

Appendix A

WPSR Work Group Stakeholder Representative Roster

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Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group

Stakeholder Representative Roster

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Nick Cady	Cascadia Wildlands
Mary Anne Cooper	Oregon Farm Bureau
Todd Nash Rodger Huffman	Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
Rob Klavens Sean Stevens	Oregon Wild
Suzanne Stone	Defenders of Wildlife
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity
David Wiley	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Curt Melcher	Director
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
Derek Broman	Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator
Roblyn Brown	Wolf Program Field Coordinator

Governor’s Office

Name	Title
Jason Miner	Natural Resources Policy Manager
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

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Appendix B

Audience Participation Roster

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Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group

Audience Participation Roster

Name	Affiliation
Holly Akenson	ODFW Commissioner
Gabriel Alvarez	University of Oregon
Harry Barber	Timberland Owner
Jeanne Barbouletos	Member of the Public
Tim Barbouletos	Member of the Public
Samantha Bayer	Oregon Farm Bureau
Greg Barreto	State Representative – HD 58 - Cove
Joan Beldin	Member of the Public
Mark Bennett	Baker City Commissioner
Peg Boulay	University of Oregon
Leland Brown	Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Lane Carrier	Member of the Public
Stephanie Christenson	Member of the Public
Rocky Dallum	Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
Drew Donahue	University of Oregon
James Dundan	Member of OHA, RMEF, and Ducks Unlimited
Al Elkins	Oregon Hunters Association
Diane Gallegos	Wolf Haven International
Mark Gibson	The Dalles Chronicle
Paul Halladay	Oregon Wild
Tom Hilken	USFS
Bryn Hudson	Governor’s Natural Resources Office

Rodger Huffman	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Rusty Inglis	Harney County Farm Bureau
Jennifer Jaca	Member of the Public
Sristi Kamal	Defenders of Wildlife
Robin Kearns	Member of the Public
Steve Kinzer	Member of the Public
Orlando Lorang	University of Oregon
Eric Lubell	Member of the Public
Hunter Mackin	University of Oregon
Meghan Martin	Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Ned Maynard	University of Oregon
Ken McCall	Oregon Hunters Association
Danielle Moser	Oregon Wild
Dennis Myhrum	Oregon Farm Bureau
Veril Nelson	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Zoë O'Toole	University of Oregon
Steven Pearlman	University of Oregon
Ale Peña	University of Oregon
George Plaven	Capital Press
Sheila Redman	Member of the Public
Bill Richardson	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Nick Richardson	University of Oregon
George Rollins	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jerome Rosa	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Tony Schick	OPB
Jane Schwitzer	Member of the Public
Hugo Séguin	University of Oregon
Sean Stevens	Oregon Wild

Haley Stewart	Humane Society of the United States
Fred Walasavage	Oregon Hunters Association
Cynthia Warnock	Wallowa County Rancher
Rebecca White	Pacific Wolf Coalition
David Wilkins	
John Williams	Wallowa County
Gregory Wolley	ODFW Commissioner

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Appendix C

Operating Principles

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Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process

Operating Principles

For any collaborative process to operate smoothly, it is necessary for those involved to agree at the outset on the purpose for the process and on the procedures by which the group will govern its discussions and decision-making.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) update process and the corresponding Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group process is to review the draft Plan update and recommend edits/changes for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission's consideration. The purpose of this facilitated process is to find agreement on remaining Wolf Plan update topics to produce a plan that organizations can support.

II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All WPSR work group members agree to:

- Attend meetings and follow through on promises and commitments
- Bring concerns from their interest group or organization up for discussion
- Share all relevant information that will assist the group in achieving its goals
- Participate in a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange of ideas, views, and information
- Articulate to the best of their ability interests that underlie issues and concerns in an effort to find common ground
- Test assumptions by asking questions
- Act in good faith which requires that individuals express consistent views and opinions in the WPSR Work Group and in other forums

ODFW Staff agree to:

- Incorporate consensus items in the draft Plan as much as possible. They will alert the WPSR Work Group if they cannot include an element under discussion
- For those items without consensus, ODFW staff will include a summary of the group's points of view, which will go to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Facilitator agrees to:

- Provide neutral process support to assist WPSR Work Group members in staying focused on the WPSR scope of work
- Track decision points and next steps
- Send summary meeting notes to WPSR Work Group members for review and comment

III. DECISION-MAKING

- Strive to operate by consensus which means that everyone can live with the decision
- Keep its organization's decision-makers informed of potential decisions, in order to expedite approval for the final product
- Support the eventual product if they have concurred in it

IV. PROCESS REMINDERS/GROUND RULES

- Seek to learn and understand each other's perspective
- Encourage respectful, candid and constructive conversation
- Provide balance of speaking time
- Seek to resolve differences and reach consensus
- Discuss topics together rather than in isolation
- Make every effort to avoid surprises
- Limit side conversations
- Turn off cell phones or place in the non-ring mode during meetings
- Make every effort to start and end meetings on time

V. SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

- The WPSR Work Group as a whole will meet as needed to address its responsibilities. Each regularly scheduled meeting will be of full-day duration to provide sufficient time for complete discussions.

Appendix D

WPSR Work Group Convening Interviews Summary

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August 30, 2018

TO: Derek Broman, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

FROM: Debra Nudelman, Kearns & West

**SUBJECT: Oregon Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group
Convening Interviews Summary**

Debra Nudelman, Kearns & West (K&W), conducted convening interviews with 19 representatives from eight stakeholder groups, the Oregon Governor's Natural Resources office and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) team. The convening interview questions were developed by K&W and ODFW to learn about the interests, issues, concerns, and challenges surrounding the Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan (Plan) update process and the corresponding Oregon Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group process. We also learned about ideas and suggestions for how to provide for a productive and constructive facilitation process. Please note this is a high level summary with highlights from our conversations. We thank the interviewees for their preparation, time, participation and effort in providing us with thoughtful insights and a wealth of information on this complex, multi-faceted topic.

CONVENING INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

After conducting the convening interviews, K&W reviewed the information received, synthesized and considered the interests, issues, concerns, along with the ideas and suggestions offered; and developed the following draft convening interview summary with process reflection and feedback for the Plan update process and corresponding Oregon WPSR Work Group process.

Please tell us about your background, involvement, roles, responsibilities and interests related to the Plan and the proposed Oregon WPSR Work Group process.

The stakeholders' backgrounds covered a broad spectrum of experience and expertise.

What do you perceive as the major issues the Oregon WPSR Work Group process will need to address and why? Which of these are core issues to you and why?

- Develop trust between parties. Many of the parties pointed to distrust between the parties as a major issue. This could be broken down into two parts: distrust in the process and distrust in the other participants.
 - Distrust in the process.
 - Many participants with experience of the Plan update process stated that the process could be improved.

- Some participants noted that a stakeholder team process is needed to address issues and concerns through conversation.
 - Most participants are frustrated at the overall timeframe in the Plan update process. Some want to expedite the Oregon WPSR Work Group process to get the next draft of the Plan in place. Others want to make sure the Oregon WPSR Work Group process is given time to build a solid foundation of collaboration.
 - Many participants would like to include field-level participants in the Plan update process.
 - Many participants would like to have a scientific committee included in the Plan update process.
 - Some participants would like to have continuing conversations with stakeholders between updates to the Plan.
 - Many participants would like to avoid the appearance that the stakeholders included in this process are the key/only stakeholders to include in the future.
- Distrust in the other participants.
 - Some participants asked if a fundraising hiatus is possible.
 - Many participants would like clear definitions of governmental and agency roles.
 - Many participants would like to determine how and what to communicate to the public– both at a stakeholder level and an agency level.
- Oregon wolf population. Most of the parties noted that they want to support a healthy and manageable wolf population in Oregon that coexists with human, livestock, and ungulate populations.
- Healthy wild ungulate population. Many of the parties noted that they want to support a healthy and thriving wild ungulate population.
- Lethal Kills. Some parties listed the lethal kill provision as a priority while others communicated that they would like to focus more on non-lethal methods of wolf management.
 - Local control of lethal kills. Some parties want to have local control of lethal kills for prompt action after a determination.
- Define unclear terms.
 - Chronic depredation. Many participants noted that they would like to discuss how chronic depredation is defined in the plan and incorporate specific numbers and define geographic boundaries.
 - Controlled take. Some participants noted that they would like to discuss who is able to perform a controlled take.
- Science used as basis for provisions. Some participants noted that they have a disagreement with the science used for population viability studies and ungulate studies.
- Different opinions and backgrounds. Most participants agreed that the different opinions and backgrounds of the stakeholder group will be an issue in the conversations and in working on future Wolf Plan drafts together.
- Establish clear groundwork.
 - Some participants would like to create management-related actions as described in the Plan.

- Some participants would like to establish groundwork as a precursor to the Plan and see a clear path to Phase III active management and hunting. Other participants would like to focus on substantive, concrete, enforceable outcomes to provide protections for wolves in Phase II and III.
- Most participants would like to establish how the State and Federal agencies will work together to co-manage wolf populations.
- Collaring.
 - Most participants have an interest in collaring but for distinct reasons. Most participants would like the data results of collaring but worry how the information will be used.
- Citizen-Advisory Committee. Some participants want to assure that private landowners are included in the conversations as well as people on citizen-advisory committees.
- Updating some of the agreements. Some participants would like to evaluate and update some of the agreements.

What are the challenges, barriers/obstacles to addressing the identified issues and concerns? How might they be overcome?

- Assumed Language. Most of the participants noted that some of the terms and definitions used have no agreed-upon definition and can lead to confusion. e.g. “controlled take”
- Shared understanding of facts. Most participants noted that there is no shared understanding of the facts.
- Broad conversation scope. Most participants noted that limiting the scope of the conversation has been a historical issue.
- Balance between moving quickly and thoughtful, beneficial revisions. Many of the participants stated that they want the Plan to be updated as soon as a workable plan could be created. Many of the participants also want to ensure the update is an improvement to the status quo.
- Lack of established relationships. Most of the participants do not talk to each other between updates. Therefore, the parties have few established relationships to build off and very little knowledge of each other as individuals.
- Reinventing the wheel during each update process. Some participants noted that each time Oregon begins updating the Plan, it starts from the ground up and reinvents the wheel. Some participants noted that they wished for a constant, established process that would allow the stakeholders to build on previous versions of the Plan more efficiently.
- Equity of voice in the process. A few participants noted that there is perceived unfairness in how the voices in the group are addressed, either because of larger numbers or because of louder voices.
- Active vs. passive wolf management. Some participants noted that they would prefer active wolf management where ODFW is actively managing the wolf population. Other participants noted that they would prefer a passive wolf management system where ODFW is passively monitoring the wolf population.
- Funding. Many participants noted that the Plan must have credibility and buy-in from ODFW and all stakeholders, including financial support.
- Emotional language. Most of the participants noted that previous Plan conversations relied on emotional language rather than scientific or factual language.

- Satisfaction with the current Plan. Some participants are satisfied with the current Plan and could continue with the Plan as is. Some participants are not satisfied the current Plan and will continue to suggest changes.
- Normalizing livestock loss. Some participants noted that normalizing or monetizing killed livestock goes against their core values.
- Normalizing wolf loss. Some participants noted that normalizing or monetizing killed wolves goes against their core values.
- Wolf population growth. Some participants noted that the state is trying to build the overall population of wolves in Oregon and that the process gets focused on individual wolves.
- No incentive to compromise. Some participants noted the emotional investment on each side and noted that many of the powerful bargaining chips to bring parties to the table have already been used. Some parties have no incentive to bargain and negotiate and others have many incentives to bargain and negotiate.
- Attaining public approval. Some participants stated that it would be difficult to get public approval for changes that may negatively impact this species. Many participants noted that it would be difficult to get their stakeholder engagement because the stakeholders feel disenfranchised.
- Continuing issues from Phase I. Some participants noted that the same unclear timelines, conflicting language, and discretionary language that was at issue in Phase I continues through the other phases.

What are your hopes and expectations for the facilitated process? How would you define a successful outcome?

- Updates to the Plan.
 - Completed update. Several parties noted that they would like to complete the update as soon as feasible, with concrete, enforceable outcomes, and clarified language.
 - Bilateral update. Most participants commented that the Plan needs to be bilateral, workable, and functional with producer buy-in. Many participants noted that a successful plan should help re-enfranchise their stakeholders.
 - Normalized wolf management. Some parties noted that it would like to normalize the Plan so that news of wolf management does not make the front page of newspapers, similar to the normalization of other large predator management plans. Other participants noted that they would like to see a plan that works to support wolf populations and support the species' needs.
 - Fewer casualties. A few participants noted that a successful plan would result in fewer dead cattle and fewer dead wolves.
 - Science-based.
 - Some participants expressed a desire for the Plan to be science-based and that the Plan consider killing wolves as a last option. Other participants hoped that the Plan will reflect the resiliency of wolf populations by supporting active management.
 - Adaptability. Some participants want the Plan to recognize different phases over time, wolf population growth, and the different populations in each Oregon region.

- Recognize the varying phase levels in the different areas in Oregon. Some participants want ODFW to determine the habitat carrying capacity for each habitat zone and then set population objectives.
- Lower depredation threshold. Some participants want to see a lower depredation threshold, such as introducing agency discretion after two confirmed kills. Other participants do not want to see a lowered threshold.
- Process for updating the Plan.
 - Maintain working relationships. A number of these parties work with each other on other projects and noted that they wish to maintain good working relationships.
 - Sustainable process. A number of participants noted that the Plan is set to be updated every five years and so stakeholders will have these conversations every five years. It would help to have a process that is built for a long-term, ongoing conversation.
 - Transparency. A few participants noted that they would like to create transparent rules and rules about agency transparency.
 - Civility. The participants noted that they hoped for a process where the conversations were civil, and participants seek to understand each other and be understood.
 - Inclusive stakeholder group. Some of the parties noted that they have had success with wolf conversations where the participant groups represented a diverse range of backgrounds.

What kinds of issues do not need to be addressed through the facilitation process? Why?

- Issues outside of determined scope. Some participants noted that maintaining the scope of the conversation is a concern for the group as there are many related issues. Most participants noted that it would be helpful to determine a scope for the conversation.
- Avoid Focus on “No Wolves Killed.” Some participants want to keep the frame of the conversation away from “no wolves killed” because the phases have plans for lethal kills that need to be discussed and updated to be more responsive and effective. Others would like to work towards a goal of “no wolves killed.”
- Hunting. A number of the participants stated that they do not wish to speak about hunting as it is an issue in future Wolf Plan phases and not for the update currently on the table. Other participants noted that hunting is included in Phase III of the plan and previous plans should develop a process for leading up to that Phase.
- Avoid Discussing Compensation. A number of participants suggested this not be addressed as: (1) it is an after-effect of the Plan rather than part of the Plan itself, and (2) it is run by the Department of Agriculture, which is not included in this process.
- Impacts on cattle and ungulates. Some participants noted that studies in other states with larger wolf populations do not show a large impact on the cattle and ungulates population. Other participants noted that the wolf population has had an impact on Oregon cattle and ungulates populations.
- Population distinctions between states. Some parties stated that the population distinctions between states are invalid because packs are highly mobile and move from state to state.

- Federal side of delisting the wolf. A number of participants suggested this not be addressed because the state plan does not impact the Federal side of wolf management.
- Public lands grazing. A number of participants suggested this not be addressed because it is a separate conversation to wolf management.
- No new topics. Some participants stated that any topic not originally considered or included in the Plan should not be considered now.

What ideas and suggestions might you have for conducting an effective, productive and successful collaborative process? What would *not* be a useful or acceptable approach and why?

- Helpful.
 - Add independent science and scientists to the table
 - Clarity regarding when ODFW is requesting information and when the Commission is requesting information
 - Have a limited number of topics to discuss and keep people on track
 - Keep the facilitation approach workable
 - Identify which provisions are working in the current Plan and which provisions need attention
 - Identify what impact this WPSR work group process will have on the Commission and its work on the Plan
- Not Helpful.
 - A process focused on emotional needs
 - Replacing scientific arguments with a social construct argument
 - Adding stakeholders to balance the table rather than for substantive reasons
 - The view that this process is a negotiation rather than a collaboration
 - Any use of these conversations as later justification for action
 - Rushing the process or running a rote process meant to simply check boxes
 - Fundraising founded on conversations in this update process
 - Putting too much focus on making and discussing a “parking lot”
 - Introducing topics that are not in the draft or current Plan
 - Convoluting emotion and fact
 - Focusing on opinion sharing

What do you think would happen if the “status quo” continued and some sort of collaborative outcome was not adopted (i.e. proceed with December 2017 draft or abandon the draft and continue with the current Plan)? Are there any “fears/worst case scenarios” that should be considered?

- Continuing with the status quo.
 - Anger. Some stakeholders think that continuing with the status quo will leave people angry and unsupportive of the Plan.
 - Satisfaction. Some stakeholders think the previous version of the Plan works fine and would be satisfied with the status quo.

- Continuing legal battles. Some participants noted that the legal battles will continue partly because the issue will be so polarized that the legal venue will be the only appropriate venue.
- Continuing conflict between wolves and livestock. Most participants expressed concern that there will be an increase in conflicts between livestock and wolves.
- Step backwards. Some participants stated that continuing the status quo would damage the parts of the Plan that are working well.
- Fears.
 - Some participants noted a fear that Commission will act unexpectedly; some participants expressed the opinion that the Commission's decision to delist wolves was not optional and degraded their trust in the Commission.
 - Many participants noted a fear that wolves will be unnecessarily killed.
 - Many participants noted a fear that cattle and livestock will continue to be killed.
 - Some participants noted a fear that higher poaching levels will continue.
 - Most participants noted a fear of higher levels of distrust or controversy.
- Worst-case scenario.
 - Many parties expressed a concern that either the Governor or the Legislature will take unilateral action.
 - Some participants expressed a concern that language regarding controlled hunts will disappear.
 - Many parties expressed a concern that their core issues will be disregarded.

Do you think there are gaps in available information or data? If so, what resources should be utilized and considered?

- Science.
 - Some participants thought it would be helpful to have an independent carnivore expert present to provide data.
 - Some participants noted that the population viability study used to justify delisting should be rewritten to account for the comments on the study.
 - Some participants would like to include studies on the impact of wolves on ungulate populations or recovering populations, like in WA or the Western Great Lakes region.
 - Some participants stated that they would like to rely only on the ODFW-backed research.
 - Many participants noted that they would like to see the wolf data communicated more effectively.
 - Some participants noted that they do not think there are any current data gaps and that data gaps occur later in the timeline
- Wolf population studies.
 - Some participants would like to include studies on the human cause of wolf mortality.
 - Most participants do not know how the collaring data will be used or who will be able to access it; however, most participants also mentioned that collaring data would be helpful.

- Local representation.
 - Most participants noted that field representatives are not included in this process and they often have their own issues between each other that need recognition.

Any other suggestions for how we may most effectively engage you in a process that could gain the support of your decision-makers and constituents?

- Agency transparency.
 - Some participants noted that while they understand that agencies tend to use their own scientists in their studies, it would be useful for their constituents to see the agency analyzing their own studies based on the comments from outside scientists.
 - Most participants want to avoid an insider-outsider feel to this conversation.
- Representation. Many participants asked that we check that participants are not discussing personal representations rather than representations of their group
- Documentation. Some participants requested we keep accurate minutes.
- Public policy. Some participants stated that the Plan needs to represent good public policy that works for all stakeholders – workable, equitable, fair, and have bilateral buy-in.
- Language. Some participants stated that the controlled hunt language in the Plan needs to change to get buy-in from their stakeholders.
- Clear facilitative leadership. Some participants noted that it would be helpful to have clear navigation through difficult conversations.

