

Key elements of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

The table below compares major provisions of the plan adopted Dec. 3, 2011 by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission with those recommended by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department (WDFW). Changes adopted by the commission will be incorporated into the draft plan posted on this website by mid-January, 2012.

Plan Element	WDFW Recommended July 26, 2011	Commission Adopted Dec. 3, 2011
Number of recovery regions	Three recovery regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eastern Washington ▪ Northern Cascades ▪ Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 	Same
Downlist to Threatened: 6 successful breeding pairs for 3 years	2 in Eastern Washington 2 in Northern Cascades 2 in Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast	Same
Downlist to Sensitive: 12 successful breeding pairs for 3 years	4 in Eastern Washington 3 in Northern Cascades 5 in Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast	4 in Eastern Washington 4 in Northern Cascades 4 in Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast
Breeding pairs required to delist	5 in Eastern Washington 4 in North Cascades 6 in Southern Cascades/Northwest Coast For 3 consecutive years or: If 18 breeding pairs with required distribution are confirmed in any one year, delisting process could be initiated but actual delisting would not occur until geographic recovery objectives are met for 3 years.	4 in Eastern Washington 4 in North Cascades 4 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 3 anywhere in state For 3 consecutive years or: If 18 breeding pairs with required distribution are confirmed in any one year, the Department could consider delisting. The required distribution is: 4 in Eastern Washington 4 in North Cascades 4 in Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast 6 anywhere in state
Initiating Status Review and Down-Listing or De-Listing Process	WDFW can initiate after recovery objectives are met for 3 consecutive years.	WDFW can initiate a status review prior to achieving the 3-year requirement for the Recovery Objectives. The Commission would not consider final action until after achieving the Recovery Objective.

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Translocation of wolves from one area of Washington to another to establish a new population	Available as a tool	Same
Manage for landscape connectivity	Expand existing efforts to maintain and restore habitat connectivity for wolves.	Same
Use of non-lethal injurious harassment	Allowed by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) 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.	Same
Lethal control by state/federal agents of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations	<p>Allowed during all listed statuses and after delisting, consistent with federal law.</p> <p>During all listed statuses, WDFW may consider issuing a permit to a livestock owner (including family members and authorized employees) to conduct lethal control on private land they own or lease if WDFW does not have the resources to address control.</p>	<p>Allowed during all listed statuses and after delisting, consistent with federal law.</p> <p>During all listed statuses, WDFW may consider issuing a permit to a livestock owner (including family members and authorized employees) to conduct lethal control if WDFW does not have the resources to address control.</p>
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.	Same
Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing) livestock	<p>Allowed by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) on private land they own or lease at all listed statuses, with an issued permit, after documented depredation (injury or killing) in the area.</p> <p>Would trigger a review by WDFW if used inappropriately or if 2 wolf mortalities occur under this provision in a year. WDFW would evaluate the circumstances of the mortalities and determine if it would continue issuing permits.</p>	<p>Allowed by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) on private land they own or lease and public grazing allotments at all listed statuses, with an issued permit, after documented depredation (injury or killing) in the area.</p> <p>Would trigger a review by WDFW if used inappropriately or if 2 wolf mortalities occur under this provision in a year. WDFW would evaluate the circumstances of the mortalities and determine if it would continue issuing permits.</p>

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Payment for confirmed livestock depredation	<p>Full current market value for two animals 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>On sites of less than 100 acres, full current market value for each confirmed depredation.</p> <p>Losses covered on both private and public lands.</p>	Same
Payment for probable livestock depredation	<p>Half the current market value for two animals 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>On sites of less than 100 acres, half the current market value for each probable depredation.</p> <p>Losses covered on private and public lands.</p>	Same
Proactive measures to reduce depredation	<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>	Same
Ungulate management	<p>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.</p>	Same

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Wolf-ungulate conflict management	<p>During any listed status, if the Department determines that wolf predation is a primary limiting factor for at-risk ungulate populations and the wolf population in that recovery region exceeds the delisting objectives for that recovery region, 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. Decisions will be based on scientific principles and evaluated by WDFW.</p>	<p>During any listed status, if the Department determines that wolf predation is a primary limiting factor for at-risk ungulate populations and the wolf population in that recovery region is at least 4 successful breeding pairs, 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. Decisions will be based on scientific principles and evaluated by WDFW.</p>
Definition of “at-risk ungulate population”	<p>For the purposes of this plan, an at-risk ungulate population is any federal- or state-listed ungulate population (e.g., Selkirk Mountain woodland caribou, Columbian white-tailed deer), or any ungulate population for which it is determined to have declined 25% or more below management objectives for three or more years and population trend analysis predicts a continued decline.</p> <p>For ungulate populations without numeric estimates and/or management objectives are not currently available, it will not be possible to use a specific threshold to assess a need for management action. Instead WDFW will use other sources of information related to the population, such as harvest trends, hunter effort trends, sex and age ratios, and others.</p>	<p>For the purposes of this plan, an at-risk ungulate population is any federal or state listed ungulate population (e.g., Selkirk Mountain woodland caribou, Columbian white-tailed deer). An at-risk population would also include any ungulate population which falls 25% below its population objective for two consecutive years and/or if the harvest decreases by 25% below the 10-year average harvest rate for two consecutive years.</p> <p>In ungulate populations without numeric estimates and/or without management objectives, the Department will rely on other factors of information to assess a decline, such as harvest trends, hunter effort trends, sex and age ratios, and others.</p>
Outreach and education	Use WDFW staff to conduct outreach and education programs.	Same