

# DRAFT

## Version B

Range riding is a nonlethal tool used to monitor livestock in areas where wolves are present or likely to be present. Range riders may be livestock producers who take on the specific tasks of range riding or may be hired by and on behalf of producers to watch livestock on large grazing areas. They have knowledge of livestock handling/husbandry techniques, monitor livestock health and behavior, and identify and deter potential wolf activity around livestock. In chronic depredation zones, range riding should be tailored to increase its efficacy based on an analysis of the conditions under which depredations occurred in prior seasons and with consideration to the specifics of the terrain (see chronic depredation section below). In these situations, the range riding effort may be temporarily increased to a capacity that is not sustainable long-term but is warranted to mitigate a recurring loss of livestock and wolves. In order for range riding and human-based deterrence to be considered an adequate nonlethal deterrence measure, the tasks listed below must be implemented.

Range riding duties include:

- 1) Communicating their observations to local WDFW wildlife conflict specialists and livestock producers in order to be adaptive and discuss strategies to mitigate wolf-livestock interactions. Regular communication is expected on all the items below as well.
- 2) Assisting the producer with livestock management duties when approved and under the supervision of the livestock producer. This may include moving and grouping livestock that became separated from the herd. The manner in which range riding is implemented may vary according to terrain, land cover, and level/frequency of wolf activity and must be consistent with the applicable grazing management plan.
- 3) Monitoring (daily or near daily) the health and behavior of livestock to look for signs of stress that may indicate wolves are nearby and testing livestock vulnerability.
- 4) Scouting and identifying wolf or other carnivore activity near livestock, and the wolf collar data as a supplemental tool when available.
- 5) Actively haze wolves near livestock by deploying non-lethal, negative stimuli techniques.
- 6) Extending work hours during periods of significant or increasing work activity. This may include staying with livestock overnight, and irregular and/or night patrols or other strategies to increase the defensibility of livestock. Staying on-site may be necessary for multiple days as work areas can be remote.
- 7) Locating livestock carcasses and assisting with disposal, if feasible.
- 8) Using GPS track logs to document their activity. Any range rider using funds provided by Washington State will collect GPS track logs from the start to the end of each workday and submit those track logs to WDFW. Other requirements may be established through contract terms by the entity employing range riders. Other data fields may be added to the range rider logs as discussed and agreed to by the producer and local WDFW wildlife conflict specialist.

Focused human-based deterrence occurs on smaller, observable pastures or calving areas, typically private property, during times of increased livestock vulnerability (e.g., lambing, calving, injured livestock in a pen). These tasks include:

- 1) Frequent communication between individuals providing regular focused monitoring, the livestock producer and WDFW staff regarding livestock depredations, grazing rotations, and wolf activity.
- 2) Increased and regular focused monitoring by ranch employees or family members to protect livestock. Individuals patrol the vicinity occupied by livestock on a daily, or multiple times a day, basis.

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- 3) Observing livestock behavior, protecting calving/lambing areas, and using scare devices and other appropriate hazing techniques to deter wolves from approaching livestock.
- 4) Installing fencing, fladry, or sheds around calving or lambing areas.
- 5) Cleaning the area of livestock carcasses.

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