

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS (page 114)

Controlled take: management action that allows members of the public or tribes to kill a wolf by special permit (on public or private lands) to address chronic wolf-livestock conflicts or for wolf population management.

A. Wolf Legal Status (page 35)

Wolves are classified as an endangered species under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. Following delisting from the state ESA, wolves will retain their classification as special status game mammal under ORS 496.004. During the 2009 Oregon Legislative Session, the status of wolves changed from protected non-game wildlife to a special status game mammal. Thus, this section (F) was brought from Appendix P in the 2005 Plan.

Objective

- Re-classify the legal status of the gray wolf to “special-status mammal” within the “game mammal” category in ORS 496.004(9).

The status would not preclude the use of **controlled take** through hunting and trapping in response to management concerns. While listed as an endangered species in Oregon the wolf would be protected consistent with the direction outlined in the Plan. Special status mammal classification allows ODFW use of a wide range of management tools to advance the conservation and responsible management of wolves.

Strategy

- ODFW will request through the legislative process that the “game mammal” definition in ORS 496.004(9) be amended to add the gray wolf, additionally labeled as a “special status mammal” within that definition.

Through a public rulemaking process, the Commission shall define the substantive standards governing this classification to include but not be limited to those below.

- **Controlled take** of wolves would be permitted as a management response tool to assist ODFW in its wildlife management efforts only after the wolf population objectives in the region to be affected have been exceeded and other biological considerations indicate the use of these management tools would not result in the impairment of wolf viability in the region. **Controlled take** would be authorized as a response to:
 - 1 chronic livestock depredation problems in a localized region where wolf population levels have grown to beyond stable levels; or
 - 2 any wild ungulate population is experiencing population or recruitment declines below MOs in a WMU, or locally, that can be attributed to wolf predation.

These scenarios are designed as management response mechanisms should the condition arise where continued growth of a healthy wolf population has proven to impose unacceptable levels of conflict with livestock and/or wild ungulate populations. The use of these management tools is designed to respond to the interests of hunters and trappers, as well as the interests of protecting livestock and healthy levels of wild ungulate populations.

- **Controlled take** would be permitted by ODFW through a license program and targeted at wolves in a specific location experiencing the above-mentioned conditions that warrant a management response.
- A **controlled take** program for wolves would require: 1) wolf population objectives for the wolf conservation region have been exceeded; and 2) other biological considerations indicate the use of this management tool would not impair wolf viability in the region.
- General season hunts would not be permitted.
- Trapping would be used as a management tool for both lethal and non-lethal management control. Before receiving a license/permit from ODFW, trappers must be certified by ODFW. Where lethal control is the desired management response, such trappers would be permitted to keep the wolves they have trapped under these prescribed circumstances.
- Maximum enforcement of applicable statutes imposing penalties for harming or killing a wolf illegally would be sought by the State. Rewards would exist for citizens who turn in or provide information leading to the conviction of someone who has illegally killed a wolf; such as those offered by other entities Defenders of Wildlife and the Hells Canyon Preservation Council.
- Where consistent with the above, Oregon's wildlife laws, wildlife damage statutes, and other related statutes would otherwise remain applicable to this classification. Nothing in this classification would otherwise change legal options available to livestock producers and other citizens under this Plan or other current law aimed at addressing wildlife damage, livestock protection, and protection of human life.

Wildlife are managed in Oregon under the Oregon Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012) which states in part: "wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state." The policy includes seven co-equal goals for wildlife management by which wolves will be managed after the goals of this Plan are achieved and after they are delisted.

The special status mammal classification recognizes the wolf's distinct history of extirpation and conflict with certain significant human activities, as well as its distinct place in human social attitudes (revered by some but reviled by others) based on experiences and myths that span centuries. This classification is based on Oregon's management successes with respect to other large carnivores (e.g., black bear, cougar) but also recognizes human and wolf behavior factors that make the wolf somewhat distinct from other large carnivores. It provides the most options for long term management by retaining, in addition to protective measures, tools such as responsive hunting and trapping when required for management purposes, although these management tools would not be applied in the same manner as under a traditional game mammal or fur bearer classification. This would serve the interest of adaptive management capability.

Cougar and black bear, as large carnivores, provide a relevant example for wolf conservation discussions. Both species were unprotected in Oregon through the first half of the 20th century. These animals were shot on sight, trapped, or poisoned without restriction. In the case of cougars, the State offered a bounty payment to citizens that killed cougars and redeemed them for payment.

Populations of both species were reduced to such low levels that citizens and the Oregon State Game Commission (now the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission) approached the Legislature

to enact laws protecting them from indiscriminant take. Both became classified as game mammals, the same status as deer and elk, and received all the same protections provided by the wildlife laws. Through time, as populations began to increase, limited hunting seasons were authorized in areas experiencing damage. Today, both cougar and black bear species are considered common and widespread in Oregon. Hunting seasons have expanded to statewide general seasons in response to growing numbers and range expansion. Management Plans now guide hunting seasons and other actions taken by biologists to protect and manage the species. It is well established that ensuring human tolerance for large carnivore species requires many tools and strategies.

While game mammal status has potential for attaining the long term conservation and management goals intended for the wolf in Oregon, certain modifications to the traditional game mammal status approach are appropriate with respect to the wolf: These distinctions, as components of this Plan, will be built into the administrative rule(s) applicable to the special status mammal classification.

This classification is intended to allow ODFW to use existing, stable state and federal funding sources and existing field staff to include wolf management as part of their daily duties. These funding sources include both federal Wildlife Restoration grants (also known as Pitman-Robertson) and fees from the sale of hunting licenses.

