

## Individual Wolf Conflict Deterrence Plan

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*Email Message from Cynthia Warnock*

*November 25, 2018*

Hello,

I wrote up a plan as I promised I would. Pat Mathews, ODFW, did go over it with me and give me some suggestions. I was able to do this plan because I am involved with the county compensation program and have been dealing with the wolves in our cows for several years. This would be a hard plan for someone to write that was not involved in the wolf issues to the extent that I am so for this reason I created a simple plan that a livestock producer can choose what non-lethal actions would work for his/her operation and briefly what that action would be.

I included some things that some of you may not agree with, but I feel that if we have to do these plans then there has to be a good reason for us to do them. Also included are some actions that ODFW can do to give us some tools to work with. I say this because my brother-in-law held off for 2 weeks to put his cows in his USFS allotment because there were wolves present. He put them in that pasture and a day later he had a 600 pound calf killed. After the fact he was told the den site was not far from where he put his cows through the gate. If he had known where the den was, he could have moved his cows to the other side of that pasture so they were no right there.

I did not get together the cost of this plan implementation. I decided I would do that if a plan is agreed on. We did figure 2 hours for ODFW to work with the landowner at \$25.00/hour and this is not including the time to visit their operation especially if they are not familiar with the layout. What the county paid a contractor to put up fladdry was \$2.70/foot and the same to take it down. This will add up also. The other cost is the extra time the livestock owner will have to check on livestock. The cost goes up the further away it is. Just some things to think about.

I cannot make it to the meeting in Pendleton on Tuesday, but I am willing to participate via phone if the group would like. Just need to let me know and give me a time.

Cynthia Warnock

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This wolf conflict deterrence plan is written for  
Dan & Cynthia Warnock  
59297 Upper Imnaha Road  
Imnaha, OR 97842

### History

Dan and Cynthia run livestock on 2500 acres of private ground along the Imnaha River and up by Needum Butte. They also have USFS allotments up by Harl Butte and Needum Butte. Their operation is within the Harl Butte wolf known area. d

In the past they have had some livestock depredations from the Imnaha pack and the Harl Butte pack both on private and public lands. They asked for on lethal take on the Imnaha pack, but were denied because cattle would soon be off the public land and back home on private land. The pack struck several months later on the private land.

### Non-lethal Deterrence

The following are the non-lethal deterrence that this livestock owner will do if there is a wolf or wolves in the area the livestock are:

#### **X Reducing Attractants – Bone Piles, Carcass Disposal Sites, or Other Known Carcasses**

The physical removal or treatment of dead livestock carcasses (or portions of) which may attract wolves.

##### **Livestock Owner Will:**

1. Remove carcasses at all times if not limited by location and weather.
2. Document any carcass removal – date, carcass type, method of disposal.

#### **X Uses Barriers – Fladry and Fencing**

Fencing used specifically to deter wolves from livestock, may be permanent or temporary, and may be from a variety of fencing materials, depending on each situation.

##### **Livestock Owner Will:**

1. Will install fladry in Pig Palace field during calving if wolves are present. This is the only small area that can be fenced. Fladry will be obtained from the county.
2. Livestock dogs are penned every night, when not being used or when owner is gone.

#### **X Human Presence**

When human presence occurs in an area of simultaneous use by wolves and livestock, it is expected that wolves will move away and depredation will be reduced.

##### **Livestock Owner Will:**

1. Check on cows once a day when wolves or wolf tracks are observed in the area the cows are in when they are on home pastures.
2. During calving season, the livestock is checked at least 3 times at night.
3. Work with other permittees and range rider to ensure someone is up on the range when wolves or wolf tracks are observed in the area or if telemetry shows a collared wolf in the area.
4. Keep a diary of where he/she checked on livestock and note if any wolf presence was seen.

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### Protection for Guard Dogs and other Guarding Animals

Use of specific breeds of guarding dogs or other animals with intent to protect livestock from predators.

**Livestock Owner Will:**

No livestock guard dogs are used so NA

### Alarm or Scare Devices

This includes any combination of alarm system with lights and/or loud sounds which are used for the purpose of scaring wolves from areas of livestock.

**Livestock Owner Will:**

The county RAG devices require the presence of a radio-collared wolf to activate and since there are no collared wolves in this area this will not be used. It is only successful in small areas.

### Hazing or Harassment of Wolves

This is direct harassment of wolves with the intent to use human actions to actively scare wolves away from livestock and may include loud noises (e.g., air horns), firing shots in the air, spotlights or other confrontation with wolves.

**Livestock Owner Will:**

1. Fire shots in the air and use spotlight at night to scare wolves away from livestock.
2. If a wolf is seen in the livestock, an attempt will be made to kill the wolf as allowed under stage III of the Oregon Wolf Plan.
3. Document the time and type of harassment/hazing. The killing of a wolf will be reported to ODFW within 24 hours.

### Livestock Management/Husbandry Changes

These are husbandry actions taken specifically to help avoid wolf-livestock conflicts.

**Livestock Owner Will:**

1. Will delay going into or move livestock to another area **IF**
  - a. the livestock owner is told where a den or rendezvous site is
  - b. the grazing lease allows for a change of use
  - c. the change of use does not lead to over use of a specific area
2. Will not put horses in designated pasture on USFS land if wolf activity has been noted in the area.

### Experimental Practices

There may be a number of non-lethal and preventative practices (i.e., bio-fencing, belling cattle, using wolf-savvy cattle, shock collars, and possibly others) which may reduce depredation risk, but are not yet known to be effective.

**Livestock Owner Will:**

Not do this because does not have any ideas for this.

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### **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Role**

For this plan, a representative from ODFW will help a landowner determine what types of deterrence would work best for his/her operation. The plan will then be signed by the landowner and ODFW showing both agree to the plan and their roles in implementing it. For landowners with a plan, ODFW will let the livestock owner know of any wolves in their area and if one or more are collared with GPS collars, the information will be relayed to the livestock owner twice a day which will aid the landowner in knowing where to concentrate the deterrence activities.

### **Reason for Plan**

This plan is being written to identify activities a livestock owner can do to deter wolves from depredation on livestock when wolves are in the same area as the livestock. If this plan is followed by the livestock owner but there are still 2 separate incidences where livestock are either injured or killed by a wolf, as confirmed by ODFW, a kill order on 2 of the wolves in the pack will be automatically issued. An ODFW employee(s) will kill the 2 wolves within the known wolf area of the pack responsible for the attack until 2 wolves are taken or 2 months, whichever comes first. This may be repeated if there are another 2 separated incidences after 2 wolves are taken.

This plan was written and agreed to on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dan Warnock

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Livestock Owner

ODFW

This plan is good for two years from the date recorded above.