Please confirm who you propose to be your representative or team for the Oregon WPSR Work Group. Do we have everyone’s correct contact information?

We confirmed the participants for each of the groups and added some team members who did not participate in the convening interviews.

Do you have any questions for us?

- What will be the length of this process?
- Will the Commission will look at the results of this process with higher authority?
- Who are the other parties at the table?

This memo respectfully submitted by Kearns & West.

Appendix E

WPSR Work Group

Meeting Agendas

August 30, 2018 Proposed Meeting Agenda

October 9, 2018 Proposed Meeting Agenda

November 5, 2018 Proposed Meeting Agenda

November 27, 2018 Proposed Meeting Agenda

January 8, 2019 Proposed Meeting Agenda

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**OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (PLAN)
WOLF PLAN STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE (WPSR)
WORK GROUP MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**THE DALLES ODFW SCREEN SHOP
3561 KLINDT DRIVE, THE DALLES, OREGON 97508**

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Welcome and context for the WPSR Work Group process;
- Confirm Work Group scope, structure and proposed operating principles;
- Framing Work Group hopes and expectations/defining success;
- Discuss WPSR Work Group facilitation topics/key issues, interests, develop ideas to address differences and propose outcomes; and
- Discuss and confirm approach going forward, upcoming meeting dates and topic, and next step tasks.

9:00 – 9:30

Welcome, Introductions, Context and Agenda

- Welcome, introductions and context – *Curt Melcher, ODFW Director*
- Agenda review and process approach – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*

9:30 – 10:00

WPSR Work Group Structure

- Discuss value, need, purpose, scope and pathway forward for the WPSR Work Group – *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Derek Broman, Wildlife Division Carnivore Coordinator*
- Review, discuss and confirm proposed operating principles – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*
- Q&A/Group discussion and strive for agreement

10:00 – 10:45

Framing WPSR Work Group Hopes and Expectations/Defining Success

- Opening Remarks – *brief (five to six minute) statements from each Work Group member addressing the following questions:*
 - What are your hopes, expectations and interests for the facilitated process?
 - What would a successful outcome for this process look like and why?
- Learn about and better understand each other's interests and expectations

10:45 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 12:00

Begin Discussing WPSR Work Group Facilitation Topics

- What are the key issues that need to be resolved and why?
- How might issues be addressed to meet Work Group members' interests and move forward in a productive and constructive way?

- What are some ideas and suggestions for how challenges and obstacles may be overcome to resolve differences, what would help to address substantive, process or communication/relational issues?
- What else is needed to ensure that issues are resolved and alignment achieved to provide the ODFW Commission with recommended updates to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan?
- **Approach and Outcome:** Clarifying questions and group discussion; strive to resolve differences and agree on proposed outcomes

12:00 – 1:00 *Working Lunch (provided for WPSR Work Group members)*

1:00 – 3:30 Continue Discussing WPSR Work Group Facilitation Topics *(includes break)*

- What are the key issues that need to be resolved and why?
- How might issues be addressed to meet Work Group members' interests and move forward in a productive and constructive way?
- What are some ideas and suggestions for how challenges and obstacles may be overcome to resolve differences, what would help to address substantive, process or communication/relational issues?
- What else is needed to ensure that issues are resolved and alignment achieved to provide the ODFW Commission with recommended updates to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan?
- **Approach and Outcome:** Clarifying questions and group discussion; strive to resolve differences and agree on proposed outcomes

3:30 – 3:45 Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

- Based on the above discussions, how would Work Group members like to proceed to address identified issues and concerns?
- Confirm topics for upcoming meetings
- Who will complete what next step tasks by when?
- Meeting summary and acknowledgements

3:45 – 4:00 Opportunity for Public Input

4:00 Adjourn

**OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WOLF PLAN)
WOLF PLAN STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE (WPSR)**

WORK GROUP MEETING #2

TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2018; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
TILLAMOOK ROOM, BUILDING C, 1ST FLOOR
2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OR 97310**

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Confirm WPSR Work Group facilitation topics
- Strive for resolution on initial topics proposed for resolution
- Discuss and seek resolution on key topics/issue areas
- Confirm approach going forward, including approach to resolving remaining topics, upcoming meeting dates, and next steps

8:30 – 9:00 am Arrival

- Arrival and settle in

9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome, Introductions and Agenda

- Welcome and introductions – *Curt Melcher, ODFW Director and Amira Streeter, Governor's Office*
- Agenda review – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*
- Updates since the last meeting?

9:15 – 9:30 am Confirm Approach for Discussion

- Review project team proposal for addressing WPSR Work Group topics and order of priority for discussion – *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Deb Nudelman*

9:30 – 10:45 Review and Seek Confirmation on Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution

- Presentation on ODFW's understanding of and proposed resolution on four topics – *Kevin Blakely, ODFW Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator*
 1. Collaring priorities
 2. Investigations
 3. Other sources of mortality
 4. Compensation
- Q&A/Group discussion and strive for concurrence
- **Approach and Outcome:** Strive for concurrence and if not possible, confirm next steps between meetings to strive for concurrence.

- 10:45 – 11:00 *Break*
- 11:00 – 12:00 Discuss and Seek Resolution on Key Topics/Issue Areas
- Brief overview presentation on the current status of key topics/issue areas, including: 1) Status of each topic/issue area in the current Wolf Plan, 2) Current proposals under consideration for each topic/issue area, and 3) Likely path forward for each topic/issue area, if WPSR Work Group does not come up with an alternative
 - *Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator*
 1. Non-lethal tools and techniques
 2. Chronic depredation/ lethal removal
 3. Controlled take
 4. Funding needs / policy option package in Agency Request Budget
 - Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns
 - **Approach and Outcome:** Begin to resolve differences and strive for concurrence on proposed outcomes
- 12:00 – 1:00 *Working Lunch (provided for WPSR Work Group members)*
- 1:00 – 3:30 Discuss and Seek Resolution on Key Topics/Issue Areas (Continued) (includes break)
- Group discussion regarding the following topics:
 1. Non-lethal tools and techniques
 2. Chronic depredation/ lethal removal
 3. Controlled take
 4. Funding needs/ policy option package in Agency Request Budget
 - Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns while striving for group alignment and resolution
 - **Approach and Outcome:** Strive to resolve differences and seek concurrence on proposed outcomes
- 3:30 – 3:45 Opportunity for Public Input (as time permits)
- 3:45 – 4:00 Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary
- Based on the above discussions, confirm topics and timeframe for upcoming meetings
 - Schedule two additional WPSR Work Group meetings
 - Determine next steps
 - Meeting summary and acknowledgements
- 4:00 Adjourn

**OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WOLF PLAN)
WOLF PLAN STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE (WPSR) WORK GROUP WEBINAR MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2018; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

To Join the Meeting:

- On your computer or device go to: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/519761701>
- Dial in using your phone: (224) 501-3412, Access Code: 519-761-701

Optional In-Person Gathering Locations:

- ODFW Headquarters, Commission Room, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR
- OSU Extension Office, 668 NW First Street, Enterprise, OR

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Discuss and seek resolution on key topics/issue areas
- Confirm approach going forward, including approach to resolving remaining topics, upcoming meeting dates, and next steps

12:30 – 1:00 pm Arrival and Call-In

- Join the meeting, and for those attending in person, arrival and settle in

1:00 – 1:15 pm Welcome, Introductions and Agenda

- Welcome and introductions – *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Doug Cottam, ODFW Wildlife Division Administrator*
- Agenda review – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*
- Provide updates since last meeting – *All*

1:15– 3:30 pm Review and Discuss Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans

- Review ODFW’s analysis of the proposal offered at the October 9 WPSR Work Group meeting – *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator*
- Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns while striving for group alignment and resolution

As Time Permits, Discuss Additional Topics

- Address additional topics including but not limited to:
 1. Resources/funding
 2. Collaring
 3. Depredation investigations
 4. Chronic depredation standard
 5. Decision-making on appropriate lethal/non-lethal methods

- **Approach and Outcome:** Strive to resolve differences and seek concurrence on proposed outcomes

3:30 – 3:40 pm Opportunity for Public Input *(as time permits)*

3:40 – 4:00 pm Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

- Prepare topics for November 27 WPSR Work Group meeting, including controlled take and definition of chronic depredation
- Confirm next steps
- Meeting summary and acknowledgements

4:00 pm Adjourn

OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WOLF PLAN)
WOLF PLAN STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE (WPSR)
WORK GROUP MEETING #4
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2018; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

OXFORD SUITES, 2400 SW COURT PLACE, PENDLETON, OR
2400 SW COURT PLACE, PENDLETON, OR

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Strive for alignment on non-lethal deterrence plan proposal
- Discuss and seek resolution on additional topics
- Confirm next steps

8:30 – 9:00 am Arrival

- Arrival and settle in

9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Welcome and introductions – *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs*
- Agenda review – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*
- Updates since the last meeting?

9:15 – 11:00 am Non-lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal

- Review and discuss non-lethal deterrence plan proposal and responses to questions – *Kevin Blakely, ODFW Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator and Deb Nudelman*
- Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns
- **Approach and Outcome:** Identify areas of convergence, divergence and opportunities to align and advance the proposal

11:00 – 11:15 *Break*

11:15 – 12:00 Review and Discuss Funding

- Review materials Topics Background, pg.7, from Oct 9 meeting on how the Wolf Program is currently funded, new agency request proposal submitted to Governor's office, work that the group has already supported for funding (collaring, counting wolves) and potential need/solution for additional funding – *Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator*
- Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns
- **Approach and Outcome:** Q&A/Group discussion and strive for concurrence

12:00 – 1:00 *Working Lunch (provided for WPSR Work Group members)*

- 1:00 – 3:00 Review and Discuss Additional Topics *(includes break)*
- Discuss and strive for issue resolution on the following topics:
 1. Definition of Chronic Depredation
(review Topics Backgrounder, pp.3-4, from Oct 9 meeting)
 2. Controlled Take (review Topics Backgrounder, pp.5-6, from Oct 9 meeting)
– *Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator*
 - Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns
 - **Approach and Outcome:** Strive to resolve differences and seek concurrence on proposed outcomes
- 3:00 – 3:30 Approach Going Forward
- Based on the above discussions and progress to date, evaluate how Work Group members have aligned around recommendations for completing Wolf Plan for the ODFW Commission’s consideration?
 - What next steps would be necessary to finalize a proposal?
 - Discuss December 7 Commission briefing by Kearns & West
 - **Approach and Outcome:** Seek concurrence and alignment on recommended approach going forward
- 3:30 – 3:45 Opportunity for Public Input *(as time permits)*
- 3:45 – 4:00 Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary
- Based on the above discussions, consider the need for one more meeting, and confirm topics and timeframe
 - Meeting summary and acknowledgements
- 4:00 Adjourn

**OREGON WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WOLF PLAN)
WOLF PLAN STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE (WPSR)**

WORK GROUP MEETING #5

TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 2019; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

MONARCH HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

12566 SE 93RD AVE

CLACKAMAS, OR 97015

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Discuss and seek resolution on topics related to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan update
- Confirm approach going forward, including approach for February 8 ODFW Commission Meeting

8:30 – 9:00 am Arrival

- *Arrival and settle in*

9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome, Introductions and Agenda

- Welcome and introductions – *Curt Melcher, ODFW Director*
- Agenda review – *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*
- Updates since the last meeting?

9:15 – 9:30 am Agency Updates: Funding and December 7 Commission Briefing

- Update on outcomes from December 7, 2018 Commission Briefing
- Update on outcomes of the ODFW policy action package (POP) request
– *Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs*

9:30 – 10:30 am Review the WPSR Work Group Outcomes as part of the Wolf Plan update

- Presentation of ODFW recommendations on incorporating the primary topics from WPSR into the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan update

Reminder of the topics:

1. Collaring priorities
2. Investigations
3. Other sources of mortality
4. Compensation
5. Funding needs
6. Chronic Depredation
7. Controlled Take
8. Non-lethal tools and techniques

Additional discussion/follow up on the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal

–ODFW Team

- Q&A/ Clarifying questions and group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns
- **Approach and Outcome:** Gain understanding of the recommendations that will be presented to the ODFW Commission

10:30 – 10:45 am *Break*

10:45 – 12:00 pm Discuss and Seek Resolution on WPSR Outcomes

- Group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns while striving for group alignment and resolution on WPSR outcomes for the Oregon Wolf Plan
- Identify issues around which WPSR Work Group alignment exists
- **Approach and Outcome:** Strive for agreement to address the primary topics from WPSR

12:00 – 1:00 pm *Working Lunch (provided for WPSR Work Group members)*

1:00 – 2:00 pm Continue Discussion and Seek Resolution on WPSR Outcomes

- Group discussion to address interests, issues and concerns while striving for group alignment and resolution on WPSR outcomes the Oregon Wolf Plan
- Identify issues around which WPSR Work Group alignment exists
- **Approach and Outcome:** Strive for agreement to address the primary topics from WPSR

2:00 – 2:15 pm *Break*

2:15 – 3:30 pm Approach for February 8, 2019 Commission Meeting

- Discuss agenda item for the Oregon Wolf Plan update and approach to reporting the WPSR Work Group outcomes at the February 8, 2019 Commission Meeting
–ODFW Team
- **Approach and Outcome:** Gain understanding of agenda item to include report on WPSR Work Group outcomes for the Commission meeting

3:30 – 3:45 pm Opportunity for Public Input (as time permits)

3:45 – 4:00 pm Next Steps and Summary

- Confirm next steps
- Meeting summary and acknowledgements

4:00 pm Adjourn

Appendix F

WPSR Work Group Meeting Summaries

August 30, 2018 Meeting Summary

October 9, 2018 Meeting Summary

November 5, 2018 Meeting Summary

November 27, 2018 Meeting Summary

January 8, 2019 Meeting Summary

Stakeholder Letter to WPSR Work Group

Stakeholder Letter to Governor Kate Brown

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MEETING SUMMARY

Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process *The Dalles, OR – August 30, 2018*

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan's (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group met at The Dalles ODFW Screen Shop in The Dalles, Oregon on August 30, 2018. Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator, Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, Derek Broman, Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator, and Roblyn Brown, Wolf Program Field Coordinator, represented ODFW leadership at the meeting. Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor represented the Governor's Office.

Attendance included eight WPSR Work Group members representing stakeholders from throughout Oregon.

Over the course of the meeting, WPSR Work Group members discussed the following topics with each other, ODFW staff, and the Governor's Office.

- Welcome and context for the WPSR Work Group process;
- Confirm Work Group scope, structure and proposed operating principles;
- Framing Work Group hopes and expectations/defining success;
- Discuss WPSR Work Group facilitation topics/key issues, interests, develop ideas to address differences and propose outcomes; and
- Discuss and confirm approach going forward, upcoming meeting dates and topics, and next step tasks.

This report summarizes the major meeting discussions, action items, and next steps for the WPSR Work Group process.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Context, and Agenda

Curt Melcher, ODFW and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Curt Melcher, ODFW, welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their work in the Plan update process. Curt introduced Amira Streeter, Governor's Office, who thanked everyone for coming and engaging in the conversation and relayed the Governor's hope for collaboration and agreement on the Oregon wolf issue.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West (K&W), asked for a round of introductions. The WPSR Work Group members and audience introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

Deb walked participants through the proposed agenda and logistics, meeting materials, and explained the approach. She noted that this process is open-ended and will continue if the members of the group feel that there is more to work through and that they could find common ground. Curt Melcher, ODFW, said that if the group finds common ground and creates a set of agreements it will become ODFW's recommendations to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission).

Deb reviewed the ground rules and procedures and advised the group that she is a neutral facilitator meant to help the group and process. She asked the members of the press in the room to notify the group if they choose to record the proceedings.

2. WPSR Work Group Structure

Shannon Hurn and Derek Broman, ODFW and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, explained that the desired outcome of this process is to show the Commission a list of agreements that will be ODFW's recommendations to the Commission.

Derek Broman, ODFW, reviewed a timeline of the previous Plans and Work Group processes. He noted that many of the topics on the table today are topics that stakeholders have discussed for years.

Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau, identified some stakeholder meetings that were not on the timeline.

- Salem in January of 2017
- The Dalles
- La Grande

Additionally, Oregon Wild and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) met with the Governor's Office recently.

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, stated that if the Work Group does not come to any agreements or recommendations ODFW will maintain the 2005 plan with the 2010 update. ODFW, hopes to have a product for the October Commission meeting. ODFW will present a report, hold a Q&A session with the Commission, then finalize the draft and submit it for adoption. Deb Nudelman, K&W, added that Work Group members might be asked to join the report out to the Commission.

Deb Nudelman, K&W, went through the draft operating principles. The purpose of the Work Group is to try and find alignment and report that to the Commission for the update of the Plan. The Work Group can decide how best to represent what happened at the table. The notes to this meeting will be part of the packet to the Commission.

The outcome of the group is not a vote, but the expectation is that the Work Group members will support the eventual product if they have agreed to it. Some members noted that they will not be able to agree to any outcome without presenting it to their Boards or decision-makers. Deb

Nudelman, K&W, stated that a provisional yes or no is sufficient for this process. The expectation is that each Work Group member will review the agenda items before each meeting and speak to their Board Members about areas of potential agreement so the conversations at the table can go as far as possible. It is expected that if a Work Group member agrees to the final outcome here, they will support the outcome to the Commission.

3. Framing WPSR Work Group Hopes and Expectations/Defining Success

The Work Group members, ODFW staff, and Governor's Office went around the table and stated their Work Group hopes and expectations and defined success. Comments included:

- Many members expressed hope for collaborative process, that the group can identify areas of agreement, areas of discussion, and develop a plan to work from there. They would like to develop more trust around the table and develop tools and techniques to discuss the issues.
- Hope for substantive agreement on the wolf plan because this Work Group has been able to find agreement in the past.
- Several members reiterated the desire to see fewer dead wolves, fewer dead livestock, and less conflict overall, and that killing wolves would be considered a last resort.
- Hope for a coexistence model that prioritizes non-lethal methods.
- Desire for WPSR work Group members to be active participants in the Wolf Plan.
- Desire to develop a real look at how to manage the wolf situation in Oregon, since wolves constantly come into conflict with livestock, and look at lessons learned from other states as Oregon develops its plan.
- Several members hoped that the Plan could focus on wolf management. One expressed hope for a plan that provides scientifically-based management plan for wolves that is provided by state wildlife managers and provides them the tools they need to manage wolves in accordance with the law.
- Hope to see successful wolf management to stem the elk population decline, and an effective toolbox for management that includes non-lethal responses. OHA agreed with the May 2017 proposed updates to the Plan and feel that small groups of hunters can help as part of a management plan.
- Hope to have a practical discussion that creates an efficient process for determinations on the ground; and focus on the details of what would make a successful management plan that works for the parties rather than focus on core values or politics.
- Hope to see a thriving population of all native wildlife in the state.
- Several expressed a desire to use the best current science and hope for a plan that is science-based, framed well, clarifies unclear terms, and contains a compensation plan that is fair to taxpayers. Hope to incorporate what we have learned and experienced with wolves over the years into the plan and create a plan to prepare for the challenges ahead, using data specific to Oregon.

4. Discussing WPSR Work Group Facilitation Topics

Deb Nudelman, K&W, asked the group to identify their key issues – what they have to get done and what they think is critically important to talk about.

