



**Oregon Wolf Program**  
**October 1 through November 24, 2009 Update**



Russ Morgan, ODFW Wolf Coordinator  
107 20th Street, LaGrande, OR 9850 (541) 963-2138

---

**Reports of Wolf Activity:** Fifty-five wolf reports were received by ODFW during the reporting period as follows; east wolf management zone (44) and west wolf management zone (11). [*Note: Wolf reports are classified into two wolf management zones at the boundary of Hnys 97/20/395; see page 17 of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan*]. Types of wolf reports are categorized as; sighting reports (39), track reports (14), and howling reports (2). Many of the reports over the two months were confirmed to NOT be wolves, but these reports are still considered important. Hunters continue to be an important source of wolf reports and the large number of reports during the period is due to the increased number of hunters afield.

**Field Investigations/Monitoring:**

*Note: In these monthly updates, wolves are reported in Oregon by Wildlife Management Units. This is done to maintain consistency with other wildlife species whose populations are monitored by the same unit boundaries. The Oregon Wildlife Management Unit map can be viewed online at: [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big\\_game/units/bigmap.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/units/bigmap.asp)*

**Wenaha Unit:** Tracking surveys were conducted over three days in October. At the same time, scent stations with remotely-triggered cameras were set in areas with suspected wolf activity. No wolf visits to the cameras were recorded. However, on the third day of track surveys, several sets of fresh wolf tracks were found. In the continued attempt to live-trap and radio collar individual wolves from this pack, a small number of trap sets were made. No captures were made and after three nights the traps were pulled due to the impending elk hunting season. Though it was a short, unsuccessful window of trapping effort, it did re-confirm the continued presence of wolves in the Wenaha Unit. Efforts to locate and monitor and count this wolf pack will continue after the big game hunting seasons are concluded.

**Starkey Unit:** Two days were spent investigating wolf reports in the Starkey Unit during the period. One day was spent conducting road/track surveys in an area where several wolf reports have originated. No wolf sign was found. A second night was spent conducting howl surveys in the same general area. 20.2 miles of routes were surveyed with no howl responses. Continued efforts will be made in the West Starkey and East Ukiah Units this fall in response to several wolf reports from the public.

**B300/Imnaha Unit:** Monitoring of the recently re-collared female wolf (B300) continues in the Imnaha Unit. She was located several times over the period and has been detected in the Pine Creek Unit as well. On November 12, 2009 a video of B300's pack was taken. The video clearly shows 10 wolves with a mixture of blacks and grays. It is long-distance video footage, but it appears that there may be as many as six pups in the video. For those interested, the video can be viewed on the following sites:  
[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/video\\_gallery/umnaha\\_wolf\\_pack.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/video_gallery/umnaha_wolf_pack.asp)  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW>

ODFW will continue to closely monitor this pack and will attempt to get a definitive pup count of this pack in December. In addition, attempts will be made to put a GPS collar on at least one of the pack members over the winter/spring months. This type of collar allows for much more accurate location data and will be important for understanding home range areas and activity schedules by this wolf pack.

**Livestock Damage Reports/Concerns:** No reports of depredation were received by ODFW during the period. Some Willamette County ranchers have expressed concerns about a higher than average number of dry cows this fall and if it might be related to the wolf pack in the Imnaha Unit. At this point, wolf depredation of livestock by this pack has not been confirmed.



**Aerial Monitoring:** Four aerial flights were conducted by ODFW during the period. One was specifically for a telemetry location of B300, and three were for B300 in conjunction with other telemetry duties.

**Media and Presentations:**

- A wolf presentation was given at Western Oregon University by Michelle Dennehy, Wildlife Communications Coordinator, on Oct. 31.
- A wolf update was given to the High Desert region of ODFW in Bend on Nov. 17.
- A media advisory about the video showing a minimum of 10 members in the Imnaha Wolf Pack was distributed on Nov. 19 and several news stories resulted. As of Nov. 25, 2009 the YouTube video has received more than 12,000 views.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Prepared and programmed three new GPS radio collars for future use on Oregon wolves.
- Made ready new wolf traps for upcoming live capture operations.
- Continued work on the development of an incidental take permit (ITP) for USDA Wildlife Services in Oregon. This permit provides protection for Wildlife Services under the Oregon Endangered Species Act in the event a gray wolf is incidentally taken by a Wildlife Services employee while conducting official wildlife damage management activities. The incidental take process is similar to federal guidance that Wildlife Services currently operates under, and allows ODFW to work directly with Wildlife Services to develop measures to minimize potential take of wolves.

**Federal Delisting Update:** On May 4, 2009, wolves in the eastern portion of Oregon (east of highways 395, 78 and 95) were “de-listed,” or removed from protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). **Wolves in all of Oregon remain protected by Oregon’s ESA**, and wolves west of the delisting boundary remain protected by both the federal and state ESA. More information on wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains can be viewed at the following web address: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/>