

Summary Sheet

Meeting date: January 13-14, 2016

Agenda item: Profanity Peak Pack Update - Briefing

Presenter(s): Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Wolf Policy Lead;
Joey McCanna, Private Lands and Wildlife Conflict Supervisor

Background summary:

The Department will brief the Commission on a wolf-livestock conflict situation that occurred in 2016 by the Profanity Peak wolf pack.

The Department's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan indicates that the lethal removal of wolves may be used to stop repeated depredations when:

- It is documented that livestock have been killed by wolves
- Non-lethal deterrence measures have been tried but failed to stop depredations
- Depredations are likely to continue
- There is no evidence of intentional feeding or unnatural attraction of wolves by the livestock producer

In May 2016, WDFW also adopted a revised protocol for the lethal removal of wolves that was co-developed with a diversity of Department staff and an 18-member advisory group of wolf advocates, livestock producers, and hunters. That protocol further describes the details for implementing the overarching policy in the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

With those guiding documents, the Department implemented both non-lethal deterrence measures and lethal removal of wolves to address repeated wolf depredation on livestock in the Profanity Peak pack in 2016. The Department documented fifteen dead or injured cattle, including ten confirmed and five probable wolf depredations from July 8 to October 3, 2016.

Starting August 4, state wildlife managers lethally removed seven members of the pack after deterrence measures were unsuccessful at preventing further livestock depredations. A minimum of four members of the Profanity Peak pack – an adult female and three juveniles – remained in the area of the pack's territory as of October 18, when WDFW suspended its lethal removal action.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested:

N/A

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A