Derek Broman, ODFW, presented the *Proposed WPSR Work Group Facilitation Topics* document and explained that the list was developed from the convening interviews and the convening interview summary. These topics are a starting point for discussion today.

The group identified key issues and topics (*see attached photographs*) and then out of those identified three topics/issues to focus on today:

1. Controlled take/scale of hunting
2. Chronic depredation
3. Collaring

Controlled Take/Scale of Hunting

Deb Nudelman, K&W, asked the group to explain why controlled take and the scale of hunting is a difficult issue, and to lay out some of the points of view on controlled take. Participants discussed and highlighted these key issues:

- Some cultural mindsets have difficulty accepting the death of a wolf or have an emotional response to the deaths.
- Producers have difficulty accepting the economic loss incurred after a death of livestock.
- Depredation carries an emotional response.
- Different views of when and whether controlled take is necessary. For producers, controlled take is sometimes the only conclusion that seems to work for protection of livestock. Controlling a problematic animal is an appropriate management action that resolves the conflict most quickly. Others are of the opinion that the best management action is one that focuses on solving the problem, and controlled take is not necessary because wolves respond well to effective non-lethal measures.
- Some have concerns that a growing wolf population could have a negative influence on ungulate populations and in recreational opportunities.
- One participant noted that if the Plan authorizes wolf hunting it would likely be further contemplated by public referendum.
- Some participants see controlled take as a tool to manage social expectations and wolf populations and expressed hope that the group could talk about the details of regulation and implementation. Another participant noted that controlled take can be a tool, but it sends a particular message to the public about how Oregon cares for its wildlife and carries a potential for abuse.

Deb Nudelman, K&W, signaled for the lunch break and asked participants to ask themselves what they would do as the Commission and needed to update this Plan. What amendments would this Work Group say yes to? How would you decide on this topic? She asked people to think about their answers to these questions to discuss after lunch.

One participant suggested that the Work Group simplify their discussions by focusing on three points:

1. Limit ODFW's participation to basic collaring and monitoring to ensure the minimum viable population of wolves.

2. Give broad “caught in the act” authority to livestock producers and the agricultural industry, with the caveat that there could be a temporary stop if the wolf population decreases too much.
3. Maintain the Department of Agriculture’s compensation program that compensates for lost livestock and non-lethal measures.

The participant notes that this update is meant to cover five years and so could revisit other issues, like hunting, later when wolf populations are larger. One participant stated that “caught in the act” is difficult in practice because it would require constant monitoring at great expense, and ranchers need protection from chronic depredation. Another participant noted that hunting is included in the current Plan, so removing it from future plans would be a step backwards. One participant noted that the Plans are meant to be updated, which might mean taking items out from older Plans if the items are not working or are no longer relevant. Other participants noted that hunting was included as an option in the 2005 and 2010 plans as an option, but never intended as a first resort to resolve livestock conflict.

Some participants noted that hunting is considered one of the management tools available to ODFW and that ODFW should be able to use all the tools available to it if it is the best option. One participant noted that Oregon can look to other states’ hunting plans to learn from their mistakes and help manage conflict in the areas of the state with larger wolf populations.

Another participant stated that controlled take was framed well in the 2010 plan because it had limited application and could be used when wolf populations had grown beyond stable populations and conflicts with livestock were due to chronic wolf problems. One participant noted that the 2010 plan included controlled take for both livestock depredation and ungulate species decline. Another participant said that controlled take may cover both of these circumstances but the participant worries that ODFW is shifting controlled take discretion from itself to the public.

The group discussed that the language of “controlled take,” “hunting,” and “lethal removal” describe different actions but are sometimes used interchangeably. The current draft Plan does not consider proposing any controlled hunts for wolves but does consider having “special permit agents” who are ODFW certified hunters and/or trappers to complete specific lethal removals.

Some participants see controlled take as part of the ODFW toolbox of management options. Other participants expressed disagreement at the idea of contract hunters performing lethal removals. They stated that this part of the Plan should also be founded on achieving goals – do lethal removals help save money and stop livestock depredation? One participant noted that if these three proposed points addressed what ranchers could do to stop chronic depredation, then that participant would have more buy in. Another participant felt that hunting must be part of the Plan.

One participant noted that hunting is used in wildlife and predator management, and the idea of using special permit agents comes from cougar and other large predator management plans that ODFW currently uses. This participant stated that ODFW has the responsibility and authority to manage wildlife and must continue to have controlled take available as an option.

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, noted that ODFW is required to manage wildlife population and does not have the staff or resources to handle management on its own. It has collaborated with hunters to help manage wildlife populations.

Shannon Hurn also stated that there is a definition of chronic depredation in the current Plan and that ODFW would like to see evaluated. She asked to hear proposed definitions and what the group would like to see in Phases I, II, and III.

Collaring

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, stated that ODFW does collaring for two purposes, (1) to monitor wolf populations and collect data, and (2) to identify places ODFW should go to count wolves and investigate pack activity. Derek Broman, ODFW, noted that it is logistically implausible to put a collar on every pack, and so they want to develop a strategy for collaring that is supported by the stakeholders.

Some participants noted that collaring helps them identify and keep track of problematic wolves so that they can protect their livestock. Another noted that collaring helps collect data on how wolves move around the state and volunteered financial assistance to increase collaring.

Roblyn Brown, ODFW, noted that the issue goes beyond financial difficulty. Other considerations include:

- Difficulty in catching wolves
- Collar failure
- Collar life span
- Inherent dangers of flying to locate wolves, and
- Temporal or geographic limitations

Some participants noted that collaring is an important tool for them to use in conjunction with non-lethal methods, because they can assess the pack locations. Another participant noted that Washington State producers have had great outcomes by using collaring data to identify areas of high wolf activity.

One participant asked about using professional trappers to help trap and collar wolves. ODFW has hired professional trappers before with extensive experience with wolves, but there is always a challenge when the trappers were unfamiliar with Oregon geography. Another participant stated that they are supportive of using collars but would like to limit sharing the data. One participant stated that if the collars are purchased from public funds meant for non-lethal methods they should not be used to track wolves for lethal removal or any type of controlled take.

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, asked the participants about the standard of non-lethal measures. She would like a standard for non-lethal measures that is more than a check-list. Some participants noted that there should be a clear understanding and transparency before any lethal removal order is issued. Another participant noted that the group should assess the cost/benefit analysis of having individual plans for each depredation. Another participant stated that they would like to see ranchers and producers provide more description of the non-lethal techniques used and why those tools were

appropriate for the situation. This participant offered to work with ODFW to draft a list of non-lethal techniques and when they would be appropriate to use. Another participant agreed with parts of that proposal but noted that producers should maintain their ability to determine the best steps for protecting their herds.

5. Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

Deb Nudelman, K&W, asked the group if they would like to schedule future work group meetings. Most participants agreed to continue working on a pathway forward. Some participants noted that they were concerned about how some of the conversations went but are interested in continuing the conversations.

Public Comment

Deb Nudelman, K&W, opened the floor for public comments.

One audience member stated that the voice of the impacted communities is not apparent in the Work Group. This audience member detailed the economic struggles of ranchers and farmers in their county and expressed a desire to have the Association of Oregon Counties added to the Work Group.

Another audience member noted that wolves are critical members of a healthy ecosystem and hoped that the decisions are based on science rather than emotion. This audience member stated discomfort at using public tax dollars to kill a wolf.

Deb thanked everyone for their discussions throughout the meeting and interactions with each other. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
October 9, 2018	Salem, venue to be determined

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Nick Cady	Cascadia Wildlands
Mary Anne Cooper	Oregon Farm Bureau
Rob Klavins	Oregon Wild
Quinn Read	Defenders of Wildlife
Todd Nash	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity
Dave Wiley	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Curt Melcher	Director <i>(as available)</i>
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator <i>(as needed)</i>
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator <i>(as needed)</i>
Derek Broman	Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator
Roblyn Brown	Wolf Program Field Coordinator

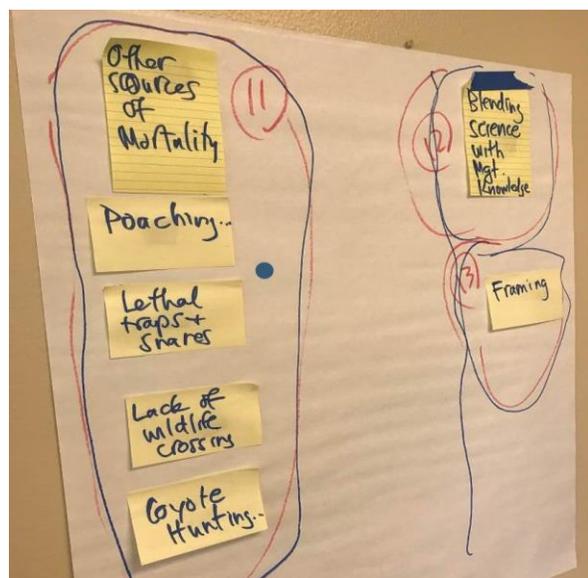
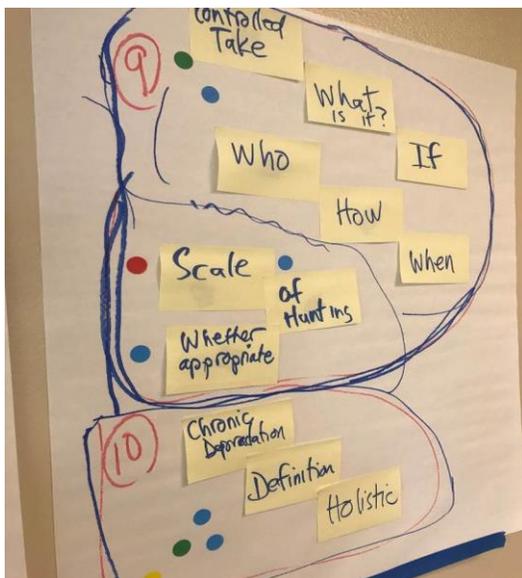
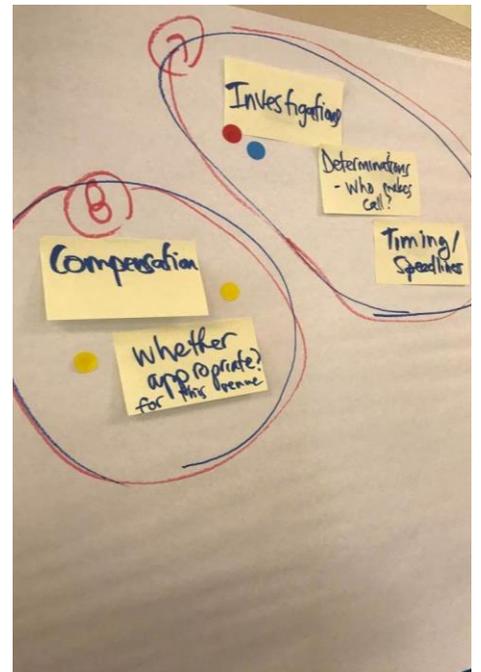
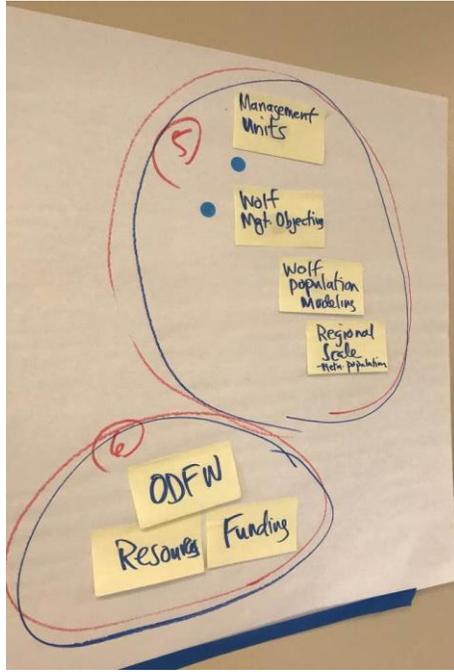
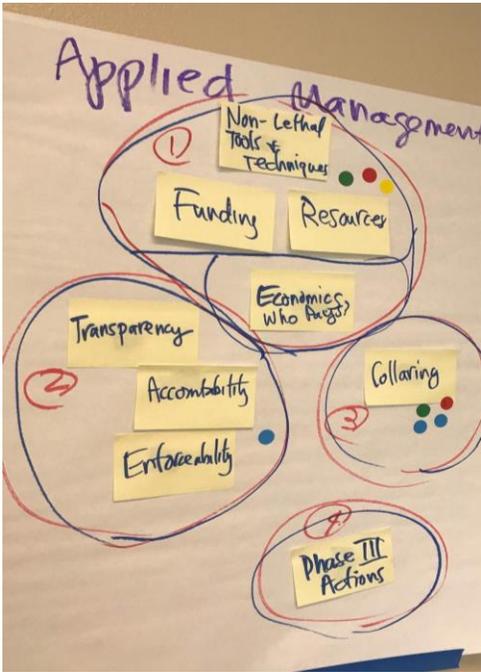
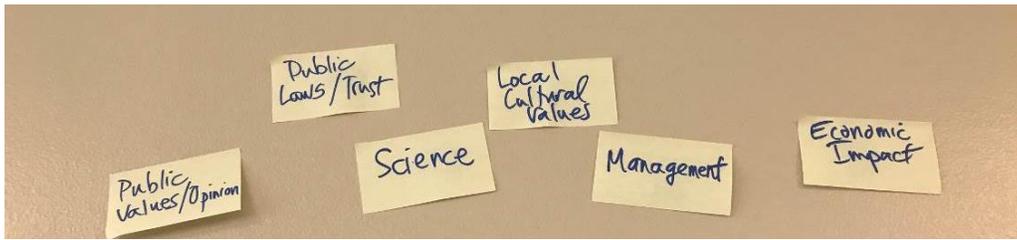
Governor's Office

Name	Title
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Team Members and Audience

Name	Organization/Entity
Mark Bennett	Baker City Commissioner
Rocky Dallum	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Mark Gibson	The Dalles Chronicle
Paul Halladay	Oregon Wild
Eric Lubell	Member of the Public
Veril Nelson	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
George Plaven	Capital Press
George Rollins	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jerome Rosa	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Sean Stevens	Oregon Wild

Key Issues Identified by WPSR Work Group Members



MEETING SUMMARY

Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process *Salem, OR – October 9, 2018*

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan's (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group met at the Tillamook Room at the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem, Oregon on August 30, 2018. Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, and Derek Broman, Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator represented ODFW leadership at the meeting. Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor represented the Governor's Office.

Attendance included eight WPSR Work Group members representing stakeholders from throughout Oregon.

Over the course of the meeting, WPSR Work Group members discussed the following topics with each other, ODFW staff, and the Governor's Office.

- Confirm WPSR Work Group facilitation topics
- Strive for resolution on initial topics proposed for resolution
- Discuss and seek resolution on key topics/issue areas
- Confirm approach going forward, including approach to resolving remaining topics, upcoming meeting dates, and next steps

This report summarizes the major meeting discussions, action items, and next steps for the WPSR Work Group process.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Context, and Agenda

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Curt Melcher, ODFW, welcomed attendees and expressed optimism for continued productive discussions. Amira Streeter, Governor's Office, expressed that the Governor appreciates everyone's engagement on the issue and trying to find a collaborative solution.

WPSR Work Group members and audience introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West (K&W) reviewed the meeting agenda. She explained that members shared their ideas and key concerns at the last meeting. After that, the ODFW team developed proposed language to address those concerns and help direct productive conversation. Kevin Blakely, ODFW, will review four topics identified as having a higher likelihood of resolution, then Derek Broman, ODFW, will provide a presentation on four topics identified as needing further discussion. Derek will share the status on each topic, the current proposals under consideration, and the likely path forward if there is no resolution during the Work Group process. After lunch, the group will discuss those topics holistically. There will be opportunity for public input.

Deb encouraged members to provide updates. A few participants noted they met with the Governor's Office where they reflected on the August 30 WPSR Work Group meeting and discussed six different topics. Shannon Hurn, ODFW, noted that the ODFW team met with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) since it was not able to send a representative to this meeting. A participant added that they had also spoken with the RMEF and that their philosophies and views of the Wolf Plan are aligned.

2. Confirm Approach for Discussion

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, explained today's meeting agenda is structured to provide a more focused discussion format. ODFW reviewed the list of key discussion topics developed at the August 30 WPS Work Group meeting and organized them into topics that have a higher likelihood of quick resolution, and topics that need significant further discussion. ODFW developed and previously provided background documents on those topics that the Work Group will review today. ODFW will share the status on each topic in the current Wolf Plan, current proposals under consideration for each of the topics, and the likely path if there is not resolution by the WPSR Work Group. The language in the current proposed Wolf Plan will be presented to the Commission if an alternative is not found through this Work Group.

A participant expressed concern that the draft language will not be amended unless the Work Group comes to consensus, because the discussion itself might provide insight into an improved draft. The ODFW team agreed and clarified that it will be transparent and open to the Commission to explain where the Work Group was and was not able to reach consensus.

3. Review and Seek Confirmation on Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution

Kevin Blakely, ODFW Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, and Derek Broman, ODFW Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator

ODFW staff reviewed proposals for resolution on four topics, and members asked questions and made comments. For each topic, Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if members agreed to the proposals in principle.

a) Radio Collars

Kevin Blakely, ODFW, presented ODFW's proposal for radio collars.

- ODFW will continue to make efforts to collar at least one member in every known pack during Phase 1 and 2. There will continue to be some scenarios where collaring would not be beneficial or feasible.
- ODFW will look into best practices to share data.
- ODFW will use more GPS collars in addition to VHF collars.

Kevin asked for questions from the participants.

- Q: What collaring data is being shared, with whom, and under what circumstances?
 - A: ODFW does not have confidentiality agreements with any entities. When ODFW shares information with producers, it does so usually conversationally and by discussing maps.
- Q: Are there plans for long-term collaring?
 - A: ODFW will continue collaring for as long as it is useful and cannot say now what the future approach will be. It is expected that the percentage of collars will decrease as the wolf population increase. ODFW is looking to maintain the same level of information collection.
- Q: What are the plans in Phase 3?
 - A: Collaring will continue in Phase 3 to help address conflict and to aid in use of non-lethal tools. ODFW plans to continue using collars in conflict areas during Phase 3 and will look for creative solutions to reduce the cost of collaring.

Members discussed the collaring program, and some noted that because collars help to reduce conflict and assist in non-lethal efforts, having a collar in every pack is important to these efforts. Members also noted that collars have benefits and drawbacks; for example, some collars may not send data accurately and can lead to a false assumption that no radio signal means no wolves in the area.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if the *Proposed Resolution to be reflected in the Plan update* language, as reflected in the *Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution* handout, is acceptable to the Work Group. A few participants noted that the challenge with indicating acceptance to individual issues is that each of the issues is interconnected. Deb advised the group that this exercise is meant to indicate "agreement in principle."

All Work Group members indicated agreement in principle on this topic.

b) Investigations

Kevin Blakely, ODFW, presented ODFW's proposal for investigations, as reflected in the *Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution* handout.

- The purpose of investigations is to reduce conflicts on the landscape. Investigations can lead to lethal removal requests and opportunities and provide opportunity to understand what is happening on the ground.
- ODFW recommends that it continue investigations and have staff that are trained for these investigations and strive for greater efficiency in investigations.
- ODFW will use training protocols currently used by staff to train investigators, particularly in Phase 3 areas where Wildlife Services staff are expected to conduct investigations. The goal is to have consistency in investigations and have a base that is trained to make consistent decisions.

