a recommendation.</p> <p>Added 2 caveats to the language stating that twice the full value will be paid on grazing sites “of 100 or more acres”: 1) that the agency also determines that it would be difficult to survey the entire acreage; and 2) double payment would not be made if all other animals are accounted for.</p> <p>Added a description of the USDA Farm Service Agency compensation program.</p>

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Payment for probable livestock depredation	<p>Full value for each probable depredation on grazing sites of 100 or more acres.</p> <p>Half the value for each probable depredation on sites of less than 100 acres.</p> <p>Losses covered on private and public lands.</p>	<p>Full value for each probable depredation on grazing sites of 100 or more acres, and where the agency determines that it would be difficult to survey the entire acreage. It would not include double payment if all other animals are accounted for.</p> <p>Half the value for each probable depredation on sites of less than 100 acres.</p> <p>Losses covered on private and public lands.</p>	Same as above.
Proactive measures to reduce depredation	<p>WDFW would hire wolf specialists, whose duties would include working with livestock operators to provide technical assistance to livestock operators to implement proactive measures to reduce conflicts.</p> <p>Assistance with some costs may be paid by Defenders of Wildlife on a limited basis.</p>	<p>WDFW will provide technical assistance to livestock operators to implement proactive measures to reduce conflicts.</p> <p>Assistance with some costs may be paid by non-profit organizations or other entities on a limited basis.</p>	Changed "would hire wolf specialists" to "WDFW will provide technical assistance".

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Ungulate management	Manage for healthy ungulate populations through habitat improvement, harvest management, and reduction of illegal hunting. Manage harvest to benefit wolves only in localized areas if research has determined wolves are not meeting recovery objectives and prey availability is a limiting factor.	Manage for healthy ungulate populations through habitat improvement, harvest management, and reduction of illegal hunting, consistent with game management plans.	<p>Added “consistent with game management plans.”</p> <p>Removed “managing harvest to benefit wolves in localized areas if research determines wolves not meeting recovery objectives“.</p> <p>Added new relevant scientific literature on this subject.</p> <p>Added a statement that harvest objectives may need to be adjusted if overall predation levels increase. Added language that harvest levels need to be compatible with long-term sustainable populations of predators and prey.</p> <p>Added a statement in Chapter 12, Task 5.4, that the ecological roles of predators and prey should be integrated into game management plans for ungulate and carnivore species.</p>

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Wolf-ungulate conflict management	After wolves are delisted , if research determines that wolf predation is a limiting factor for at-risk ungulate populations, could consider moving of wolves, lethal control, or other control techniques in localized areas.	<p>If the Department determines that wolf predation is a limiting factor for at-risk ungulate populations and the wolf population in that recovery region is healthy, it could consider moving of wolves, lethal control, or other control techniques in localized areas.</p> <p>The status of wolves statewide as well as within a specific wolf recovery region where ungulate impacts are occurring would be considered in decision-making.</p>	<p>Changed “after wolves are delisted, if research determines” to “if the Department determines”.</p> <p>Added “and the wolf population in that recovery region is healthy”</p> <p>Added definition of a “healthy” wolf population as one that exceeds recovery objectives and that management actions would not push the population below those objectives and put it at risk.</p> <p>Added a statement that the status of wolves statewide as well as within a specific wolf recovery region where ungulate impacts are occurring would be considered in decision-making.</p> <p>Added new information on wolf-ungulate interactions to Chapter 5.</p> <p>Added reference to RCW 77-12-240 to “take” wildlife per authority of the Director.</p> <p>Adjusted recovery objectives in E. WA relative to consideration of separate management prior to delisting.</p> <p>Conducted population analysis to model impacts of management for ungulates at state and regional level under different scenarios and assumptions.</p>
Outreach and education	Use WDFW wolf specialists to conduct outreach and education programs.	Use WDFW staff to conduct outreach and education programs.	Changed “WDFW wolf specialists” to “WDFW staff”.
Chapter 12	Added tasks to Chapter 12, Strategy 2 to prevent illegal killing of wolves, including: working to increase penalties for illegally killing wolves at all listed statuses; investigating and prosecuting illegal killing of wolves, and establishing rewards.		
Chapter 13	Revised format of the budget – presented highest priority tasks, currently funded tasks, staff requirements to implement conservation and management tasks, and costs. Deleted the previous implementation table.		
General	Noted that WDFW’s Scientific Review Protocol will be used to address monitoring and data collection protocols.		

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General	Clarified differences between federal and state listings. Added statements throughout the revised plan to explain what the current federal law is for particular management options and which ones would require consistency with federal law if wolves were still federally listed.		