

## Wolf-livestock conflict in Huckleberry pack, 2015

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### Background

The Huckleberry pack is located in northeastern Washington, just southwest of Chewelah. The estimated minimum size of the pack was six members during on the December 2014 annual survey. In August 2014, WDFW took lethal action to remove one adult female from the pack in response to repeated depredations on domestic sheep. For more details on the Huckleberry pack, see the [2015 Wolf Conflict-Deterrence Updates](#).

The Department communicates with several livestock producers in the area to discuss preventive measures and other wolf related items. Below are the main producers relative to the 2015 chronology of events on page 3.

- **Producer #1** - This livestock producer owns about 1,950 sheep, of which about 200-350 graze in rotating private pastures/pens near their home site. The producer operates under a damage prevention cooperative agreement with WDFW that is designed to share the cost of implementing preventive measures, such as increased human presence, herders, RAG box, fox lights, guard dogs, and removing dead livestock when found and feasible.
- **Producer #2** - The second producer grazes 25+ non-commercial beef and dairy cattle on 400 acres of privately owned ground. Producer uses human presence, fox lights, and a data sharing agreement as proactive measures.
- **Producer #3** - The third producer grazes 100+ cattle on privately owned property and private lease property in Stevens County. The producer uses a night range rider, data sharing agreement, human presence, and telemetry equipment as proactive measures.
- **Producer #4** - The fourth producer operates a dairy on about 100 acres, with approximately 100+ cattle. The producer uses human presence, fencing, and will be receiving login credentials for a data sharing agreement.
- **Producer # 5** - The fifth producer contacted by WDFW, grazes three head of cattle and brings them inside every night.

## **Addressing wolf-livestock conflict**

WDFW's [Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#) describes the strategies and management actions for minimizing wolf depredations on livestock. The Department emphasizes the use of non-lethal, preventive measures as the first line of defense for minimizing conflict. Lethal removal of wolves may be used to stop repeated depredation if it is documented that livestock have been clearly killed by wolves, non-lethal methods have been tried but failed to resolve the conflict, depredations are likely to continue, and there is no evidence of intentional feeding or unnatural attraction of wolves by the livestock owner. The Department, with review by a citizen-stakeholder Wolf Advisory Group, has further defined the conditions for the use of lethal action through the development of a checklist that identifies the non-lethal methods required and a [Protocol for Lethal Control](#) (and [flow-chart](#)) describing the process for considering such an action. A chronology of events and responses by WDFW are shown below.

## Huckleberry Chronology

Date	Preventive Measures	Depredation Event and Observations	Management action	Comments
May 22, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW and producer discuss next steps for the 2015 grazing season and upcoming release of June 1 wolf collar data sharing login to producer</li> </ul>	None	None	
May 29, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW and producer meet to discuss the training of a herder and concerns for lamb depredation</li> </ul>	None	None	
June 13, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW investigates depredation</li> <li>Deploys 4 fox lights</li> </ul>	<b>Depredation - Non-Wolf:</b> Two ewes, dead One ewe, injured	None	Cougar determination for the three ewes, which were grazed with the 350 head at the home place
June 14, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range rider worked area at night to deter predator activity</li> <li>Two ewe carcasses removed to Sherman Creek Wildlife Area</li> </ul>	<b>Depredation -Unknown Cause of Death:</b> one ewe, dead	None	Discovered by the houndsmen, investigated by WDFW
June 15, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW contacts producer to discuss additional non-lethal deterrents to deploy</li> <li>Discussed historic wolf locations in proximity to sheep</li> </ul>	None	None	
June 15, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW contacts second producer to discuss available non-lethal tools</li> </ul>	None	None	Data sharing agreement discussed
June 16, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three additional fox lights installed</li> <li>One radio activated guard (RAG) box on three strand hot wire fence</li> <li>Discussed the use of WDFW contracted range riders and current wolf locations in proximity to sheep</li> </ul>	None	None	
June 17, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW discusses wolf locations in proximity to sheep</li> <li>WDFW and producer discuss implementation of WDFW contracted range rider</li> </ul>	None	None	

June 18, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW provides contact information of WDFW contracted range rider to producer</li> </ul>	None	None	Producer notified that range rider would start on June 19, 2015
June 19, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range rider starts working area</li> <li>WDFW share wolf location information and provides maps with timelines</li> </ul>	None	None	
July 1, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range rider working area</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> <li>WDFW and producer scout possible grazing location for large sheep herd for predator usage</li> </ul>	None	None	Bear, cougar, and coyote signs observed.
July 6, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range rider working area</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> </ul>	None	None	Large herd of sheep moved out of area, feeding hay until crop circle is ready
July 6, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producer contacts WDFW to ask about wolf locations in the area</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW provides all the latest Huckleberry pack data, as well as additional wolf updates
July 9, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar locations, discusses non-lethal tools, and drops off two fox lights</li> </ul>	None	None	
July 10, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> </ul>	None	None	Producer's sheep herder no longer present after movement of large herd to an out-of-area location
July 10, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	
July 13, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> </ul>	None	None	Producer inquires about 2014 Damage Claim, DPCA-L, and provides an update on sheep status, and future livestock plans
July 13, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW contacted producer to ensure login info was working correctly
July 28, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG box receiver exchanged and cameras checked</li> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW discusses wolf locations</li> </ul>	None	None	
July 29 –31, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW and producer discussed wolf collar web page issues
August 2, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> </ul>	None	None	Producer contacts WDFW about resending login credentials for data sharing

August 6, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW and producer discuss wolf collar web page issues
August 7-10, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shares collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	
August 10, 2015 <b>Producer #4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW meets with producer regarding wolf concerns</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW discusses annual wolf report and non-lethal actions. Producer signs a data sharing agreement with WDFW.
August 11, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW shares wolf location information</li> </ul>	<b>DEPREDATION - CONFIRMED WOLF:</b> one guard dog, injured	None	WDFW met producer at local vet clinic to examine injured guard dog.
August 12, 2015 <b>Producer #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW shared collar data</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW discusses getting equipment for a RAG box, as well as a recent howl heard the night before
August 13, 2015 <b>Producer #5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producer educated on non-lethal deterrents</li> <li>Grazes three cattle and brings them in every night</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW inquires about the operation. Producer is not interested in further action at this time.
August 17, 2015 <b>Producer #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human presence in area of smaller sheep herd</li> <li>WDFW shared wolf location information</li> </ul>	None	None	WDFW and producer discuss compensation for guard dog injury. Producer may move smaller herd to different grazing location due to wolf activity.