Kevin asked for questions from the participants. Participants asked the following questions and made comments:

- Q: Will Wildlife Services conduct depredation investigations and authorize lethal control in Phase 3?
 - A: The current Wolf Plan authorizes these investigations by Wildlife Services staff, and ODFW proposes to authorize such investigations. ODFW would like to standardize the investigation process so that Wildlife Services staff can conduct investigations in the same manner as ODFW staff. However, the authority to implement lethal control remains with ODFW.
- Q: Statistically, Wildlife Services findings differ greatly from ODFW findings about when a depredation has occurred. If Wildlife services is being paid by ODFW to conduct the investigations, how will that work?
 - A: Currently, Wildlife Services do not do the types of investigations that ODFW conduct to evaluate a depredation. The proposal going forward is to allow Wildlife Services to conduct investigations in Phase 3 areas and train them in with the same methodology as ODFW. Wildlife Services are paid to conduct investigations on a fixed amount per biennium.
- Q: Will the formal investigation procedure be laid out in rule?
 - A: Yes, the plan indicates investigators will be properly trained and gets adopted into rule. There are field forms that ODFW uses currently.
- Q: Members asked about the scope of “adaptive measure” and “local measures” in the proposal. They asked whether it will be necessary to train external investigators if ODFW has increased resources and knowledgeable staff. Some were concerned about ODFW's ability to monitor non-ODFW investigators and terminate contracts if the investigations are not up to the ODFW standard.
 - ODFW staff responded that Wildlife Services staff have great expertise on the ground and can conduct effective investigations. They would undergo the same training and certification as ODFW staff and mentor with an investigator. To date, Wildlife Services has only conducted investigations in tandem with ODFW staff but ODFW expects that Wildlife Services could conduct autonomous investigations with proper training. Currently, ODFW investigations and depredation determinations are never conducted by one individual. There is oversight. ODFW will have policies, trainings, and supervisory control over Wildlife Services

- Members discussed how sheriff departments might be engaged in investigations. ODFW staff noted they would like to engage with local sheriff departments to capitalize on their local knowledge. Currently, sheriff departments have not been asked to conduct independent investigations. A participant supported using local sheriff departments and local biologists to aid in investigations, and to help fill the void where ODFW investigators/biologists are not available. There are many contractors outside of ODFW and Wildlife Services who could also be considered as wolf populations grow and capacity is overwhelmed.
- Members commented that no matter who does the investigations, they should be well-trained in the varying types of non-lethal methods and which are most effective in each situation.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if the proposed language is acceptable to the Work Group. Most indicated that they still need more discussion before agreeing in principle.

c) Other Sources of Mortality

Kevin Blakely, ODFW, provided the proposed resolution, as reflected in the *Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution* handout.

- ODFW would like to be more informed about other sources of mortality on the landscape, such as highway killings, poaching, and disease.
- The proposal recognizes that those other sources of mortality exist and that it is important to understand as much as possible about them. ODFW will acknowledge other sources of mortality in the Wolf Plan.

Derek and Kevin asked for questions and comments from the participants. Comments included:

- A member noted that the proposed language acknowledges illegal human activity that leads to mortality but does not seem to acknowledge legal human activities that lead to mortality such as traps, snares, or coyote hunting. The member recommended that this section include legal human activities that lead to unintended mortality and propose ways to address situations where wolves are inadvertently caught in legal traps and snares meant for other animals.
- A member noted that studies suggest that less poaching occurs when people see the agencies act against chronic depredators. There is also evidence that the lowest poaching rates occur when the agencies take strong non-lethal management measures to reduce conflict.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if the proposed language is acceptable to the Work Group. Most indicated agreement in principle. Two participants indicated that they need more discussion before agreeing in principle.

d) Compensation

Kevin Blakely, ODFW, provided the proposed resolution, as reflected in the *Initial Topics Proposed for Resolution* handout. He noted that ODFW is not the main agency involved in compensation – the Department of Agriculture is. The proposed language recognizes ODFW's role and clarifies that it does not drive the process.

Kevin asked for questions and comments from the participants.

- A few participants expressed concerns that there has not been an evaluation of how well the compensation programs are working and where they can be improved.
- Members asked how the compensation program can be sustained without continued federal funding. Another participant noted that federal funding goes only to non-lethal activities. State funds are often redirected to support non-lethal methods rather than covering losses.
- A participant noted that the compensation program is set up to pay for both compensation and co-existence. There should be a reporting structure to see how the funds are being used in the states so that Oregon continues to be eligible. Delisting wolves may also have an impact on funding for the compensation program.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if the proposed language is acceptable to the Work Group. Four participants indicated that they need more discussion before agreeing in principle.

4. Presentation on Key Topics/Issue Areas

Derek Broman, ODFW Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator

Derek Broman, ODFW, presented on four topics that need further discussion, as outlined in the *Topic Backgrounder for WPSR October 9, 2018* handout:

- a) Non-lethal tools and techniques
- b) Chronic depredation
- c) Controlled take
- d) Budget and funding for implementation

He clarified that the term “current plan” means the currently adopted plan being used today.

a) Non-lethal tools and techniques

The current plan identifies non-lethal tools, techniques, and requirements. New tools are developed regularly, and the number of non-lethal options continues to grow. There have been requests to extend Phase 1 non-lethal tool requirements into Phases 2 and 3, and requests for external review and approval of non-lethal tools following chronic depredations.

ODFW proposes the following for the updated plan:

- Continue to emphasize appropriate use of non-lethal tools and techniques
- Continue to coordinate with area producers, and
- Continue to integrate some Phase 1 features into Phases 2 and 3

b) Chronic Depredation

The current plan considers lethal control in two instances: (1) in Phase 1 when four confirmed depredations occur within a six-month window, and (2) in Phases 2 and 3 when two confirmed depredations or one depredation with three attempted depredations occur with no established time period. Stakeholders have requested a time component in Phases 2 and 3 and rolling the Phase 1 criteria into Phases 2 and 3.

ODFW proposes no changes to Phase 1. It proposes that in Phases 2 and 3, lethal control will be considered after three confirmed depredations within a 12-month period. ODFW also proposes

additional lethal control options in Phase 3 if there are 2 confirmed depredations and extreme circumstances.

c) Controlled Take

The current plan allows controlled take in Phase 3 only. This allows members of the public to kill a wolf with a special permit aimed to address chronic livestock conflict or for wolf population management. There are criteria that must be met before a controlled take and certified trappers are able to use traps in certain situations. Derek Broman, ODFW, presented a diagram that clarified when and how special permit agents can be used.

ODFW proposes that it will:

- Add Federal Section 10(j) rule language to define conflict with wild ungulate populations
- Add the use of special permit agents as a tool
- Add a Special Status Game Mammal chapter to better organize the description of controlled take
- Another option is for ODFW to remove the concept of a special permit agent from the Plan

d) Budget and Funding for Implementation

ODFW proposes that it will present a policy option package in the 2019-2021 budget development process to fund five ODFW positions strategically scattered throughout Oregon to implement Wolf Plan programs. Derek presented the chart in the *WPSR Oct 9 Meeting Topics Backgrounder* that displayed the percentage breakdown of the ODFW Wolf Plan funding structure.

- Q: Do you have dollar amounts attached to the percentages?
 - A: We can try to present that, but it is difficult to separate dollars from other program funds.
- Q: Does this chart include compensation or co-existence funding?
 - A: No, it covers the cost of monitoring, assisting with non-lethal tools and techniques, and engaging with stakeholders. ODA administers the compensation program.

5. Discuss and Seek Resolution on Key Topics/Issue Areas

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, opened the key topics for group discussion. The participants indicated that they wanted to start with chronic depredation.

One participant offered a proposal from the conservation community. The proposal included the following components:

1. Significantly increase in funding for compensation and non-lethal methods.
2. ODFW would work with the livestock producers to create site-specific non-lethal methods plans.
 - These site-specific plans would proactively avoid conflict and get financial support for implementation

- If the site-specific non-lethal plans are adopted, move forward with investigations by Wildlife Services
 - If the site-specific non-lethal plans are adopted, work on a timeline for depredation that is shorter than 12 months
3. Key is to proactively get support from state as baseline
 4. Collaring: Groups have concerns but the current ODFW proposal has some consensus
 5. Investigations: Conservation community has discomfort with Wildlife Services conducting investigations, but can support it with other components in place
 6. Non-lethal methods need to be considered up front before consideration of lethal control
 7. Lethal removal threshold standards: all have strong feelings about the numbers. Talk about a standard that can work, if non-lethal methods are used up front

A participant stated a concern that the costs of non-lethal methods plans are incurred by the ranchers and producers. These costs are meant to be repaired by the government, but there have been times when funding was cut, and the costs were not reimbursed. This participant noted that there would be hesitation from the ranching/producing community if they are asked to take on more costs without assured funding for the program.

Another participant asked if more funding or resources would help resolve some of the wolf program issues. A participant answered that it would help, but the main concern is whether the funding will last through different administrations. Additionally, there is concern over *who* is funding program components; currently, hunters bear that financial responsibility. Some noted that the program funding should not just be funneled into more biologists, but a variety of funding elements including increased compensation to reduce the burden on ranchers.

Shannon Hurn, ODFW, asked whether ODFW would regain social acceptance in the ranching and producer communities if the state found more funding to put more staff on the ground to help with non-lethal methods and develop non-lethal plans. A participant noted that it would help win acceptance for the wolf program.

Shannon stated that there are currently legislative proposals to get funding for compensation programs which would include county-specific plans for non-lethal methods to provide to local operators.

After a break, a participant presented a new proposal for WPSR Work Group consideration. The proposal included the following components:

PROPOSAL:

1. ODA/ODFW meets with Rancher
 2. They write the agreed-upon plan for non-lethal conflict deterrence
 3. Funding comes in from ODA/ODFW/Others; Get agreement with funding
 4. All non-lethals are available/deployed
 5. An agreed-upon chronic depredation (whatever this standard is)
 6. Then, okay to implement lethal control
- If rancher does not agree to the approach, does not fall under chronic depredation
 - Then, no lethal request is allowed; not eligible for lethal control
 - Can still apply for compensation

The participant made the following clarifications about the proposal:

- The proposal contemplates significant increase in funding for compensation and support of non-lethal methods, with consideration of tiering funding to population.
- ODFW/ODA staff would meet with livestock producers to create proposals for non-lethal conflict deterrence that are specific for their local area; this would be supported by funding from government, private NGOs, and other sources. In the case of conflict, the Livestock producer should deploy the non-lethal methods as outlined in the area specific plan (with support from agencies). If chronic depredation occurs even after deploying the non-lethal methods, the producer would be permitted to use lethal control. If a producer chooses not to work with ODFW/ODA to develop non-lethal deterrence plans, then that producer would not be eligible to use lethal control.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked the group to review the proposal and provide their initial reactions and concerns:

- Most members noted that the proposal is a positive step forward, and they see it as an acceptable baseline for developing a WPSR Work Group recommendation.
- The definition of “chronic depredation” will need to be developed and agreed upon by the group.
- The prioritization of non-lethal methods upfront is essential, and this proposal reflects that. It is likely that the proposal will not result in absurd or overly onerous plans, because ranchers work directly with ODA/ODFW to develop the plans.
- How does ODFW regain buy-in from producers? A participant suggested that part of the solution could include ODFW management and implementation of non-lethal methods for ranchers.
- All participants must uphold their agreements.
- A major concern is a need for sufficient and consistent funding. The plans cannot be too much of a financial burden on producers. Members suggested that funding sources should include sources in addition to hunting tag revenue. Funding should be representative of

diverse viewpoints. Funding could be used to offset the cost born by those who bear the burden of dealing with wolf populations. We should look at: What are the funding gaps in Oregon and how might they be filled?

- Members discussed the compensation program and how the funds are used. ODFW staff clarified that compensation funds would not be withheld from ranchers who did not choose to meet with ODFW/ODA staff to develop a specific non-lethal deterrence plan.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, asked if the group could agree in principle to this proposal and present it to their constituencies. All agreed. A few participants highlighted the need to work as a group, and that there should not be side meetings outside of the WPSR Work Group process.

Deb asked the group to present the proposal to their groups and gather any concerns or changes. At the next meeting, the group will strive to ratify the proposal.

The group discusses management zones and how ODFW could address the question of future management zones. Some noted that they would like to have a discussion on the establishment of management zones for the future. ODFW staff responded that this would require modeling, and that it is premature at this point until Oregon wolf populations increase. Members noted that they would like to see some statement from ODFW that shows the agency will work towards establishing wolf population thresholds, when the time becomes appropriate. Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, suggested that the group keeps the proposal in its current form and keep a separate note of the topics to be addressed in future proposals. She reminded the group that the proposal is not a final work product.

6. Opportunity for Public Input

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Public Comment

Deb Nudelman, K&W, opened the floor for public comments.

Haley Stewart, Humane Society of the United States

- The Humane Society is impressed at the stakeholder process and collaboration. Its interests are represented by a few groups at the table. For their members, they prioritize non-lethal management of wolves and appreciate the group talking through that priority. They do not support the hunting of wolves and would like to see the reduction of lethal control.

Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen's Association

- The Oregon Cattlemen's Association worked on a compensation bill but there was a story in the Oregonian that alleged that the funds were not used properly. That story was cited during the legislative session. Today, people seem on board with compensation, but the groups in support today were opposed to it during the legislative hearing. It is disappointing to hear the conversations today after what happened on the record.

7. Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, thanked everyone for their participation. The group scheduled three future meetings extending into January, although Deb noted that the January meeting may not be necessary if they reach an agreement before then.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 5, 1:00 – 4:00 pm • November 27, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • January 8, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar/Conference Call • Pendleton, OR • Portland, OR

Members discussed next steps and meeting topics for the upcoming meetings.

- **Next Steps for the Proposal:** ODFW will draft up a proposal for group discussion, based on the proposal members commented on at the end of today’s meeting. Members should then review the proposal, take it to their members for their comments and levels of support. If there seems to be significant pushback on the proposal, members should send concerns via email to WPSR Work Group members as soon as possible and offer alternative language or solutions.
- **Agenda for November 5 Webinar:** Members should be ready to report out on their level of support for the proposal. Additional topics that may be discussed at the webinar, depending on time available, include:
 - Resources/funding
 - Collaring
 - Depredation investigations: who should conduct the investigation?
 - Chronic depredation standard: what is the right standard?
 - Who decides on appropriate lethal/non-lethal methods?
- **Agenda for November 27 in-person WPSR Work Group Meeting:** Topics for discussion may include:
 - Predation
 - Controlled take
 - Communication methods and tools to get information out about how to implement non-lethal methods
 - How to engage sheriffs in conversation around investigation certification

ODFW Commission meetings are scheduled for December 7 and January 18. The December 7 meeting will include an update on the Wolf Plan process to date.

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, thanked everyone for their time and dedication. He thanked Representative Barreto for attending. Rep. Barreto affirmed that he is working toward a compensation plan to alleviate the financial burden for ranchers and producers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Meeting Attendance

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Nick Cady	Cascadia Wildlands
Mark Bennett	Oregon Farm Bureau
Sean Stone	Oregon Wild
Suzanne Stone	Defenders of Wildlife
Todd Nash	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity
	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Curt Melcher	Director
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
Derek Broman	Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator

Governor's Office

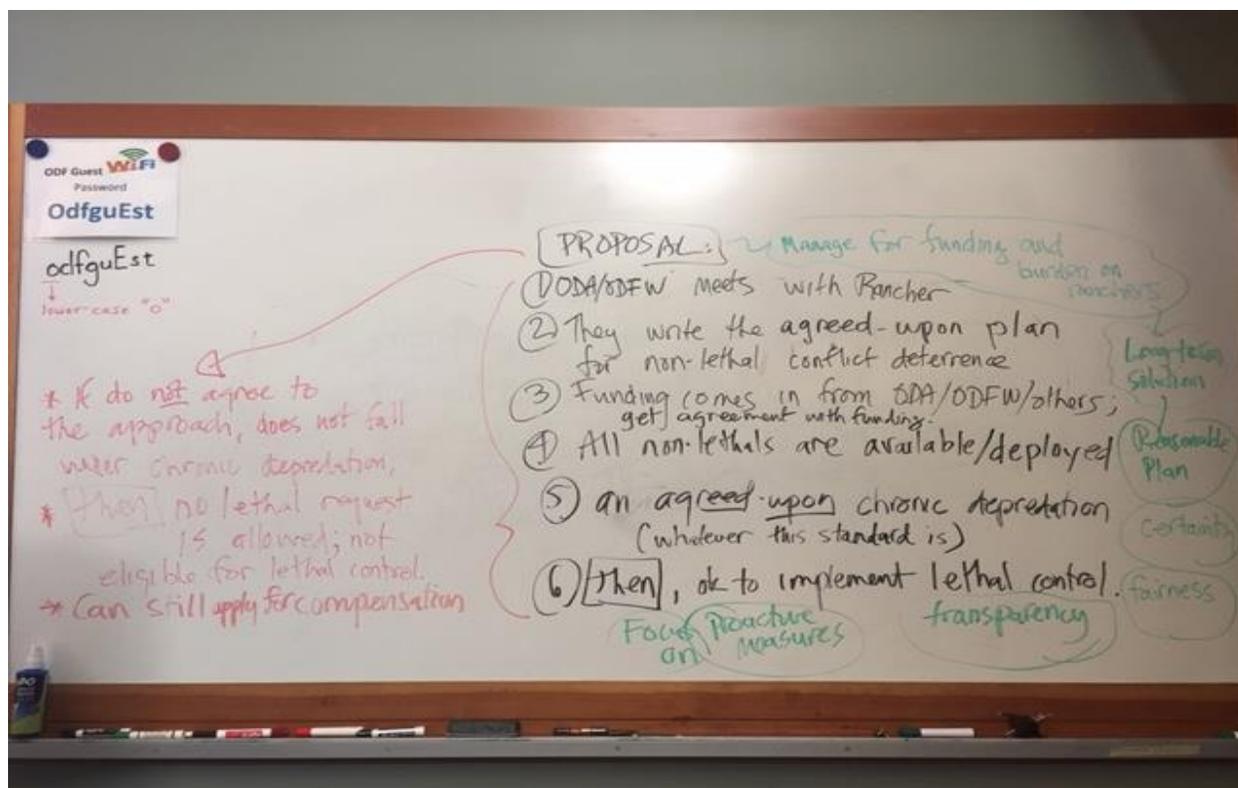
Name	Title
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Team Members and Audience

Name	Organization/Entity
Greg Barreto	State Representative – HD 58 - Cove
Bryn Hudson	Governor's Natural Resources Office
Sristi Kamal	Defenders of Wildlife
Ken McCall	Oregon Hunters Association
Al Elkins	Oregon Hunters Association
Danielle Moser	Oregon Wild
Samantha Barr	Oregon Farm Bureau
George Rollins	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jerome Rosa	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jeanne Barbouletos	Member of the Public
Tom Barbouletos	Member of the Public
George Plaven	Capital Press
Rebecca White	Pacific Wolf Coalition

Haley Stewart	Humane Society of the United States
Hunter Mackin	University of Oregon
Ale Peña	University of Oregon
Drew Donahue	University of Oregon
Orlando Lorang	University of Oregon
Nick Richardson	University of Oregon
Hugo Séguin	University of Oregon
Peg Boulay	University of Oregon
Steven Pearlman	University of Oregon
Zoë O'Toole	University of Oregon
Gabriel Alvarez	University of Oregon
Ned Maynard	University of Oregon

Proposal Suggested by WPSR Work Group Members



MEETING SUMMARY

**Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan)
Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process
November 5, 2018**

Webinar and Call-in Locations:

***ODFW Headquarter, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR
OSU Extension Office, 668 NW First Street, Enterprise, OR***

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan's (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group met via webinar and conference call on November 5, 2018. Some participants also gathered at two locations in Salem and Enterprise. Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, and Derek Broman, Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator represented ODFW leadership at the meeting. Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor represented the Governor's Office.

