

# Wolf Advisory Group

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## Meeting Summary<sup>1</sup>, January 4-5, 2023

**WAG members present:** Tyler Allen, Alex Baier, Bill Kemp, Caitlin Scarano, Dan Paul, Diane Gallegos, Jess Kayser, Jessica Kelley, Lisa Stone, Lynn Okita, Nick Martinez (Day 1), Paula Swedeen, Samee Charriere, Rick Perleberg, Sierra Smith, Todd Holmdahl, Scott Nielsen, and Marie Neumiller.

**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW, Department) staff members present:** Annemarie Prince, Ben Maletzke, Jim Brown, Julia Smith, Staci Lehman, Kevin Robinette, Kyla West, Joey McCanna, Todd Jacobsen, Trent Roussin, and Ellen Heilhecker

**Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:** James R. Anderson, John Lemkuhl, Lorna Smith

**Facilitation team:** Susan Hayman, Casey Hart, and Tristan Marquez

## Meeting Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item	Target Date
Sierra Smith	Consider who might be a good statewide contact to represent the butcher shop industry for state-wide carcass management discussions and provide to Julia Smith	February 28
Ben Maletzke	Share updated number of packs with collared wolves, and the number of collared wolves with the WAG	Complete
WDFW	Check on potential for WAG members and others to attend range rider and depredation training	January 31
WDFW	Check if Paul Wick (Blue Mts ungulate researcher) can attend the June WAG meeting (Clarkston)	March 1
Annemarie Prince	Share podcast/study about the nutritional value/importance of fall green up for ungulates with WAG members	January 31
Tyler Allen	Share Mt. Emily wolf pack study with the WAG	Complete
WDFW & WAG Members	Share any suggestions with the facilitation team for potential meeting locations and venues in western Washington for the April WAG meeting	January 31
Facilitation Team	Share updated contact list with WAG members' phone numbers and emails (shared only with WAG and WDFW coordination team--not publicly)	January 20

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<sup>1</sup> This summary is a synthesis of the meeting discussion January 4-5, 2023. The meeting summary will be publicly available following finalization of the meeting documentation package.

**January 4, 2023**

### **Opening**

Susan Hayman, Ross Strategic facilitator, opened the Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) meeting by welcoming members, WDFW staff, and meeting observers, and providing an overview of the meeting objectives and agenda. The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Receive an update from WDFW on its response to WAG advice, an update on overall wolf activity, and preparation for WDFW's 2023 program activities.
2. Provide a unique, mutual learning opportunity for the WAG and the Reardan FFA Chapter Agricultural Issues Team to explore Washington State's predator policies. The Issues Team has developed a presentation about Washington State predator policy that makes arguments on both sides of three main conflicts that reflect the complexity of this contentious issue - conflict between ungulates and predators, conflict between humans and predators and, the conflict between livestock and predators.
3. Frame the questions, information, and timelines needed to develop potential pieces of advice/recommendations to WDFW around the following topics<sup>2</sup>:
  - Revising the compensation model to encourage more engagement from producers
  - Examining improvements to depredation reporting pathways to reduce incidences of unreported depredations
  - Examining/evaluating improvements to wolf monitoring systems and data sharing
  - Identifying potential areas of change for the current Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
  - Addressing funding, oversight, and management of range riding
  - Addressing wolf-ungulate management
4. Review information presented and discussed at the April, June, and November 2022 WAG meetings regarding wolf-ungulate interactions, and provide members and WDFW staff an opportunity to make connections, explore outstanding questions, and identify next steps.
5. Explore opportunities for increasing interaction between the WAG and the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission).

### **Introductions**

#### **WAG Member and WDFW Staff Introductions**

Hayman invited WAG members and WDFW staff in attendance to provide a more extended introduction of themselves. The group welcomed newly appointed WAG member, Scott Nielsen, who expressed enthusiasm for joining the group. Following introductions, the WAG and WDFW staff participated in the customary round-robin check-in.

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<sup>2</sup> Future framing discussion only

## *WDFW Updates*

### ***Carcass Management Advice***

Julia Smith, WDFW Wolf Policy Lead, updated the WAG on the status of its November 2022 carcass management advice for WDFW Director Susewind. The Director confirmed that the department was aligned with the advice and passed it along to WDFW's legislative director. Smith reported the department also held a meeting in December with representatives of other several other state agencies who agreed that carcass disposal is a statewide issue pertaining to all types of predators, agricultural health, water safety, public health, and other issues. Smith said a representative from the Department of Ecology was invited to this meeting, though unable to attend, and the Department of Transportation and local health offices should be engaged in future meetings. A WAG member offered to identify a potential representative for the statewide butcher shop industry for possible inclusion in future discussions with this group.

