

**Wolf Advisory Group Minutes**  
**Central Washington University, Ellensburg**  
**October 23, 2013**

- By-Laws passed out and requested any additional edits be sent to Stephanie Simek.
- Scenario for Lethal Removal Actions:
  - Discussed the operational details for lethal removal, still concerns about the relative level of detail and particularly regarding the timeframe for when depredations count toward the conduct of a lethal removal;
  - Conditions for issuing a kill permit to a landowner; no major concerns other than this would be part of the discussion regarding scenarios;
  - Reviewed the checklist after edits from the last meeting;
    - Discussion about the use of the term “feasible”; suggested edit to the sick and injured section to add language saying: “when discovered”; further discussion: concern expressed about the removal of the term “when feasible” because the landowner may not have the ability to remove the animal or may not know about it; might add the term: “or isolate” at the beginning of the section;
    - Edit the Hazing section to say “essential” and delete the terms “where applicable”;
    - Discussion and question regarding the need for the columns, since they are so similar at this point; in addition, the department may decide to require something that is currently labeled recommended; two columns may not be necessary because there might need to be a separate document or plan for what a producer needs to do before the department would agree to conduct a lethal action; this level of documentation about what a producer has done will be important should there be a lethal action.
  - Discussed the flow chart:
  - Scenario One: An area of known wolf activity; history of conflicts/depredations over the past year; we have been active working with producers to minimize conflicts:
    - First suggestion: Clock for lethal consideration begins with the first depredation event and it would run for four months; seems that it would depend on the history or known depredations by the same wolf (collared)

or wolves; one confirmed depredation event could mean that there were many depredations that were not confirmed or found; otherwise the flow chart appears to work for this scenario.

- Scenario Two: an area with the first conflict/depredation event with no previous knowledge or wolf history; a second depredation occurs after two months:
  - Suggestion: If after the first depredation, several things were done from the checklist, but not everything; then another depredation occurs, the dept should just ramp up the non-lethal measures such as a range rider and/or increased human presence; therefore we would wait until there were three depredations; might depend on the terrain and whether you think you have discovered all of the depredations; would also see behavior changes in the cows (bunch up; chase the working dogs off;); again this might be conditioned on any knowledge of whether the individual wolf or wolves were involved with both; every case is different and should be dealt with based on the circumstances; similarly, the department will need to address the circumstances and develop a plan of action; as long as the dept is using the checklist, producers should be okay with their decision.
- Scenario Three: An area with known wolf activity, but no previous conflict history; all feasible measures from the checklist have been done after the first depredation; then we get the second depredation:
  - Suggestion: Wait for three attacks because we don't know what results in a change in behavior and if a pack has been staying away from livestock overall, perhaps we want to keep them on the landscape; again there is so much to consider, we should allow the dept to make a decision; other situations might consider the number of livestock animals killed or injured in the same event.
- Scenario Four: A pack on the edge of an expansion corridor with no previous depredation history; non-lethal measures in place;
  - Suggestion: No change in the decision tree; you don't want depredation behavior even in an expanding population; the number of wolves removed might be more conservative in this scenario; concern about placing numbers into rule or documents; although there is also concern about the relative level of certainty over time about changing policy depending on personnel etc.; might look at a range such as 2 to 4 depredations and 4 to 6 months and the trust is conditioned by the range.

- We will use this information to draft rule language for future consideration.
- New Business:
  - Mid-winter meeting?: Early to mid-December.
  - Federal delisting comments from WDFW completed later this month and provided to the WAG.
  - Carcass removal project workshop to develop pilot project in NE Washington;
    - Stevens Co Dump is available if dump fees are covered.