

News Bulletin

Washington Fish & Wildlife Office

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Second Livestock Depredation Confirmed in Teanaway Wolf Pack Area

On September 5, 2015, a researcher conducting routine gray wolf research in the range of the Teanaway pack north of Cle Elum 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. Other cattle were observed in the area and appeared uninjured.

A single adult cow carcass showed injuries consistent with a wolf depredation. Wolf tracks and scat were found around the carcass. After reviewing the evidence and coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service), WDFW experts confirmed the depredation was caused by at least one wolf.

The livestock producer operates under a grazing permit issued by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and a livestock damage prevention agreement with WDFW. As part of these agreements, the producer was implementing preventative measures, including the use of a range rider to increase human presence near cattle. However, the carcass was found on U.S. Forest Service land where the cow had, evidently, left the producer's grazing area allotment.

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. This depredation was in the Federally listed area.

An earlier wolf depredation was found in July in the southern portion of the Teanaway River drainage, in the Teanaway Community Forest, a DNR grazing allotment.

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.

For more information about wolves in Washington state, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/pdf/GraywolvesinWashingtonfinalAugust2015.pdf>

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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