

DRAFT

Section 9. Enhanced resource areas

Enhanced resource areas (ERAs) are areas (e.g., geographic pack territories [regardless of pack name change], landmarks, allotments, pastures, etc.) where proactive non-lethal deterrents have been implemented, wolf depredations on livestock have occurred, and the Department has lethally removed wolves for two or more consecutive years. Within ERAs, a conflict may be defined by specific locales within a pack territory. The rationale for including this section in the protocol is as follows:

1. The shared goal is to minimize the repeated loss of livestock and wolves.
2. Designating ERAs recognizes that repeated livestock loss and wolf removals are likely to cause significant hardship for producers and their animals, as well as their communities, wolf packs, the wolf advocate community, and WDFW staff.
3. Lethal removal of wolves in ERAs is not having the intended effect of breaking patterns of depredation and reducing losses.
4. The protocol currently does not address this conundrum.
5. The intent of this section is to provide guidance to WDFW when these situations occur, and work toward possibilities that honor the shared goal of reducing loss of livestock and wolves.

In these areas, WDFW staff will work with affected producers, associated landowners, and land management agencies to attempt to understand the cause of the conflict and to develop an implementation plan for additional or enhanced proactive non-lethal deterrents. The plan will seek creative alternatives to reduce or eliminate additional loss of livestock and attempt to break the need for repeated lethal removal of wolves in these areas. These discussions might be associated with innovations in non-lethal tools, changes in how they are deployed, and/or priority for funding. Discussions may include an evaluation of local ungulate and predator abundance and management with an effort to draw connections between various management plans (elk herd plans, deer herd plans, Game Management Plan, and Wolf Plan).

Additional or enhanced non-lethal deterrents will be implemented prior to considering lethal removal in these areas. Lethal removal may be considered if other livestock producers in the same wolf pack area are experiencing wolf depredations and they have deployed appropriate deterrence measures a sufficient amount of time prior to wolf depredations.