

WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Fish and Wildlife Commission

June 26, 2020



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Wolf Policy Lead

Listing Status

Federal status

- Eastern 1/3 delisted
- Western 2/3 listed as Endangered

State status

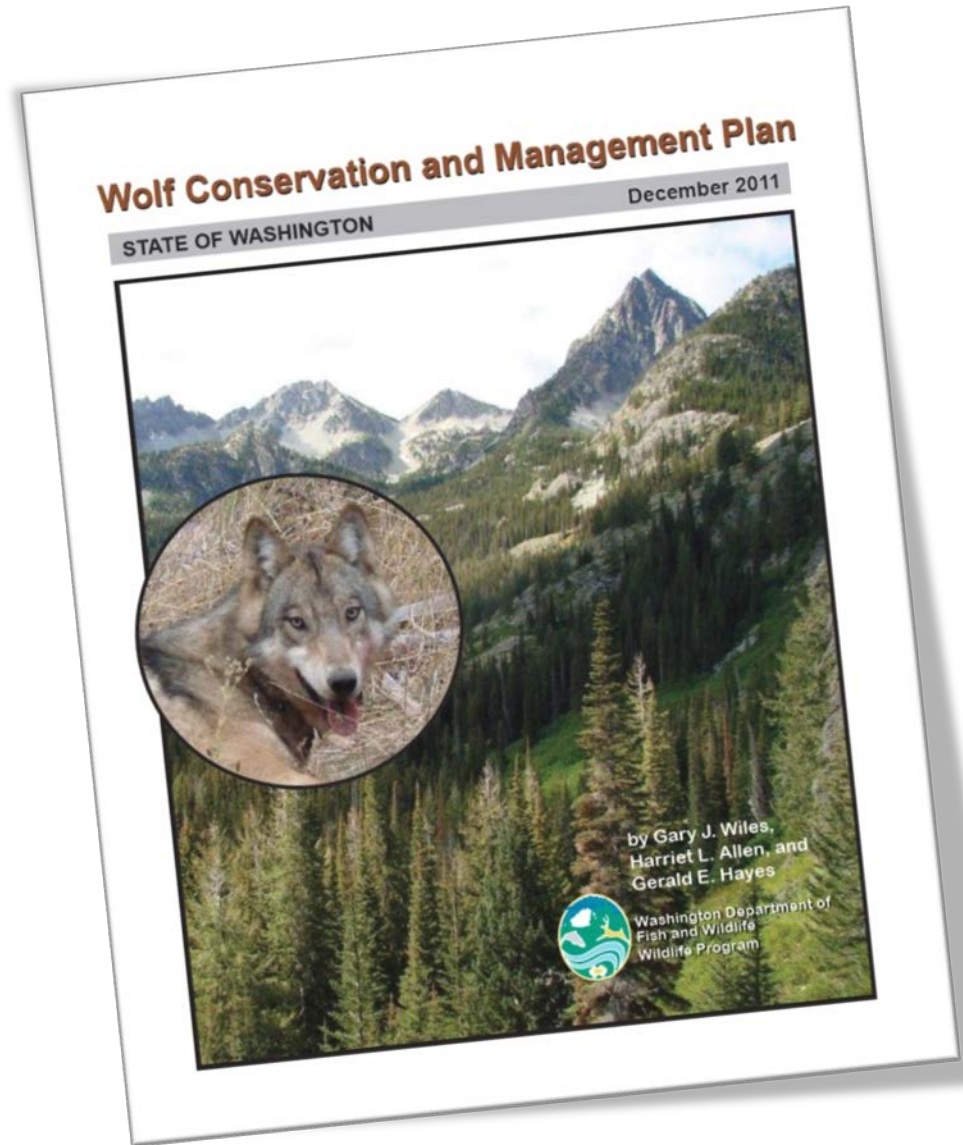
- Listed statewide as Endangered

What that means – Neither WDFW or USFWS have authority to lethally remove wolves to address wolf-livestock conflict or impacts to at risk species in areas listed under federal ESA