To respond to the portion of the WAG advice regarding a potential pilot, WDFW Wildlife Conflict Specialist, Todd Jacobsen, added that WDFW is drafting the paperwork for a pilot project for carcass sanitation in Klickitat County, where there is wolf activity. The department is looking for contractor to collect carcasses from producers and transport them to the county's Roosevelt Regional Landfill. Jim Brown, Wildlife Conflict Section Manager, reported that the department has funding for the pilot project and is trying to implement it by the end of the fiscal year. The department is also exploring additional funding to help cover costs such as purchasing trucks and equipment.

Jacobsen clarified for WAG members that the department's mobile incinerator in the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in Northeast Washington was considered as an option for the pilot project, but it has never functioned properly. Joey McCanna, Region 1 Wildlife Conflict Supervisor, said this incinerator is also undersized for the task. Jacobsen said there are mobile incinerators on the market that can cremate livestock carcasses, but potentially prohibitive hurdles currently prevent their use. The department will continue to explore incinerator options.

### ***Wolf Monitoring and Survey Update***

Ben Maletzke, WDFW Statewide Wolf Specialist, provided a wolf monitoring and survey update. He clarified that, for purposes of surveying, a pack is defined as two wolves travelling together as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. January 1<sup>st</sup> is when the department begins its annual wolf surveys. The department has begun compiling information, but the counts have just begun. There was wolf activity identified in the Lake Chelan area that the department is investigating while conducting its winter captures. Maletzke noted that the department has nine collars to replace for currently collared wolves, and several new collars to add for packs without any collared wolves (such as Lookout Pack). He reported the department currently tracks 21 collared wolves within 13 different packs.

Maletzke said the department tries to switch out collars every 2-3 years. Efforts are made to keep collars within their current packs, but several factors can alter their success. Collars need to be replaced before their expiration date, when a mechanism will trigger the collar to fall off the wolf. The department deliberately purchases collars that drop off at the end of their battery lives as they do not want animals to be collared forever. He explained that collar technology has advanced significantly over the past ten years--geographic positioning data from the collars is automatically uploaded via satellite and newer

collars have features such as mortality and activity sensors. Battery life and weight is the main issue for current collars, and simpler mechanics reduce potential malfunctions.

The collaring process starts by mid-March when the department will have a clearer wolf population count. Helicopter surveillance and collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, private landowners, and the Forest Service is required to identify wolf locations for collaring. The public also provides crucial support by sending trail-cam photos and reporting tracks. Additionally, the department is working with the Colville Confederated Tribes and Tribes in the South Cascades to include their collar data and wolf reports in the annual report. There is a lot of land in Washington to cover by March to include in the annual report.

Maletzke said the public can send photos and reports of wolf sightings to their local Wildlife Conflict Specialists, and that the department regularly reviews social media posts where wolf sightings and other reports of activity are shared. He also reported two collars were lost in Southeast Washington Columbia Pack due to wolf mortalities: one by a cougar, and the second by other wolves. Neither type of mortality is uncommon, nor did these did not raise any unusual concerns. Maletzke informed WAG members that the department will try its best to replace expiring collars and that the Carpenter Ridge mortality is under investigation.

WDFW Wolf Biologist, Trent Roussin, said that wolves tend to travel more as a pack in the winter. Generally, one or two wolves will travel in hunting parties throughout the year, and packs not travelling together outside of winter does not mean they are not a cohesive group.

### ***Preparation for 2023 Program Activities***

Wildlife Conflict Section Manager, Jim Brown, updated the WAG on program activities as the 2022 grazing season concluded. Range rider billing and cooperative agreements with producers were closed out for the year. The department is looking at equipment that needs to be replaced and does not anticipate any changes to range rider contracts in 2023. Wildlife Conflict Specialists are working with producers in areas with new wolf activity to get in front of potential conflicts. Department funding is generally static, and resources are spread thin as wolves expand into broader territories.

Brown said the department is hosting a training session this spring on depredation investigations to standardize knowledge and increase capacity for investigations within WDFW. He noted that WDFW submitted a \$100,000 grant application to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more non-lethal deterrents that should be decided in January 2023. The additional funding would provide more flexibility to deal with areas of emerging conflicts.

Joey McCanna reported that there was meeting scheduled for a deep dive of lessons learned from range-riding and other non-lethal practices in the Northeast region in anticipation of the 2023 grazing season. A WAG member asked if WDFW would be doing the same kind of lessons learned meeting in SE Washington, and McCanna said they would schedule one. provided a field update to the group. WDFW will also be meeting with NGOs; Conservation Northwest, Northeast Washington Wolf-Cattle Collaborative (NEWCC), and Cattle Producers of Washington (CPoW); to determine range rider coverage in Northeast Washington.

