

Chapter IV. Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

Strategies to Address Livestock Conflict

Phase II (Transition Phase)

Non-injurious harassment of wolves is allowed under the same conditions as in Phase I.

Non-lethal injurious harassment, conducted for the purpose of minimizing wolf-livestock conflict, does not require a permit on private land, and therefore is allowed by livestock producers or their designated agents on their own or lawfully occupied land without permit or preauthorization. Non-injurious techniques should be attempted initially. A permit is required on public land, and may be issued to permittees or their agents who are legally using public land under valid livestock grazing allotments. The injurious harassment permit shall remain valid for the duration of the grazing season in which it has been issued provided the grazing permittee is in compliance with applicable laws including permit conditions. For such action to occur, the following criteria apply:

- On private land:
 - May be conducted only for the purpose of minimizing wolf-livestock conflict, and requires that livestock must be present.
- On public land:
 - The permittee will work with the agency to determine the appropriate course of action.
 - Locations of known wolf dens will be considered before issuing a permit.
- Wolves may be pursued, for the purpose of minimizing wolf-livestock conflict.
- Any harassment must be reported to ODFW within 48 hours.
- No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.

Relocation of wolves will be considered under the same circumstances as in Phase I.

In Phase II, lethal take of wolves may be authorized in situations of conflict with livestock as described below. Threat to human safety is an additional situation in which the use of lethal force is allowed, as discussed in Chapter V of this Plan. Take of wolves by special permit agents is not allowed (see Appendix A for definition of special permit agent).

1. Landowners or livestock producers, on land they own or lawfully occupy, or their designated agents may use lethal force to stop a wolf that is in the act of biting, wounding, killing, or chasing livestock or working dogs under the following conditions:
 - No bait or other intentional actions to attract wolves have been used.
 - The wolf carcass must not be removed or disturbed, and the scene preserved.
 - The incident must be reported to ODFW within 24 hours.
2. Landowners or livestock producers, on land they own or lawfully occupy, or their designated agents, or permittees (or their designated agents) who are legally using public land may be issued a permit that provides authorization to take a gray wolf under the following conditions:
 - The area has had at least three confirmed livestock depredations within a 12-month period.
 - ODFW designates a lethal control permit area that is within the area of the depredating wolves, and determines that wolves present a significant risk to livestock present.

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- Efforts to use non-lethal methods which are reasonable for the situation are documented.
 - No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.
 - The recipient of the permit is in compliance with applicable laws, including permit conditions.
 - Wolves taken under these permits are the property of the state and must be reported to ODFW within 24 hours.
3. To stop chronic depredation on private and public land, state personnel or agents are authorized to use lethal force on wolves as follows:
- The area has had at least three confirmed livestock depredations within a 12-month period.
 - Efforts to use non-lethal methods which are appropriate and reasonable (described in Section C of this Chapter) for the situation are documented.
 - No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.
 - Evidence does not exist of non-compliance with applicable laws, including permit conditions.

Phase III (Management Phase)

Non-injurious harassment of wolves is allowed under the same conditions as in Phase I.

Non-lethal injurious harassment is allowed under the same conditions as in Phase II, except that wolf depredation on livestock or other wolf-livestock conflict or other wolf-livestock conflict in the area may be confirmed by either ODFW or USDA Wildlife Services.

Relocation of wolves will be considered under the same circumstances as in Phase I.

In Phase III, lethal take of wolves may be authorized in situations of conflict with livestock as described below. Threat to human safety is an additional situation in which the use of lethal force is allowed, as discussed in Chapter VI of this Plan.

1. Livestock producers, grazing permittees (using public lands), or their designated agents may use lethal force to stop a wolf that is in the act of biting, wounding, killing, or chasing livestock or working dogs under the following conditions:
 - No bait or other intentional actions to attract wolves have been used.
 - The wolf carcass must not be removed or disturbed, and the scene preserved.
 - The incident must be reported to ODFW within 24 hours.
 - Wolf depredation on livestock or other wolf-livestock conflict may be confirmed by either ODFW or Wildlife Services.
2. Landowners or livestock producers, on land they own or lawfully occupy, or their designated agents, or permittees (or their designated agents) who are legally using public land may be issued a permit that provides authorization to take a gray wolf under the following conditions
 - The area has had at least three confirmed livestock depredations within a 12-month period. Wolf depredation on livestock or other wolf-livestock conflict may be confirmed by either ODFW or Wildlife Services.

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- ODFW designates a lethal control permit area that is within the area of the depredating wolves, and determines that wolves present a significant risk to livestock present.
 - Efforts to use non-lethal methods which are appropriate (see Section C of this Chapter) for the situation are documented.
 - No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.
 - The applicant is in compliance with applicable laws, including permit conditions.
 - Wolves taken under these permits are the property of the state and must be reported to ODFW within 24 hours.
2. To stop chronic depredation on private and public land, state personnel or agents are authorized to use lethal force on wolves as follows:
- The area has had at least three confirmed livestock depredations within a 12-month period. Wolf depredation on livestock or other wolf-livestock conflict may be confirmed by either ODFW or Wildlife Services.
 - Efforts to use non-lethal methods which are appropriate (see Section C of this Chapter) for the situation are documented.
 - No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.
 - Evidence does not exist of non-compliance with applicable laws, including permit conditions.
4. Take by special permit agents may be authorized in Phase III in specific areas to address situations of chronic wolf-livestock depredation. Any permitted take would be designed as a targeted management response should the condition arise where a healthy wolf population is coupled with high levels of conflict with livestock in a particular area (See also Chapter III).
- The take would not impair population viability or reduce overall wolf population health factors within the zone.
 - Consistent with other Phase III requirements above, appropriate (see Section C of this Chapter) and practical non-lethal solutions will continue to be required..
 - Permit holders are required to obtain permission to hunt or trap wolves on private lands.

In Phase III, the above numerical criteria for lethal removal of depredating wolves may be changed to two confirmed depredations, by authorization of the ODFW Director, in the following situations:

- In situations of extreme circumstances – where evidence exists of immediate ineffectiveness of non-lethal measures, or that wolf behavior or depredation circumstances indicate that non-lethal measures will be ineffective or are beyond the ability of managers or livestock producers to practically implement.
- Private land situations –where the nature of the depredations (e.g., number of killed livestock per incident, frequency of depredation, and known wolf use of area), frequency of wolf use of the private lands where depredation occurs, extent of non-lethal measures available, and proximity to other private properties, residences, and livestock, are indicators of an unacceptable situation.