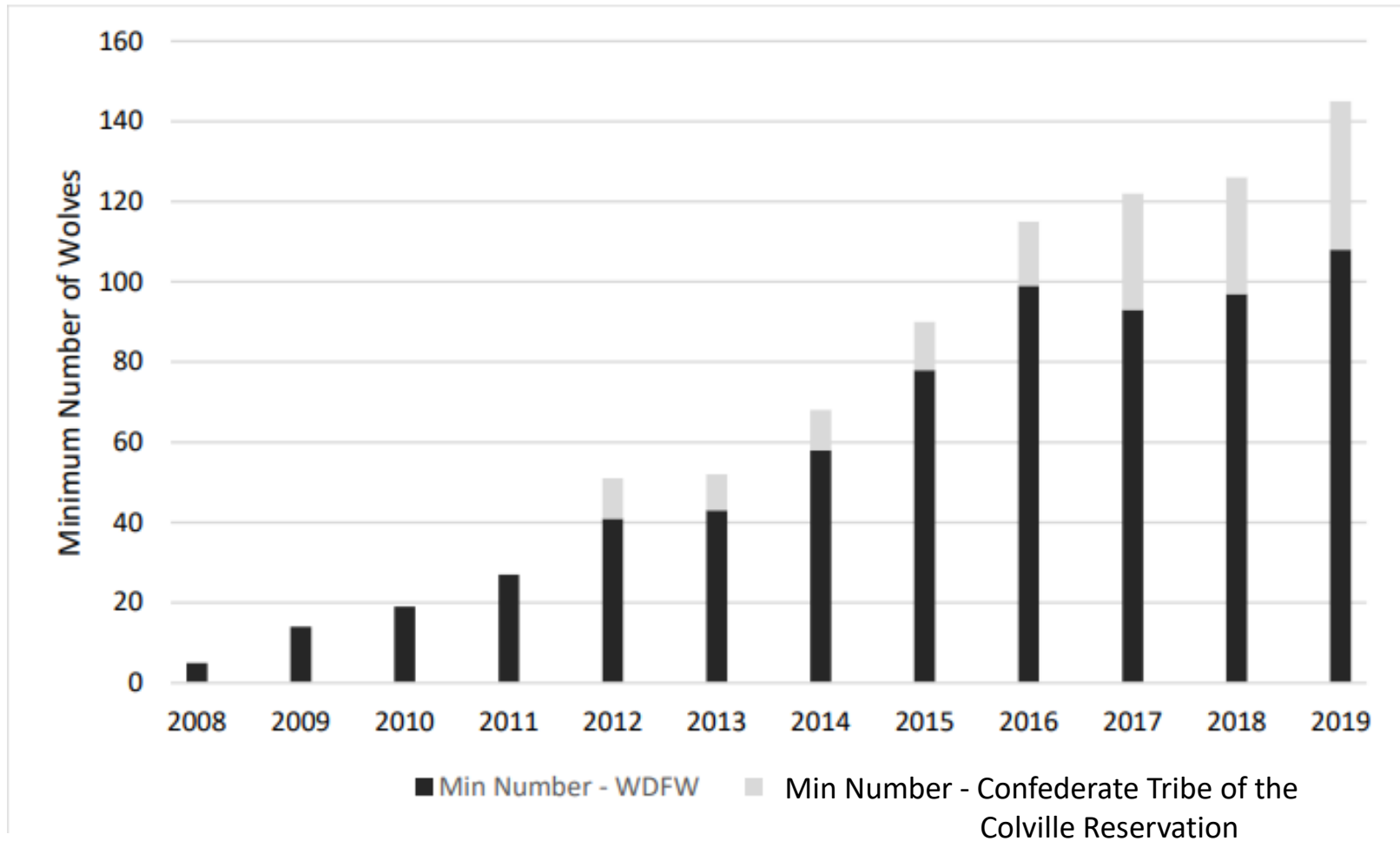


Wolf Plan Goals

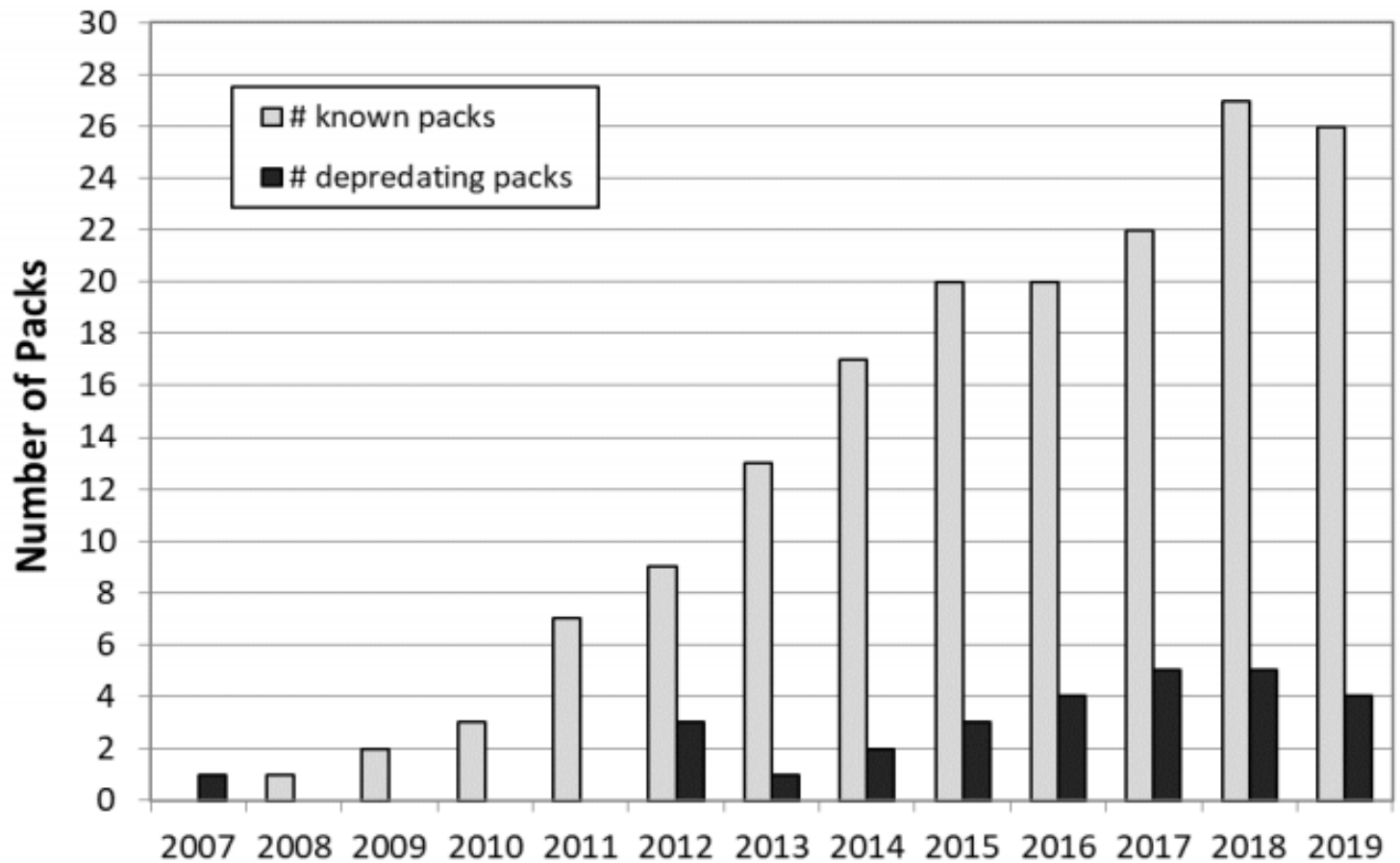
- Recover self-sustaining wolf populations
- **Manage wolf-livestock conflicts**
- Maintain healthy prey base
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence



Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



Packs Depredating on Livestock

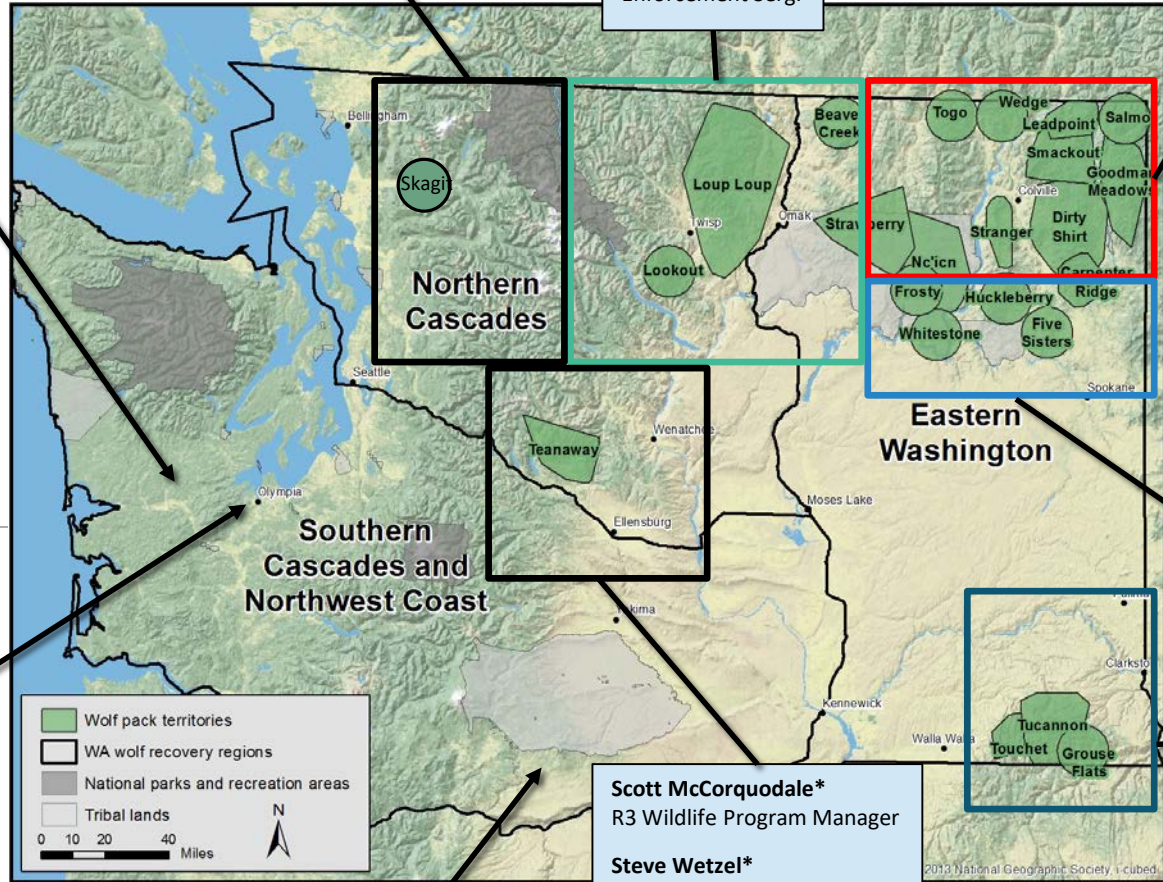


From Wolf Plan...Lethal control to resolve repeated livestock depredations:

1. Lethal removal may be used to stop repeated depredation
2. Livestock have clearly been killed by wolves,
3. Non-lethal methods have been tried but failed to resolve the conflict,
4. Depredations are likely to continue, and
5. There is no evidence of intentional feeding or unnatural attraction of wolves by the livestock owner.
6. Situations will have to be evaluated on a case-specific basis
7. Management decisions based on pack history and size, pattern of depredations, number of livestock killed, state listed status of wolves, extent of proactive management measures being used on the property, and other considerations.

