

Impact-based Management



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Eric Odell, Species Conservation Program Manager
Parks and Wildlife Commission

Chapter 5 – Wolf Management

The Commission's plan must comply with section 33-2-105.7 (2), (3), and (4) and must include:

(III) Details for the restoration and management of gray wolves, including actions necessary or beneficial for establishing and maintaining a self-sustaining population, as authorized by section 33-2-104;

CRS 33-2-105.8 3(a)(III)



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What is Management?

Actively engaged in activities that assure the long-term welfare of the wolf population and minimize the potential for conflict or resolve conflict where and when it develops



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Impact-based Management

“If wolves are causing problems, manage to resolve the problem. When negative impacts occur, they should be addressed on a case-by-case basis utilizing a combination of appropriate management tools, including education, nonlethal conflict minimization, lethal take of wolves, and damage payments...”

Stakeholder Advisory Group Report, Appendix C



Wolf Conflict Management

- Education
- Nonlethal tools
- Lethal tools



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Lethal Management

- Socially contentious
- Small scales
- Not a threat to long-term viability
- Technical Working Group support



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



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Impact-based Management

- Basic Premise
- Phases
 - State Endangered
 - State Threatened
 - State Delisted/Nongame
- 3 Scenarios
 - Livestock Interactions
 - Other Wildlife Species Interactions
 - Other Situations



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Circumstance

Management Tool

Non-injurious, nonlethal conflict minimization practices by livestock owners or their agents

Opportunistic **hazing** of any gray wolf in a non-injurious manner is **permitted at any time**. If a known injury or death occurs, CPW must be notified within 24 hours



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Circumstance

Taking of wolves in the act of attacking or chasing livestock

Management Tool

After issuance of a permit, any landowner may immediately take a gray wolf in the act of attacking livestock on their private land or land that they are legally grazing using a federal land-use permit provided the landowner provides evidence of livestock, or stock animals recently (less than 24 hours) wounded harassed or killed by wolves and state or federal agents are able to confirm that the animals were attacked by wolves. The carcass of any wolf taken and the area surrounding it should not be disturbed in order to preserve physical evidence



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Circumstance

Management Tool

Agency take of chronically depredating wolves

State or federal agents may carry out hazing, non-lethal control measures, or lethal control of problem wolves. CPW or its designated agents will consider A) evidence of wounded livestock, working dogs, or other animals or remains of livestock that show that the injury or death was caused by wolves, B) the likelihood that additional wolf-caused losses or attacks may occur if no control action is taken, C) evidence of unusual attractants or artificial or intentional feeding of wolves and D) evidence that proper animal husbandry practices are implemented



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Circumstance

Agency take to reduce impacts to wild ungulates

Management Tool

Only considered in Phase 3. In considering an appropriate management response to wild ungulate impacts, **CPW will require:**

Data or other information indicating that wolves are a **known factor of ungulate herds not meeting objectives.**

CPW will consider the following:

- Level and duration of wolf removal necessary to achieve management objectives;
- Ability to measure ungulate response to management actions;
- Identification of other potential major causes of an ungulate population not meeting HMP population objectives and attempts made to address them;
- Decline in ungulate license quotas and hunting opportunities

In employing this management action, wolf removals must not contribute to reducing the wolf population in the state below 150 wolves



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Circumstance

Management Tool

Agency take to reduce impacts to other wildlife species

Only considered in Phase 3, with similar considerations as described for wild ungulates



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CPW Draft Conflict Minimization and Compensation Program



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Luke Hoffman, Game Damage Program Manager
Parks and Wildlife Commission

CRS 33-2-105.8 2 (e)(I):

“Assist owners of livestock in preventing and resolving conflicts between gray wolves and livestock.”



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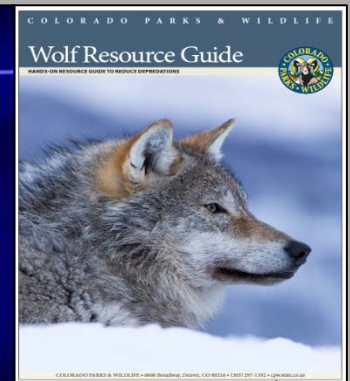
Draft Conflict Minimization Program

CPW will provide "temporary conflict minimization materials".

- Fladry, fox lights, cracker shells, propane cannons.

CPW will provide conflict minimization "outreach/training".

- CPW Wolf Conflict Coordinator position.



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Draft Conflict Minimization Program

- Conflict minimization funding separate from compensation funding.
- Procedures will be established through CPW regulation.
- CPW will seek external funding to support outreach/materials.
- Coordinate conflict minimization efforts to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts.



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CRS 33-2-105.8 2 (e)(II):

“Pay fair compensation to owners of livestock for any losses of livestock caused by gray wolves, as verified pursuant to the claim procedures authorized by sections 33-3-107 to 33-3-110.”