A WAG member emphasized that range riders need more training, reporting numerous instances of poor communication between riders and producers, and riders who appeared to lack proper capabilities or understanding of their range riding objectives. Some WAG members said it would be beneficial for members to attend range riding and depredation investigations training to help inform future WAG work. McCanna clarified that there had been trainings in the past, but a hurdle was that different producers had different expectations of range riders. Wildlife Conflict Specialists need to meet with riders and producers to set clear expectations.

McCanna reported that the department recently acquired new radio-activated guard (RAG) box prototypes that they are excited to test in the field. The boxes will be triggered by collar frequencies, as motion-activated boxes would be too easily triggered by other animals. A WAG member noted that motion-activated RAG boxes had been successfully implemented for non-collared wolf packs in Montana.

A WAG member expressed concern that it was unclear who the public could reach out to for information about wolves, as well as who to contact with any depredation concerns. McCanna explained that the public has several points of contact to report potential, imminent, or immediate wolf conflicts. 911 should be called in emergencies as local sheriff's departments work with WDFW to address urgent issues in high conflict areas. Otherwise, members of the public can contact their [Regional Offices](#), the [Dangerous Wildlife reporting number](#), the [WILDCOMM Dispatch Center](#), or email inquiries to [wildlifeConflict@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:wildlifeConflict@dfw.wa.gov). The WILDCOMM dispatch center is especially effective as it will link Wildlife Conflict Specialists directly to whoever is needs assistance. Local cattlemen's associations are also good points of contact as the department work directly with them.

## *Framing Future Advice/Recommendations*

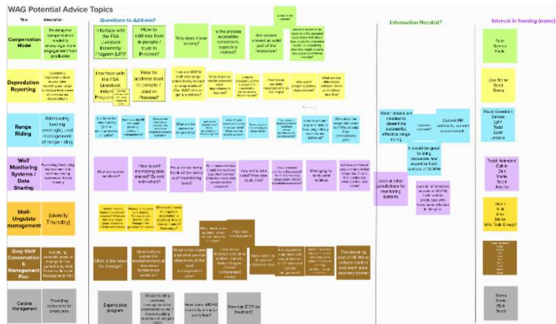
### **Introduction**

Hayman introduced a [Mural Board](#) activity for WAG members to identify the questions to address, information needs, and WAG members interested in framing the following potential WAG advice topics identified at the November WAG meeting:

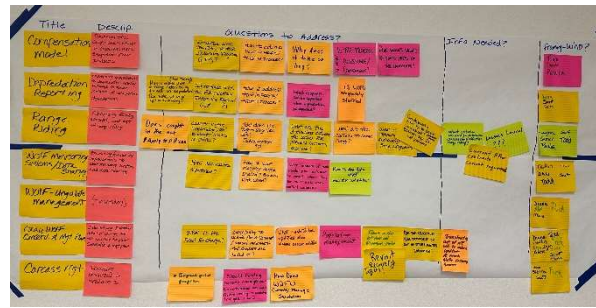
- Compensation Model for Depredations
- Depredation Reporting
- Range Riding
- Wolf Monitoring Systems/ Data Sharing
- Wolf-Ungulate Management
- Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Plan
- Carcass Management

Members were invited to fill out either virtual or in-room versions of the Mural Board with their thoughts before engaging in a discussion. The content of both boards was edited to ensure matching information between the online and in-room versions to enable all participants to access all the input.

These final products can be found in Appendixes A and B or by selecting and enlarging either thumbnail below.<sup>3</sup>



Virtual Mural Board: Advice Topics



Physical Mural Board: Advice Topics

**Discussion (NOTE: this discussion was started on meeting day 1, and concluded on meeting day 2)**

Hayman led WAG members and WDFW staff in a review of the planning and scheduling for potential future advice and recommendations. Task groups composed of WAG members and WDFW staff related to each advice topic will work between WAG meetings to frame the issues for discussion with the WAG. The task groups themselves will not craft any recommendations alone. The topic schedule does not necessarily limit topics to a single meeting but provides the opportunity for task groups to present their respective framings and initiate group-wide conversations. Follow up conversations may be needed at subsequent meetings at the discretion of WAG members. The topic schedule may also be subject to change based on any identified needs for additional discussions. Members volunteered for the following task groups (WDFW staff to be determined):