WDFW Wolf staff resource map

Includes all staff that work on wolves as a significant portion of their job duties and all Wolf Internal Group (WIG) members*



Bryan Murphie*
District Biologist

Headquarters - Olympia

Kelly Susewind
Director

Eric Gardner*
Assistant Director WP

Donny Martorello*
Wolf Policy Lead

Julia Smith*
Wolf Coordinator

Anis Auode
Game Division Manager

(vacant)*
Carnivore Section Manager

Dan Brinson*
Conflict Section Manager

Ralf Schreiner
Conflict Section

Robert Waddell*
Conflict Specialist

Tucker Seitz
Conflict Specialist

Jim Brown*
Region 2 Director

Ellen Heilhecker*
Conflict Specialist

Joe Bridges*
Conflict Specialist

Scott Fitkin*
District Biologist

Dan Christensen
Enforcement Serg.

Region 1 – E. Recovery Region

Steve Pozzanghera*
Region 1 Director

Kevin Robinette*
R1 Wildlife Program Manager

Joey McCanna*
Region 1 Conflict Supervisor

Dan Rahn
Ra Enforcement Captain

Candace Bennett*
Conflict Specialist

Grant Samsill
Conflict Specialist

Don Weatherman
Seasonal Conflict Tech

Kyla West
Seasonal Conflict Tech

Trent Roussin*
Wolf Biologist

Annemarie Prince*
District Biologist

Ben Turnock
Assistant District Bio

Tony Leonetti*
Enforcement Serg.

Matt Konkle
Enforcement officer

(vacant)
Enforcement officer

Staci Lehman*
Public Affairs

Kile Westerman
Conflict Specialist

Scott Rasley
Conflict Specialist

Jeff Wade*
Conflict Technician

Jason Earl
Conflict/Private Lands Bio

Todd Jacobsen*
Conflict Specialist

Scott McCorquodale*
R3 Wildlife Program Manager

Steve Wetzel*
Conflict Specialist

Ben Maletzke*
Wolf Specialist

Cost-Share Contracts

Range riders / sheep herders
Fencing
Turbo-fladry
Carcass removal
Livestock guardian dogs
Herding dogs
Screamers, projectile pyrotechnics
Hazing tool
Radio activated guard units
Delayed turn out
Other