Attendance included eight WPSR Work Group members representing stakeholders from throughout Oregon.

Over the course of the meeting, WPSR Work Group members discussed the following topics with each other, ODFW staff, and the Governor's Office.

- Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans
- Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

This report summarizes the major meeting discussions, action items, and next steps for the WPSR Work Group process.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Context, and Agenda

Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, kicked off the meeting. She reviewed the meeting agenda, meeting materials, and virtual meeting protocols.

WPSR Work Group members and audience participants introduced themselves by name and affiliation. Deb asked for updates since the last meeting. Members did not provide any updates.

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, thanked participants for their efforts.

2. Review and Discuss Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans

Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator and Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Derek Broman, ODFW, reminded participants that at the last meeting WPSR Work Group members developed and discussed a proposal to move forward to support non-lethal methods. ODFW reflected on the proposal and developed a document that provides some context, details, and questions that would be useful to consider in looking at the proposal; this is outlined in the *Evaluation of the Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans* handout. Derek walked through the components of that handout.

The proposal developed by Work Group members essentially indicates that ODA and ODFW would work with producers to develop specific non-lethal deterrence plans. If the producer were to meet the plan in the face of chronic depredation, the producer could then send a request for lethal control to ODFW. If ODFW were to find that the plan had been adequately implemented, the agency would then be able to issue an authorization for lethal control. Under the proposal, if the producer did not have a nonlethal deterrence plan or did not implement their plan, then no lethal request would be allowed.

ODFW analyzed this proposal and considered how it could be implemented. The handout lays out some of the core values and interests served by the proposal. It then explains the current situation and the number of farms that have livestock. The document also outlines statutes in place, how agencies currently seek to reduce livestock conflict, and the processes for responding to lethal requests.

Currently, wolf removals are not specific to one property or location where the lethal control request came from. Cost effectiveness is a priority in the proposal and ODFW recommends that a business case could be useful to compare and contrast the current system with the proposal.

ODFW also outlined a number of questions regarding the proposal to help participants get into the details, to help understand the values that participants are coming from, and to understand the interests that overlap among the various groups.

Deb asked participants to provide initial reflections and clarifying questions. She encouraged members to think about what needs to be agreed upon now, and what could be deferred until after the Commission decision.

Members made the following reflections:

- Members expressed appreciation for ODFW’s work in writing out and evaluating the proposal, providing more specific information, and coming up with pointed questions.
- **“Caught in the act” authority:** Participants noted that it is important to livestock producers that they continue to have the authority to carry out takes in the moment. Others clarified that the proposal is not intended to change that authority. The framework of the proposal applies to lethal control in the face of chronic depredation—not caught in the act situations. The proposal specifies that if a producer does not develop and implement an agreed upon non-lethal plan, then it cannot turn to lethal control. ODFW staff added that it would take a statute modification to end “caught in the act” authority.
- **Compensation:** A participant stated that compensation should continue to roll through at the county level.
- **Difficulty with webinar/conference call discussion:** Several participants noted that this webinar should serve the purpose of outlining various issues and that deeper discussion and coming to an agreement should occur at the in-person meeting on November 27.
- **Questions posed by ODFW:** One member noted that ODFW did a good job in framing the questions (as listed in sections IV and V of the handout). Several advised that, in advance of the November 27 meeting, members should review the questions and prioritize which are most important to discuss as a group.
- **Include additional participants:** A member suggested including Oregon Wildlife Services Program staff in conversations moving forward because they are capable of doing non-lethal methods, are a source of funding, and their participation could be useful.
- **Concern about complexity and cost of the proposal:** A member questioned whether the proposal is an appropriate topic for the workgroup and noted that as compared to the current Oregon Wolf Plan the proposal looks unduly complex, expensive, and additive to ODFW’s many other activities. The member expressed support for conducting a business case for committing state resource dollars to the proposal.
- **Concern about resources for ODA:** A member asked about ODA’s ability to participate and noted that the agency will need additional resources to support their role. ODFW staff clarified that ODA has the expertise on livestock, and ODFW has the expertise in wildlife management. ODA would need additional resources to conduct this additional work.

Members asked questions, discussed, and made the following comments:

Members discussed **what should occur after ODFW finds that a producer has implemented its approved nonlethal deterrence plan and authorizes lethal control.** Some said that if ODFW makes such a finding, this should not translate into automatic use of lethal control. For example, there may be circumstances in which lethal control would not resolve a chronic predation problem

because the cattle are about to be removed from the land or already have been. Other members noted it is important for there to be as little delay as possible between the request for lethal control and the ability to implement lethal control. ODFW staff expressed concern that, if the producer is not provided with a preapproved process to take care of depredating wolves, they will see no benefit to developing a nonlethal deterrence plan. The producers must see some benefit, or else they will not be encouraged to participate.

Members discussed their **level of support for the Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans**, as currently written:

- Some expressed that the proposal is good progress, seems to speak to core values and interests of the group, and can be a way to improve management issues for a broad range of stakeholders. They suggested continuing to work on the proposal and focusing on the places where stakeholders do align.
- Others noted that the plan seems overly complex and expensive and had concerns about ODFW district biologists' availability to implement the plan. They were also concerned that the proposal does not move toward normalization of the wolf species. Participants discussed different points of view on normalization of the wolf population.
- ODFW staff asked whether participants are concerned about asking every producer to develop a plan, and whether it is necessary for every producer to have a plan. Members noted that this is worth discussing. One suggested conducting risk hazard mapping in Oregon to understand where resources need to be allocated.

Members discussed the **approach for future meetings**. Some suggested limiting the conversation of the group to more manageable and simpler topics for resolution. Another suggested that all members aim to provide as many answers as possible to the "*Questions for WPSR to Help Define the Proposal*" prior to the November 27 meeting. Others noted that today's meeting should be an opportunity to check in, and that further discussion should occur on November 27.

Members discussed ODFW's **recommendation to develop a business case** for committing state resources to the proposal. Some noted that if this business case is conducted, the proposal should not just be compared against the status quo but take into account the indirect costs and benefits as well. Some noted that the business case should analyze the cost to producers and to ODFW/other agencies. They added that producers bear greater cost in implementing non-lethal options as compared to occasionally doing a lethal take. A hunting interest added that the best way to reduce expense is by managing the number of wolves through a hunting and trapping program, like in Idaho and Montana; others responded that Oregon has a drastically smaller wolf population than those states, and that it is premature to discuss population control methods.

Members discussed the **appropriate agencies or groups to authorize non-lethal deterrence plans**. ODFW staff suggested that the county be involved in monitoring and implementing the non-lethal deterrence plans. Others noted that county involvement would lead to better buy in by the communities, but the counties would need funding to be involved.

Members suggested **conducting pilot projects with ranchers** to develop sample non-lethal deterrence plans prior to the November 27 WPSR Work Group meeting. The rancher could then report on how the process went. Members are curious to see how much time it would take a district biologist to produce a plan and the expense to a rancher to truly implement non-lethal methods. A

participant suggested using the Warnock ranch in Wallowa County as a sample case, as the owner is already a willing participant. Some suggested using two or three pilot projects rather than one, as a better basis from which to draw conclusions. Members would like to see a report out of the pilot project at the November 27 WPSR Work Group meeting, and possibly at the December 7 Commission meeting. ODFW clarified that it is not realistic to conduct a true pilot project over the next few weeks, but it is likely feasible to develop one or more model plans in partnership with willing producers. They also noted that the agency provides informational packets about conflict deterrence plans to producers, and these packets essentially add up to a non-lethal deterrence plan example.

A participant ended the conversation by noting that the intent of the Proposal is to respond to the **mutual desire of all stakeholders to ensure that lethal control is an option of last resort**. The agreed upon goal of all participants is to reduce conflict overall and see fewer dead wolves and fewer dead livestock. The participant expressed hope for finding a solution that reduces conflict and avoids lethal take.

3. Opportunity for Public Input

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb Nudelman, K&W, opened the floor for public comments. Four members of the public provided public comment.

John Williams: Normalization of wolves is important. Any plan or proposal that comes out of the WPSR Work Group process should be less complicated and restrictive than the current practice and make it easier to move to lethal control. Moving into Phase 3, wolves should become a more normalized species, not more protected.

Roger Huffman: The outcome of this process should not be more restrictive than what is in place today. In Phase 3, when there are many wolves, producer support should not be lost or reduced. There are already a lot of plans that have been altered. ODA is not equipped to do the level of work that the proposal suggests because ODA staff does not have expertise in predation or wolves; it is simply a grant program to them.

Cynthia Warnock: Producers spend a lot of their time implementing non-lethal methods, and this is not well understood or acknowledged. Also, other ungulates are pushed into producer lands. Producers are interested in putting together a cost estimate of implementation of non-lethal methods, and whether this is an unreasonable financial burden on producers.

Jerome Rosa: ODA's understanding is that their involvement in non-lethal deterrence plans would be fairly limited, and they have just become aware that they may have a more inclusive role going forward. They are not equipped to have a larger role than in the past.

4. Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Members discussed ideas and suggestions to continue to refine the proposal and discuss other topics related to the Oregon Wolf Plan.

Members suggested and agreed upon the following next steps:

- **Respond to Questions for WPSR to Help Define the Proposal:** Members are encouraged to review the Questions for WPSR to help define the Proposal listed on page 7 of the handout and to answer these to the best of their ability prior to the November 27 WPSR Work Group meeting. The facilitation team encouraged members to collaborate with other stakeholders that hold different points of view, and attempt to answer the questions together to find where there is mutual interest and a path forward. Members should aim to provide their responses via email to Kearns & West by close of business, Monday, November 12.
- **Develop Sample Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans:** Members agreed that it would be useful for two or three producers to work together with ODFW biologists to develop sample non-lethal deterrence plans. ODFW staff noted that they would send out via email various non-lethal methods resource materials to help in crafting the sample plans.

Members discussed alternative dates for the next WPSR Work Group meeting, as Todd Nash is not available for the November 27 date. Participants were not able to find a suitable alternative date. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is requested to find an alternate to attend the November 27 meeting. Members agreed that the November 27 meeting should be held in Pendleton for the benefit of eastside stakeholders and members of the public.

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director, closed the meeting and expressed appreciation for participants' time and interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 27, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pendleton, OR
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 8, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portland, OR

Meeting Participation

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Nick Cady	Cascadia Wildlands
Mark Bennett	Oregon Farm Bureau
Sean Stevens	Oregon Wild
Suzanne Stone	Defenders of Wildlife
Todd Nash	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity
David Wiley	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Curt Melcher	Director
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator <i>(as needed)</i>
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator <i>(as needed)</i>
Derek Broman	Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator
Roblyn Brown	Wolf Program Field Coordinator

Governor's Office

Name	Title
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Team Members and Audience

Name	Organization/Entity
Roger Huffman	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Diane Gellegos	Wolf Haven International
Jim Dundan	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Oregon Hunters Association
Roger Huffman	
Ken McCall	Oregon Hunters Association
Danielle Moser	Defenders of Wildlife
George Plaven	Capital Press
Jerome Rosa	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Cynthia Warnock	Wallowa County Rancher
John Williams	Wallowa County

MEETING SUMMARY

Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process

WORK GROUP MEETING #4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**OXFORD SUITES, 2400 SW COURT PLACE, PENDLETON, OR
2400 SW COURT PLACE, PENDLETON, OR**

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan's (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group met in Pendleton, OR on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator, Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, and Derek Broman, Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator represented ODFW leadership at the meeting. Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor represented the Governor's Office.

Attendance included eight WPSR Work Group members representing stakeholders from throughout Oregon.

Over the course of the meeting, WPSR Work Group members discussed the following topics with each other, ODFW staff, and the Governor's Office.

- Proposal on Developing Ranch and Farm Specific Gray Wolf Non-Lethal Deterrence Plans
- Funding
- Chronic Depredation
- Controlled Take
- Approach Going Forward, Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

This report summarizes the major meeting discussions, action items, and next steps for the WPSR Work Group process.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Context, and Agenda

Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs kicked off the meeting and reminded members that the purpose of the WPSR Work Group is to review the existing Oregon Wolf Plan to determine whether there are issues or concerns that can be addressed in a collaborative process. She noted that progress made at today's meeting will determine how to best structure the scheduled January 8, 2019 WPSR Work Group meeting and will also determine how ODFW provides updates to the Commission at its December, January, and/or February meetings. She explained that the December 7 Commission meeting will include a short update without opportunity for testimony. Public testimony will be provided for when the Commission makes a decision on the Oregon Wolf Plan, likely at the February Commission meeting.

Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor at the Governor's Office, expressed appreciation on behalf of the Governor for the continued participation of Work Group members. She noted that the Governor is hopeful that the group can come to a resolution on outcomes.

WPSR Work Group members and audience participants introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

Deb Nudelman reviewed the agenda, noting that key topics for the day include a discussion on the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal as well as a discussion on funding, a definition of chronic depredation, controlled take, as well as other topics that members would like to propose for discussion. She explained that the meeting will end with a conversation about next steps, what to report out at the December 7 Commission briefing, and how to move forward with future WPSR Work Group meetings.

Deb Nudelman reviewed the documents in the meeting packet, meeting logistics, audience role, and ground rules.

WPSR Work Group members asked questions about the expectations for upcoming Commission briefings. ODFW representatives noted that a brief update and report will be made on December 7 and will include potential schedule that the Commission will make a decision on the Wolf Plan at its February 8, 2019 meeting. At least forty-nine days in advance of that meeting, a notice of proposed rule-making with the Secretary of State's office will be filed, including the initial draft rules. That filing opens the public comment on the proposed rulemaking process. The February Commission meeting will include an opportunity for public testimony before the commission makes its decision on the Oregon Wolf Plan.

2. Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal

Kevin Blakely, ODFW Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator Coordinator and Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Kevin Blakely reminded members about the process for developing the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal. Work Group members developed the proposal at their October 9, 2018 meeting. ODFW staff then reflected on that proposal and created a set of questions to understand how the proposal might work on the ground. Then Work Group members reviewed those questions and provided their responses, which were consolidated into one document that was included in the meeting packet.

Kevin reflected on the Work Group member responses to questions, noting that it is clear members see value in the proposal, and a necessity for non-lethal methods in preventing and reducing livestock conflict. All stakeholders placed ODFW in the role of developing the individual plans. Currently, ODFW conducts education and outreach around non-lethal methods, assists landowners with implementing non-lethal methods, and works with County Compensation Committees for information on appropriate tools.

There is concern that the proposal is an unfunded concept. Kevin added that several items that were discussed and supported at the October WPSR Work Group meeting are included in the agency's requested budget as a Policy Option Package (POP), including collaring, monitoring of wolves, and working with producers across the state where wolves are on the landscapes. The Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal, as envisioned in the written document, is entirely separate from and would cost much more to implement than what the POP includes.

Members reflected on the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal and member responses to questions:

Presentation: Sample Individual Wolf Conflict Deterrence Plan

Deb explained that Cynthia Warnock, an area rancher, worked with ODFW biologists to develop a sample Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan. She invited Cynthia to walk through the experience of developing the Individual Wolf Conflict Deterrence Plan.

Cynthia made the following points:

- She tried to keep the Plan as brief as possible, using a “checkbox” approach that would be easier for other ranchers to implement. Landowners can check off the non-lethal methods that are considered appropriate and potentially effective for their specific circumstance.
- Cynthia reviewed the list of non-lethal methods, and why some would not be effective or appropriate for her particular operation, and situations where the methods might be more appropriate.
- Cynthia reflected on her experience in writing the plan, and noted it was simple and something that ranchers can do if they have the will to do so. In her particular situation, she brought the sample plan to a wildlife biologist at the ODFW office. The biologist reviewed and made comments but did not have to visit her ranch because he knows her operation well. In other cases where the biologist is not familiar with the specific operation, it would

take time and effort for the biologist to travel and visit the site, and to help the landowner understand which non-lethal measures might be effective.

Discussion on Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal

Members asked questions and made the following comments regarding development of individual plans:

- Members discussed concern around the cost and effort required to develop individual plans.
 - Some noted that, due to resource constraints and insufficient staff, ODFW may not be able to take a lead role in developing plans, and some ranchers may not be willing to undertake plan development. We should be realistic, about whether we should even continue talking about this. ODFW staff estimated that it would cost \$4.4 million per year to fund staffing in several districts to help livestock producers develop these plans. If the producers were willing to lead the plan development; then that cost would be somewhat reduced. ODFW is concerned that developing individual plans might not be the best way to address livestock conflicts.
 - Members suggested focusing plan development by prioritizing plans for “high risk” ranchers or those that have had the most depredations. Others noted that hundreds of ranchers are currently implementing non-lethal methods and are impacted by wolves. For example, in Wallowa county there would be 200 operations that need a plan right now; and a plan would take more than a day for each biologist to do. So that would take at least a year for a full-time employee to do. Developing good plans is a large investment.
 - Others noted that the plan does not seem overly burdensome and is worth the cost. They wondered if part of the staff time of the five new positions in the POP could be used to carry out the proposal. ODFW staff responded that the intention of the POP is to fund activities to proactively manage wolves in the future, through conducting surveys, providing non-lethal recommendations to landowners, providing better education, etc.

- Members explained that, from the producers’ perspective, the individual plans do not seem like the best approach to reducing conflicts, and that funding for education around non-lethal methods might be more appropriate.

- A member suggested developing metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of an individual plan, to help understand whether developing such plans is valuable.

- Members stressed the need for building credibility and trust with ODFW regarding data and education on non-lethal methods. ODFW explained that wildlife biologists conduct proactive education around non-lethal methods, though members said they would like to see greater efforts made. Some ranchers have found that they receive inaccurate or non-timely information regarding wolf locations and assistance with issues in the field.

- A member suggested that the conversation around non-lethal methods must be integrated with the conversation around controlled take, including a large-scale look at wolf populations and the positive role that hunting can play.

- Members discussed the relative value of developing individual plans. Some noted that there is value in ensuring that livestock producers use *effective* tools that are tailored to their situation. Meeting with ODFW ensures that the tools being tried are effective. If tools are not effective, then there should be feedback to improve efficacy. The exchange of information is critical; just reading something in a guide book is not effective. Additionally, some ranchers engage in practices that encourage wolves to come in; and they don't realize that their practices have that effect.
- Producers desire recognition by other parties around the changes that have already been made in livestock operations to attempt to reduce conflicts, and the time and money this has cost producers.
- A member suggested that the individual plans should be developed with engagement from the County Wolf Committees. The counties have additional resources, funding, equipment and knowledge that can be pooled with the resources of ODA and ODFW to help resolve conflicts.
- Members expressed concern that a formal individual plan process discounts local knowledge.
- Members noted that ranchers would like to see a guarantee that, if they follow their individual plan and continue to experience depredations, that they are guaranteed to move to lethal control. Others were concerned about ranchers viewing the individual plans as a check box or formality to be given permission to take wolves. Several rancher representatives noted that producers' highest priority is to stop or prevent the killing of livestock; they simply want assurance that if they have done everything they could conceivably think of to try to prevent further depredations, they can move to lethal control. ODFW staff added that the proposal does have the benefit of providing certainty to a rancher: they know what methods they must implement, which is sometimes unclear today. Others commented that, if producers have good individual plans for using non-lethal tools, there should be minimal depredations. If the tools are being followed, and chronic depredation continues, that should trigger re-evaluation to understand what is not working. Other members expressed a preference that there not be a guarantee of lethal control; and that the agency still retain discretion as to whether or not to employ lethal control.
- Members stressed the importance of good data on the location of wolves in the State. Producers want to know whether wolves are in their area, so that they can make adjustments to prevent losses. Concern was expressed that the Proposal seems too conservation focused; as wolf populations increase, conservation standards should decrease, not increase.
- Some members stressed the need for adaptability and flexibility; and that the Proposal seems to add administrative hurdles rather than reducing them. The Oregon Wolf Plan should provide wildlife managers with flexibility to adapt to the situation on the ground, in accordance with the law.
- Members compared the experience of Oregon to that of Idaho, Montana, Washington and California and noted the differences between the states and public values.

