



# News Release



Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office 11103 E. Montgomery Drive Spokane Valley, Washington 99206 Phone: 509-891-6839 Fax: 509-891-6748 <a href="http://www.fws.gov/easternwashington">http://www.fws.gov/easternwashington</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501 <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/">http://wdfw.wa.gov/</a>
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## **Calf Likely Killed by Wolf in Stevens County**

What appears to be the first confirmed wolf depredation on livestock in Washington State is under investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service -Wildlife Services.

On Tuesday, September 4, agency staff investigated a rancher's report of a calf that appeared to be killed by a wolf in northern Stevens County. They observed large canid tracks around the carcass, which showed injury and trauma signs indicative of a wolf kill. A field necropsy of the calf was conducted to help determine the cause of death. The carcass and tracks were extensively photographed so the evidence could be shared with experts who have years of wolf depredation experience.

Compensation for the lost calf might be available to the rancher from a fund managed by the Defenders of Wildlife, a national non-profit organization interested in helping wolf populations recover. The gray wolf is listed as endangered and is fully protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

As wolf populations recover across the west, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed delisting the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains, including the eastern one third of Washington State east of highways 97 and 17. Until the final decision is made on that proposal the wolf remains protected under federal law in Washington State.

The species is also listed as endangered under Washington State law. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently drafting a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, which would go into effect if wolves are federally de-listed. The plan is being developed with input from an 18-member citizen working group and is expected to be completed by July, 2008.

Wildlife Services agents will attempt to capture the wolf in northern Stevens County and equip it with a radio collar that uses satellite technology so that its movements can be monitored. The information will help determine if the animal is a resident or simply moving through the area, and whether it is alone or part of a wolf pack. Agency staff will use the relocation information to help livestock producers take preventive measures to avoid or minimize future depredations.

Wolf sightings can be reported to a 24-hour hotline at 1-888-584-9038. Suspected wolf depredations should be reported immediately to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in eastern Washington at 509-891-6839, in western Washington at 360-753-9440; after normal business hours reports can be made to a local Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officer by calling the nearest office of the Washington State Patrol.

For more information about wolves in Washington and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wolf Working Group, see [http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray\\_wolf/index.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/gray_wolf/index.htm).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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