

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Post-recovery

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

DRAFT pre-alternatives ideas

(for full document covering ideas click [here](#))

1. Number of regions (pg. 59, 281)

Status quo – 1. Eastern Washington 2. Northern Cascades 3. Southern Cascades/ Northwest Coast

Idea 1 - Development of wolf regions based on wolf metapopulations, habitat suitability/permeability, GMU, or ecotype

Idea 2 - No divisions or zones of any kind—wolves managed consistently across state

Idea 3 - East and West region

Idea 4 -

3. Wolf conservation and monitoring (pg. 136)

Status quo - Wolf population monitored through a direct minimum count of known individuals, packs, and breeding pairs

Idea 1 - Monitoring focused on population level estimates (e.g., occupied area) rather than breeding pairs, den sites, etc.

Idea 2 - No formal monitoring/population surveys conducted. Monitoring based on current needs or actions

Idea 3 - Status quo population monitoring (direct minimum count) for a certain time period post-delisting, after which transition to Idea 1

Idea 4 -

6. Translocation of wolves

from one area of Washington to another (pg. 69, 141, 282)

Status quo - Available as a tool requiring additional SEPA analysis

Idea 1 - Translocation of wolves within Washington would be available as a tool if wolves are in danger of relisting (becoming sensitive, threatened, or endangered) or due to unforeseen stochastic events (e.g., disease outbreak)

Idea 2 - Translocation not allowed. Allow continued natural expansion of range and establishment of packs in Washington through dispersal from adjacent states and within the state and not through translocation

Idea 3 - If determined necessary by the Director or requested by a co-manager, translocation of wolves within Washington would be available as a tool if wolves do not meet 2011 Plan recovery objectives

Idea 4 – Translocation of wolves within Washington would be available as a tool if a co-manager requests working with state to meet their ecosystem management goals

7. Hunting of wolves (pg. 70)

Status quo – Not allowed

Idea 1 - Hunting not allowed (this does not preclude WDFW from managing wolves for conflict or ungulate management)

Idea 2 - Use of hunters may be implemented as needed as a tool for a specific and dedicated management objective

Idea 3 - Specially qualified and permitted hunters may be used for a specific and dedicated management objective

Idea 4 - Implement a regulated hunting season through Game Management Plan and Commission process if/when populations are robust enough to support hunting

Idea 5 -

9. Manage for landscape connectivity (pg. 151)

Status quo – Expand existing efforts to maintain and restore habitat connectivity for wolves

Idea 1 - Support wildlife habitat enhancements, crossing structures, and processes that maintain connectivity between habitat for multiple species

Idea 2 – Evaluate connectivity, barriers to movement, and pinch points in western Washington

Idea 3 -

10. Land management (pg. 130)

Status quo – Grazing/wolf management on WDFW lands follows newly approved Grazing Guidance and Grazing Management Tools guidance. Wolf management practices remain the same regardless of land ownership, excluding NPS lands/tribal lands

Idea 1 -

12. Proactive measures to reduce depredation (pg. 89)

Status quo – WDFW will provide technical assistance to livestock operators to implement proactive measures to reduce conflicts.

Assistance with some costs may be paid by non-profit organizations or other entities on a limited basis. Funding provided through DPCA-Ls and contracted range riders

Idea 1 - Proactive measures consistent with other species (e.g., black bear and cougar). Conflict specialists are in an advisory role (less implementation).

Gradual phasing out of DPCA-L and contracted range rider programs (or transfer to appropriate state or private entity)—aim for five years after delisting. Chart 5-year phasing out in plan

Idea 2 -

13. Use of non-lethal injurious harassment (i.e. striking wolves with non-lethal projectiles, such as rubber bullets, pg. 87)

Status quo – Allowed 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

Idea 1 - Allow without special authorization consistent with any other non-listed species

Idea 2 -

14. Wolf collar data sharing

Status quo – Share wolf collar locations with livestock producers and government officials who sign a sensitive fish and wildlife data sharing agreement

Idea 1 - No wolf collar location data sharing consistent with black bears, cougars, elk, etc.