During the discussion on the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal, Kearns & West typed and projected key comments on the portions of the proposal. Key comments are shown in red below:

November 27 meeting. Below are comments from the November 27 meeting, shown in red text.

NON-LETHAL DETERRENCE PLAN PROPOSAL:

1. Funding comes in from the State of the Oregon and Other funders to provide resources to livestock operators to develop operation specific gray wolf nonlethal deterrence plans
 - a. Phase in over time, to allocate funding resources where most needed to address problems
 - b. State provide funding to support producers
 - c. Consider a starting place that focuses on areas where already implementing a non-lethal plan
 - d. Ensure the plan complies with the law

2. ODA/ODFW meets with the Rancher/Farmer to discuss Livestock operations
 - a. Make this a collaborative, proactive process that is flexible and responsive to rancher/farmer needs. Use this proposal as a way to keep livestock and wolves alive. And to have public resources be used to support this premise and to have the value of wolves on the landscape and value of livestock protected.
 - b. Start with ranchers that have a depredation problem.
 - c. Be proactive: ODFW talk with field staff and livestock owners; do workshops, and do meetings to educate on non-lethals
 - i. Share information when wolf packs are around
 - ii. Describe tools that can be used on the ground
 - iii. Strive to reduce or eliminate conflict
 - iv. Build trust and credibility, and a foundation of understanding
 - v. Honor local knowledge on the landscape (get local buy in)
 - d. Engage counties too (not just ODA and ODFW). Share local knowledge within county around practices to reduce depredations.
 - e. Honor what the livestock owner is already doing to prevent conflict/depredations

3. The operator develops a non-lethal conflict deterrence plan specific to their operation, it includes a review of fiscal expenditures to implement their nonlethal deterrence methods
 - a. Focus on non-lethals and be proactive
 - b. Use tools that are effective for the local operation; don't include tools that are not effective. Ensure use of expertise by ODFW and others on tools to be used, if it does not work, get feedback to improve efficacy.
 - c. Make the plan development process light and easy
 - d. Make sure the plan provides for certainty and consistency

- e. Ensure that the plan allows for flexibility and adaptation as needed to address issues as they arise
 - f. Consider the cost of the measures
 4. The plan is approved by ODA and ODFW
 - a. Plan is approved by ODFW (not to include ODA)
 5. All non-lethals (as feasible/reasonable) are deployed as prescribed in the plan
 - a. Make this adaptive and responsive over time
 - b. Producers want to know if wolves are in the area to prevent losses
 - c. With all non-lethals being implemented there should be a reduction in depredation
 6. If chronic depredation occurs (as described in the OR Wolf Conservation and Management Plan) a lethal request is sent to ODFW
 - a. Even if chronic depredation occurs, ensure that the plan allows for flexibility and adaptation as needed to address issues as they arise
 - b. If chronic depredation is occurring, it should also trigger some evaluation of what is not working in addition to the form of authorized lethal control
 7. ODFW confirms the plan has been implemented and authorizes a form of lethal control to address the chronic depredation
 - a. Commitment to quick response to move toward lethal control
 - b. Guarantee move to lethal take if the producer follows the individual plan; others did not support a guaranteed move to lethal take, and that even if the producer follows the individual plan, ODFW still retain discretion of whether to lethally control wolves
- If rancher/farmer does not have a nonlethal deterrence plan or does not follow/implement their plan
 - Then, no lethal request is allowed; not eligible for lethal control
 - Can still apply for compensation

3. Review and Discuss Funding

Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Derek Broman directed members to page 7 of the *Topic Backgrounder* that provides a synopsis of current funding mechanisms for the Wolf Program in Oregon. He explained that as wolf populations rise, current funding is insufficient to implement collaring, investigations, and other priorities. ODFW developed a policy action package (POP) to request five staff to be distributed among current staff to address these workloads. Their work would include: surveys, monitoring, detecting wolf locations, collaring wolves, helping with population counts, implementing new sampling schemes, and implement non-lethal methods. The POP was not originally developed with the intent to fund the nonlethal planning proposal developed by the Work Group. ODFW staff noted that earlier discussions had suggested the potential to fund two additional positions, separate from the POP. This could include an east and west side staff position to help implement non-lethal methods and coordination with producers.

Members asked questions, discussed and made the following comments:

- Members asked clarifying questions around how the POP would change the focus of work and species for district biologists. ODFW noted that if the POP is funded, ideally current district biologists would be focused back on other wildlife, and spend less time on wolf issues, although inevitably some of their time would be spent on wolves. The five staff funded under the POP would be focused on the wolf program.
- Members clarified the use of Pittman–Robertson Federal Aid funds and other sources of revenue, and suggested WPSR Work Group members work together to collaboratively seek additional funding.
- A member asked whether staff funded by the POP would be authorized to conduct lethal takes. ODFW staff responded that the POP does not specifically limit the exact wolf program activities that staff would be authorized to conduct, but it is anticipated that some staff may be authorized to conduct lethal takes in certain parts of the state.

Deb asked participants to indicate their level of support for ODFW's budget and funding proposal POP, as outlined in Page 7 of the *Topic Backgrounder for WPSR October 9, 2018* document. Members provided their reflections in turn:

- Overall, members expressed support for funding for positions to conduct the outlined activities outlined, including performing wolf surveys, monitoring radio-collared wolves, and responding to reports of wolf-livestock conflict.
- Some suggested expanding the activities of the funded positions to include:
 - Implement techniques used in other states beyond radio collaring and tracking that can be more effective.
 - Activities to support research on depredation on livestock and predation on ungulates.
- A member provided support contingent on funding coming from the general fund rather than from hunting tags.

- A member noted that district biologists should still be engaged in wolf issues, since they have the training to respond. ODFW clarified that district biologists would still be engaged in wolf issues to some extent; their work would be supplemented with these five additional positions.
- **Consensus Point:** Overall, members expressed support for the POP to fund five additional positions to conduct activities to support implementation of the Wolf Plan. Several members had comments and concerns about certain components of the POP, but did not oppose it overall.

4. Definition of Chronic Depredation

Derek Broman and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Derek directed members to Page 3 of the *Topic Backgrounder* handout that reviews the current and proposed definition of “chronic depredation.” He explained that under the current plan, in Phases 2 and 3, lethal control can be considered after two confirmed depredations or one confirmed depredation with three attempted depredations (in conjunction with numerous other considerations), with no timeframe.

ODFW staff proposes to redefine chronic depredation in the following way:

- Phase 1: Keep Phase 1 measures intact (no change)
- Phases 2 and 3: consider lethal control after three confirmed depredations within a 12-month period (in conjunction with numerous other requirements)
- Additionally in Phase 3: consider lethal control after two confirmed depredations in two situations: 1) in extreme circumstances where evidence exists of immediate ineffectiveness of non-lethal measures and/or circumstances indicate that non-lethal methods will be ineffective or are impractical; or 2) situations where depredations are occurring on private lands.

Derek clarified that ODFW would consider many factors in determining whether lethal control would be authorized when chronic depredation has occurred. He added that depredation investigations are incredibly rigorous in the process to confirm a depredation.

Members asked questions and discussed the ODFW staff recommendation.

- Members asked for clarification on “extreme circumstances” in the Phase 3 scenario. ODFW clarified that it could include situations in which many heads of sheep are lost and then a second depredation occurs the next night; in this situation, there is likely an individual problematic wolf and it is impractical to wait for a third depredation. Some participants suggested clarifying the Phase 3 language to indicate that “extreme circumstances” apply to situations of high levels of mortality and financial impact.
- A member suggested eliminating the private lands provision, which was added after a lot of process went into generating the “3 depredations in 12 months” figure.

- A member cited reports showing that in areas where there were two depredations, 91% had a third incident. Requiring three depredations to move to lethal take will have little support in the ranching community. The ranching community would be concerned with these stringent criteria before considering lethal control. The member suggested refining the provision so that two probable depredations to equal one confirmed depredation. Phases 2 and 3 represent the management phase, and the regulation should be made less restrictive—not more burdensome. Another member noted that the same series of data from ODFW showed that with each successive predation there was a reduced likelihood of a following predation; therefore, the member suggested letting the predations taper off instead of killing wolves directly after the first one or two predations.
- Some members expressed concern about use of lethal control at a time when wolf populations in Oregon are still low, and around what percentage of the Oregon wolf population might be lethally taken if depredations occur. They noted that if ranchers are effectively using non-lethal methods, this would offset the need for lethal control.
- Members suggested adjusting the timeframe within the definition. The 12-month period captures two depredation seasons, and multiple depredations across seasons cannot be considered “chronic.” Instead, the timeframe should be bound by the season to reflect that “chronic” depredations have a temporal element.
- Members asked for clarity on the kinds of depredations are happening on the ground today. ODFW staff clarified that two-thirds of the state is still in Phase 1 and listed. Northeastern Oregon has a significant number of the wolf packs and a lot of movement among packs. When a lethal request is made, ODFW rarely moves to lethal control before three depredations in a fairly confined time period. ODFW takes a lot of factors into consideration when deciding whether lethal take is the right tool to avoid more depredation.
- Members noted that the Phase 1 definition of chronic depredation (four depredations in six months) was amended in 2010 after a settlement agreement, and there is nothing prescribing that the definition must stay the same in Phases 2 and 3. One member noted that the original stakeholders who developed the plan adopted in 2005 felt there should not be a different definition for “chronic depredation” for each phase but that, rather, “chronic depredation” be defined the same for all three phases, because “chronic” is defined by how many predations occur not by how many wolves there are.
- Members and ODFW discussed the effectiveness of lethal control as a tool to reduce conflict and livestock depredation. ODFW noted that lethal control has been effective, and wolves from packs that are known to be causing problems have been removed; ODFW uses a variety of data/information to determine which wolf to remove, and this has led to fewer livestock deaths. Members suggested updating the definition to authorize use of “targeted” lethal control. Others noted that whole pack removal is preferred by some ranchers, as opposed to individual lethal removal.

Deb asked members for specific proposals to compare to ODFW’s proposed solution. Members provided the following two suggestions:

- Phases 2 and 3: Define “chronic depredation” as three depredations in a grazing season (an approximately 6-to-9-month period)
- Phases 2 and 3: Define “chronic depredation” as two depredations in a 12-month period. Also consider equating two probable depredations to one confirmed depredation.

Members made the following comments on the proposals:

- The livestock community would likely not support three depredations as the bar for chronic depredation. The definition should not become harder to meet as wolf populations increase. Members of the livestock community are also concerned about counting multiple head losses as one loss. The livestock community would prefer to have a guarantee of lethal control after two depredations in a twelve-month period but are comfortable with ODFW using its discretion to consider lethal control after 2 depredations in twelve months in situations where it is clear that the producer has been trying to do non-lethal methods.
- The livestock community may be comfortable with a definition of two depredations in nine months, taking into account the seasonal time period.
- Members noted that data does not suggest that depredations rise as wolf population rises. The data shows that depredations dip up and down. The climb in depredations is not likely to climb at the same rate as wolf increase rate.
- Members of the conservation community commented that two depredations seem insufficient as a threshold for “chronic.”. It is important to balance the definition of chronic depredation with what the state does to assist with non-lethal tools on the front end, and with compensation. They suggested using “three depredations” as the standard but increasing the compensation amount. This extra compensation might encourage the livestock community to try out the three depredations standard, and account for the hardship in waiting for a potential third depredation. There should be time for the non-lethal methods to be in place to see if they can work to stop the predations; two depredations does not allow sufficient time.
- A member added that two *confirmed* depredations is a much higher standard than simply depredations or losses. There are losses in a regular grazing season that go unaccounted for because many producers do not contact ODFW when they find a carcass/bones with very little evidence of a depredation.
- ODFW staff reviewed data on past depredations: out of eleven situations where there were two depredations, ten (91%) depredated a third time. Three depredated more than four times. The average time period between the first and second depredation was 10 days. The average time period between the second and third depredation was 43 days. In situations of four depredations, the four depredations occurred within four months.

ODFW staff encouraged participants to check in with their members to understand what definition of “chronic depredation” would be acceptable. ODFW staff would like members to report out on

the variety of viewpoints or level of agreement at the January WPSR meeting, as well as provide a recommendation on how to define chronic depredation.

5. Controlled Take

Derek Broman and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Derek directed members to Page 5 of the *Topic Background*er handout that reviews current practices and proposals around controlled take. He explained that the Oregon Wolf Plan defines wolves as a game mammal and uses criteria to separate wolves from other game mammals. Controlled take is specific to addressing wild ungulate issues and chronic depredation issues. It does not consist of a general hunting season and there is maximum enforcement of illegal activities.

Page 5 includes a number of staff proposals. ODFW's proposal is not very different from what is in the current plan, with the addition of the special permit agent concept.

Members discussed controlled take and made the following comments and observations:

- Members of the hunting community suggested using the term “special permit hunter/trapper” rather than “special permit agent.”
- ODFW clarified that it would not sell special agent permits to the public. Instead, the special agent would be a volunteer of ODFW and would be trained to take specific wolves. Members suggested clarifying this in the plan.
- Members asked whether the agent would be entitled to retain the carcass. ODFW staff responded that they would. Members suggested that in order to avoid confusion with cougar agents, the term “hunter/trapper” be used rather than “agent.” Others were surprised that the agent would be entitled to retain the carcass and wanted greater clarity.
- Members asked about the phrasing of the last bullet on page five: stakeholders in the past agreed to the phrase “wolves are a primary cause” as opposed to “wolves are a major cause.” ODFW responded that the language reflects the exact 10j language, which reduces the agency's risk for litigation.
- Representatives of the hunting community noted that their main interest is to discuss controlled take. Their groups are comfortable with the language around controlled take in the Plan at this time; with the caveat that as wolf populations increase, the state should look at expanding the mechanism for controlled take. They expressed hope for spending a significant amount of time on that topic at the next WPSR Work Group Meeting; but if the group does not have the opportunity to talk about the controlled take topic in January, the hunting community is fine with the language as it currently is in the Plan.
- A member commented that the Plan should include wolf management zones and associated management objective numbers: the Plan should clearly state the threshold at which wolf management zones would be brought in. Another member suggested creating a Phase 4 that

would begin when Oregon has a large wolf population, allowing flexibility for greater wolf management and less conservation.

- A member expressed support for updating the language to allow the use of sporting dogs and pets on the East side, as the East side is now in the management phase. Another member was wary of allowing a sporting dog program; in some other states, people who are not responsible hound hunters are putting their animals at risk.

6. Opportunity for Public Input

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb opened the floor for public input. Four members of the public provided public input.

Diane Gallegos, Wolf Haven International, thanked participants for coming together to do this hard work, and hoped that the members together can create a more durable solution than ODFW coming up with a solution on its own. She expressed surprise that the special agent can keep the carcass, which is a different ethic that she would like to hear more about.

Jennifer Jaca suggested defining chronic depredation differently for sheep as opposed to cattle. There may be something different about various kind of livestock that warrant different definitions.

Bill Richardson commented that the group appears to be doing Wolf Plan revision rather than Wolf Plan review. He suggested including hunting in the plan and proposed including trained hunters that pay for a tag to hunt, with funds going towards conservation.

Tim Barbouletos said he is happy he is retired!

7. Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps and Summary

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb asked members to reflect on their willingness to continue the conversation at a January WPSR Work Group meeting and consider what should be reported to the Commission. Members responded and made the following final observations:

- Overall, members support continuing the conversation at a January meeting and expressed appreciation for the chance to hear one another's perspectives. They noted that the process is challenging, but desire to see if there can be room for agreed upon path forward. Some noted that the WPSR Work Group seems to have made progress, and others noted that a lot of issues do not seem near agreement and will need to be decided upon by the Commission.
- Members suggested the following in the Report to the Commission:
 - Explain what the group has discussed, where they have come up with new ideas and approaches, and be honest about the divides, and the reasons for disagreement.

- Explain that the process has been rocky, but useful and the group is making slow progress.
- Some suggested providing the various points of view on controlled take and wolf management zones.
- Members made these additional observations:
 - This stakeholder process should be embedded in the wolf conservation work going forward. Collaborative time with diverse stakeholders is useful, even if just a few times per year so that all can be pulling in the right direction and avoid polarization.
 - Members suggested meetings be in person, rather than by phone.

Next WPSR Work Group Meeting and Next Steps

Deb asked members to continue to hold January 8, 2019 as the date of the next WPSR Work Group meeting. If that date does not work for members, they should let Kearns & West know as soon as possible.

Deb thanked members for their participation and complimented them for the impressive amount of work and complicated policy choices they have discussed in a short period of time.

As a next step, ODFW will review the various discussions made around the eight topics introduced at the October 9 meeting (the four “Issues Ready for Resolution,” and the four “Issues for Further Discussion”) as well as the Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal. The agency will work to summarize and reflect areas of agreement and propose next steps for each. The January 8 meeting will be a final opportunity for Work Group members to attempt to come to agreement on “what they can live with” for all the topics. ODFW staff will incorporate that information into the Wolf Plan for the Commission at the February 8, 2019 meeting.

Members discussed timeframes for public notice and publication of drafts. Shannon Hurn indicated that ODFW will need to provide public notice of rulemaking with the Secretary of State (including current draft rules) by December 24 (at least forty-nine days prior to filing the new rules following the February 8 Commission meeting). The draft rules are required for the initial public notice and can still be revised based on the January 8 WPSR Work Group discussion, before proposed draft rules are completed for the February Commission meeting. It is anticipated that the Commission will consider adopting the Plan at the February meeting. Members had some concern about the short timeframes for public review. ODFW indicated that they would answer additional questions on the public process at the January WPSR meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WPSR Work Group Meeting - January 8, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Portland, OR

Meeting Participation

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Nick Cady	Cascadia Wildlands
Mary Anne Cooper	Oregon Farm Bureau
Rodger Huffman (<i>alternate</i>)	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Sean Stevens	Oregon Wild
Suzanne Stone	Defenders of Wildlife
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity
David Wiley	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
Derek Broman	Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator
Roblyn Brown	Wolf Program Field Coordinator
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Governor's Office

Name	Title
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Team Members and Audience

Name	Organization/Entity
Jeanne Barbouletto	
Lane Carrier	
Diane Gallegos	Wolf Haven International
Rusty Inglis	Harney County Farm Bureau
Jennifer Jaca	
Sristi Kamal	Defenders of Wildlife
Robin Kearns	
Danielle Moser	Defenders of Wildlife
Dennis Myhrum	Oregon Farm Bureau
Bill Richardson	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
George Rollins	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jerome Rosa (on phone)	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Haley Stewart	Humane Society of the United States
Fred Walasavage	Oregon Hunters Association
Cynthia Warnock (on phone)	Wallowa County Rancher

MEETING SUMMARY

Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group Process

WORK GROUP MEETING #5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**MONARCH HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CLACKAMAS OR
12566 SE 93RD AVE, CLACKAMAS, OR 97015**

OVERVIEW

The Oregon Wolf Conservation Management Plan's (Plan) Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative (WPSR) Work Group met in Clackamas, OR on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Curt Melcher, Director, Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator, Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, and Derek Broman, Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator represented ODFW leadership at the meeting. Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor represented the Governor's Office.