- **Compensation Model** - Tyler Allen, Samee Charriere, Paula Swedeon
- **Depredation Reporting** - Lisa Stone, Scott Nielsen, Sierra Smith
- **Range Riding** - Paula Swedeon, Samee Charriere, Lynn Okita, Scott Nielsen, Jessica Kelly, Lisa Stone
- **Wolf Monitoring Systems/Data Sharing** - Todd Holmdahl, Caitlin Scarano, Dan Paul, Marie Neumiller, Scott Nielsen, Jessica Kelly
- **Wolf-Ungulate Management** - Diane Gallegos, Rick Perleberg, Alex Baier, Marie Neumiller
- **Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Plan** - Todd Holmdahl, Diane Gallegos, Caitlin Scarano, Lisa Stone, Alex Baier, Sierra Smith, Scott Nielsen, Marie Neumiller, Lynn Okita
- **Carcass Management** - Sierra Smith, Marie Neumiller, Rick Perleberg, Scott Nielsen

Some members expressed the need for urgency in discussing particularly pressing issues around range riding and producer options after depredations prior to the 2023 grazing season. Other members noted that advice around the Gray Wolf Conservation & Management plan would likely need several meetings. The April 2023 meeting will focus primarily on reacting to and discussing the Washington Predator-Prey Study.

<sup>3</sup> The Wolf-Ungulate Management sections in both Mural Boards differ slightly with the virtual Mural having three additional questions to address. The virtual Mural should be referred to as the final version.

Task groups for the other advice topics will only present on proposed framing for future discussions in April. However, range riding may briefly be discussed further to react to the March Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on the subject. WAG members proposed the following work planning calendar for the topics:

- April 12-13
  - Range Riding
  - Carcass Management
  - Wolf-Ungulate Management (Predator-Prey Study Presentation and Reflections)
  - Wolf Monitoring Systems - Data Sharing
- June 27-28
  - Depredation Reporting
  - Compensation Model
  - Wolf-Ungulate Management (Recommendations)
- November 15-16
  - Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Plan (initial framing—many of the subgroup topics are directly related to content in the management plan)
- Future Topics
  - WAG Decision Making Process
  - Conservation Conflict Transformation Training
  - Contracting Lethal Removal of Wolves to Party Other than WDFW? (e.g., USDA Wildlife Services)
  - How to Adapt, be Flexible, and Address Expectations for Perfection

### *An Exploration of Washington State's Predator Policies*

Rick Perleberg, WAG member, introduced the [Reardan FFA Chapter Agricultural Issues Team](#) who presented a debate on the options and future of Washington State's Predator Policies. The team spoke of the current state of predator policies, concerns related to how the policies are addressing growing predator conflicts, and a broad spectrum of possible future solutions to address the concerns from different points of view.

WAG members and WDFW expressed their appreciation for the presentation and acknowledged the importance of engendering the engagement of future stakeholders and policy leaders in the state. The members and staff engaged in a brief Q&A session and informal 1:1 discussions with the team following the presentation. Several meeting attendees, members, and staff noted the presentation as a highlight of the meeting.

### *Increasing interaction between the WAG and the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission*

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Jim Anderson, John Lemkuhl, and Lorna Smith briefly spoke with WAG members on upcoming Commission meetings and potential future interactions between the two groups. Commissioner Smith invited members to attend [upcoming Commission meetings](#) on January 26-28 and March 16-18 where the topics will include WDFW "blue sheet updates" on wolf-ungulate interactions, and range riding and other non-lethal deterrents. Meeting agendas are

released shortly before the meetings take place. WAG members and Commissioners discussed the potential for the WAG to provide the Commission with perspectives on the post recovery plan and alignment on the objectives and training for range riders. WAG members identified the following ways in which they could interact with the Commission:

- Copy Commission on advice that is sent to the department
- Provide input and perspectives on the post recovery plan before the Commission makes its decision
- Organize roundtables observed or co-sponsored by the Commission
- Use WDFW Wolf Policy Lead Julia Smith as a connection to the Commission
- Align timing of WAG meeting topics with Commission meetings
- Provide comments at Commission meetings

The Commissioners noted the value of the WAG's advice to the WDFW Director, its ability to dive deeper into issues than the Commission and being a group that seeks to find common ground across all stakeholders. WAG members and Commissioners agreed that trying to align/sequence Commission and WAG discussions (to the extent possible) would be beneficial for future engagement.

### *Public Comment*

Nine persons provided public comment this day, as documented in Appendix C.

### *Closing*

Hayman invited WAG members and WDFW staff to provide final reflections. Hayman thanked members and WDFW staff for their participation, and members of the public for attending and commenting, and closed the day's session. She reminded the public of the opportunity to join an informal discussion session with WDFW staff following the closure of Wednesday's WAG meeting.

## **January 5, 2023**

### *Opening*

Hayman opened the second day of the meeting by reviewing the meeting agenda and objectives. She then invited WAG members and WDFW staff to check in with each other via round robin.

