

Wolf-livestock conflict in Teanaway pack, 2015

Updated: September 8, 2015

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Background

The Teanaway pack is located in central Washington, just north of Cle Elum. It includes at least five members, but it is not known whether the pack produced pups in 2015. The Department documented a confirmed wolf attack on a guarding dog in 2011, but the pack had no known history of confirmed wolf depredations on livestock until July 16, 2015. For more details on the pack, see the [2015 Wolf Conflict-Deterrence Updates](#).

Producer #1

This livestock producer, who experienced wolf depredations in July 2015, grazes 360 cattle (180 cow-calf pairs) under a permit from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The producer also operates under a damage prevention agreement with WDFW that is designed to implement preventive measures, such as calving on fenced property, using range riders to increase human presence near cattle, and removing dead livestock to avoid attracting wolves.

Producer #2

The second producer grazes about 1,500 domestic sheep under a permit from the U.S. Forest Service and grazes another 450 sheep under a lease with a private property owner. The producer operates under a damage prevention agreement with WDFW that is designed to implement preventive measures, such as lambing location, using range riders to increase human presence near sheep, and removing dead livestock to avoid attracting wolves.

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.

Teaway Chronology

Date	Preventive Measures	Depredation Event and Observations	Management action	Comments
June 2, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW and producer discussed turnout dates and the damage prevention agreement. 	None	None	
Prior to June 9, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer completed calving on fenced private range away from areas occupied by wolves and near the main ranch with high human and vehicle activity. 	None	None	
June 9-16, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer turned out 180 cow/calf pairs onto summer DNR allotment (North Fork, Middle Fork, and West Fork Teaway River areas). Cattle distributed in multiple drainages. Calves weighed more than 200 pounds at turnout. Range rider worked area daily and had locations of collared wolves in the pack and telemetry equipment. No cattle were observed sick or injured. Fladry fencing in place. 	None	None	WDFW Conflict Staff discussed wolf locations with producer.
June 15, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW and the second producer discussed moving his sheep. 	None	None	
June 22-23, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area daily and had locations of collared wolves in the pack and telemetry equipment. Fladry fencing in place. 	Yearling female wolf located on Cle Elum ridge by telemetry	None	
July 1, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider began daily operations in preparation for sheep move. 	None	None	
July 9, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area daily. 	Confirmed cougar depredation: two dead sheep	Cougar Euthanized	
July 13, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer moved sheep to new grazing allotment. 	None	None	
July 16, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area daily and had 	Confirmed wolf	None	Notified by WSU graduate student of one dead adult

Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> locations of collared wolves in the pack and telemetry equipment. Fladry fencing in place. 	depredation #1: one dead adult cow		cow. Notified USFWS and completed depredation investigation. WDFW staff confirmed the cow was killed by a wolf.
July 20, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW notified producer of wolf activity and depredation of cow. 	None	None	
July 17-29, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area using telemetry daily. Fladry fencing in place. 	None	None	
July 28, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW notified producer of wolf locations. Range rider working area to increase human presence. Sheep locations discussed. 	None	None	
July 30, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider working area to increase human presence. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	None	None	Producer reported to WDFW that more dogs were being sent to Teanaway to assist herder.
August 4, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area using telemetry daily. Fladry fencing in place. 	None	None	
August 6, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW discussed wolf locations. 11 dogs involved in herding operation. Range rider working area. 	None	None	
August 10, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area using telemetry daily. Fladry fencing in place. 	None	One dead cow carcass removed. No scavenging detected. No carnivores involved.	
August 11, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area Guard dogs assisting herder 	None	None	GPS collared wolves detected in immediate vicinity of sheep herd
August 12, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	None	None	
August 13, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	None	None	Herder injured with sprained ankle. New sheepherder will fill in.
August 14, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. 	None	None	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guard dogs assisting herder. 			
August 14, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	None	None	Second sheep band moved to Teanaway Pack area, near Cle Elum Ridge. No GPS or VHF locations detected near this area.
August 14-15, 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area using telemetry daily. Sanitation action underway on dead cows 	None	Second and third dead cow carcasses removed. Light bird scavenging detected, some coyote scavenging. No other carnivores involved.	
August 19, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	Confirmed cougar Depredation: One yearling sheep	None	Cougar abandoned kill site; scavenged by wolves. GPS and VHF locate wolves in the area. Sheep have moved away from location and to the south.
August 20-24, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	None	None	GPS and VHF wolf locations near sheep band for consecutive days and nights. No sheep problems detected, no negative dog interactions detected.
August 25, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	One dead sheep reported	None	WSU grad student reported one dead sheep to WDFW. Search did not locate sheep.
August 26, 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. Range rider working area. Guard dogs assisting herder. 	Unknown cause of death: Two dead sheep (including dead sheep from August 25 th)	None	Second day of searching located two dead sheep in steep and remote area. Sheep carcasses heavily scavenged by bear, cougar, wolves, and birds. Carcasses were not located together and cause of death could not be determined. Producer moved main sheep band out of the Teanaway

				Pack area. Small band remains near Cle Elum Ridge.
Sept. 1-3 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW shared wolf locations. WDFW located sheep carcasses in remote location. 	Depredation by unknown predator: 5 sheep killed	None	Investigation could not determine with certainty what killed the 3 ewes and 2 lambs at this location.
Sept. 5-6 2015 Producer #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range rider worked area using telemetry daily. Researcher finds dead cow, investigation conducted by WDFW 	Confirmed Wolf Depredation #2: One adult cow killed	None	Notified by WSU graduate student of one dead adult cow. Notified USFWS and completed depredation investigation. WDFW staff confirmed the cow was killed by a wolf.
Sept. 8 2015 Producer #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to existing range rider, one additional range rider will assist in Teanaway cattle zone. 	None	None	