Strategies to Address Livestock Conflict (page 43)

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When Phase III is reached, non-lethal techniques will remain the first choice of managers in dealing with conflicts. However, more emphasis may be put on lethal control to ensure protection of livestock if it can be demonstrated that non-lethal methods are likely to put livestock at substantial risk. In areas where chronic wolf problems are occurring, wolf managers may seek assistance from private citizens through special permits for **controlled take** to resolve conflict. In addition, liberalized options for lethal control by livestock producers will be considered in consultation with wolf managers in circumstances where such activities can enhance the probability of relief for the livestock producer.

Table III-1. Matrix of Wolf Conflict Management Options. (Page 46)

		PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PHASES		
		Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
ACTION	CURRENT OREGON LAW	STATE ENDANGERED	DELISTED	DELISTED
Non-injurious harassment	Allowed with a permit if conservation finding can be made. ³¹	Allowed without a permit. ³² Reporting required within 48 hours.	Allowed without a permit. ³⁹ Reporting required within 48 hours.	Allowed without a permit. ³⁹ Reporting required within 48 hours.
Non-lethal injurious harassment	Allowed with a permit if conservation finding can be made. ³⁸	Allowed with a permit. Reporting required within 48 hours.	Allowed without a permit on private land and by permit on public land. ³⁹	Allowed without a permit on private land and by permit on public land. ³⁹
Lethal take for wolves found ‘in the act’ of attacking livestock	Allowed with a permit if conservation finding can be made.	Allowed with a state permit	Allowed with a state permit.	Allowed with a state permit.
Lethal take for wolves involved in chronic livestock depredation	Allowed by ODFW and/or Wildlife Services if conservation finding can be made. ³⁸	Allowed by ODFW and/or Wildlife Services only.	Allowed by permit. Reporting required within 48 hours.	Allowed by permit. Reporting required within 48 hours.
Lethal take to defend human	Allowed. See text of Plan for details.	Allowed. See text of Plan for details.	Allowed. See text of Plan for details.	Allowed. See text of Plan for details.
Controlled take	None allowed.	None allowed.	None allowed.	Allowed by special permit, for chronic wolf-livestock depredation or wolf pressure on ungulate populations. Reporting required within 72 hours.

³¹ While a species is state-listed, harassment or take is allowed only upon a finding that such harassment or take is consistent with conserving the species in Oregon. This Plan provides the necessary conservation finding. Without this Plan, the Commission or ODFW (as appropriate) would need to attempt the conservation finding based upon available data.

³² Pursuant to new rules in OAR 635, Division 110.

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1 Phase III (7 breeding pairs) page 50

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.

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

Lethal take of wolves will be authorized in two situations regarding conflict with livestock as described below. Threat to human safety is a third situation in which the use of lethal force is allowed, as discussed in Chapter VI of this Plan.

1. To stop a wolf in the act of attacking livestock on private and public land, livestock producers may use lethal force with a permit to stop a wolf that is in the act of biting, wounding or killing livestock. Following the incident, the landowner must preserve evidence of an animal(s) freshly (less than 24 hours) wounded or killed by wolves, and a Wildlife Services or ODFW agent must confirm the wound was caused by wolves. For such action to occur, the following criteria apply:
 - A permit is required on private or public land.
 - The wolf must be found in the act of attacking, not testing or scavenging.
 - There must be fresh evidence that an attack occurred (e.g., visible wounds or tracks).
 - The wolf carcass must not be removed or disturbed.
 - Any action must be reported to ODFW or Wildlife Services within 24 hours.
 - No identified circumstances exist that are attracting wolf-livestock conflict.
 - ODFW or Wildlife Services has confirmed wolf depredation on livestock.

2. To stop chronic depredation on private or public land is allowed under the same conditions as in Phase II with the following exception:
 - Either ODFW or Wildlife Services will be responsible to confirm wolf depredation on livestock while in Phase III.

Public/tribal **controlled take** of wolves on public lands by special permit may be authorized in specific areas to address chronic wolf-livestock depredation or wolf-related ungulate population or recruitment declines below management objectives in a wildlife management units, or locally. This approach also may be implemented on private lands. Permit holders would be required to obtain permission to hunt or trap wolves on private lands.

A. Strategies to Address Wolf-Ungulate Interactions (page 64)

Objective

- Develop and implement adaptive management strategies to achieve conservation goals for wolves while meeting management objectives for ungulate species.

Strategies

- Provide wolf population and monitoring information to ungulate managers annually to assess potential impacts of wolves on all ungulates.
 - When predation is determined to be the primary cause of ungulate population or recruitment decline locally or in a WMU, ensure carnivore-focused management actions.
 - If the primary predator species is unknown and wolves are:
 - a state-listed species, initiate management actions that manage other carnivore populations to achieve ungulate population goals before considering actions involving wolves.
 - not a state-listed species, initiate actions to manage appropriate carnivore populations to achieve ungulate goals.
 - If wolves are determined to be the cause of ungulate population or recruitment decline and are:
 - a state-listed species, consider capturing and relocating wolves to other suitable habitat.
 - not a state-listed species, use translocation, relocation or **controlled take** to reduce wolf numbers.
 - Active management (e.g., non-lethal or lethal removal) of wolves will be initiated in areas where ungulate species have been transplanted to supplement or expand their historic range, if wolves are determined to be affecting the success of the transplant goals and the Commission determines that such take of wolves would be consistent with conservation of wolves in Oregon. Lethal removal of wolves will be an option only following delisting.
 - Active management of wolves may be initiated in important ungulate winter ranges or winter feeding sites that serve to draw ungulates away from agricultural lands. These sites may attract wolves and could cause ungulates to abandon them in some circumstances.
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