Range Riding



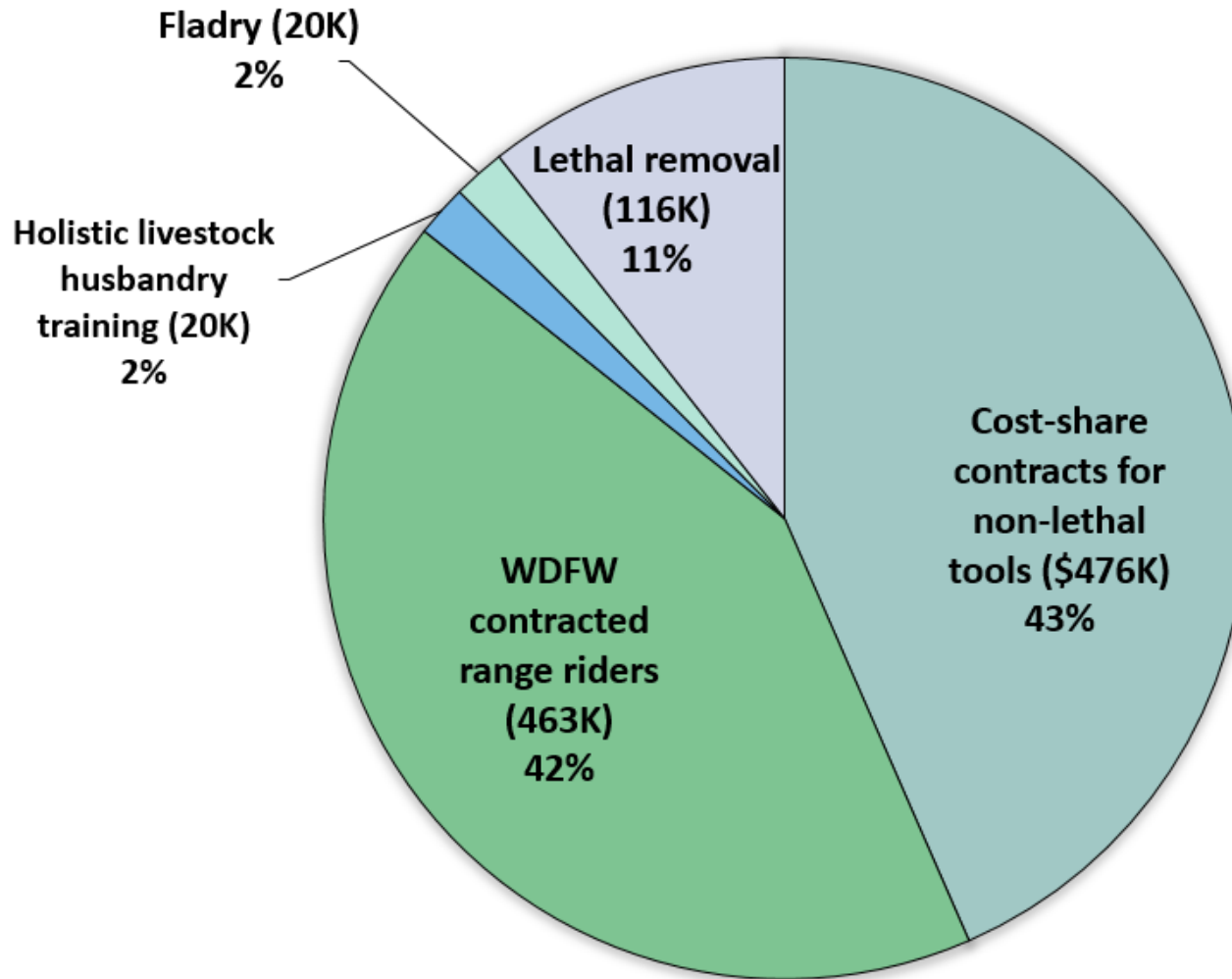
Compensation for livestock damages

- Direct – injury or death
- Indirect
 - Greater than normal losses
 - Reduced pregnancy rates
 - Reduced weight gain
 - Livestock Review Board



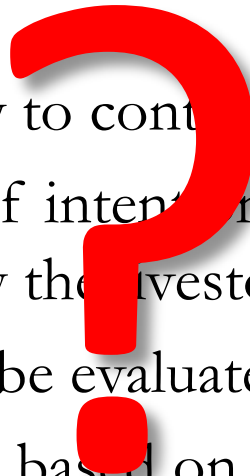
Costs of Non-lethal and Lethal Tools

2017-2019 Biennium



From Wolf Plan...Lethal control to resolve repeated livestock depredations:

1. Lethal removal may be used to stop **repeated depredation**
2. Livestock have **clearly been killed by wolves**,
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Guidance from Wolf Plan

- 12.5. Form a citizen advisory group to provide public feedback on implementation of wolf conservation and management in Washington.

A citizen advisory group will be formed to provide feedback to WDFW on implementation of the conservation and management plan. Aspects addressed might include wolf conservation activities, depredation control activities, the impacts of outreach and education, reviewing problems, and determining needs for new adaptive management procedures. Membership of the advisory group should include a balanced representation of the range of stakeholder values regarding wolf reestablishment in Washington.