### *Wolf-Ungulate Interactions*

#### **Key Takeaways from 2022 Meetings**

WAG members, Lynn Okita and Todd Holmdahl, and WDFW Wildlife Biologist Annemarie Prince presented key takeaways regarding the presentations to WAG members on wolf-ungulate interactions during the April, June, and November 2022 WAG meetings. Reference material, April and June presentations, and a link to the [key takeaways synthesis](#) on wolf-ungulate interactions can be found in Appendix D.



## **Dialogue Regarding information presented and discussed in 2022 WAG meetings**

WAG Members and WDFW Staff discussed their reflections on the takeaways to plan for potential next steps. A WAG member expressed concern with potential bias in the studies that had been presented at the June WAG meeting and urged other members to look at other peer reviewed studies with possible differing perspectives. Other WAG members and WDFW staff clarified that the intention of the presentations and information provided to WAG members at the April and June 2022 meetings was to provide as balanced and diverse a view on wolf-ungulate interactions as possible. Some noted the presenters at the April and June meetings are some of the most respected wolf biologists in the country, and their work has been extensively peer reviewed.

The group had an extensive conversation on several matters related to wolf hunting and ungulate management. There will be future detailed conversations on both matters during discussions on updates to the Gray Wolf Conservation & Management Plan and wolf-ungulate management, respectively. Topics raised at this meeting included:

- Use of wolf hunting as a population management tool (post-recovery)
- Merits and concerns with wolf hunting
- Impact of wolves on ungulate populations in Washington
- Current ungulate populations in Washington
  - Key drivers of ungulate mortality, including calf mortality
  - Effects of wolf density levels on ungulate populations in different regions
  - The effects of geography and landscape on ungulate mortality and replacement
  - The status of ungulate reproduction rates

Reflections on the Predator-Prey Study Presentations at the 12/9/2022 Commission meeting: WAG members expressed anticipation for hearing about the findings of the Predator-Prey study at the upcoming April WAG meeting and being able to ask the researchers in depth questions about their findings. Members identified the following priority questions to ask researchers at the April WAG meeting:

- What is happening to the ungulate population?
- What level of predation is happening, additive or compensatory? How is it with respect to wolves?
- Do authors and WDFW feel that the department will integrate the findings, how so?
- Are there any impacts from human influence on the landscape?
- How can the eight-year gap between recolonization and the start of the study be accounted for?
- Are there any signs of changes in predation with the increase of the wolf population?
- Where were predators collared and where did predation occur when the study started?

This discussion concluded with collecting members' framing questions for future advice or recommendations. These are captured in the [Framing Future Advice/Recommendations](#) section above.

### *Public Comment*

Seven persons provided public comment this day, as documented in Appendix C.

### *Closing*

Hayman reviewed the meeting's action items and invited WAG members and WDFW staff to provide final reflections. Hayman thanked members and WDFW staff for their participation, and members of the public for attending, and closed the meeting.

# Appendix A: Physical Mural Board - Framing Future Advice/Recommendations

Title	Descrip.	Questions to Address?	Info Needed?	Framing-Who?
Compensation model	Revising the Compensation Model to encourage more engagement from producers.	Interface with the FSA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)? How to address trust in people/trust in process? Why does it take so long? IS THE PROCESS ACCESSIBLE/CONVENIENT? ARE WOLVES VIEWED AS VALID PARTS OF THE LANDSCAPE?		Ther Sance Paula
Depredation Reporting	Examining improvements to depredation reporting pathways to reduce instances of unreported depredations.	(for Doug) How is WDFW staff or range riders being trained on depredation? Can WAG sit in or get a summary? Interface with the FSA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)? How to address trust in people/trust in process? What response can be expected when depredation is reported? IS WDFW adequately staffed?		Lisa Scott Sierra
Range Riding	Addressing Funding, oversight, and mgt of range riding.	Does caught in the act Apply to R-Ress? Clarify: Is the "Range-riding job" to monitor wolves or cattle? How does the range-riding tool work? Funding, oversight, mgt. What are the distinctions between the various RR Programs currently available? What are the barriers to range riding? What is expensive? Participating these programs. (Can advisors + farmers be better? Between dept. RR, and producers)	What criteria are used to determine successful/effective range riding? Lessons Learned ??? Current RRor Contracts Current requirements	Lynn Scott Samec Todd Paula
WOLF Monitoring Systems/Data Sharing	Examining/evaluating improvements to wolf monitoring systems and data sharing.	How are wolves monitored? How is wolf monitoring data shared? By and with whom? What amount of data should be restricted to protect wolves? Does too much data create conflict concerns? How is the data used? How else could it be?		Carlin Marie DAN Scott Todd
WOLF-Ungulate management (Thursday)		Habitat How is habitat monitored/assessed? What are the long range plans related to habitat restoration? Managing for early seral habitat Focus on old G = the seral stage = No corridors for wolves When a decrease in ungulate population is reported, how is that computed? Next steps? Is to be updated when wolves become established		Diane Alex Rick Marie
Gray Wolf Conserv. & Mgt Plan	Identifying potential areas of change for the current Gray Wolf Conservation & Mgt Plan.	What is the need for change? OR Update the assessment / annual information that decisions are based on?	Flows within 1st year old dispersion model THE POP. OBJECTIVES STILL DEPENDENT ON OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY EMIGRATION? Transboundary art of it? WE WA to reduce conflict & reach state recovery sooner	Diane Todd Carlin Rick Lisa Lynn Sierra Alex Scott Marie
Carcass Mgt	Providing Resources to Producers.	Should hunting carcass management be considered as well? Prevent pulling in producers mitigate COVID How Does WDFW Currently Manage Sanitation	Revisit Recovery targets!	Marie Sierra Scott Rick