Attendance included four WPSR Work Group members representing stakeholders from throughout Oregon. Four WPSR Work Group members were not in attendance for the meeting after sending an email to WPSR work group and letter to the Governor's office indicating their intent to withdraw from the meeting (attached as part of this summary).

Over the course of the meeting, ODFW presented proposed language updates to the current Wolf Plan to WPSR Work Group members. WPSR Work Group members discussed and sought resolution on the following topics with each other, ODFW staff, and the Governor's Office and provided recommendations and changes to the language.

- Collaring Priorities
- Investigations
- Other Sources of Mortality
- Compensation
- Funding Needs
- Chronic Depredation
- Controlled Take
- Non-lethal Tools and Techniques
- Approach for the February 8, 2019 Commission Meeting

This report summarizes the major meeting discussions, action items, and next steps for the WPSR Work Group process.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Context, and Agenda

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director; Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

All members introduced themselves.

Curt Melcher, ODFW Director kicked off the meeting by welcoming members and recognizing that several stakeholder groups withdrew from the process. He noted there is value in the open letter they sent as it provides understanding on where the organizations stand on wolf-related issues. Curt announced that ODFW originally intended to present a recommendation on the updated Wolf Plan to the Commission in February but will be delaying the presentation of the proposal until the March 15, 2019 Commission meeting.

Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, expressed appreciation for those attending the meeting today as ODFW seeks to receive feedback on updates to the Oregon Wolf Plan. Shannon expressed the intent of the meeting is to review the items discussed previously and to check in with the groups present. ODFW intends to have a draft out two weeks before they meet with the Commission on March 15.

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, echoed Curt and Shannon and thanked members for their participation. Deb asked for any updates related to the work proposed for discussion.

Members had questions about the briefings and presentations to the Commission. A member asked if they should expect updates on the Wolf Plan at the January or February Commission meetings. ODFW staff responded that they will provide an update in the Director's Report on the status of the process but will not have a formal presentation at the January or February meetings.

Deb reviewed the meeting agenda and the ground rules. She noted that ODFW will provide an overview of the process updates from the December 7 Commission briefing and then the team will review recommendations on the Wolf Plan updates. Then WPSR Work Group will discuss each topic, as well as an approach for heading towards the March Commission meeting and ensure all members are clear on that path forward.

2. Agency Updates: Funding and December 7 Commission Briefing

Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator and Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Derek Broman explained the December Commission meeting included an update on the Work Group process as part of the Director's Report, including reflection on the facilitation process from Deb. The Commission wanted to know if ODFW was seeing progress and was on track. The Commission benefitted from hearing directly from Deb Nudelman as a neutral facilitator. The next week, ODFW gave an update to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on wolves and there were questions on the Wolf Plan process.

Shannon Hurn provided an update on the Wolf Plan Implementation Policy Option Package (POP) request. She noted that in past meetings, stakeholders agreed that it would be beneficial to have more resources toward collaring, more staff serving as biologists, and ODFW staff assisting landowners with non-lethal methods. ODFW put in a POP for funding to support these activities,

and it was approved as part of the Governor's recommended budget in December. She reviewed the POP in the handout materials.

A member noted that in the open letter recently received, conservation groups had proposed using 50% of the funding for compensation and asked whether this would mean less funding to support the work outlined in the POP. Shannon said that ODFW would like to see more funding for the compensation program but would prefer that it come from a source other than the POP. All questions for funding is ultimately still under consideration by the legislature.

3. Review the WPSR Work Group Outcomes as part of Wolf Plan Update

Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Kevin directed members to the meeting documents that outline recommendations for incorporating the primary topics from WPSR Work Group process into the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Incorporation of Initial Topics

Kevin explained that the handout reviews what is in the current Plan, and recommendations for how the topics are proposed for update in the 2019 Wolf Plan. The recommendations include:

1. Collaring Priorities:

ODFW presented the following update to The Plan:

- In the past, ODFW was required to place a collar on a wolf in every pack. This requirement was an exceedingly difficult bar for ODFW to meet. Collaring efforts are sometimes unsuccessful and practice has shown that it is more efficient to have flexibility and use collars where the data would be most effective. The proposal in Phase 1 and 2 proposes a language change stating "efforts will be made to collar at least one member of each pack" but again does not make a formal requirement. In Phase 3, the proposal recommends using collaring in Phase 3 areas but would not expect all packs to have collared wolves. The POP includes funding for radio collars, which can help achieve these collaring goals. The handout highlights proposed language regarding radio collaring. ODFW would continue to utilize GPS and VHF collars and would use VHF collars in situations where it would provide the most benefit recognizing the balance of obtaining consistent locational data and cost savings.

Members asked questions and discussed the proposed update to the Plan:

- A member expressed concern with language in Phase 3 and asks to use a more proactive word than "may" in the second to last sentence of the paragraph to express a greater level of commitment. ODFW agreed with changing the word as it captures their overall position.
- A member recommended using tables to more clearly indicate where and when collars would be used and mentioned the proposal makes no mention to the development of wolf management zones. Some members would like to see language around using collaring to support population management and zone development and to have the language in a table or flow chart to illustrate when collaring would be

used, and how we are preparing for a time with increased wolf populations. ODFW agreed that the collaring data is a component of population modeling which will be used as a building block to support management.

- Some participants would like for the Plan to think ahead about where we want to end up in the future. There was an ask to put forethought into zoning and population and pathways to address those topics after the five-year period. ODFW demonstrated they are thinking ahead but currently, there isn't the data to build specifics into the Plan. ODFW is working to collect that data to inform future decision making and planning.
- A member stated the need to be careful about the data collected. There is a need to collect information about what we think we might need but don't want to collect data that is not relevant or neglect to collect data that is needed. ODFW agreed and stated they are constantly working to develop the information and foundation to track and monitor wolf behavior. ODFW as a department focuses on data collection and has explicit reasons to collect specific data. If ODFW had more staff, that would translate into more data collected and more collars administered. ODFW agrees and are working to collect data to make better decisions moving forward.
- A member stated they will work to push for those resources and funding to make data collection and additional collaring possible. It is important to members and is one of the biggest asks through this Plan. As the population grows, this is a critical funding investment. The member appreciated the priorities for collaring and think they are correct but wishes there was more mandated collaring but understand that depends on resources.
- A member recommended tying science into the language and suggested that ODFW highlight their efforts to look at science in drafting the recommendations.

2. **Investigations:**

Kevin indicated ODFW intends to work with agencies to complete an update to the Federal/State Coordination Strategy between USFW, WS and ODFW, which has not been updated since March 2011 (current Plan contained the April 2007 Coordination Strategy).

Kevin directed members to the handout that shows the following recommended changes to the current Wolf Plan:

- Depredation investigations will continue on the landscape.
- Wildlife Services will continue to be involved in conducting investigations, under the same protocols and training as ODFW investigators.
- Investigations will continue to play a key role in decision-making in the compensation program, overseen by ODA and the County Coordinating Committees.

Members asked questions and discussed the proposed changes:

- A member asked how often investigation decisions are made by biologists on the ground verses having to go back to Salem. ODFW staff replied that the Salem office acts as a resource to investigators but never makes the determination on whether a wolf depredation occurred. The decision is made on a case by case basis on the ground after the evidence-based investigation. The District team, Wolf Program field

staff along with regional manager makes the decision. Members thanked staff for the clarification and noted that there has been a misconception that these kinds of decisions are made by the Salem office.

- Members asked what ODFW is doing to engage the public on how investigations work, in order to avoid misconceptions. ODFW responded that they post all investigations online to educate producers, local citizens, advocacy groups and to remain transparent. ODFW also notes it can be difficult to come to a conclusion with minimal evidence on the site. It can be difficult to get a depredation confirmed and that is part of where the misconceptions start. When ODFW introduces new non-lethals to producers, they also educate producers on reporting a death and how to recognize signs of what predator might have made a kill. The speed of investigations also depends on how experienced the investigator is; it is a steep learning curve. Their focus on educating producers on recognizing signs will make for greater efficiencies to address any potential wolf-livestock conflicts.
- A member noted there is a lack of reporting by producers; less than 50% of producers report depredations. Some producers have business and political reasons for not reporting.
- A member asked whether local law enforcement can be trained to conduct investigations and whether that was being considered by ODFW. ODFW responded that law enforcement would need to be trained on protocol and practices. Those doing investigations are trained individuals and ODFW cannot require sheriff's offices to get trained. There is no prohibition against law enforcement conducting investigations, except in some Phase 1 and 2 areas. There are concerns about how to implement a program to train sheriffs as investigators. ODFW rely on trained, local investigators who are very skilled biologically and very familiar with wolf kills. The success of an investigation depends largely on how quickly after the livestock death the investigation can be conducted, analogous to a crime scene investigation.
- A member mentioned the need for continued coordination between local field staff and producers regarding wolf movements as there is currently not as much direct communication with ODFW to livestock producers as there used to be. It would be useful to have enhanced movement of information to livestock producers.
 - ODFW responded that in the past, the agency texted producers about wolves in the area but this was not effective because if producers did not receive a text, they tended to let their guard down. In certain counties, landowners should expect that there could be wolves around at any time.
 - ODFW also noted oftentimes, the information from collared wolves to pass on is instantly outdated. Collaring does not produce lots of real-time data. Instead, it shows the dots on the map for the past few weeks.

3. **Other sources of morality:**

ODFW presented the following proposed update to the Plan:

- ODFW proposed new sections in the Wolf Plan on potential conservation threats, Strategies for Addressing Wolf Population Decline, and Potential for Future State Relisting. ODFW incorporated literature and ideas proposed by conservation stakeholders. The handout includes a link to those sections.

4. **Compensation:**

ODFW presented the following proposed update to the Plan:

- ODFW plays an important role in the compensation process and will continue to have interactions with the ODA and County Compensation Committees in implementation of the program.
- The POP has a desired outcome to reduce the response time for effective non-lethals and investigations to improve information quality and overall implementation of the Plan.

Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Division Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

5. **Chronic Depredation:**

ODFW presented the following proposed update to the Plan:

- Derek referenced the *Definition of Chronic Depredation* handout and reviewed the current definition of “chronic depredation.” Derek reviewed the various ODFW staff proposals on how to redefine the term. At the November 27, 2018 WPSR Work Group meeting, members said they would like to see a temporal element in the definition, and discussed options of a 6, 9, or 12-month time period, and including a grazing season as the time-period. Some wanted to see Phase 1 requirements extended into Phases 2 and 3. Members discussed number of confirmed depredations, ranging from two to four. ODFW attempted to develop a new proposal to bring to the WPSR, taking into account stakeholder feedback.
- ODFW proposes that for Phases 2 and 3, chronic depredation be defined as two confirmed depredations in a nine-month period; and the agency still reserves its ability to evaluate the situation and exercise discretion rather than mandating lethal control.
- At the last WPSR meeting, ODFW heard that wolves that depredated twice nearly always depredated a third time. ODFW took another look at the data and found that 76% of wolves that depredated twice did depredate a third time. But the data circumstances are not always comparable, leading to a lot of variance in the data. It is difficult to draw conclusions, so the figure should not be the primary foundation for using two depredations as the standard.
- Derek asked for feedback and noted that the recommendation is still up for discussion before being presented to the ODFW Commission.

Members asked questions and discussed the update:

- A member asked whether ODFW had looked at other Western States to understand how often a second depredation leads to a third. The data may be more conclusive if you look at a larger range.
 - ODFW clarified the specific findings from the Oregon data, and noted that data outside of Oregon does not lend itself easily to the discussion. Additionally, due to better effectiveness and awareness of non-lethal methods recently, the data would likely show fewer depredation in recent years.

- A member noted USFWS has annual reports and data that may be useful to look at. Research showed that in certain areas, even with total pack removal, there were still confirmed depredations.
- ODFW responded that they heard that people are interested in building models to predict what kind of landscape and weather features might explain why depredations are occurring in certain areas. This can be a proactive way to map and model areas of conflict, to help us know where to be on the ground to prevent conflicts.
- A member expressed support for the two depredations with a 9-month time period standard, noting it is acceptable because it allows the producer to react.
- A member reemphasized that sheep and cattle producers would not support increasing the depredation standard as the wolf population grows. The member supported the recommendation that ODFW retain the discretion extraordinary circumstances and would hesitate to raise the standard to three or four depredations.

Overall, members agreed that the proposed depredation standard (two depredations in a 9-month time period) is reasonable. They recognized that the four stakeholders not in the room were not supportive of this proposal at the previous WPSR Work Group meeting. Some members added that the current Wolf Plan has worked very well, and ODFW has done a great job managing with the old Plan. They noted the two-depredation standard has been around for a long time, is a more liberal standard and the plan has functioned with that standard. The use of the two depredations with including a more conservative time frame is well supported by the facts.

During the discussion, a member mentioned that while all members in the room accept the proposal of two depredations, the four stakeholders not present today were dissatisfied with the proposal and this is one of the major reasons for the absences today. The member expressed concern about moving forward when the groups absent today cannot speak to the proposal.

Deb responded noting the best we can do today is hear from those who are present. In a perfect world, the four missing groups would be here to explain their point of view and continue to try to seek common ground. We can, however, rely on what the groups have said in the past meetings and can do our best to make interpretations based on their letter.

Deb responded by noting that stakeholders have discussed these topics many times before the WPSR Work Group process started and have continued to talk about them through these meetings. It would have been beneficial for the NGO groups to be here in person to explain their point of view on the topics and proposal, however, they have expressed many comments on the topics in past meetings and through the open letter that can help us understand their interests. While we cannot make assumptions about what they would have said at today's meeting, we can take into account what they have been saying on the topics throughout the process.

6. **Controlled Take:**

ODFW presented the following proposed update to the Plan:

- Derek referenced the *Controlled Take* handout and presented:

- In statute, wolves are defined as a special status game mammal. In the draft Plan update developed in November 2017, ODFW created a new chapter for the Plan titled “Special Status Game Mammal”.
- At past WPSR Work Group meetings, members discussed the idea of special permit agents, which was not supported by many WPSR Work Group members. ODFW proposes removing any reference to special permit agents.
- ODFW recommends incorporating concept from Federal ESA 10j language. USFWS has explicit but simple language around when wolves can be taken to benefit ungulate populations; the past version of the Wolf Plan did not reflect this language.
- The proposed special status game mammal language almost exactly mirrors what is in the Wolf Plan now and refines the language so it is in one location in the Plan.
- Derek asked for feedback, particularly on pages 2-3 of the handout, which are essentially proposed text for the updated Wolf Plan.

Members asked questions and discussed the update to the Plan:

- A member asked where the federal 10j language is housed in the proposed language. ODFW noted that the updated Plan is mirroring the 10j language as a tool in the toolbox as a means for ungulate management in Oregon. Section 2(b)(i) which says that “ODFW has determined that wolves are a major cause of the population not meeting...” is the Federal 10j language.
- A member asked how the term “major cause” is defined. ODFW responded they are required to put together a document looking at various factors to make the determination and then present this to the Commission along with a recommendation on what to do.
- A member asked what kind of hunting permit would require Commission authorization.
 - ODFW responded that any proposals for hunting needs to be approved in a separate rulemaking process by the Commission. There will be no general season hunting for wolves. Any controlled hunt permits for hunters would need to go through a Commission process. The Commission would expect a presentation on why ODFW is recommending a hunting program, and it would go through a public process.
 - Controlled take is a general term to indicate “we will regulate the take of wolves in some manner.” If hunters are used in any way to remove wolves, it must go through a Commission process. The Plan does not, by itself, authorize any hunting seasons.
- All members found the proposed language acceptable, with the following comments and rationales:
 - Appreciate that there is a required Commission process if hunting were to be considered, and wonder whether the conservation community understands that the Commission process is required before hunting could be authorized.
 - The language promotes a conservation ethic and supports adaptive wildlife management practices.

- Looking at 2025 when the Plan is likely to be revised again; the wording does not allow for a burgeoning population, such as occurred in Idaho. To adequately talk about controlled take, Oregon should consider a Phase IV, that includes zones and management objective numbers per zone. General hunting is likely to never occur, but the Plan needs some controlled hunt language to allow for effective management. The language is fine as is but is a compromise: since the best solution would be zones and management numbers to allow assurance for harvestable game mammals in the future. Another member added that management should be looked at more broadly, and incorporate all species (wolves, cougars, bears, deer and elk) rather than a species-by-species approach. ODFW responded understanding the concern but feel they are not ready for the detailed conversation around population thresholds. ODFW will need to learn more and get better decision tools before we can undertake that in the next several years.
- A member pointed to Section 6 stating the language shows that trappers need to go through an approval process, but hunters do not and asked if this is correct.
 - ODFW clarified that trappers are specifically licensed, whereas hunters are not. This section indicates that in the future it is possible that public trappers could be used for wolf management in addition to hunting. Recreational trappers have to go through a process to become approved. Trapping is by certification in Oregon. Hunter-education is not required after 18-years of age. The language is reflective of how things are currently done in Oregon.

7. Funding Needs, Non-Lethal Tools and Techniques, and Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Proposal:

Shannon Hurn presented the topic:

- ODFW provided context and a reminder of the non-lethal deterrence plan proposal. WPSR Work Group members proposed the development of non-lethal plans on a ranch-specific basis. There was agreement that the plans would be useful for producers, but ODFW found it would not be feasible to write individual plans for all ranchers. ODFW looked at Cynthia Warnock's plan and the planning tool from Defenders of Wildlife, and developed a new template, so that ranchers could create individual plans. ODFW proposes that the agency would not meet individually with producers but could do more with educational workshops and bring non-lethal tools to people in a general way so they can incorporate them into their plans.
- If packs crop up in areas, ODFW is committed to learning about that pack and recommending non-lethal tools specific to that pack to landowners.
- ODFW included a proposal to hire two non-lethal deterrence plan coordinators to coordinate workshops, make resources available to landowners, and speak to them specifically about their plans. The information was requested by WPSR members to potentially use in separate discussions with legislators.

Members asked questions and discussed the topic:

- A member asked what is the recommendation to the Commission regarding non-lethal deterrence plans? ODFW responded that currently, when a property owner makes a lethal request, the property owner must show that they have used all appropriate non-lethal methods before the request is authorized. ODFW has heard

from landowners that it is very cumbersome to show that they have used those methods. Under the proposal, ODFW is saying that wolf deterrence plans are not required, but if a landowner has one in place, it is a sufficient demonstration of use of non-lethal methods and avoids the process of having to document everything the landowner has done regarding non-lethal methods.