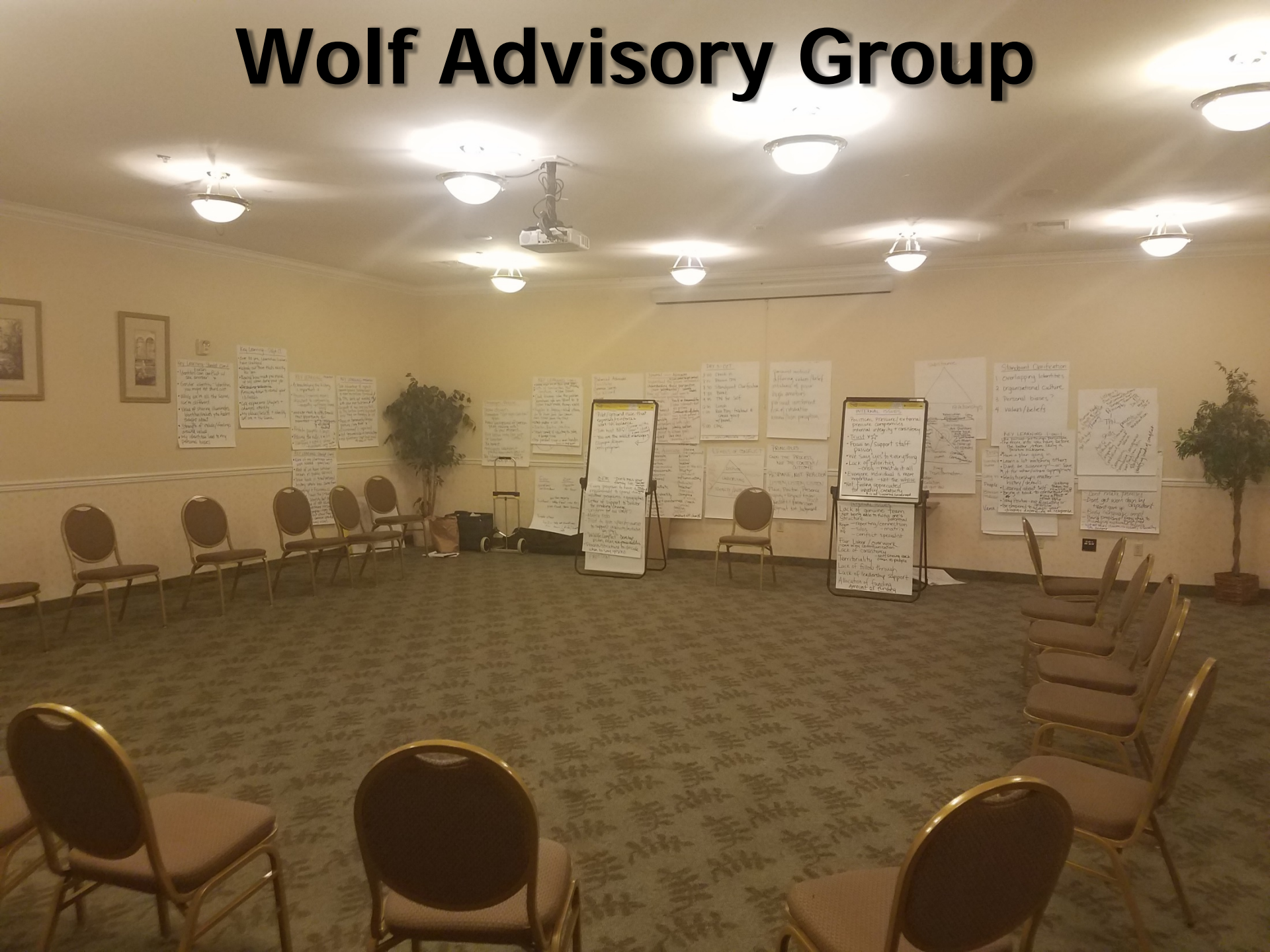


Develop Public Understanding and Promote Coexistence

Wolf Advisory Group and Conflict Transformation



Wolf Advisory Group



Key Learning Objectives

- 1. Understand the importance of the advisory group
- 2. Identify the key roles and responsibilities of the advisory group
- 3. Develop a clear understanding of the advisory group's purpose and objectives
- 4. Establish a clear line of communication between the advisory group and the management team
