

# HUCKLEBERRY/STRANGER PACKS

*Latest Revision Date: July 1, 2016.*

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## 1. Pack Information

2015 *minimum* number of wolves in the Huckleberry Pack: Five animals.

2015 *minimum* number of wolves in the Stranger Pack: Two animals.

Number of collared individuals and type of collar: There are a total of three collared animals within this area.

- An adult male fitted with a GPS collar. This animal was counted as part of the Huckleberry Pack, but has dispersed from the territory June 2016.
- An adult female fitted with a GPS collar. This animal is included in the Stranger Pack.
- An adult male fitted with a GPS collar (only VHF functioning at this time). This animal was counted as part of the Stranger Pack.

Summer trapping plans: None at this time.

General denning area known (yes/no): Huckleberry Pack – yes. Stranger – no indications of denning in 2016.

## 2. Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Pack's conflict history: Prior to the 2014 grazing season, there were no known wolf-livestock interactions within the Huckleberry territory. During the 2014 grazing season, one sheep producer experienced 26 confirmed wolf depredations and documented more than 300 additional sheep as unknown losses. Substantial efforts to reduce depredations to this producer's herd were employed by WDFW, USDA, and the producer. To address continuing depredations, we lethally removed one wolf from the Huckleberry Pack. Shortly after this removal, the producer moved the sheep to a different grazing location outside of the Huckleberry territory.

During the summer of 2015, one actively working guardian dog was attacked and injured by what we confirmed to be a wolf. The dog was deployed with a band of approximately 300 sheep. Additional deterrent measures were deployed.

In 2016, we confirmed a wolf depredation on a nine month old heifer. WDFW facilitated ramp-up of deterrent measures in cooperation with the producer.

Knowledge of allotments/producers/grazing practices in area: A variety of livestock production and grazing occurs within the Huckleberry/Stranger Pack territories. This includes landowners with a single animal, to producers with hundreds of livestock on open ranges. There are potentially dozens of commercial livestock operations within this wolf territory. Some livestock are on permanent, year-round grazing locations, while some use private commercial timber lands or private estate leases.

Outreach with producers (leading up to turn out; plans for check-ins throughout summer): WDFW personnel have been working with livestock producers in the Huckleberry/Stranger Pack territories since 2010. We coordinated with large producers who own and/or graze on allotments within this area. Conflict Specialists have discussed different strategies with these producers to reduce interactions with wolves. The local Wildlife Conflict Specialist will also provide one producer with monthly updates on camera activity, sightings, and reported depredations. This producer will email this information to the other producers in the area. Conflict staff will continue to encourage more producers to participate in upcoming revisions of the Deterrence Plan, the Working Group, Data Sharing Agreements, and Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements.

Number of Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements with livestock producers: Four

Number of data sharing agreements with producers/counties: Currently, wolf location data are shared with six livestock producers, Stevens County Commissioners, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Plans for verbal communication of wolf locations to area producers: As stated above a monthly email update will be sent to a central producer, who will send it to others within the area. The email will include information about wolf sightings, general collar location, camera work, and reported depredations. Conflict staff will monitor collar data and producers will be notified of any continued activity.

Approaches for sanitation: The Sherman Creek Compost facility is up and running, along with area DOT dumpsites. Some producers are burying livestock carcasses, a strategy encouraged since 2011.

Outreach to producers on WDFW lands: N/A

Other items of interest/awareness:

- This Deterrence Plan for the Huckleberry and Stranger wolf packs were combined due to collar overlap into each respective territory.
- The Huckleberry Pack is co-managed with the Spokane Tribe of Indians.
- WDFW is discussing Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements and sharing the Lethal Removal Protocol with producers.