

# WEDGE

*Latest Revision Date: August 19, 2016.*

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## 1. Pack Information

2015 minimum number of wolves: Three animals.

Number of collared individuals: None at this time.

Summer trapping plans: Trapping and collaring efforts will be initiated when areas of high wolf activity are located.

General denning area known (yes/no): Not at this time

## 2. Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Conflict history: The Wedge pack has had a history of livestock depredations since 2012. The most recent, a 2013 confirmed depredation, was on private land with others suspected. During the 2012 grazing season, this pack was implicated in multiple depredations which resulted in a WDFW action to lethally remove seven wolves.

Knowledge of allotments/producers/grazing practices in area: Due to depredation events in the past, WDFW knows most of the allotment holders, the number of livestock they graze, and their grazing/operational practices. There are three producers who lease U.S. Forest Service (USFS) allotments and several others on private pastures in the vicinity.

Outreach with producers (leading up to turn out; plans for check-ins throughout summer): WDFW has attended USFS allotment meetings every year since 2010 and did again this year. During these meetings, deterrent measures and Department programs available were discussed. WDFW staff has regular communication with livestock owners in this area. In previous years, fladry and hazing materials have been provided where wolves have been heard or seen. Outreach efforts are ongoing.

Number of Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements with livestock producers: There is one Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement on the east side of the Wedge with a USFS allotment holder.

Number of data sharing agreements with producers/counties: Stevens County has an agreement and is able to monitor all wolf packs in the county.

Plans for verbal communication of wolf locations to area producers: Livestock producers have expressed interest in receiving location information when available.

Approaches for sanitation: The importance of sanitation is covered in meetings and discussions with livestock owners. The WDFW Sherman Creek Compost facility, area Department of

Transportation dumpsites, and the county dump facility (this site for a fee) are all available locations for livestock disposal.

Range rider/human presence: WDFW has had a contract wolf-related range rider in the Wedge in the past and are available again.

Other items of interest/awareness:

- This pack is co-managed with the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) as the pack territory is with the CCT North Half.
- Grizzly bears (a federally protected species) are present periodically in the area, which makes wolf management and trapping more challenging.
- The Wedge continues to receive a relatively high amount of media and political interest based largely on the pack's history of depredation rather than current wolf activity.