

# DRAFT

## Version A

Range Riding is a non-lethal tool used to reduce wolf/livestock conflict. Range Riders may be livestock producers who voluntarily take on the specific duties of range riding or may be hired by and on behalf of livestock producers and WDFW or others, for specific larger grazing areas. Range Riders are required to have knowledge of livestock handling/husbandry techniques and can identify potential wolf activity near/around livestock.

Range Riding Duty's includes;

- (1) Actively assess potential for wolf-livestock conflict, communicate with local WDFW conflict specialists and livestock producers. If negative interactions between wolves and livestock occur, the livestock producer and the WDFW conflict specialists can then be adaptive and consider feasible strategies to mitigate conflict.
- (2) If approved by the livestock producer, the range rider may assist the producer with livestock management duties and/or the implementation of more intensive livestock management to reduce contact between wolves and livestock, if feasibly given the existing terrain, land cover and consistent with the requirements of the agency Grazing Plan.
- (3) Monitoring the health and behavior of livestock (daily or near daily) and looking for signs of stress that may indicate wolves are nearby and testing livestock for vulnerability and communicate these findings to the livestock producer and the WDFW conflict specialist.
- (4) Scouting for and Identifying signs of wolf or other carnivore activity near livestock along with the use of real time collar data to identify that wolves are in the area. Along with frequent communication with the livestock producer regarding Grazing Plans, their requirements and required livestock movement.
- (5) The manner in which range riding is implemented may vary according to terrain, land cover, and level/frequency of wolf activity.
- (6) If wolves are seen near livestock, they should be actively hazed away by deploying non-lethal negative stimuli hazing techniques if possible and/or if available to prevent habituation of wolves to livestock and humans.
- (7) Based on information gathered, increasing the surveillance of livestock & hazing of wolves as much as possible by working extended hours during periods or in areas of significant or increasing wolf activity.
- (8) Find any livestock carcasses and make the livestock producer and the WDFW conflict specialists aware of the location for disposal if possible. A wolf killed livestock carcass could be used as an attractant to perform an incremental removal.
- (9) Range Riders should include in their daily log the species of wild ungulates seen and the sign observed along with wild ungulate predations observed.
- (10) In general, range riders conduct their duties under the direction of the livestock producer, WDFW staff, or others. Range riders hired by the State of Washington will use geo-referenced photo points to assist in documenting their activity. Other requirements may be established through contract terms by the entity employing range riders.
- (11) Daily range riding conditions and actions taken (see 1 through 10) above) need to be logged daily by range riders and compiled by WDFW conflict specialists into "lessons learned" for future consideration. If range riding is applied as defined and is not "changing wolf pack behavior" it becomes the WDFW's

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conflict specialist's responsibility and duty to resolve the issue early on while staying consistent with the required Grazing Plan before negative wolf pack behavior becomes hard wired.

A discussion should be held in WAG as to the gathering of wolf scat by range riders and what could or could not be learned along with the cost.

FOCUSED MONITORING on small acreages is its own section and is not Range Riding!

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