# Appendix B: Virtual Mural Board - Framing Future Advice/Recommendations

## WAG Potential Advice Topics

Title	Description
<b>Compensation Model</b>	Revising the compensation model to encourage more engagement from producers
<b>Depredation Reporting</b>	Examining improvements to depredation reporting pathways to reduce incidences of un-reported depredations
<b>Range Riding</b>	Addressing funding, oversight, and management of range riding
<b>Wolf Monitoring Systems / Data Sharing</b>	Examining/evaluating improvements to wolf monitoring systems and data sharing
<b>Wolf-Ungulate management</b>	(Identify Thursday)
<b>Gray Wolf Conservation &amp; Management Plan</b>	Identifying potential areas of change for the current Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
<b>Carcass Management</b>	Providing resources to producers

### Questions to Address?

**Interface with the FSA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)?**

**How to address trust in people / trust in Process?**

**Why does it take so long?**

**Is the process accessible/ convenient, especially indirect?**

**Are wolves viewed as valid part of the landscape?**

**Would it be better to move to a flat payment associated with direct loss, a pay for presence model, or something else that might require less paperwork/fewer records?**

**What are the barriers?**

**How are WDFW staff and range riders being trained on depredation? Can WAG sit in or get a summary?**

**What response can be expected when depredation is reported?**

**Is WDFW adequately staffed to respond to depredation instances in a timely manner?**

**How to use currently reported data on calf crops?**

**Why aren't people reporting depredations?**

**What are the differences between direct and indirect reporting?**

**Clarify—is the range-riding "job" to monitor wolves or cattle?**

**How does the RR tool work (funding, oversight, management)?**

**What are the distinctions between the various RR programs currently available?**

**What are the barriers to range-riding?**

**What is the experience of those participating in these programs?**

**How do you measure success in range riding? What metrics should we use?**

**Does caught in the act apply to range riders?**

**Can default training be better formalized between deer/wolf RR and producers?**

**Is there a better way to structure how range riding services are delivered?**

**Who does the range rider work for? Who should they communicate with?**

**How are wolves monitored?**

**How is wolf monitoring data shared? By and with whom?**

**How do we keep track of the latest wolf monitoring tools?**

**What amount of data should be restricted to protect wolves? Does too much data create conflict concerns?**

**How is the data used? How else could it be?**

**How is habitat monitored/assessed? What are the long range plans related to habitat restoration?**

**Managing for early seral habitats.**

**When a decrease in ungulate population is reported, how is that combated, what are the next steps?**

**What needs to be updated when wolves become unlisted? Population management?**

**Habitat: How is habitat monitored/ assessed? What are the long range plans related to habitat restoration?**

**Managing for early seral habitat. Focus on old Growth = No Forage = No groceries for wolves**

**When a decrease in ungulate population is reported, how is that combated? Next steps?**

**What is the need for change?**

**Opportunity to update the assessment/annual information decisions are based on?**

**What is the vision and what are the objectives of the wolf management plan?**

**How do we interface with other entities - Canada, Idaho, Oregon, Colville Confederated Tribes?**

**Flaws within the 10 year old dispersion mod.**

**Are population objectives still dependant on out of state and country emigrations?**

**Revisit recovery targets and see how they were determined and sharing environmental capacity.**

**Translocating east of NE WA to reduce conflict and reach state recovery sooner**

**Should hunting carcass management be considered as well? Prevent pulling predators & mitigate CWD**

**How does WDFW currently manage sanitation?**

**How can DOT be involved?**

### Information Needed?

**Water criteria are needed to determine successful, effective range riding**

**Lessons Learned?**

**Current RR contracts, current requirements**

**It would be good to bring resources and expertise from outside of WDFW**

**Look at other jurisdictions for monitoring systems**

**Look for information outside of WDFW, such as from producers who have been affected in the past.**

### Interest in framing (name)?

- Tyler Samee Paula
- Lisa Stone Scott Sierra
- Paula Swedeen Samee Lynn Todd Scott Jessica
- Todd Holmdahl Caitlin Dan Marie Scott Jessica
- Diane Rick Alex Marie W-U Task Group?
- Todd Holmdahl Diane Caitlin Lisa Alex Rick Sierra Scott Marie Lynn
- Sierra Marie Rick Scott