- 5. Ensure that the advisory group is well-informed and up-to-date on all relevant issues
- 6. Foster a culture of open communication and collaboration between the advisory group and the management team
- 7. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the advisory group on a regular basis

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Addressing Social Conflict in Wolf Management

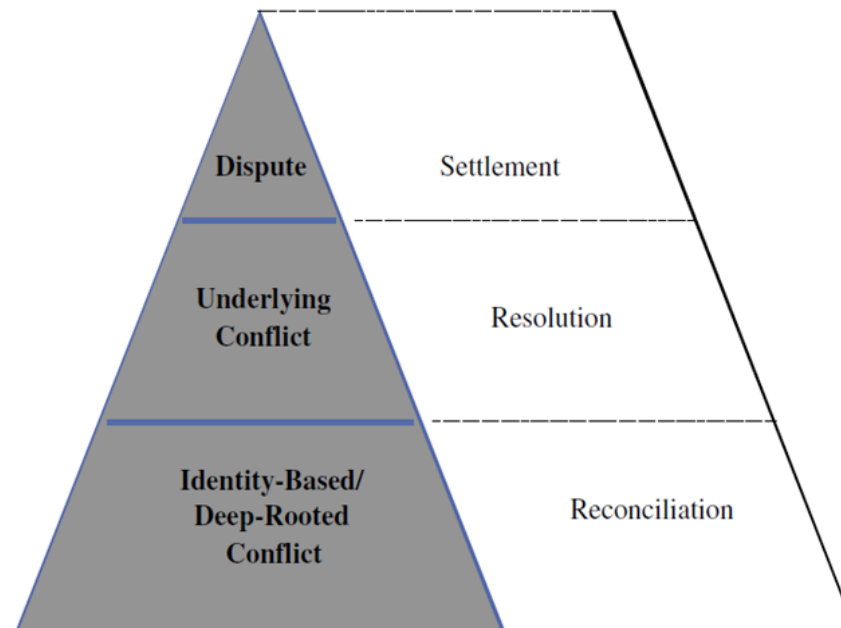
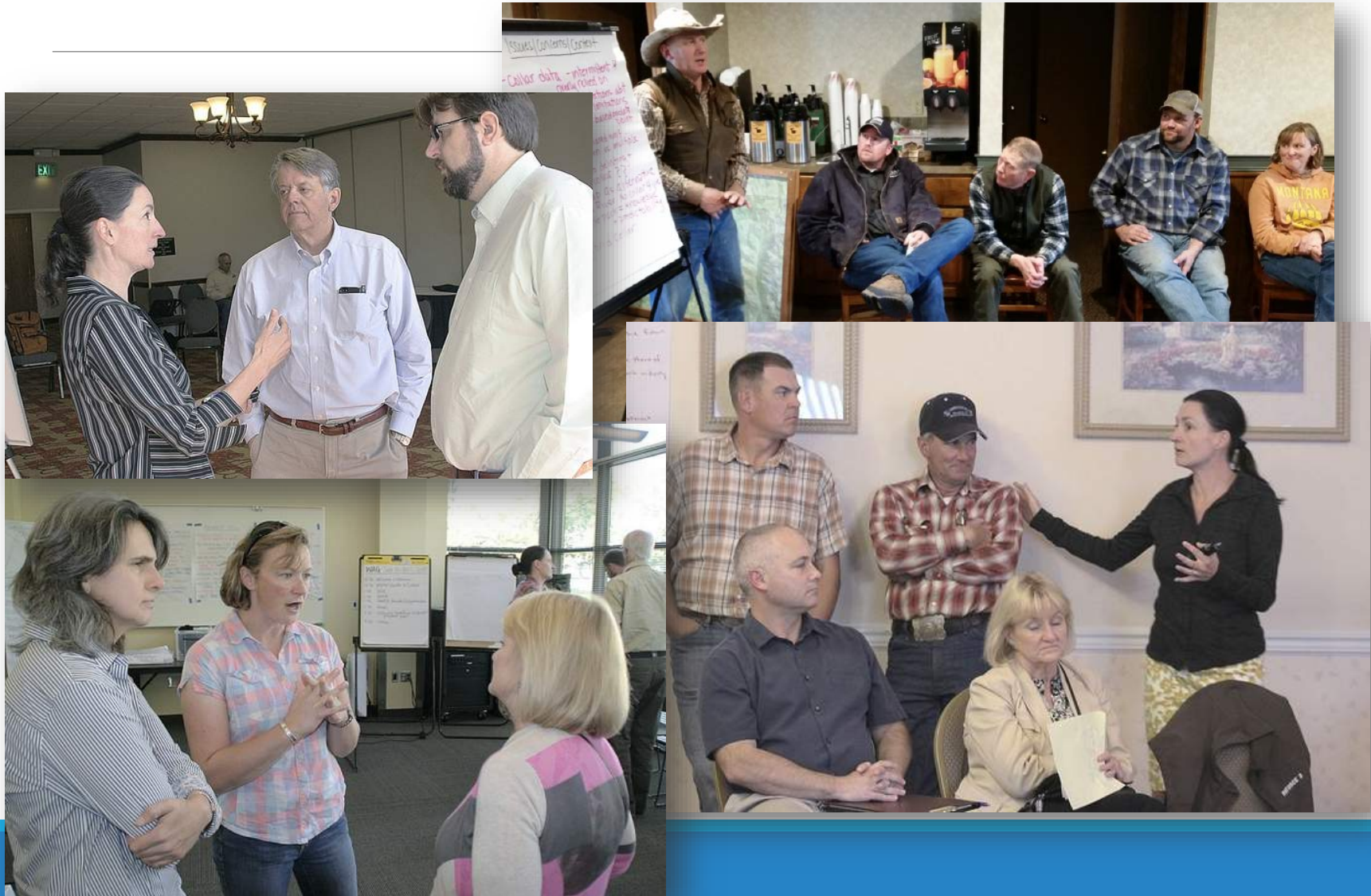


