



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Staff Guidelines: LIVESTOCK-WOLF MITIGATION
MEASURES

This checklist contains examples of proactive measures that are recommended for use by livestock operators to help avoid or reduce conflicts between livestock and wolves when practical and applicable. Identified within the checklist are measures that can be implemented to meet the requirements to enact non-lethal measures provided by state law (chapter 77) and WDFW regulations (WAC 232-36). The measures identified as essential are the minimum baseline measures that should be implemented if feasible prior to consideration for compensation or lethal management options. Identification of such measures through this checklist does not guarantee either compensation claims or that requests for lethal control measures will be granted. Effective implementation at the time of the conflict must be verified by WDFW.

| SANITATION | | Compensation or Control Actions |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove or manage livestock carcasses from lambing or calving areas and from cooperators' lands when they are discovered (includes burying, burning, or composting consistent with state law and county or city ordinances). | Essential action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Install predator-proof fencing around a bone yard. | Essential action where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In areas where available, contact WDFW when livestock carcasses are discovered so that they can be removed or protected from wolves. | Essential action where applicable |
| Rationale: | | |
| SICK AND INJURED LIVESTOCK | | Compensation or Control Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove or treat non-ambulatory (sick or injured) livestock from unsafe pastures in areas where wolves are present (when feasible). | Essential action |
| Rationale: | | |

| CALVING AND LAMBING AREAS | | Compensation or Control Actions |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Traditional calving or lambing areas are away from areas occupied by wolves (if known at the time this checklist is dated). (if this box is checked the next two boxes are not applicable; if this box is not checked then one or two of the next boxes must be checked) | Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In the event that there is known wolf activity in the vicinity of a producer's calving or lambing areas then use protective fencing or fladry around calving or lambing areas when deemed necessary by WDFW. | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use lambing sheds during and immediately after lambing. | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| | Rationale: | |
| TURNOUT | | Compensation or Control Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other techniques for managing risks of wolves being attracted to young calves on private lands (explain in Rationale box below). | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Turnout of calves onto forested/upland grazing allotments until calving is finished. | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Turnout of calves onto forested/upland grazing pastures or allotments once calves are larger (e.g., 200 lbs). | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Delay the turnout of livestock onto forested/upland grazing pastures or allotments until June 10th when wild ungulates are born. | 1 or more action(s) is Essential |
| | Rationale: | |
| RANGE RIDERS AND SHEPHERDS | | Compensation or Control Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use herders with dogs at night to protect sheep. | Recommended where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use guarding animals (dogs, llamas, donkeys, etc.) to alert herders and protect livestock. | Recommended where applicable |

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|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Manage grazing livestock near the core areas (dens, rendezvous sites) of wolf territories to minimize wolf-livestock interactions. Tools that may help achieve this include placing watering sites, mineral blocks, and supplemental feed away from wolf core areas. If available, it may also include temporarily switching grazing sites and moving livestock to another location. | Recommended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use Range Riders to Increase the frequency of human presence checking livestock in areas with wolves or when wolves are in the vicinity of livestock pastures. Range riders can be used to keep cattle distributed throughout pastures (as appropriate) and away from wolves while working to distribute grazing and improve forage utilization. | Recommended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase the frequency of human presence checking livestock in areas with wolves or when wolves are in the vicinity of livestock pastures. | Recommended |
| Rationale: | | |
| HAZING PRACTICES conditioned on known wolf packs and presence; pick one | | Compensation or Control Actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Install light and noise scare devices to frighten wolves away from livestock and to alert ranchers or herders to the presence of wolves. These devices include propane cannons, light systems, and radio-activated guard (RAG) systems that emit flashing lights and loud sounds at the approach of radio-collared wolves. | Recommended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Haze wolves with non-lethal munitions (screamer rounds, shots from firearms, etc.) if encountered to frighten them away from livestock. | Essential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Coordinate with WDFW to expand hazing once a depredation event occurs. | Recommended |
| Rationale: | | |
| FENCING | | Compensation or Control Actions |

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|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use predator-resistant or electric fencing as a permanent barrier to keep wolves away. | Recommended where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use predator-resistant or electric fencing as a temporary barrier to confine sheep or goats and keep wolves away. Portable fencing can be effective as night pens under open grazing conditions. | Recommended where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fladry (strips of cloth hung along a fence or rope) or electrified fladry (“turbofladry”; strips of flagging hung from an electrified wire) around livestock can be used as a temporary deterrent to wolves. | Recommended where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use bio-fencing in coordination with WDFW study or research project. | Recommended where applicable |
| Rationale: | | |
| OTHER TECHNIQUES (as needed) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Use the log below to clearly document the preventative actions the livestock operator has taken to minimize wolf-livestock conflict.

Name of the ranch: _____

| Log of Site Visits by WDFW | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Date: | Measures Reviewed: | Comments: |
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DEFINITIONS:

Essential action is considered a required action with greater importance and emphasis than a recommended action. Therefore, essential actions will weigh more heavily by WDFW than recommended actions in the decision process for agency authorized lethal removal. Producers may be eligible filing a claim regardless of implementation of practices.