## Appendix C: Public Comment

Public comment received at the end of each meeting day is paraphrased below:

January 4, 2023

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- David Linn:
  - There is an issue with poaching. I wasn't able to attend all of the meeting, but I have only heard one reference to poaching. It is a big issue, and this body should be focusing on poaching as much as they deal with conflict. I don't get the sense that the department is really going after poachers. This one poisoning incident killed six wolves, three percent of wolves in the state. Everybody seems to be getting worked up about three cows being killed, which is a tiny percentage. There should be a decision to go after these poachers. I would like to see this group discuss what to do with these criminals and what the consequences are. I wish you could take it seriously and address it.
- Rachel Bjork:
  - I really support everything David said. Poaching should be a bigger concern. I really appreciate the remote access for these meetings. I was disturbed by the flippant comment regarding trapping and relocating wolves to solve a landowner's individual concern. It is serious and dangerous business. I also don't like that wolves are still viewed as a problem to be managed rather than an endemic and important part of the landscape. So many of these meetings seem to be about the producers. It feels that producers won't be happy until the wolves disappear. I did appreciate hearing the student presentation.
- Jim Sizemore:
  - I am a rancher producer in Klickitat. I was president of the Cattlemen's Association. I was a board member before that. The wolf working group before the WAG met for five years before. The department spent a lot of money to come up with the plan to manage wolves in this state, and they did it. And now the governor that represents us in this state is deciding to listen to the WWF and other groups when they want no wolves killed. That working group came up with that plan, and the WAG is trying to adhere to it. I have no idea where the governor thinks he has the authority to choose this. If we can't come up with a plan that the citizens will allow to work, then what is the point?
- Zoe Hanlee:
  - Regarding a WAG member's comment about motion activated RAG boxes. I was part of the radio activated boxes development team. We chose to use radio frequencies rather than motion activated RAG boxes because of the issues with motion activated products. The next best step is to combine motion activated products with A.I. facial recognition and thermal sensors so that they only go off with predators on the landscape rather than any animal or person. Thank you for holding this WAG meeting in this space. This is the shortest distance I have ever had to come to a WAG meeting. Thanks for being here. For range riding, proactive and standardized training programs are lacking across the board. There could be opportunities for training programs beyond just WDFW.

## Appendix C: Public Comment

- Clay Schuster:
  - I am a secretary representing Klickitat County Livestock Growers. We are concerned with how WDFW is interacting with producers on depredations. If we cannot trust WDFW to be unbiased, it will be difficult for producers to work with them on wolf recovery. Klickitat County has already seen a decline in ungulate populations.
- Dave Davenport:
  - Our family has been ranching here for many years. Why is it so important to reestablish wolves in Washington? What part of the ecosystem has been affected or harmed by wolves over the last 100 years? Why isn't the current ecosystem balance good enough? What do wolves bring to the table that will make a more balanced ecosystem? What groups are insistent on wolves being reestablished in Washington? Where are they from? Are they willing to have wolves in their backyards as we have them in ours? How will ranchers be compensated and what proof do we need to provide? How will WDFW recognize depredation? Will WDFW subsidize losses for depredations? What are the names and phone numbers of the ranchers that have coexisted with wolves?
- Nate Kayser:
  - We have tools in this county to protect ourselves. I have experience with wolves. We have had to leave certain areas. These cows are as important to us as our family. We worked hard for their entire lives. Would you allow your pet to be eaten on private land? I have no problem with wolves specifically, but with the lack of prevention to stop depredations.
- Shelby Kayser:
  - We have had several years of experience with wolves. I have seen the destruction they can cause. They have no predators. Tax dollars are coming in to reintroduce these wolves. Wolves are new to this county. You are going to run into problems with wolves eventually. Look at the cougar problems this county has had. There are several examples of coyotes attacking small children. What about rabies? Who will pay for that? I am 28 years old and have ranched my whole life and will hopefully continue. Wolves ruin livestock. There is no stopping wolves but we need to be proactive about how to prevent them from affecting us.
- Anonymous Speaker:
  - My family has been in this county since 1870 and we are not going to give up our land to a predator. Wolves are cowards. They have no fear or reason to fear anybody. How will the wolf be afraid if there are no consequences? You people do not understand what we see on the ground. If you were to take your dog to town and leave it in the car with the window cracked, you would get arrested for animal cruelty. Should we stand by and let these wolves kill our animals?