Fig. 1. The three levels of conflict that may exist in the conflict context (and the corresponding process used to address conflict at that level). Source: Adapted from [Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution \(2000, 73\)](#).

From Madden and McQinn 2014

Capacity Building and Conflict Transformation



Observations

STANDARD PROCESS

Process built on products

Stakeholders speaking to Department

Point-counter-point dialog

Can be a destructive process for deep rooted issues

Low cohesion on deep-root identity based conflicts

We see “weapons of the weak” being used

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

Process built on relationships

Go slow to go fast

Humanizing and reconcile relationships first

Stakeholders working together

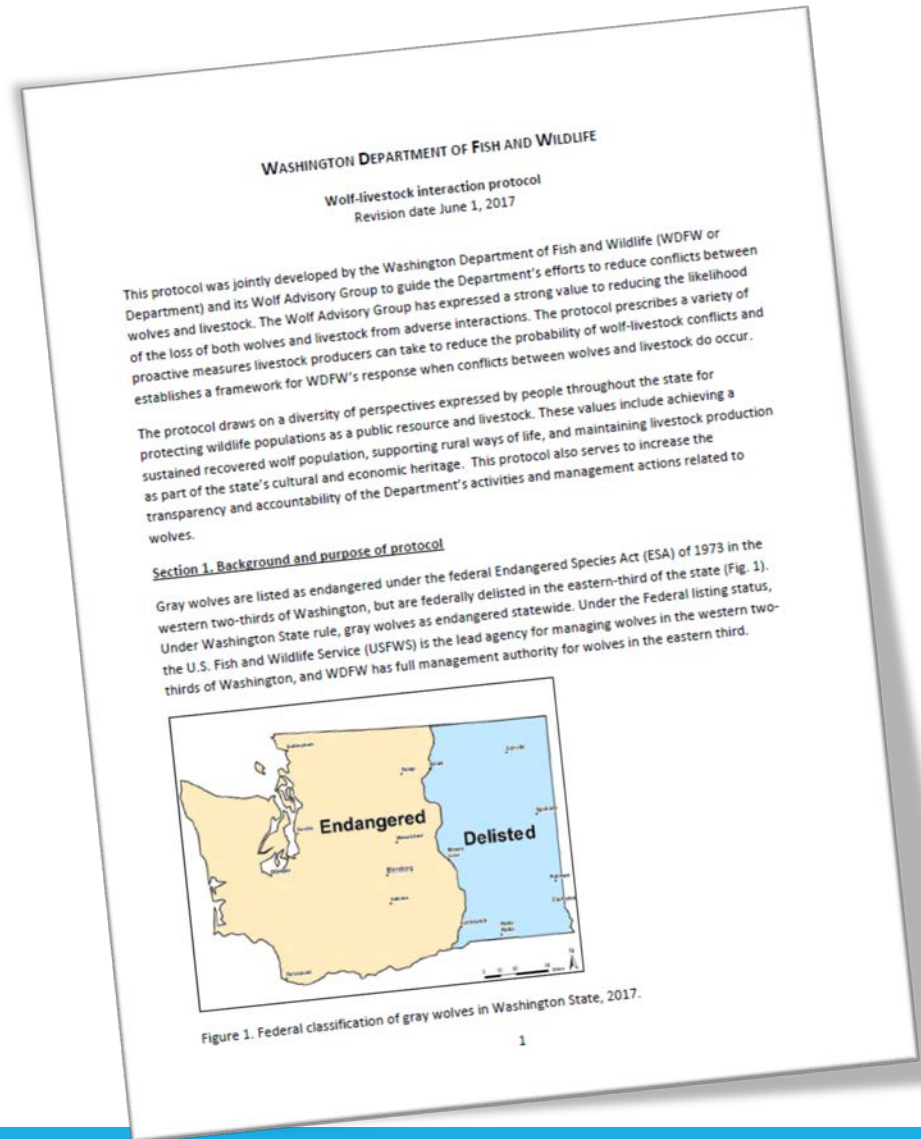
Constructive

Cohesion on issues

Creative solutions

2017 Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol

- Co-development with staff and citizen based Wolf Advisory Group
- Conflict transformation process
- Cohesion on issues
- Consistency and clarity for public



History of WDFW Protocols

- 2013-2015 Lethal removal protocol – largely developed by WDFW, no stakeholder cohesion, no stakeholder support
- Conflict transformation process and capacity building
- 2016 Lethal removal protocol – WAG cohesion and support process
- 2017 Wolf-livestock interactions protocol – WAG cohesion and support process
- Currently drafting revised protocol

Guidance from Wolf Plan	Further guidance from 2017 Wolf-livestock interactions protocol
Stop <u>repeated</u> depredations	There are at least 3 depredation events within a 30-day rolling window of time, or at least 4 depredation events within a 10-month rolling window of time
if it is <u>documented</u> that	Depredations are investigated by trained WDFW staff, who make the final determination (confirmed wolf depredation, probable wolf depredation, confirmed non-wild wolf depredation, unconfirmed depredation, non-depredation, or unconfirmed cause of injury or death).
livestock have clearly been <u>killed</u> by wolves,	At least 1 of the depredation events is a confirmed wolf kill of livestock
<u>Non-lethal methods have been tried but failed</u> to resolve the conflict,	At least two (2) proactive deterrence measures and responsive deterrence measures have been implemented and failed to meet the goal of influencing/changing pack behavior to reduce the potential for recurrent wolf depredations on livestock. Livestock producers are expected to proactively implement at least two (2) deterrence measures with concurrence from the local WDFW Wildlife Conflict Specialist
<u>Depredations are likely to continue</u> , and	WDFW expects depredations to continue (e.g., deterrence measures have not changed pack behavior, and overlap between wolves and livestock is expected to continue in near future)
Monitor level of control to meet both conservation and management objectives	The lethal removal of wolves is not expected to harm the wolf population's ability to reach recovery objectives statewide or within individual wolf recovery regions

Management decisions also based on...	
Case-specific evaluation based on pack history, and size, pattern of depredations, number of livestock killed, state listed status of wolves, extent of proactive management measures used, and other considerations	Variables include history and pattern of depredations, recovery objectives within region, estimated pack size, number and timing of depredations, classification of depredations, current and previous year circumstances, use of deterrence measures, time of year, and type of livestock

Lethal removal action...	
Will be incremental, with one or two offending animals removed initially. If depredations continue, additional animals may be removed.	Section 7: WDFW's approach is incremental removal, with first attempt to remove 1-2 wolves, followed by an evaluation to see if the goal of changing pack behavior was met.

Reactions to petition

- See Handout for specific reactions to Petitioners request
- Overall, the Department does not believe many of the suggestions are appropriate for rule. The suggestions are either already being addressed or are too subjective for rule making.

Recent WDFW Activities

- Initiated a periodic status review for wolves in Washington,
- Initiated the SEPA and EIS process for establishing a post-recovery wolf conservation and management plan,
- Worked with Legislature and Washington State Department of Agriculture to develop a grant program for deployment of non-lethal tools in Ferry County,
- Improvements accountability of contract services (range riders and cost-share contracts),
- Better communication with US Forest Service
- InReach devices for all WDFW contracted range riders,
- Currently working with WAG on revisions to 2017 protocol,
- Currently working with WAG to refine the expectations and accountability for range riding, and

WDFW Recommendation

WDFW recommends denying the petition based on:

1. Determining the need to use lethal control to stop repeated depredations is a complicated issue.
2. Limiting the flexibility articulated in the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan reduces the ability to address each case-specific wolf-livestock conflict.
3. Proposed rule language as written has problems.
4. This issue of wolf management and removals involves internal department actions, and internal practices are not legally required to be set out in rule, nor is it normal to set the same out in rule.
5. The Department's WAG process involves significantly more public and community involvement and interaction than would occur through a single rulemaking hearing.
6. If the proposed rule was adopted, WDFW would need to hire a significant number of additional Wildlife Conflict Specialists. This is not feasible given the State's current budgetary uncertainty.

Questions?

For more information:

Website

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Contact

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Donny.Martorello@dfw.wa.gov

360-790-5682

