

## Commission Request to Department “Blue Sheet”

**Date of Request:** October 7, 2022

**Title of Request:** Information request pertaining to wolf management protocols and approaches

**Commissioner:**Lorna Smith

**Request:** Per Staff Availability:/December 2022/January 2023:

**Priority Level (put one check in each row):**

Importance: [  ] High

**Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific.**

*The purpose of this blue sheet followup is to request an update from staff on the status and effectiveness, of the Department’s nonlethal livestock wolf conflict deterrence program and lethal removal of wolves.*

### **Range Riding:**

**Funding.** Please explain how the state funds the range-riding program, including (i) the source(s) of funds; (ii) who distributes them and the process used; to select who receives those funds (iii) which entities received what percentage of funds over the past two years (including WDFW, Cattle Producers of Washington and the Northeast Washington Wolf Cattle Collaborative); and (iv) how we expect that process to work in the coming biennium.

**Coordination.** Please explain WDFW’s role in coordinating range riding services, including (i) how the programs offering range riding differ in administration, goals, training, accountability, funding, and relationship with WDFW; (ii) the extent to which these programs have agreed to the range riding standards in the Wolf-livestock interaction protocol (as amended 9/15/2020); (iii) the number of range riders WDFW directly employs and whether that number is limited by funding or other constraints; (iv) gaps and problems WDFW sees in the provision of range riding services, including whether any livestock owners and potential conflict areas are currently underserved;

**Other Nonlethal Tools and Effectiveness.** Please describe and explain other nonlethal tools that are used in compliance with the Nonlethal Protocol and how they are reported and recorded, how their effectiveness is measured and tracked,

**Adaptive Management in Decision-making.** Please describe how WDFW uses adaptive management to inform decision-making in its wolf management including (the amount and level of detail of the information collected regarding the use of nonlethal deterrent measures. What is the process by which WDFW determines which nonlethal deterrent measures have been effective?

**Special Focus Areas.** Please describe the progress the Department is making in drafting conflict mitigation plans in “special focus areas,” as described in the Director’s

letter to the Governor, presentations to the Commission, and public reports, including any current areas that have been designated as special focus areas (or chronic conflict zones)

**Conflicts this Season.** Please provide a briefing on conflicts this season, including: poaching and caught-in-the-act killings since January 2022, including how many we have counted this year, why the Department believes we are seeing an increase in these killings, how they are investigated, and actions the Department is taking to address these issues. Please also provide commissioners with any investigative reports regarding citizen killings of wolves this year that are not subject to confidentiality protections.

**Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other): Output should be a written presentation and report out to entire Commission**