Idea 2 - Wolf collar location data sharing with specific government partners (e.g., tribes, USFS, NPS)

Idea 3 -

15. Depredation response/investigations (pg. 143)

Status quo – Responsibility maintained by WDFW consistent with black bear and cougar

Idea 1 –

16. Lethal control by state/federal agents of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations (pg. 86, 88)

Status quo – Allowed, consistent with state and federal law.

WDFW may consider issuing a permit to a livestock owner to conduct lethal control on private land they own or lease if WDFW does not have the resources to address control

Idea 1 – Allowed, consistent with state and federal law. May be conducted by state or federal employees or agents

Idea 2 - Allowed, consistent with state and federal law. Conducted by WDFW consistent with other depredation removal (e.g., black bear and cougar), or federal employees

Idea 3 -

17. Permitted lethal control by livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) of wolves involved in repeated livestock depredations (pg. 86, 88)

Status quo – Allowed with an issued permit on private lands and public grazing allotments they own or lease when wolves reach Sensitive status

Idea 1 – Allowed by WDFW permit, consistent with black bear and cougar. Permit conditions may include but are not limited to number of animals, area, time limit

Idea 2 -

18. Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (pursuing, biting, wounding, or killing) livestock (pg. 87, 88)

Status quo – Allowed, consistent with WAC 220-440-080 (supersedes 2011 Plan language)

Idea 1 – Keep consistent with WAC 220-440-080

Idea 2 - Revise WAC 220-440-080 to be consistent with black bear and cougar

Idea 3 -

19. Lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking
(pursuing, biting, wounding, or killing)
domestic animals (e.g., dogs)

Status quo – Allowed, consistent with WAC 220-440-080 (supersedes 2011 Plan language)

Idea 1 – Keep consistent with WAC 220-440-080

Idea 2 - Consistent with black bear and cougar response on private property

Idea 3 -

20. Payment for livestock depredation (pg. 90)

Status quo – On grazing sites of 100 or more acres, and where the agency determines that it would be difficult to survey the entire acreage, full current market value for two animals for each confirmed depredation.

It would not include double payment if all other animals are accounted for. On sites of less than 100 acres, full current market value for each confirmed depredation. Losses covered on both private and public lands.

Idea 1 – Provide compensation consistent with cougar

Idea 2 - Provide compensation for wolf damages

Idea 3 - Five years after delisting, gradually transfer to a different appropriate entity or source. Chart 5-year phasing out in plan

Idea 4 -

21. Payment for indirect losses

Status quo – WDFW pays documented claims for indirect losses

Idea 1 – Indirect compensation not provided

Idea 2 - Indirect compensation not provided. Combine payment for direct and indirect losses by adding a multiplier on direct losses

Idea 3 - Five years after delisting, gradually transfer to a different appropriate entity or source. Chart 5-year phasing out in plan

Idea 4 -

22. Ungulate management (pg. 147)

Status quo – Manage for healthy ungulate populations through habitat improvement, harvest management, and reduction of illegal hunting, consistent with game management plans

Idea 1 – Follow guidance provided in Game Management Plan

Idea 2 -

23. Wolf-ungulate interactions (pg. 148)

Status quo – 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 healthy, it could consider moving of wolves, lethal control, or other control techniques in localized areas

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 relative to wolf control. Decisions will be based on scientific principles and evaluated by WDFW

Idea 1 – Wolf management to address impacts to at-risk ungulate populations will be documented in Game Management Plan (because it is updated every six years and allows for adaptive management)

Idea 2 -

24. Outreach and education (pg. 152)

Status quo – Use WDFW staff to conduct outreach and education programs.

Idea 1 – WDFW will provide ongoing outreach and education efforts regarding wolf conservation and management. WDFW will continue to build upon partnerships and collaboration with NGOs

Idea 2 -

25. Research (pg. 156)

Status quo – WDFW collaborates annually on several research projects detailed in each annual report

Idea 1 – Research will be based on conservation and management needs and will be assessed periodically to determine where resources for studies are directed

Idea 2 -

26. Collaborative process

Status quo – Use a citizen stakeholder advisory group to provide guidance to WDFW of implementation on the 2011 Wolf Plan

Idea 1 – Use a citizen stakeholder advisory group to provide guidance to WDFW of implementation of the post-recovery plan

Idea 2 -