Colorado State University Extension



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Draft Compensation Program

Basic Principles:

- Conflict minimization techniques are not required for compensation but are encouraged/incentivized.
- Depredation confirmations will be made by CPW and based on a “preponderance of evidence” (*PWC W-17, #1740.A*).
- Compensation for wolf damages will be reduced by amount of other financial support awarded.
- \$8,000 maximum compensatory limit per head of livestock injured or killed.
- Program can provide compensation for direct and indirect losses.



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Base Compensation

Confirmed death of livestock (33-2-105.8) & guard/herding animals:

- 100% fair market value (FMV) compensation, up to \$8k per animal.

Veterinarian costs for *injured livestock or guard/herding animals*:

- Up to 100% FMV of the animal, not to exceed \$8k per animal limit.

If a confirmed wolf depredation (injury or death) occurs to cattle or sheep, the livestock owner may choose between additional compensation options in addition to base compensation.



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Missing Calves/Sheep

Difficulty in locating calf/sheep depredations in larger open-range settings:

- Wolf feeding behavior, topography and vegetation plays a role.
- Based on scientific literature review and SAG recommendations.

If a confirmed wolf depredation occurs to cattle or sheep, additional compensation options are available.



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Compensation Options

1. Basic Compensation Ratio Option:

- Only applies to calves/sheep.
- Missing calf/sheep losses, in larger open range settings.
- More simplified process.

OR:

2. Itemized Production Losses:

- Only applies to cattle/sheep.
- Missing calf/sheep losses, decreased weaning weights and conception rates.
- Requires additional/specific baseline documentation.



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Base Compensation

100% Fair Market Value for the type, age and weight of the animal for each confirmed wolf-livestock depredation.

In addition to base compensation, livestock owner may seek compensation for missing livestock and/or production losses

Basic Compensation Ratio

What does this option compensate for?
-Missing calves/sheep
-Does NOT apply to other livestock

Implementation of conflict minimization techniques?

Yes

No

Up to **7** missing animals can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented livestock missing.

Up to **5** missing animals can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented livestock missing.

Itemized Production Losses

What does this option compensate for?
-Missing sheep/calves
-Decreased sheep/cattle weight gains
-Decreased sheep/cattle conception rates
-Does NOT apply to other livestock

Livestock owner must provide specific baseline documentation to prove losses for all of the above.



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Option 1: Basic Compensation Ratio

Missing calves/sheep can be claimed if 2 conditions are met:

1. Owner must have at least one confirmed cattle/sheep depredation:
 - Missing animals claimed must be from same band/herd/parcel.
2. Owner must reasonably believe missing livestock was lost to wolves:
 - Number of missing livestock claimed cannot exceed the actual number of livestock missing.

CPW will consider the role of topography/vegetation for eligibility.



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Option 1: Basic Compensation Ratio

Compensation Ratio:

Number of missing calves/sheep based on # of confirmed depredations:

- Ratio: *# eligible missing animals : # confirmed depredations*

Two-tiered compensation ratio based on conflict minimization implementation:

- 7:1 ratio IF techniques are implemented
- 5:1 ratio IF techniques are not implemented



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Basic Compensation Ratio Example:

CPW confirms 2 cows were killed by wolves on a large Forest Service allotment in May and 1 calf was killed by wolves in July. A range rider checks on the cattle twice a week during the grazing season. When the cattle come home at the end of the season, 3 calves are missing.

Calculation: Eligible Compensation Ratio = 7 : 1

7 (*Compensation Ratio*) X 3 (*Confirmed depredations*) = 21 max eligible

Compensation:

2 cows and 1 calf confirmed depredated by CPW (100% FMV), **AND**
3 missing calves (100% FMV)



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Option 2: Itemized Production Losses

Missing calves/sheep can be claimed if 2 conditions are met:

1. Owner must have at least one confirmed cattle/sheep depredation.
2. Owner must reasonably believe missing livestock was lost to wolves.

Eligibility for missing calves and sheep are limited to losses above the previous 3-year baseline death loss.



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Option 2: Itemized Production Losses

For decreased cattle/sheep weight gains; required documentation:

- Baseline weights of 3 years (pre-wolf) AND current year weights.

For decreased cattle/sheep conception rates; required documentation:

- Baseline conception rates of 3-years (pre-wolf) AND current year rates.



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Itemized Production Losses Example:

Over the grazing season, CPW confirms 5 sheep were killed by wolves on a large USFS allotment. A shepherd is constantly with the band of sheep and there are guard dogs present. The owner chose to itemize production losses instead of the basic compensation ratio.

The livestock owner provides 3-year baseline documentation for weaning weights, along with the current year weaning weights and there is a 5% reduction in average weaning weights at 95 lbs. per lamb.

Compensation is based on the difference in price per head the livestock owner actually received and the price per head the owner would have received on an average year.



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Itemized Production Losses Example

Calculation:

- Contract price for 100 lb lamb is \$200
- Price received for lambs at 95 lbs is \$190

Compensation:

\$10 per lamb sold under contract AND 100% Fair Market Value compensation for the 5 confirmed sheep depredations

** The livestock owner can also claim missing animals **



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