- A member noted the proposal creates more work for producers and indicates landowners must do more to conserve wolves, while, there is no talk about compensation. Producers do not have the money to use non-lethals and seems like an unfair burden. At a management level, we should be looking at how to be less burdensome on producers. ODFW responded saying the deterrence plans are not required. There has been a proposal for hiring two more staff to help with the wolf deterrence plans, but landowners are not required to write the plans.
- ODFW staff stated as we talk about the Deterrence Plan Template and non-lethal methods, we need to consider how we message it and who does the messaging. Receiving a handout at an OCA meeting might not be the best way. Things like Facebook and YouTube videos help people learn. It shouldn't be just ODFW delivering the message. The member suggests using producers and others to help as well as creative ways to communicate with folks. They noted that Extension Agents are effective messengers and have credibility with producers.
- ODFW noted that they do not plan to advocate for use of non-lethal deterrence plans but offered to meet again as a group for anyone who wants to discuss the wolf deterrence plans and how we could use them going forward.
- Members noted that the deterrence plans would be more actively used by producers if they led to quicker action. If producers knew that creating a plan would lead to quicker action in the face of chronic depredations, more producers would likely make a plan.
- A member stated the need for funding for this in addition to what's in the POP and indicated that their group would advocate for funding.
- A member expressed support for funding the two positions, on assumption that it frees up the district biologists. The member would support housing the non-lethal deterrence plan program in the ODFW.
- A member stated sporting dogs are not treated the same as working dogs in the Plan and instead is makes no mention of sporting dogs. We use hounds regularly to control predators and puts the hounds at risk. In management phase, dog owners should be allowed to defend their sporting dogs in the face of wolves.
 - ODFW responded noting the place to have this conversation would be to include sporting dogs in statute (ORS 610.150).

Shannon clarified that the conflict deterrence plans framework is not ODFW's proposal. ODFW does not plan to present on it at the Commission meeting. If ODFW pulls another group together in the future, it may be brought up then but is not proposed language revisions in the Wolf Plan where conflict deterrence plans are mentioned.

Deb noted there may be a misinterpretation or misunderstanding on this issue by the conservation groups as these groups are not present at this meeting. **Next steps may be to clarify to all WPSR members via email that ODFW is not recommending including the conflict deterrence**

plans framework in the Wolf Plan, however, they may pull a group together to discuss it for more development at a future date if there was enthusiastic interest.

4. Discuss and Seek Resolution on WPSR Outcomes

ODFW and Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Derek invited member to discuss the next steps to prepare for the Commission meeting.

Kevin presented the next steps in preparing for the March 15 Commission meeting:

- No longer than 49 days prior to the March 15 Commission meeting, ODFW must file a notice of rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement and a current draft of the OARs with the Secretary of State's office.
- ODFW will continue to finalize the proposed 2019 Wolf Plan and OARs after this. The final wildlife division proposal will be an agenda item exhibit on March 15, 2019 before the Commission.
- ODFW will send a meeting packet to Commissioners two weeks before the Commission meeting (March 1), and then on the Monday, March 4, it is published on the website for public review.
- As soon as ODFW files with the SOS, the public comment period is open. People can submit written comments during this time, and ODFW will develop a public correspondence file that is part of the Commission Packet. There will also be a supplemental correspondence file at the meeting. People can also provide oral testimony at the Commission meeting.

Shannon presented how she anticipates the Commission meeting will go. She noted that ODFW will go through their presentation, explain where there is and is not agreement among the WPSR, and provide the ODFW recommendation. Then there will be public testimony. All interested stakeholders will likely attend to provide testimony and to support their groups. The Commission may ask us to consider panel testimony in which groups that align come on a panel together to present their comments. Then the Commission will decide on whether to adopt ODFW's recommendation, stay with the current Plan, or some other decision or modification.

Deb expressed hope that the process has been productive even though several stakeholders chose not to attend the meeting today. A member expressed concern in considering the ODFW proposal when there are so many voices missing from the discussion today. ODFW explained they have taken into consideration and incorporated all stakeholders' input from all meetings into the Wolf Plan. It is important to keep in mind the historic context—the stakeholders and ODFW have had many discussions over the past several years that go beyond the five-meeting WPSR Work Group process.

Closing Reflections:

Deb asked participants and ODFW staff for their final reflection on the process, and individuals provided their reflections in turn.

Stakeholder Final Reflections:

- Through this process, I gained a better perspective of everyone's perspectives. As representing people who are the most directly impacted by increasing wolf populations, it is disappointing to see the advocacy groups walk away, however, we still have to provide feedback and try to seek understanding. As we move to Commission process, we will be candid about the significant burden on the livestock community. It would be great to increase social tolerance of wolves on the landscape. We will never endorse activities that are less than tolerable; but people need to know they have an option to protect their livelihood. I hope the walk away from the table doesn't change that.
- Social acceptance by producers seems unlikely and it seems unlikely to co-exist in a harmonious way. But it is good to have educational components to provide a better understanding of wolves. It is unfortunate that the other groups did not want to participate today. Wolf populations will continue to grow, and we need to look forward to management phase. I appreciate that the recommendations are making a move toward being less restrictive, which is the right direction.
- Our objective was to come up with a revised plan that is adaptive and flexible, and we got a good start. The Plan is flexible and is a good product. The 2010 Plan was looking forward to the time when wolves would come to Oregon, as opposed to a time when wolves are present. It is time to revise the Plan. The proposals made by staff are adequate for our needs and interests. Looking at other states that have more experience with wolves is useful in developing an Oregon Wolf Plan based on those lessons learned.
- I concur with what's been said by other members. I feel comfortable putting the Plan back in hands of staff to make final recommendations. I have faith in Commission to make a solid decision based on the recommendation. I disagreed with statement by conservation groups that ODFW was deviating from being responsible in their management of wolves from a conservation perspective. Everything here is grounded in science, and it is solid conservation.

Governor's Office Final Reflections:

- Amira thanked members for their participation and expressed that the Governor appreciates the participation too. Members have transparently expressed their points of view. She appreciates ODFW's staff time and effort, trying to move the proposal forward, and trying to be as understanding to stakeholders as they could be. This proposal is in the Commission's hands, and she believes they will make a good decision. Amira mentioned the Governor is paying close attention to this issue. Amira is taking everything she has learned throughout this process to her and looks forward to hearing her thoughts. Amira concluded by thanking Deb as well.

ODFW Staff Final Reflections:

- Thanks to everyone for their participation: members and audience. We have been revising the Wolf Plan for a long time, and all of the input is valuable. It is great that all stakeholders were candid, because if we are going to write the best Plan, we need to know what stakeholders think, so we can put together best compromise we can find.
- It has been a great process to try to get enough comments and ideas to generate into a plan that reflects alignment. There is a challenge in that even when there is no consensus, ODFW still has to come up with a recommendation that it hopes best aligns with conservation and management of wolves and stakeholder needs.

- I appreciate everyone's involvement. Many of you have been involved for a long time and WPSR was not starting from scratch. We went over the most contentious issues in the WPSR Work Group. The products have to be understood in the context of where we started; and indeed, there was progress made. The convening interview process was interesting and appreciate the honesty. I'm more confident now in putting the Plan together, because I was getting honest answers from stakeholders.

5. Opportunity for Public Input *Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West*

Deb opened the floor for public input. Seven members of the public provided input. Their input is summarized below.

Steve Kinzer: Steve expressed disappointment at the decision by stakeholders to not attend. The conservation community has not shown compromise, whereas the stakeholders representing cattle owners who are most impacted, have compromised. The 2010-2015 ODFW Report is phenomenal. The ranchers listened and we now have a phenomenal Plan. Encourage ODFW to listen to those stakeholders who have skin in the game.

Tim Barbouletos, fifth generation Oregonian: Tim commented that the definition of chronic depredation uses the term "grazing season." What does that mean, and could you stick to a time duration instead? A season may be different depending on location. Expressed disappointment that all stakeholders were not able to develop a unified plan to present to the Commission. There is a better opportunity to get what you need as part of a unified group.

Harry Barber, timberland owner: Harry acknowledged the collaborative process based on science and input from biologists, and it has deteriorated into two opposing sides, and will probably lead to divisive, emotion-based behavior by all stakeholders. There are bears, coyotes and lions on my property that have decimated deer populations and caused lots of damage. Drawing parallels, I hope you can reach a target goal for wolves in specific areas of the state, and manage to that, and not let it explode like the cougar population has.

Haley Stewart, Humane Society: Haley stated the Human Society's biggest interest is seeing a Wolf Plan that reflects killing wolves as an option of last resort. The chronic depredation standard is too low of a threshold for us to be comfortable with and does not give enough time to demonstrate the effectiveness of non-lethal methods. It is not clear whether we are sticking with a 9-month timeframe or a grazing season. We are opposed to using hunters or trappers for controlled hunts; not a sound management tool, and majority of Oregonians do not support it. Also, it is not clear whether hunters and trappers can keep the wolves after the hunt. We would want clarification on whether they can keep the wolves, we would oppose them being able to keep the wolf.

Joan Beldin, citizen: Joan stated she has followed this issue for a long time and has lots of disappointment. Wolves are seen as the problem child. They have value and should be treated with more respect. They can increase health of ungulate herds, they are good natural defense against some disease. I am disappointed with the low chronic depredation standard, 2 is not chronic. I am against having private citizens kill wolves and against them keeping the wolf they have trapped, which is a trophy hunt. Trophy hunting is the lowest kind of hunting.

James Dundan, Oregon resident and hunter and angler, member of OHA, RMEF and Ducks Unlimited: James has been following the process. It is obvious that the Wolf Plan is working. Wolves are increasing in numbers and farther in range faster than anyone anticipated. I feel strongly that general hunting population should be allowed to participate in controlled hunts. In Oregon, we have controlled hunts for other big game species; it is very highly regulated. Within the controlled hunt program, if you want to hunt geese you have to take a class and pass a test. Same for other species. It makes sense and doesn't take a special agent. General public should be able to harvest wolves. ODFW is funded by hunters and anglers. Cattlemen and small timber holders are the ones managing the habitat for wildlife. Wildlife is all about habitat; they have the skin in the game and pay the price for wolves.

Leland Brown, Wildlife Society Oregon Chapter: Leland stated the Wildlife Society Oregon Chapter supports the recovery and restoration of wolf populations. The current Plan has been doing a good job of that. We expect to continue to support ODFW's efforts and the management Plan. I appreciate the stakeholder engagement.

6. Next Steps and Summary
Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West

Deb confirmed the next steps:

- ODFW will complete tasks to prepare for and present at the March 15 Commission meeting.
- Kearns & West and ODFW will develop a draft meeting summary.
- Look to the website for a final draft. We will post meeting materials to the website in the next couple of days.
- Kearns & West will present a final report on the process as part of the Commission packet.

Shannon provided closing reflections and spoke to the audience. Shannon expressed appreciation for everyone's participation, of both those who have followed the process for a long time and those who are new. In Oregon, wolves are the most contentious wildlife subject. I'm willing to continue to work on issues with you, if it is in the best interest of wildlife management, sustainable wolf population, and reduced conflict. Big thanks to Kearns & West; you have fought to keep the process going, and it is gratifying to hear from everyone here that they did get something from the process. And big thanks to Governor's Office, and Amira's willingness to ask the tough questions and be a link to the Governor's office. Oregon is committed to a sustainable wolf population.

Meeting adjourned 1:57pm

At the Feb 8th Commission meeting in Portland, Chair Finley announced that the adoption of a revised Wolf Plan scheduled for March 15 would be postponed to a future meeting, to allow everyone more time to review the Plan and Commissioners more time to talk with constituents. ODFW staff intend to make a draft Plan available for review by early March.

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
• None Scheduled	

Meeting Participation

WPSR Work Group Representatives

Name	Organization/Entity
Jim Akenson	Oregon Hunters Association
Mary Anne Cooper	Oregon Farm Bureau
Rodger Huffman	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
David Wiley	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

ODFW Team

Name	Title
Kevin Blakely	Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
Derek Broman	Carnivore/Furbearer Program Coordinator
Doug Cottam	Wildlife Division Administrator
Shannon Hurn	Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Curt Melcher	Director

Governor's Office

Name	Title
Amira Streeter	Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Team Members and Audience

Name	Organization/Entity
Bryn Hudson	Governor's Natural Resource Office
Gregory Wolley	ODFW Commissioner
Steve Kinzer	Member of the Public
Tim Barbouletos	Member of the Public
Harry Barber	Timberland owner
Haley Stewart	Humane Society
Joan Beldin	Member of the Public
James Dundan	Member of OHA, RMEF, and Ducks Unlimited
Leland Brown	Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Stephanie Christenson	Member of the Public
Sheila Redman	Member of the Public
David Williams	Member of the Public
Rebecca White	Pacific Wolf Coalition
Tom Hilken	USFS
Tony Schick	OPB
Jerome Rosa	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jane Schwitzer	Member of the Public
Fred Walasavage	Oregon Hunter's Association

George Plaven	Capital Press
Diane Gallegos	Wolf Haven International
Meghan Martin	Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Attachments

1. Email to WPSR Working Group from Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and Oregon Wild – *dated January 4, 2019*
2. Email to Governor Brown from Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and Oregon – *dated January 4, 2019*

From: Sean Stevens <ss@oregonwild.org>

Sent: Friday, January 4, 2019 4:55 PM

To: Sylvia Ciborowski <sciborowski@kearnswest.com>

Subject: Re: MEETING MATERIALS: 1/8/19 Meeting - WPSR Work Group

Dear WPSR Working Group,

Our organizations have greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in the meetings to revise Oregon's Wolf Management and Conservation Plan. We also value the time and effort that has gone into this process by the Kearns & West team. Unfortunately, given our strong concerns about ODFW's control over the process and their proposed resolution of our discussions, we do not feel it will be beneficial for our groups to attend this next meeting.

We initially engaged in this collaborative process to take a step back from the wolf plan that was proffered by ODFW previously, a plan that was unanimously opposed by stakeholders on all sides. Our goal was to arrive at a wolf plan that focused on wolf conservation and could be supported by the conservation community and the majority of Oregonians who support wolf recovery; the consensus goal was a plan that resulted in fewer dead wolves and fewer conflicts between wolves and livestock.

We believe that a sound stakeholder process – one that provides neutral oversight and guidance while encouraging meaningful discussion and collaborative brainstorming – would have provided an opportunity for a better outcome. Unfortunately, ODFW undermined this opportunity by rigidly controlling the process and leading us to a seemingly predetermined outcome while bouncing between participating as a stakeholder and controlling the facilitation process and direction. We made sincere, helpful recommendations to improve the plan by increasing resources for proactive, effective methods to better protect livestock and the state's struggling wolf population. However, it has become abundantly clear that our good faith efforts to propose solutions and explore common ground in the stakeholder process have been for naught. It is not hyperbole to state that every amendment to the plan we have suggested in this process has been rejected by ODFW.

We are disappointed that once again ODFW has proposed revisions that reject science and will impede wolf recovery. On all fronts, this new plan degrades proactive measures that support wolf conservation. Despite excellent facilitation by the Kearns & West team, ODFW retained control over the process – participating neither as a full stakeholder nor as a truly neutral observer. This has tainted the process and once again resulted in an untenable proposal with potentially dire implications for wolves. The agency weighed in when convenient, rejected constructive proposals, and repeatedly put its finger on the scale and ruined the possibility for real consensus.

We want to proceed in good faith negotiations around Oregon's wolf plan and still believe that we can reach a place of agreement. However, ODFW's position as participant, facilitator and arbitrator has failed the collaboration because they are an interested party in these negotiations. The unfortunate result of this position has been the advancement of a biased selection of proposals that minimize proactive conservation work by ODFW and increase the situations under which wolves can be killed. This is an untenable result for our organizations and a disappointment for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and Oregon Wild



January 4, 2019

Governor Kate Brown Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Wolf Plan Stakeholder Process

CC: Nik Blosser, Jason Miner, Amira Streeter, Fish and Wildlife Commissioners

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and Oregon Wild we are writing to express our opposition to the direction of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan stakeholder process and draft plan. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's current proposed resolutions to be reflected in the Plan update are not only weaker than previous drafts, but highlight the failure of this flawed stakeholder process to develop a plan that represents the values of Oregonians.

After reviewing ODFW's latest draft, it is clear the agency's intention is to find ways to kill wolves faster, not prioritize conflict prevention through non-lethal measures. Barring a change in direction, our four organizations will be collectively and actively opposing the revised Plan as proposed by ODFW.

We believe that a sound stakeholder process – one that provides neutral oversight and guidance while encouraging meaningful discussion and collaborative brainstorming – would have provided an opportunity for a better outcome. Unfortunately, ODFW undermined this opportunity by rigidly controlling the process and leading us to a seemingly predetermined outcome while bouncing between participating as a stakeholder and controlling the facilitation process and direction. We made sincere recommendations to improve the Plan by increasing resources for proactive, effective methods to better protect livestock and the state's struggling wolf population. However, it has become abundantly clear that our good faith efforts to propose solutions and explore common ground in the stakeholder process have been for naught. Every amendment to the Plan we have suggested in this process has been rejected by ODFW. Therefore, we will be withdrawing from the facilitated stakeholder process.

The Wolf Plan review process began three years ago after ODFW prematurely removed state endangered species protections for wolves. From the outset, ODFW struggled to draft a plan that reflected the public's desire to appropriately balance the positive impacts of continued wolf recovery with mitigating the rare - but real - challenges to some livestock owners. The agency's increasingly controversial and unscientific draft proposals were opposed by all stakeholder groups. About a year ago, your office aided in the initiation of a new process so Oregonians would get the Plan they

deserve - a plan based in science, one that is reflective of Oregon's conservation values, and one that prioritizes using non-lethal measures as a way to reduce conflict. Ultimately, this approach would result in fewer dead livestock, fewer dead wolves, and less human conflict.

As has been the case for more than a decade, we participated in good faith – even while sharing our concern about this problematic ODFW-controlled process. We have been at the table for every stakeholder meeting, testified in front of the Fish and Wildlife Commission at each opportunity, engaged with independent scientists, developed and shared memorandums that detailed our position and recommended revisions, and finally, made serious attempts to negotiate with the other stakeholders and ODFW throughout this facilitated process. Unfortunately, your Department of Fish and Wildlife has again illustrated that they are unwilling to develop a plan that honors your expressed vision and the wishes of the Oregon people. It is evident that ODFW will disregard science under political pressure. Killing wolves should be at most an action of last resort. Sadly, this proposed plan stands as yet another example of the agency putting commercial interests ahead of Oregonians who value native wildlife.

Therefore, we are requesting that you communicate with ODFW leadership to craft a plan that aligns with the best available science and Oregon's values. More specifically, we ask that you communicate to ODFW that the \$1.17 million dollars you have allocated in your 2019-2021 budget for Wolf Plan implementation may not be used for killing wolves. Instead, over the next five years - the expected length of the new Wolf Plan – ODFW must focus on prioritizing meaningful, transparent, enforceable, and effective non-lethal measures and only allow wolves to be killed in active defense of livestock. With those measures in place and to mitigate concerns from the livestock industry, we ask that you direct 50% of the \$1.17 million to reform and drastically increase funds for an existing program that compensates livestock operators to fund non-lethal conflict prevention work and mitigate any potential economic impacts caused by wolves.

Oregonians deserve a science-based plan that leads to less conflict and killing. It wasn't that long ago, Oregon set a standard for the rest of the nation. Under previous provisions, Oregon's wolf population grew while livestock loss, wolf killing, and other conflict dramatically decreased. With your leadership it is an achievable vision. We look to you to get the Plan back on track.

Thank you. We appreciate your consideration of our request. Sincerely,

Nick Cady
Cascadia Wildlands

Amaroq Weiss
Center for Biological Diversity

Suzanne Stone
Defenders of Wildlife

Sean Stevens
Oregon Wild