

News Bulletin

Washington Fish & Wildlife Office

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Livestock Depredation Confirmed in Teanaway Wolf Pack Area

On July 16, 2015, a Washington State University graduate student conducting research on gray wolf ecology in the range of the Teanaway pack discovered a livestock mortality. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) experts were notified and arrived on scene to gather evidence and look for additional cattle mortalities.

A partial carcass of a yearling Angus was recovered, and examination of the hide and bones showed evidence of gnawing and bite marks consistent with a wolf depredation. Other signs of wolf activity in the area included tracks, scat and hair; several days of GPS collar locations confirmed wolf presence at the site. After reviewing the evidence and coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service), WDFW experts confirmed the depredation was caused by a wolf.

The carcass was found in the allotment of a livestock producer north of Cle Elum. The producer operates under a grazing permit issued by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and a livestock damage prevention agreement with WDFW. The WDFW agreement is designed to implement preventative measures, such as calving on fenced property, using range riders to increase human presence near cattle and removal of dead livestock to avoid attracting wolves.

In Washington, the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is federally listed as endangered west of U.S. Highway 97, State Route 17, and U.S. 395. Gray wolves are also listed as endangered by the State of Washington throughout the state.

The Service and WDFW will continue to monitor the area and work with partners, including state and federal agencies, tribes, the livestock industry and private landowners to minimize conflict and benefit wolf conservation across the state.

To report wolf sightings or evidence of wolf activity in Washington State, visit:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/reporting/sightings.html

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