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- David Linn:
  - Poaching is a serious problem. The department mentioned that the poisoning from last February was still under investigation, but they are not doing enough. I think that so long as there are wolf poachings out there, the department should not use any lethal removal during conflicts. Wolf effects on ungulate populations is small compared to the effects that humans have on the population. If there is a concern about the population, you should look at where the big numbers are.
- Rachel Bjork
  - It was troubling to hear the wolf hatred during the public comment yesterday. Removing carnivores would be disastrous for the ecosystem. Ranchers say they care about their cows but the sell the to be killed. I understand if they care about the revenue from their cows, but all businesses incur loss. Personally, I love cows and it breaks my heart how many are killed in slaughterhouses, and I know how non-native cows damage the ecosystem. Hunting animals is not a magnanimous way of managing animal populations. I appreciate the WAG working on these difficult issues.
- Hannah Thompson-Garner – Northern Animal Rights Network (NARN)
  - Hunters are not the most humane killers of prey. Hunters should not be allowed to kill prey over predators under the guise of helping the ecosystem. Ecosystems are defined by predator prey interactions and balance themselves. Human notions about predator prey interactions should not be imposed on ecosystems.
- Chris:
  - Thank you for taking the time out of your lives to do this, it's not easy. I guess I relate to hunters, and I come from a ranching background. It has been a long time since wolves have been on the territory and a lot of things have changed since that time. They can't be introduced in the same way they were. Take the time to think about the effect it has on the population. In my 30 years of running business, the burden of maintaining best public interest has been placed on producers and rural folk. Would people in a city have the same burden. Take into consideration the burden that a small group of people bare. Every piece of this that has come in the last 20 years has affected how we do business.
- Amaroq Weiss
  - The department should continue to follow science and seek outside technical information as well as advice from the WAG. I encourage you to reach out to other state's wildlife agencies to look at their wolf plans. Policies from the Commission should not show favoritism as it has done in the pass. Increasing special access of the WAG to the Commission would negatively affect the democratic process.
- Dave Hedrick:
  - I looked at the previous agenda and I thought this was going to be a more robust thing to talk about. Not reporting depredations is something I'm familiar with. Not reporting isn't about not knowing who to call. It's about not having the capacity to deal with depredations. Producers have watched their neighbors and friends deal with this and it isn't always positive. These families have a lot going on in their life. One comment I got

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is that they are not able to get on the hamster wheel from hell. WAG has values and that's how they developed the protocol. One of those values is diverse communities that are kept whole in terms of quality life, vibrant, and resilient. Jim Brown said that the level of state funding for non-lethal deterrents is static. That's the choice of DFW. They could have always increased it.



## Appendix D: Reference Material for Wolf-Ungulate Interactions Topic

### Protocols and Reports

1. Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/20200915\\_wdfw\\_wolf\\_livestock\\_interaction\\_protocol.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/20200915_wdfw_wolf_livestock_interaction_protocol.pdf)
2. Gray Wolf Updates: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates>
3. CNW Blog: <https://conservationnw.org/news-updates/bring-out-your-dead-livestock/>
4. Glossary of Common Population Dynamics Terms: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/wag/WAG Glossary of Population Dynamics Terms\\_04202022.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/wag/WAG_Glossary_of_Population_Dynamics_Terms_04202022.pdf)
5. WA Predator-Prey Study: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qJKWp1ggio>
6. 2021 Annual Wolf Report: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02317>
7. Recorded Presentation of 2021 Annual Wolf Report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozh0Vqju0Uo>

### April and June Wolf-Ungulate Presentations

1. Glossary of Common Population Dynamics Terms: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/wag/WAG%20Glossary%20of%20Populatio n%20Dynamics%20Terms\\_04202022.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/wag/WAG%20Glossary%20of%20Populatio%20n%20Dynamics%20Terms_04202022.pdf)
2. Ungulate Monitoring in Washington State (4/22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aNYbbr2Oho>
3. Fundamental Elements of Ungulate Population Dynamics (4/22): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAl6K3\\_iLlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAl6K3_iLlg)
4. Factors that Influence Ungulate Populations (4/22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzYP6ya32Gw>
5. Some thoughts on the relationship between wolves and their prey (Dr. John Vucetich) (6/22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qXGleh7kSs>
6. Some insights from predator-prey research in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (Dr. Arthur Middleton) (6/22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89l1DVP5OG4>
7. Density-dependent changes in wolf predation within the complex system of northern Yellowstone (Dr. Matthew Metz) (6/22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsMEIT-liZM>

### November 2-3, 2022 WAG Meeting Summary (*Wolf-Ungulate Interactions*, pages 10-12):

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/wag/wag-meeting-summary-november2022-final.pdf>

### Key Takeaways Synthesis (2022)